

1st World Congress of Muslim Philanthropists
Istanbul, Turkey
March 22-24, 2008



"Facing Challenges and Finding Solutions"



WORLD CONGRESS
OF MUSLIM PHILANTHROPISTS
Benevolence Beyond Social Divides™

1st World Congress of Muslim Philanthropists
Istanbul, Turkey
March 22-24, 2008

Co-sponsored by:

Islamic Development Bank

The Kingdom Foundation

Al-Faleh Group

Istanbul Metropolitan

Turcon Limited

Hayat Foundation

Vakif Bank

Event Organizer:



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The World Congress of Muslim Philanthropists (WCMP) is the premier community of individual donors and foundations of Muslim heritage, established to promote informed and effective giving.

The World Congress of Muslim Philanthropists is a not-for-profit initiative which provides knowledge, resources and networking opportunities to people who have the will to make a difference. WCMP works in partnership with the global community of donors and grant-making institutions to mobilize financial and human resources to advance the common good.

Vision

The World Congress of Muslim Philanthropists envisions a peaceful, equitable, and sustainable world, generously endowed by ethical, accountable, effective and inclusive philanthropy.

Mission

We aspire to bring together donors for the exchange of ideas and proven practices, and to institute an environment of enduring engagement, wherein to use their wealth and influence strategically for the betterment of the world.

Our aim is to create a forum where Muslim philanthropists from diverse backgrounds can interact, collaborate, and subsequently become a leading component in the international community of humanitarians.

Philosophy

Driven by the compassion that is intrinsic in Islamic values, the world wide community of Muslims should work together in reaching out to the needy, irrespective of race or religious beliefs.

The Strategic Framework

- Annual International Conference
- Giving Networks
- Consulting and Operational Assistance
- Research and Analysis
- Quarterly Journal, *Muslim Philanthropy*
- Academy of Philanthropy
- Worldwide Charity Clearinghouse, *Secure Giving*

In the wake of recent natural and man-made calamities, the need arose for an intense and determined action to address these global human crisis with a collective effort. This calling motivated a small number of dedicated individuals to form the World Congress of Muslim Philanthropists (WCMP), a pioneer effort to promote and strengthen Muslim Philanthropy.

In an era where, all too often, Muslims are depicted in a negative light – usually due to conflicts and extremism – it is critical to have a joint forum and a common voice. The First World Congress of Muslim Philanthropists brought together leaders, visionaries, grant makers, and practitioners, to form a better understanding of today's challenges, and participate in an honest debate about the shortcomings that exist within the Muslim societies.

Holding an international conference on a topic as complex as Muslim Philanthropy was bound to carry unique challenges given the diversity of the global Muslim society. The conference drew a significant number of participants from the Islamic world, other faith communities, as well as the secular community. We hope this interaction will promote partnerships among the various philosophies by opening channels of communication and bridging differences.

The goal of the WCMP Conference was to stimulate the exchange of ideas on the topics of social justice, strategic giving, and good governance. Speakers provided critical background information, professional experience, or theoretical foundations upon which the participants could build understanding.

This assembly designed a new framework for thinking, and therewith presented a coherent set of recommendations to enable that framework. We trust these recommendations will be put into practice.

This report is a testimony to the commitment and hard work of the Steering Committee members, and tens of volunteers, who willingly gave of their time and experience to support this unique project. I count it a blessing and a privilege to lead this trend-setting initiative, and wish the World Congress of Muslim Philanthropists great success in all times to come.

Tariq H. Cheema
Founder, WCMP

Oakbrook, Illinois
September, 2008
Ramadan, 1429 H.



