

Istanbul Network 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference  
**DEMOCRATIC TRANSITIONS IN THE MUSLIM WORLD**

27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> November 2017

In collaboration with International Institute of Advanced Islamic Studies (IAIS) Malaysia,  
Kuala Lumpur



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# 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference Democratic Transitions in the Muslim World

## Conference Agenda

27 November 2017	
8.30 AM	Registration & Refreshments
9.00 AM	<p><b>Welcome Remarks &amp; Overview of Conference</b>  <i>Ali Salman, CEO of Istanbul Network</i>  <i>Professor Dr. Mohammad Hashim Kamali, CEO International Institute of Advanced Islamic Studies</i></p> <p><b>Opening Address</b>            Malaysia: Roots of a Democratic Society  <i>YAM Tunku Zain Al-'Abidin ibni Tuanku Muhriz</i></p>
9.30 AM	<p><b>Keynote Address:</b>            'Religion and State are Twin Brothers': Classical Muslim Political Theory  <i>Dr. Muhammad Khalid Masud</i>  <i>Former Director General Islamic Research Institute, and former Chairman of Council of Islamic Ideology, Pakistan</i></p>
10.30 AM	Morning Tea & Group Photo
11.00 AM	<p><b>Session 1: History of Democratic Transition</b>            Chair: Abdulwahab Alkebsi (Deputy Director, CIPE, Washington DC)</p> <p>“Democratic Transition in the Muslim World: Prerequisites and Obstacles”  <i>Dr. Syed Farid al-Atas, National University of Singapore</i></p> <p>“Deconstructing a Dilemma: Democracy versus Islam”  <i>Dr. Alim Yilmaz, Middle East Technical University, Turkey</i></p> <p>“Political Attitudes of Islamism: A Brief Historical Perspective within Democratization”  <i>Dr. Hasan Yucel Basdemir, Board Member, Quarterly Liberal Thought, Turkey</i></p>
12.30 PM	Lunch

1.30 PM	<p><b>Session 2: Narrative on Islam and Democracy</b>  Chair: Ozlem Caglar Yilmaz (General Coordinator, Association for Liberal Thinking, Turkey)</p> <p>“Democratic Transitions: Are There Recipes for Success?”  <i>Dr. Deina Abdelkader, Middle East Center at Harvard University, USA</i></p> <p>“Re-reading the relation between Islam and Democracy in a critical way: The Hermeneutical Alternative”  <i>Dr. Kemal Bayram, Associate Professor, Marmara University, Turkey</i></p> <p>“The rise and fall of the Iranian Reformists”  <i>Dr. Seyyed Emamian (Tehran, Sharif University of Technology, Tehran)</i></p> <p>“The Nurturing of Democratic Ethos: The Challenges of Empowering Democratic Ideas in Malay-Indonesian Societies”  <i>Dr. Azhar Ibrahim, National University of Singapore</i></p>
3.00 PM	Tea Break
3:30 PM	<p><b>Session 3: Socio-Economic currents behind Transition</b>  Chair: Dina Zaman (Executive Director, IMAN Research, Malaysia)</p> <p>“Is Democracy Alien to Muslims?”  <i>Dr. Khalil Ahmad, Pakistan</i></p> <p>“Delivering on promises to the Muslim middle class: who’s delivering to whom”  <i>Elma Berisha, Asian Institute of Finance, Malaysia</i></p> <p>“Democracy in Bosnia: Updates from a Muslim country in Europe”  Dr. Edo Omerčević, Executive Director, Center for Advancement of Free Enterprise, Bosnia and Herzegovina</p>
5.00 PM	<p><b>Special Address</b>  <i>Başak Türkoğlu, Turkish Ambassador to Malaysia (Tentative)</i></p>
6.00 PM	Day 1 Conclude

**28 November 2017**

8.30 AM	Networking & Refreshments
9.00 AM	<p><b>Keynote Address</b></p> <p><i>Kyai Haji Yahya Cholil Staquf</i>  <i>General Secretary of the Nahdlatul Ulama (NU) Supreme Council, Indonesia</i></p>
10.00 AM	<p><b>Session 1: Islamic Political Parties-I</b></p> <p>Chair: Dr. Maszlee Malik, International Islamic University Malaysia</p> <p>“Islamic Political Parties through the lens of their Electoral Manifestoes in Pakistan”  <i>Dr. Husnul Amin, Executive Director, Iqbal International Institute for Research and Dialogue (IRD), Pakistan</i></p> <p>“Evolution of Islamism in Malaysian Politics: The Splintering of the Islamic Party of Malaysia and the Spread of Progressive Ideas”  <i>Wan Saiful Wan Jan, Senior Visiting Fellow, ISEAS, Singapore</i></p> <p>“Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (Fazal) Pakistan: From Political Conservatism to Modernity: A Case Study from 2002–2017”  <i>Fida Ur Rahman, Qurtuba University of Science &amp; IT, Pakistan</i></p>
11.30 AM	Tea Break
12.00 PM	<p><b>Session2: Islamic Political Parties-II</b></p> <p>Chair: Dr. Deina Abdelkader, Middle East Center at Harvard University, USA</p> <p>“AK Party’s Democratization Perspective: Plus and Minuses”  <i>Dr. Abdurrahman Babacan, Istanbul Medipol University, Turkey</i></p> <p>“A Critical Assessment of Hamas’ ‘Democratic Transformation’ and its Impact on Palestinian Politics”  <i>Dr. Nehad Khanfar, Middlesex University, London</i></p>
1.00 PM	Lunch
2.00 PM	<p><b>Session 3: Religious Freedom, Radicalization and Democratic Fundamentals</b></p> <p>Chair: Abdulwahab Alkebsi (Deputy Director, CIPE)</p> <p>“Jakarta Local Election 2017: Revival of Radical Islamism and Islamist Agenda?”  <i>Muhammed Iksan, Paramadina University, Indonesia</i></p>

	<p>“Islam and Peace: Constructing Alternative Narrative in Pakistan” <i>Dr. Imdad Hussain, Forman Christian College University, Pakistan</i></p> <p>“Criminalization of Diverse Opinion in Developing Countries through Judicial Framework: Bangladesh Perspective” <i>Dr. M. Shahadat Hossain, Bangladesh Islami University, Bangladesh</i></p> <p>“Democratization of Post-Taliban Afghanistan: Prospects and Challenges” <i>Professor Dr. Wahahuddin Ra’ees. Department of Political Science, International Islamic University, Malaysia</i></p>
3.30 PM	Break
4.00 PM	<p><b>Session 4: Consequences of Political Islam</b> Chair: Dr. Mohd. Farid Mohd Shahrn (Director, Institute for Understanding of Islam in Malaysia, IKIM)</p> <p>“Rise of the Islamists and Democratisation of the Arab World in the Post-Arab Spring: Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt from Politics to Prison” <i>Dr. Rafiullah Azmi, Jamia Millia Islamia, India</i></p> <p>“Evolving Interplay of Islam and Politics from Islamist to Islamic Democrats” <i>Waqas Ahmad, International Islamic University, Pakistan</i></p> <p>“From Political Islam to Democrat Muslim: A Case Study of Rashid Ghannouchi’s Influence on ABIM, IKRAM, AMANAH and DAP” <i>Dr. Maszlee Malik, International Islamic University Malaysia</i></p>
5.30 PM	<p><b>Vote of thanks</b> Dr. Mohamed Azam <i>Deputy CEO, IAIS</i> Wan Saiful Wan Jan Chairman, Istanbul Network for Liberty</p>
6.00 PM	End