Original Article

The Role of Academy of Islamic Studies, University of Malaya, In Research On Plants and Herbs Mentioned in The Quran and Hadith

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ABSTRACT

Research is an important aspect that is emphasized in academia, especially for a Research University. Academy of Islamic Studies is one of the faculties in the University of Malaya, which is a Research University. To pave the way for achieving the goals of the university, the Academy of Islamic Studies conducts various researches in various fields in accordance to its primary field of Islamic studies. Based on descriptive and deductive analyses, this article aims to explain and investigate the role of the Academy of Islamic Studies, University of Malaya in conducting researches related to plants and herbs that are mentioned in the Quran and hadith of the Prophet SAW through the Transdisciplinary Research Grant Scheme (TRGS) entitled: 'Safe and Health Uses of Fruits and Herbs Mentioned in the Quran and Ahadith: An Analysis of Ethno medicinal Importance in Islamic Products in Malaysia'. From the investigations carried out, some aspects that are achieved in this research include: [1] Collecting and listing of plants and herbs that are mentioned in the Quran, followed by identification of verses and hadith, scientific names and benefits from scientific researches; [2] Establishing research collaborations between institutions or agencies from within and outside the country; [3] Organizing an international seminar and also participating as presenters for the purpose of sharing research outputs with various parties; [4] Publications in the form of books, journal articles, and working papers; and [5] Expert human capital development, in terms of candidates for the Doctor of Philosophy and Master's degrees in Islamic Studies and Science.

Keywords: Experiences, APIUM, Research, Development, Academic, Plants, Herbs.

Introduction

Research is significance in the world of higher education in Malaysia. Through the ministry of Malaysian's government, the encouragement in doing research is given to the higher education. Those research compromise of various aspects and fields in terms of development, production and new discoveries that have long term value to all parties. Due to that, research field are wide and encompasses numerous field and research aspects. Moreover, through these

researches, several local universities in Malaysia had been elevated into 'Research University' to boost the world of education. In fact, research grant is given emphasis for the research to be conducted excellently.¹

In the meantime, University Malaya was among the local universities that had been promoted into Research University in achieving those objectives. Moving as a research university, efforts and initiatives are done and been doing by the researcher in a research world at University Malaya. The efforts are significance since the grant obtained by the researcher were given either from the government fund, the private sector as well as industry which accounts for the cost of the research done.

Thereby, Academy of Islamic Studies (AIS) which one of the faculty in Islamic Studies, did involve directly to boost up the research world especially in the University Malaya. ICE is putting its effort in achieving the mission of University Malaya as a research university. Due to that, in 106 of academician in ICE, 43 of them are the Principal Investigator for their grant which equal to 40.6% from all academic staff in ICE. This is not included the collaboration among the lecturers with the industrial or outside party in doing the research together or research with peer academic staff from other local universities. In fact, there are also who did involve individually with the industrial party in doing research.

Therefore, this article will discuss the role of ICE in doing research through research grant Transdisciplinary Research Grant Scheme (TRGS) entitled as: 'Safe and Health Uses of Fruits and Herbs Mentioned in Al-Quran and Ahadith: An Analysis of Ethnomedicinal Importance in Islamic Products in Malaysia', which a research towards plants and herbs mentioned in Al-Quran Hadith of the Prophet pbuh.

Scope and Methodology

The role of AIS in the research effort is remarkable based on the grant and fund obtained among the academic staff. From 2014-2017, the amount of grant obtained was RM 2,101 418.00 for various different grants. Even so, the whole grants will not be explained in this article for the data will be long.

Henceforth, this article will be only focusing on the role and contribution attained from the research grant of Transdisciplinary Research Grant Scheme (TRGS) entitled as: 'Safe and Health Uses of Fruits and Herbs Mentioned in Al-Quran and Ahadith: An Analysis of Ethnomedicinal Importance in Islamic Products in Malaysia'. For your information, this grant is one of the subproject research under TRGS grant research entitled In-Depth Investigation of Tibb Al-Nabawi-Based Natural Products towards the Development of Pharmaceuticals, Neutraceuticals and Cosmeceuticals with the same research number.