Steering Committee:

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Tariq Cheema

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 ActionAid International USA
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 Bir Dilek Tut Vakfi
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 Hartford Seminary
 Hayat Foundation
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 Heed Foundation
 Helping Hands
 Human Development Foundation
 IHH
 IMAN
 Indian Muslim Education Foundation
 International Institute of
 Islamic Thought
 Islamic Development Bank
 Islamic Media Foundation
 Islamic Medical Association
 Islamic Outreach ABIM
 Islamic Youth Conference Forum
 Islamica Magazine
 IslamOnline.net
 ISNA Development Foundation
 Israa Rehabilitation Foundation
 Istanbul Chamber of Commerce
 Istanbul Metropolitan
 KİMSE YOK MU
 Kosovo Health Center
 MALATYA Education Trust
 Meeting Management International
 Mira Costa College
 Mohammad Bin Rashid
 Al Maktoum Foundation
 MÜSİAD
 Muslim Bar Association
 Muslim Women Institute
 Nonprofit Empowerment Group
 OBAT Helpers
 Office of the Premier (Western Cape)
 Officer of Her Highness Sheikha
 Mozah Bint Nasser Al Missned
 Organizations of Islamic Conference
 ORUÇ HOLDİNG
 ÖZEV VAKFI
 Qatar Authority for Charitable Activities
 Qatar Foundation
 Qatar Red Crescent
 Qurban & Surraya Educational Trust
 Rand Corporation
 Reach out to Asia
 Roshni Homes
 Royal Charity Organization of Bahrain
 Sabanci University
 SANKO Holding and Sani
 Konukoglu Foundation
 ŞEFKAT VAKFI
 SEMCET
 SEMİHA ŞAKİR VAKFI
 SICAK YUVA VAKFI

Supreme Council of Islamic Affairs, Bahrain	Turkish Red Crescent	Vakif Bank
Tel Aviv University	Turkish Third Sector Foundation (TUSEV)	Van Yuzuncu Yil University
The Mosque Cares	UNDP	Vehbi Koc Foundation
Turcon Limited	UNFPA	Villa Foundation
Turkish Broadcasting Association	UNHCR	World Assembly of Muslim Youth
Turkish Directorate of Religious Affairs	United States Department of State	World Conference of Religions for Peace
Turkish Economic & Social Studies	USAID	Zaytuna Institute

With the deepest gratitude, the Steering Committee of the World Congress of Muslim Philanthropists acknowledges proclamations and greetings received from the following offices and dignitaries:

<i>HRH Prince El Hassan bin Talal</i>	<i>Office of President Nelson Mandela</i>
<i>Honorable Professor Muhammad Yunus</i>	<i>Office of President William Jefferson Clinton</i>
<i>H. E. Kemal Dervis, The Administrator, UNDP</i>	<i>Office of HRH Prince Alwaleed bin Talal</i>
<i>Dr. Youssef M. Sawani, Executive Director, Gaddafi International Foundation, Libya</i>	<i>Office of HRH Prince Turki Bin Talal</i>
<i>A. R. Rahman, Chairman, A. R. Rahman Foundation, India</i>	<i>Office of President- Islamic Development Bank</i>
<i>Office of UN Secretary General</i>	<i>Office of European Commission to the USA</i>
<i>Office of Vice President of Indonesia</i>	<i>Office of Speaker-Majlis Ash Shura, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia</i>
<i>Office of H.H. The Amir's Consort, Qatar</i>	<i>Office of Director General, Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan Foundation</i>
<i>Office of Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah</i>	<i>Office of Director General-Gulf Research Center, UAE</i>

“Facing Challenges and Finding Solutions”

Welcome:

Prof. Dr. Nevzat Yalcintas, Former Turkish MP

Opening Plenary

Her Excellency Sheikha Aisha bint Faleh Al Thani, Founder, Doha Academy, Qatar

Mr. Ali Bardakoglu, President, Directorate of Religious Affairs, Republic of Turkey

Honorable Ebrahim Rasool, Premier of Western Cape, South Africa

Honorable Ms. Nimet Cubukcu, Minister of State, Republic of Turkey

Her Royal Highness Sheikha Al Mayassa Bint Hamad Al-Thani, Chair, Reach Out To Asia, Qatar

H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Secretary General, Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC)

Sore State of Social Justice: An Overview of Human Crisis Worldwide

Shaykh Hamza Yusuf - Founder, Zaytuna Institute, United States

Giving in Tough Times: Preserving Legitimacy in a Rapidly Changing Political Environment