This TRGS grant is the research fund sources from Malaysia Government under the Ministry of Higher Education.² The data attained which related with the research towards plants and

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Berita Harian newspaper reported that according to Second Education Minister, Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh, RM3.6 billion in revenue was generated by five research universities through research and development (R & D) activities between 2007 and 2013. The five research universities are Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Universiti Malaya (UM) and Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM). Refer to Berita Harian on October 2, 2014. Visit: http://www.bharian.com.my/node/9204. Accessed on July 4, 2017.

herbs mentioned in Al-Quran and Hadith of the Prophet pbuh is analyzed based on the deductive analysis method from general text explanation in order to have a specific conclusion. At the same time, descriptive analysis method is also applied for the elaboration of various efforts through this research grant in boost up more the research activities and thereby achieve the target sets.

Therefore, unintentionally the role of Academy of Islamic Studies can be shown through this article in doing the Islamic research activities generally and specifically the venture towards plants and herbs through this research grant.

Background Study of the Research Grant

Before the findings of this research is elaborated briefly, the background of this research grant should be explained first. Initially, the idea for collaborating in this research was due to efforts taken and several meetings with research purpose until all the members were interested in doing it. This TRGS grant did combined the cooperation among three main faculties in University of Malaya, which are the Faculty of Medicine (through Pharmacy Department), Faculty of Science (through Chemistry Department) and the Academy of Islamic Studies (through the Department of Al-Quran and Hadith).

This grant was awarded to a combination of researcher that was led by Professor Dato' Dr. Mohd Yakub @ Zulkifli Mohd Yusoff which also the First Project Leader with the research entitled: Safe and Health Uses of Fruits and Herbs Mentioned in Al-Quran and Ahadith: An Analysis of Ethnomedicinal Importance in Islamic Products in Malaysia'. Meanwhile, the second sub-project was led by Prof. Dr. Khalijah Awang from Faculty of Science under the Department of Chemistry. The research title for second sub-project is: Bioassay-Guided Fractionation of Selected Plants and Tructural Elucidation of Isolated Pure Compounds. Next, the third sub-project was led by Associate Prof. Dr. Rozana Othman from Faculty of Medicine under the Department of Pharmacy. The title for this sub-project is: Biological and Analytical Evaluations of Selected Plants and Products Containing Plants Mentioned in the Al-Quran and Ahadith.

These three sub-project directly has relation and connection in research even it is differing in term of the expertise and the research field. The research period started on 1 September 2014 until 30 September 2017 (three years). The amount of fund for the whole research in these three sub-project was RM300 thousand.

Results and Findings

Challenges in Research on Plant and Herbs in Malaysia

In the research regarding herbs and plants mentioned in al-Quran and Hadith, there were its challenge for the researcher. Those challenges are in identifying and determining the types and species of the plants and herbs. Either the name was clearly mentioned or it just a general term which represents a category of plants and herbs. Among the main challenges in this research are:

For the information regarding TRGS grant, it can be referred to its official website at url: http://portal.mygrants.gov.my/main.php, 6 March 2017.

Firstly: The challenge of identifying and determining the types and species of the plants and herbs which mentioned in al-Quran and Hadith clearly

There are numerous types of plants and herbs species existed in our world which surely causes some difficulties in identifying its types. Unless it is on the most accurate assumption based on thoroughness and opinion from the expertise in the related field. For instance, the term al-Ruman stated in verse 68 from Surah al-Rahman and verse 99 from surah al-An'am are referring to the meaning of pomegranate in general. In details, pomegranate has different species, big and small in size, white and red in colours and others. In fact, the pomegranate that was found and planted in Malaysia is differ from what was imported from overseas.

Therefore, there is a need for accurate method and approach in order to determine the plants and herbs species.

Secondly: The challenge in identifying and determining the types and species of the plants and herbs mentioned in al-Quran and Hadith in general or representing its category.

As known before, al-Quran in certain situations came with general explanation and not thoroughly in detail. One terminology stated might represents diverse types of plants and herbs which similar in its types, habitat and its species. For instance, the word 'habbah' is referring to a cereal meaning in verse 261 of surah al-Baqarah, verse 16 of surah Luqman and verse 59 from surah al-An'am. When it was referred to a cereal, there are numerous types of cereal which taken by human being such wheat, rice, barley, corn, mustard, seed and others.

So, how to surely determine the types and species of the plant? Certainly it requires a thorough and deeper in detail before explanation is given and determining the plants and herbs which means by those verses. Moreover, the *mufassir's* opinion should be referred too along with the environment condition. These could help the research to be better.

Thirdly: Challenge towards determination the scientific name

Apart from identifying the types and species of the plants and herbs, another challenging part is determining its scientific name and the family as well. The researcher in Academy of Islamic Study is still lacking this kind of expertise, which it made the research more difficult. Hence, as a solution, the researcher need to have the outside assistance service from the expertise in that field.

As a result, in order to face the challenge, the grant party did cooperated directly with few researchers from Faculty of Science, University of Malaya. They assisted in the process of determining the scientific name. In fact, through the collaboration with Qur'anic Botanic Garden in Qatar, unintentionally the research and studies that had been run by them did help this research. By taking the views of the researcher in Malaysia and followed by the Arab's world, indirectly the determination of scientific name for a plant or herb mentioned in al-Quran and Hadith are more clear and accurate.

For example, the term 'kafur' in verse 5, surah al-Insan is referring to camphor which basically this plant can only be found in Asia. It refers to a big tree which found especially in Sumatera, Kalimantan, Taiwan and Malaysia yet, it is not come from Arab countries. Then, there are few name being referred to for its meaning as the camphor such Alcanfor, Arbre à camphre, Camphor Tree, Camphora, Camphora Officinarum, Camphre, Camphre de Laurier, Camphre Gomme, Camphrier, Cemphire, dl-Camphor, dl-Camphor, Gum Camphor, Kapur, Karpoora,

Karpuram, Laurel Campho. Meanwhile, for its scientific name, some said it is Cinnamomum camphora, in which synonym with Laurus camphora from Lauraceae family.³

So, how to determine the most accurate type from scientific name which referring to the Quranic text. In this matter, the assessment by the Scientist Asia is more accurate comparing the Arab Scientist. It is more accurate if the origin of the plant understood well. Due to that, when its scientific name is thoroughly elaborated, it is accurate to the *Dryobalanops aromatica* (family *Dipterocarpaceae*) based on the statement by Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM).⁴

Fourthly: Scientific research based on lab experiment

The next challenge is in term of running the laboratory experiment on the substance based on the plants and herbs sourced from Quranic text and Hadith. This is the most challenging part among the researcher in the Academy of Islamic Studies since they are not the expertise in this field. Therefore, the collaboration made with the researcher from the Faculty of Science and Pharmacy is significant for the purpose of doing the research lab in proving the benefit of the plants and herbs to human being along with the best way of consuming it.

Henceforth, this is considered as the most biggest challenge for the researcher in the research of plants and herbs which based on the statement of al-Quran and Hadith. The researcher from Islamic Studies field could only give the explanation of the plants and herbs based on the *mufassir* statement or the commentaries of the scholars on hadith if it is found. Yet, if nothing is found, then its meaning and types can only be understood generally. Hence, the collaboration with the researcher in science field is required in ensuring the authorized research based on authorized sources and views.

The Experience of Academy of Islamic Studies in Research on Plants and Herbs Thru The Research Grant

Through this grant, the Academy of Islamic Studies has helped in the development and skills in this trans-discipline research. The experience of researcher were wider and their knowledge in research were strengthen by doing this research. Among the efforts done were:

Firstly: collecting and listing the plants and herbs mentioned in Al-Quran by identifying the verses and hadith text related to it followed by the explanation from scientific name and its benefit from scientific study.

Through this effort, the researcher under this grant did produced book which compiling the Quranic verses and Hadith texts related to plants and herbs. Then, the important work is identifying the most accurate name and type of the plants and herbs that means by the text and the hadith. At the same time, explanation is given upon its scientific name and the family as well. Due to this, this grant managed to prepare a manuscript which will be produced entitle as "Tumbuhan dan Herba Dalam Perspetif Ilmu Wahyu dan Sains". The review process had been

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Website Natural Medicines: Comprehensive Database, Prescriber's Letter, and Pharmacist's Letter, published by Therapeutic Research Faculty, March Lane, Stockton. See the url: http://naturaldatabase.therapeuticresearch.com/nd/Search.aspx?cs=&s=nd&pt=100&id=709. 9 March 2017.