Moderator: Peter O'Driscoll - Executive Director, ActionAid International, USA

Speakers: Mr. Nihad Awad - National Executive Director, CAIR, USA

Prof. Ali Carkoglu - Sabanci University, Turkey

Human Development Check: A Closer Look at Inequities in the Muslim World

Moderator: Ms. Farah Kabir - Country Representative, ActionAid Bangladesh

Speakers: Dr. Khalid Riaz - Co-founder, Human Development Foundation

Mr. Mark Ward - Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator, USAID

Featured Speaker: Dr. Nafis Sadik - Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General

Crossing Borders for Common Good: Partnering Beyond Color and Creed

Moderator: Mr. James Kidner - Executive Director, Coexist Foundation, UK

Speakers: Dr. William Vendley - Secretary General

World Conference of Religions for Peace

Dr. Mehmet Gormez - Vice President

Directorate of Religious Affairs, Republic of Turkey

Research Presentations

Moderators: Prof. Dr. Ihsan Karaman: Van Yuzuncu Yil University

The Muslim-West Facts Initiative

Shariq Siddiqui - Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University

The New Mission of Philanthropists in Turkey

Ahmad Younis - Senior Analyst, Gallup Consulting, United States

Perspectives and Future Prospects for Change: Patterns of Change in Philanthropy

Can Paker: Turkish Economic & Social Studies Foundation- TESEV

From Charity to Change: Trends in Arab Philanthropy

Dr. Barbara Ibrahim - Director, Center for Philanthropy, American University in Cairo

Filiz Bikmen - Advisor, Turkish Third Sector Foundation (TUSEV)

Keynote Banquet: Passing On The Legacy of Compassion and Tolerance To The Next Generation

Hosted by: Kadir Topbas - Mayor of Istanbul

Keynote Address: Honorable Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister of Republic of Turkey

Featured Presentations

Moderator: Dr. Ustun Erguder - Chair, Turkish Third Sector Foundation (TUSEV)

Social Benefits and Enhancing the Efficiency of Social Welfare : A Discussion Over Turkey's Practices.

Honorable Prof. Omer Dincer - Member of Turkish Parliament

A Rights-Based Approach to Ending Poverty

Peter O'Driscoll - Executive Director, ActionAid International, USA

Protecting the Environment: A Religious Duty & A Social Call

Mohideen Abdul Kader - Senior Board Member
Friends of the Earth Malaysia

Promoting Literacy: Path to Peace and Prosperity

Her Excellency Sheikhha Aisha bint Faleh Al Thani, Founder Doha Academy, Qatar

Endowment Building: Strategic Approach Towards Community Uplift

Moderator: Dr. Heidi Hadsell - President, Hartford Seminary, United States.
Speakers: Zeinoul Abedien Cajee -CEO, National Awqaf Foundation of South Africa
Dr. Jamal Barzinji- International Institute of Islamic Thought, United States
Engin Yilmaz - Chairman, Deniz Feneri Association, Turkey

Media Mastery: Empowering Communities Through Awareness and Activism

Moderator: Sohail Nakhooda - Editor-in-Chief, Islamica Magazine
Speakers: Nuri Colakoglu - President, Turkish Broadcasting Association
Maryam Al Hajiri - Co-founder, Islamonline.net
Sefer Turan - Journalist & Producer, Channel 7, Turkey

Millennium Development Goals: Call to Action and the Role of Muslim Philanthropy

Keynote Address: Honorable Shahid Malik
Minister for International Development, United Kingdom

Corporate-Community Collaboration: Catalyst for Sustained Social Change

Moderator: Hamed Omar - Senior Vice President, Sallie Mae, USA
Speakers: Abdulkadir Konukoglu - Chairman, SANKO Holding, Turkey
Ahsan Saleem - Chairman, Crescent Steel, Pakistan

Compassion in Action: Providing Effective Disaster Relief

Moderator: Dr. Najeeb Rehman - Chairman, Doctors Worldwide, United Kingdom
Speakers: Dr. Tariq H. Cheema - Executive Director,
Association of Physicians of Pakistani Descent of North America
Dr. Mohammed G. A. Al Maadid, Secretary General, Qatar Red Crescent