Refer the official website of Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment url: https://www.frim.gov.my/dryobalanops-aromatica-jigsaw-puzzles-in-the-sky/. 9 March 2017.

conducted carefully and it will be produced as a reference soon. It is hope that this book will be an important source in elaborating what related to plants and herbs mentioned by al-Quran and Hadith together with its scientific information.

Secondly: Collaborating a research with several institutions and local and international agency

In intensifying this research, the research collaboration in the same aspects were made up with several parties. Based on what had been implemented, among the efforts done were collaborating a research with several agencies and the industrial parties, such:

Meeting on research collaboration with Qur'anic Botanic Garden, Qatar Foundation, Qatar which held on 7-12 Mei 2016 in Qatar to discuss on the research related with plants that can be found in South East Asia with Qatar.

- 1. Organizing a collaborative meeting as a researcher with the Olive House⁵ to have a collaboration research scientifically upon certain plants such pomegranate and olive which stated in Al-Quran and Hadith. The meeting was held in 25 Mei 2016. However, the positive progress on the collaboration is still be waiting.
- 2. The research collaboration with Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM) for further research through the application of research grant USIM lead by Dr. Nurulwahidah Mohd Fauzi. This research is trying to apply the findings of the research through treatment of dengue based on the plant's benefit.⁶ This cooperation did help the research in-depth from the combination expertise of three main field which Islamic Studies, Science & Chemistry and Pharmacy.
- 3. The meeting for research collaboration with Malaysian Aerospace Institute to study the rate of growth and the expansion for basil tree which breed in the space with the tree that breed in earth on 5 April 2016. Nevertheless, this collaboration is less succeed since no feedback is given from the responsible party as well as there is no latest update upon it. However, it is an important effort since if this type of research is able to be conducted it has a vital value for the aerospace research.

Based on experience and the several works done for together research, it can be concluded that there is a requirement to the research upon plants and herbs which is suitable with the current development. Many of the health product were produced by using the basic substance from plants and herbs mentioned in Al-Quran and Sunnah of the Prophet pbuh. In fact, among them did used the 'Quranic Food', 'Makanan Sunnah', 'Sunnah Food' and others in their labelling to interact the buyer in Malaysia. The interesting part is, it is the response among the public was overwhelming.

The priority in the research is how the work and its finding can be beneficial to the society or the knowledge development.

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OLIVE HOUSE was a company name under OHR Marketing Sdn Bhd which established on 2011 as sole propriertorship under OLIVE HOUSE Resources and officially as private limited company on 2014. This company was established by Aidil Azwal Bin Zainudin, graduated his Degree in Law from Universiti Al Azhar, Egyt. He is a CEO in that company. Refer Olive House website at: http://www.olivehouse.my/web/tentang_kami.php, 9 Mac 2017.

This research grant entitled In-Depth Analysis Studies of Zingiber Zerumat According to al-Quran, Ahadith and Old Malay Manusscript Into Scienific Research Towards Dengue Protease (Kod: PPP/UCG-0116/FPQS/30/143316. This grant was permittable on Oktober 2016 for three years of research.

Thirdly: Organizing the international conference and participating in it as a presenter for sharing the research findings with others;

In enhancing the research more, those who involved in this research grant did organized an international conference to have more discussion with the researcher from the same field and sharing the information as well as their research data. Through that conference, they will found numerous research conducted with various parties either from local or international. In fact, it became a platform for a collaboration with the presenters which participated in the conference.

Consequently, the researcher managed to organize the International Conference on Food Research Based on Sunnah Nabawiah (ICFRS 2016), on 12 April 2016. This conference invites three person for the keynote speaker that directly involved with the research on plants and herbs which are Miss Fatimah Saleh al-Khulaifi, Director, Qur'anic Botanic Garden from Qatar, Dr. Abdallah from Pakistan, and Associate Prof. Dr. Durriyyah Sharifah Binti Haji Hasan Adli from Universiti Malaya. These three panels did involved directly with numerous research especially related with plants and herbs mentioned in Quranic text and Hadith.