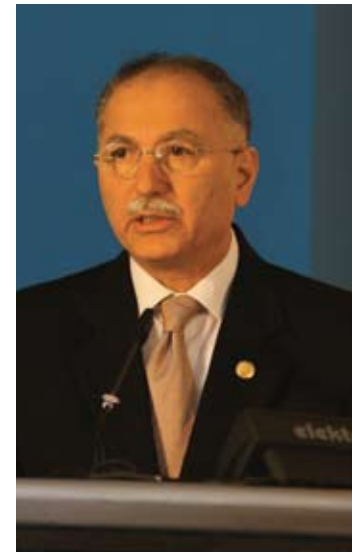
From March 22-24, 2008, Istanbul, Turkey was host to more than 200 participants, from over 31 countries, representing 106 grant-making foundations and NGOs, who came together for the first assembly of World Congress of Muslim Philanthropists (WCMP). With the theme “Facing Challenges and Finding Solutions,” Congress recognized both the difficult dimensions of global human development and Muslim institution-building. It also reflected upon the strategic opportunities of helping millions escape grinding poverty and achieving lasting peace around the world.

The conference aimed at creating philanthropic networks which would better pool and leverage available capital and human resources to combat critical global issues such as poverty, HIV/AIDS, gender disparity in education and health, environmental degradation, human rights and religious extremism.

The event featured several world leaders including the Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu; Turkish Prime Minister, Recep Tayyip Erdogan; Her Royal Highness Sheikha Al Mayassa Bint Hamad Al-Thani, Founder of Reach Out To Asia, Qatar; UK Minister of International Development Shahid Malik; Her Excellency Sheikha Aisha bint Faleh Al Thani, Founder of the Doha Academy, Qatar; Western Cape Premier Ebrahim Rasool; Turkish Minister for Welfare, Nimet Cubukcu and Dr. Nafis Sadiq, Advisor to UN Secretary General.

Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Secretary General of the OIC stated that the World Congress of Muslim Philanthropists (WCMP) came into being at a critical juncture. Recognizing the obstacles that non-governmental organizations face in developing effective strategies for addressing humanitarian needs, he said, OIC has embarked on a number of initiatives to increase international credibility, accountability and capacity of non-governmental organizations of the Islamic world.

Her Royal Highness, Sheikha Al Mayassa Bint Hamad Al-Thani stressed the need to focus on education because of its ability to empower current and future generations in developing effective solutions to poverty alleviation and peace.



“The World Congress of Muslim Philanthropists has convened at a very critical junction; it comes at a time when there is an increasing need for humanitarian intervention in the Muslim World.”

– H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu,
Secretary General, OIC

She called upon philanthropists to be strategic in their thinking and giving, and develop partnerships to reduce overlap and inefficiencies. “Muslim philanthropy can be a powerhouse for lasting change but today it is still like a toddler learning to walk,” said Her Highness.

Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan welcomed holding of WCMP 2008 in Istanbul and applauded the efforts to develop stronger networking and communication among Muslim philanthropists. He stated that such partnerships would enhance collective output and help in reducing waste and overlap that occurs commonly in charitable operations.

UK Minister for International Development Shahid Malik commended World Congress of Muslim Philanthropists (WCMP) for bringing together influential Muslims, who when combined can be immensely powerful and hugely important in the effort to eradicate global poverty. Minister Malik further added that we live in a world today where all too often Muslims are depicted in a negative light, usually due to extremism. Here today, we see the philanthropic side, which is the true face of Islam.

Her Excellency Sheikha Aisha bint Faleh Al Thani called upon Muslim philanthropists to work to alleviate suffering of all people regardless of their faith and race. She further said that Islam’s tradition of alms giving must be bolstered to be an effective bulwark against the misappropriation and misrepresentation of the faith by fringe extremists who seek to destroy rather than build.

Premier Ebrahim Rasool said that Muslim humanitarian organizations, philanthropists and non-governmental organizations must focus on poverty, education, environmental degradation and developing global partnerships that transcend boundaries of religion, race and ethnicity.