In fact, one book had been produced through this conference as a result from compilation of presented articles, information and data from this conference that is important in this research which still being operated.

Apart from that, the grant researcher did encouraged to participate in other innumerable international seminar in order to present part of the research findings for sharing with other researchers. Among the international seminar participated such *1st International Islamic Heritage Conference 2015* (1st IsHeC 2015) which held on 11 and 12 November 2015 at Mahkota Hotel, No. 16 Jalan Syed Abdul Aziz, Malacca, Malaysia; *1st Asian Researchers Symposium 2016*, Universitas Indonesia which held on 24-28 April 2016 at International Office, Universitas Indonesia, and *Seminar Fiqh Semasa (SeFis) 2015* organized by Fakulti Pengajian al-Quran dan Sunnah, USIM which held on 10 Jun 2015 at Dewan Kuliah Utama FPQS, USIM.

This organizing and participating gave space and opportunity for sharing together the research findings along with wider the academic collaboration net with outsider research. For the latest update, these grant researcher did collaborated with the Religious Ministry of Maldives in assisting the organization for International Conference on Botanical Medicine Based on Sunnah Nabawiah (ICONIC-2017)⁷ which will be held on 4-5 April 2017 di Maldives. This opportunity can be used fully for a long term research with the Maldives.

Fourthly: Publishing book, journal article, paperwork and others

In doing research, publishing the research findings in various types for the beneficial is highly encouraged. It shows the information sharing and research data along with as an evidence to the researcher expertise. Therefore, every research grant will ensure the research data be published in the form of journal article, chapter in book, book, magazine, newspaper and others.

Among the title of related articles published in several journals for local and international types are *Tumbuhan Bidara Dalam al-Quran dan Hadith: Analisis Terhadap Manfaatnya Berasaskan Kepada Penyelidikan Semasa*⁸; *Analisis Bibliometrik Terhadap Bahan Penerbitan*

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More information on this conference can be referred to its website: http://myiconic2017.blogspot.my/

Khadher Ahmad, Mohd Yakub@Zulkifli Mohd Yusoff, et.al, (2015). Tumbuhan Bidara Dalam al-Quran dan Hadith: Analisis Terhadap Manfaatnya Berasaskan Kepada Penyelidikan Semasa, dalam *Jurnal al-Basirah*, Academy of Islamic studies, Nilam Puri, Bil.5, 2015: 64-93

Berhubung Kapur Barus: Meneliti Potensi Penyelidikan Terbaru⁹; Bibliometric Analysis On Research Study Of Pomegranate: A Review Towards New Findings)¹⁰ and Kajian Bibliometrik Terhadap Bahan Penerbitan Penyelidikan Berkaitan Delima: Ke Arah Penyelidikan Terkini Dalam Bidang Pengajian Islam.¹¹

Until February 2017, there are 18 publishing consist of 5 refereed articles journal, 6 chapter in book, 4 proceeding and 3 books.

Types	Details	Numbers	Total
Publication	Articles Journal	5	
	Chapter in Books	6	
	Proceeding	4	18
	Books	3	

Source: Analysis Findings (Data from February 2017)

Other than publishing, the researcher did participating in the research poster competition. Among them are Poster Exhibition (Research) In Conjunction With Minggu Terbuka Akademik (MiTA) 2015 on April 20th – 24th, 2015 with the title *Penyelidikan Terhadap Tumbuhan dan Herba Dalam al-Quran dan al-Hadith: Satu Tinjauan Bibliometrik Terhadap Inai, Delima, Selasih, Kapur Barus dan Bidara*.

What is more important in publishing is the sharing of research findings for the benefits of other researcher together with utilizing it with the public.

Fifthly: Producing human resources in term of candidate for PhD and Master level in the field of Islamic studies and Science.

Other than publishing, the main research findings was also producing human resources and expertise in the research field. Through this grant, there are two candidates for PhD level and in the stage of research process. One candidate in Islamic Studies field (Al-Quran and Hadith Studies) which studying the manufacturers of health product that based on the plants and herbs name mentioned in Quranic text and Hadith. The research is focusing more on the preparation and production of the product based on Sunnah which popular among the society in Malaysia. The findings of this research is expected to establish an accurate guideline in term of manufacturing and preparation of product based on Sunnah.