Distinguished Research Professor of Law and President, International Human Rights Law Institute, Cherif Bassiouni in his written message for WCMP 2008 stressed upon the need of a permanent international council for major Muslim philanthropies that can serve in two ways. The first is to serve as a clearinghouse for different proposals and also if requested to provide evaluations of the proposals, more importantly, to follow up on grants and to attest to their future outcomes. Another function of the council would be to convene an annual meeting in which the “big” picture would be discussed and maybe a consensus could develop on the focus to be taken, whether in a given sector or for a period of time. “Whatever the outcome of this proposal may be, I suggest to this first conference that the focus for the next decade should be on combating Islamophobia, widening inter-religious and inter-civilizational dialogue and advancing human rights and the rule of law. This is how Muslim philanthropy can contribute to the spirit of Islam and to peace and justice in the world” he stated.

Several inspiring speakers gave overviews on a variety of topics such as poverty, literacy, environment, MDGs, social justice, human development, corporate-community relations, media and endowment building. The audience represented a diverse spectrum of ethnicity and expertise. Among the participants were



“ Our gathering today truly reflects that each one of us in this room shares the same vision in as far as the need for a political change that can set an effective, active example for a better world . ”

– H.R.H. Sheikha Al Mayassa
Bint Hamad Al Thani,
Chair, Reach Out to Asia, Qatar

grant-makers, practitioners, academicians and government officials. The conference also proved to be an excellent medium for delegates to interact and network among themselves

High-level participation from Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), Islamic Development Bank (IDB), United Nations (UN) and UK Department for International Development (DFID) underlined the importance of this pioneer effort in an unprecedented way. Also in attendance were the official representatives of several notable organizations like Qatar Foundation, Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation, Vehbi Koc Foundation, Sabanci University, Reach Out To Asia, Royal Charity Organization of Bahrain, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), US Department of State, Coexist Foundation, Islamic Conference Youth Forum, World Assembly of Muslim Youth, World Council of Religions for Peace, ActionAid International, Habitat for Humanity, Zaytuna Institute, Hartford Seminary, Gallup Corporation, Rand Corporation and American University Cairo.

WCMP gratefully acknowledges the financial support provided by the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), Kingdom Foundation, Istanbul Metropolitan, Al Faleh Group, Turcon Limited, Vakif Bank and International Institute of Islamic Thought for the organization of the first assembly of the World Congress of Muslim Philanthropists.

The conference was covered by journalists from Middle East, Africa, Europe and North America. Over 100 media accreditations were granted by WCMP to the local and foreign media personnel for covering the proceedings. Conference highlights and interviews were relayed live by several local TV networks. Al Jazeera has covered the event and telecasted live interviews in its Arabic transmission. Several mainstream print media organizations have given space to conference news and press releases issued by WCMP. "Chronicle of Philanthropy" in its April 3rd issue not only reported the conference extensively but also published an Op-ed by Prof. Leslie Lenkowsky.

“...the focus for the next decade should be on combating Islamophobia, widening inter-religious and inter-civilizational dialogue and advancing human rights and the rule of law. This is how Muslim philanthropy can contribute to the spirit of Islam and to peace and justice in the world.”

– Prof. Cherif Bassiouni - Distinguished Research Professor of Law and President, International Human Rights Law Institute, DePaul University; President, International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences

Her Excellency Sheikha Aisha Bint Faleh Al Thani

Education is key to world peace. The lack of education in the Muslim world is fundamental to the violation of human rights. Without education, people lack the capacity to achieve valuable functions in life. When people have access to education, they develop the skills, capacity, and confidence to secure other basic rights. Education gives people the ability to secure information, thus deepening their rights along with government's responsibilities, develops the communication skills needed to demand these rights, and makes them confident to speak and negotiate with a wide range of government officials and power holders.

Those who receive philanthropic help will often choose education over even clean water. In 2000, during a survey of The Displaced Center camps on Maluku Island in Indonesia, leaders of The Displaced Center repeatedly requested "schools for our children" as the primary need for their country, despite the lack of cleaner wells and other relief commodities. During an assessment mission in Iraq in 2003, the International Rescue Committee was considering a grant of \$5,000 dollars to a small community. When they asked the people how the grant should be allocated, they requested "a school for our children," even though they sorely needed shelter, food, and other commodities. Education is universally recognized as a basic human right, particularly by those who are being denied it.

The statistics on illiteracy are staggering. UNESCO estimates that there are 780 million illiterate people worldwide; two-thirds of which are women and girls. In the Arab world, the literacy rate for women is even worse; one in every two women cannot read or write. Globally, more than 100 million children are not enrolled in primary school, and billions of others do not attend secondary school. Around the world, disabled children account for one in three of all the children not attending school, and yet how many schools cater to these special children? It is our duty to lend a helping hand.



“Events of this caliber create the platform for open debate and fruitful discussions, which traces awareness of critical issues, identified challenges, and tries to find strategies that address those challenges.”

– Her Excellency Sheikha Aisha bint
Faleh Al Thani,
Founder, Doha Academy, Qatar

If education is to be for all, then we must give more attention to meeting the learning needs of these excluded populations. This will require targeted measures rather than simple charity. It necessitates thinking outside the box of traditional educational interventions and methods. In particular, we must give greater priority to the provision of education in post-conflict and post-disaster situations. Children and adults affected by war are among the most vulnerable in society. We must do more to protect the rights of those who have suffered through no fault of their own.

34 countries decreased their share of GNP to education since 1999, including some countries which are farthest from the EFA goals. 24 countries allocate only 3% of the GNP to education. Muslim philanthropists must strive to fill the gap.

We must look to new ways of using resources. Public-private partnerships are now being recognized by governments as advantageous; however, these partnerships between private philanthropists, corporations, NGO's, and governments are still on a very small scale. Research can be more effective when undertaken in partnership, or by consultation with strategically aligned stakeholders and individuals. Looking to the West for good models of this is another strategy that should be considered. The example of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is one to consider. It targets those underserved in terms of technology, such as women and the elderly and the disabled. The foundation works extensively with NGO's and governments to train these groups by starting technology learning centers. They train "master trainers" who in turn can train others in their community. The foundation is looking to train, either directly or indirectly, 250 million people worldwide within 5 years; this includes K-12 and secondary education providers.

The task before us is a challenging one, however, the expertise gathered at the first World Congress of Muslim Philanthropists is the best guarantee towards successfully identifying the challenges and finding the solutions.

“Those who receive philanthropic help will often choose education over even clean water.”

Honorable Ebrahim Rasool, Premier of Western Cape, South Africa

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Global poverty and inequality have become structurally embedded in world society, and yet at the same time, the contribution of Muslim philanthropists has been placed under severe pressure. Under high suspicion in a post 9/11 world, governments seek to locate the sources of funding, and to use their words, “mosques that spew hate, textbooks that promote intolerance, and the charities that are aligned with terrorists.” This is how \$20 billion US dollars is categorized as “bad money”. These can only be the words of those who do not understand that humanitarian work and philanthropy are as old as Islam itself.

Those who gathered for the first World Congress of Muslim Philanthropists were not there to boast of their charities, nor to claim their advances, nor to speak about their humanitarian work or philanthropy. They were there to evaluate whether the work and philanthropy is appropriate, and whether it is making an impact in the areas of the world where it is most needed.

The world is unequal within nations, between countries, and between continents. It is unequal within the developed and the developing worlds. Poverty today is no longer the exception, but is structurally embedded in the DNA of globalization itself. It is essential to evaluate whether the scale of poverty, of inequality, of alienation, requires a new set of assumptions and operational methods by which Muslim philanthropists should work. Circumstances are new, because with the benefits of globalization, a completely new scale of challenges has emerged. Today people are not just poor, the world is unequal; this paradigm shift requires a paradigm shift in Muslim philanthropy. In Islam, we are asked to give in secret and also in public, so the question becomes, can we afford a lack of coordination between the left hand and right hand? It is imperative to build a network amongst those who together collectively invest \$20 billion US dollars annually, a network that can evaluate the distribution of funds and resources for the benefit of those in need on a global scale.

Another paradigm shift that needs to happen is in the development of skills and capacities of young people. If Muslim youth constitutes the most alienated of the population, then this is the area Muslim philanthropy must make long-term and sustainable investments. Priority must be given to literacy projects, educational development, and the nurturing of young entrepreneurs in order to keep up in a fast-paced global economy.