Meanwhile, the other candidate in the field of Islamic Studies and Science is focusing on the henna plant stated in the Hadith text. The research was done by taking the scholars view based on the hadith followed by the laboratory research and scientific proof towards the benefit and

Mohd Farhan Md Ariffin, Khadher Ahmad, Mohd Yakub@Zulkifli Mohd Yusoff, et.al, (2015), Analisis Bibliometrik Terhadap Bahan Penerbitan Berhubung Kapur Barus: Meneliti Potensi Penyelidikan Terbaru, dalam *Jurnal Intelek*, UiTM Perlis, 2015, Vol.10 (1).

Khadher Ahmad, et.al,. (2015) Bibliometric Analysis On Research Study Of Pomegranate: A Review Towards New Findings). *Jurnal Ilmu Perpustakaan Khizanah Al- Hikmah*, UIN Alauddin, Makasar, 3 (1):11-19

Khadher Ahmad, et.al, (2016), Kajian Bibliometrik Terhadap Bahan Penerbitan Penyelidikan Berkaitan Delima: Ke Arah Penyelidikan Terkini Dalam Bidang Pengajian Islam. *Jurnal Islam dan Masyarakat Kontemporari*, UniSZA, 13 (Julai 2016): 1-32.

its advantage to human being. The research finding will make them eligible to be an expertise in the research field.

Discussion

Based on the discussion above, research is an important aspect in the academic world especially among the academic staff itself. Moving a step in achieving mission for Research University, the academic staff in Academy of Islamic Studies did also be together in achieving it. Through the grant given, various scopes and fieds were explored for the research purpose as it need a collaboration of the expertise from different field. The research collaboration can give bigger impact to the research world. For instance, a collaboration between researcher from Islamic Studies and Science field indirectly open a dimension of research which a laboratory research or experimental until the theory can be proof scientifically. Moreover, the finding can be beneficial directly to the whole community.

Based on the experience of conducting research in this trans-discipline field, certain things should be highlighted among the researcher.

Firstly: Collaborating with researcher from different faculty until a research cooperation can be built in different research field. For example, the researcher from Islamic Studies field collaborated with researcher from Science, Chemistry and Pharmacy field and able to conduct a research that related to each other. It same goes with the collaboration between the Islamic Studies researcher and those from Computer Science, Information Technology as well as the Linguistic in one article for highlighting the Islamic theory through application or software which can be used in digital world today.

So, the main objective is ensuring the existence of research network from different discipline of knowledge until the collaboration is able to produce a finding which is latest and empirically proven.

Secondly: Collaborating the research network with researcher from different universities, local and international. The information sharing and expertise of the researcher from different background can produce a quality research. Similarly, with trying to collaborate the research with international research institution that have a big potential in a research world. With that, numerous aspects and ideas able to expanded.

Thirdly: Working on connecting the industrial party that involved directly in field research. The cooperation with industrial party is needed in term of the researcher among the academician. The researcher need a fund for research, while the industrial party need the expertise in research. This two ways cooperation will give benefits for both parties.

Fourthly: All the cooperation and collaboration network mentioned above would not be smooth if it has no confidence and trustworthy among those researchers. Therefore, accordingly a research collaboration should have trust to each other as a basis and react by following the views and discussion together without taking action individually. Henceforth, in a research collaboration, belief and trustworthy is an important thing.

Conclusion

By looking at the discussion above, it is clearly shows that research requirement is definitely important for the researcher especially among the academician either in public or private universities. The research world today not merely focusing on the research field only, yet it has expanded rapidly until numerous discipline were combined in one research to produce a quality research for it to be beneficiated by all level of community.

This trans-discipline grant has helped a lot in expanding the research more and involving many parties in it. Every parties has its own significance and target that it may lead to a deeper research, involving more expertise in different field and eventually producing more useful output.

With this experience, on behalf of the Academy of Islamic Studies, all the academic staff are encourage to have a cooperation and research collaboration with various parties. Research cooperation and collaboration are important since the expertise in Islamic Studies is in theory, it can be translate into a laboratory research and experiment to make it suitable with the needs in the technology world today. Islam then will not be seen as the obstacle for a development, yet it is suitable for all time.

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