In the global scale of philanthropy, it has become clear we need to become global in the ways we give. The establishment of a vehicle such as the WCMP can bring together donors, philanthropists, and practitioners in particular fields, to discuss how individual strategies can address global issues such as poverty development, literacy skills development, and the environmental problems that impact those who can least afford it. Coordination is needed so that efficiencies can be built into current efforts, while avoiding the pitfalls of giving to the wrong causes.



“ We need to establish a vehicle that from time to time brings together donors, philanthropists, and practitioners in particular fields to discuss how our strategies can address global issues...” ”

— Honorable Ebrahim Rasool,
Premier of Western Cape, South Africa

HRH Sheikha Al Mayassa Bint Hamad Al Thani

Indeed, there was no better place for the first World Congress of Muslim Philanthropists (WCMP) than Istanbul, where East meets West. It reminds one of the greatness of the Islamic heritage and civilization. Although many different countries and cultures were represented, participants managed to untie their nationalistic thoughts and instead set their minds towards one common goal: working together for a better world. Philanthropy should not simply be an entourage of remote benefactors for strangers, but rather a calculated strategy of giving. Muslim Philanthropists do have responsibilities towards others, yet this responsibility must be distributed based on individual skills and financial abilities.

We all need to believe that the welfare of one of us is intimately connected to the welfare of all of us, that when one human being is weakened by exclusion from basic human resources, then we are all weaker.

Given what our religious demands of us, giving from the heart and giving from the determination to improve our world, this allows us to stretch out and reach more. Education is the platform for future sustainability, volunteerism, training, communication, creating knowledge networks, and most importantly, embracing an environment of sustainable development. We are committed to continuing our efforts, and have already done so much and gone so far. Yet, there is so much more to be done.

Today our legendary culture of generosity needs to be allied to the beginning of an era of equally legendary prosperity and a hard-earned stability, in which philanthropy has played an absolutely crucial, though too often overlooked and perhaps mismanaged.

So with this confluence of connectivity, collaboration and compassion, now is exactly the right time to examine how we can metamorphose our generations-old culture of spontaneous, massive, personal generosity which we are so good at, so that it incorporates the kind of planned and realistic philanthropic giving which can be a powerhouse of lasting change.



“Focus on education is critical because of its ability to empower current and future generations in developing solutions to poverty alleviation and peace.”

– H.R.H. Sheikha Al Mayassa
Bint Hamad Al Thani,
Chair, Reach Out to Asia, Qatar

Sore State of Social Justice: An Overview of Human Crisis Worldwide

Hamza Yusuf, Founder Zaytuna Institute, USA

God has created balance on the earth and in His creatures. The Qur'an reminds us: "We set a balance in the world that you should not transgress that balance". Balance is the essence of justice—the balance of all things, both secular and sacred, in the world.

The secular and the religious communities value the same ideals; however, both sides often fail to understand that while the terms used to describe the ideals may be different, the goals are the same. The highest secular ideals are those of social justice; governments have established courts to address wrongs, and they have police to protect the population and ensure domestic tranquility. The religious community recognizes that government is one of the greatest blessings bestowed upon humanity. The divide between the secular and religious communities comes when there is a betrayal of these common ideals – not because of any differences in the ideals themselves.

Islamic scholars have said that sixty years of tyranny is better than one hour of anarchy. Those who can appreciate this statement are people in places like Iraq, or Gaza in the West Bank – places where people are suffering from the absence of government. When government, no matter how poor or inadequate, doesn't exist in society, it is impossible for humans to thrive. Recognizing the inherent blessing of government, the private sector needs to facilitate its improvement. This is where the work of the WCMP is so important. We need to call on our governments to live up to the highest ideals that they espouse. In so doing this,



“ WCMP is one of those ideas that when we see it actually before our eyes we wonder why nobody thought of this before, but there a type of genius in recognizing the obvious.”

– Shaykh Hamza Yusuf,
Zaytuna Institute, United States



we must also recognize that there is more good in government than there is evil. So often, the religious community focuses on the evil in government, forgetting the great blessing in it, while the secular community focuses on what they perceive as the evil in religion, forgetting the great good in it. When we concentrate on the negative, we fail to recognize the immense good.

Over twenty percent of the planet's population is living in dire poverty - lacking adequate food, potable water, shelter, without access to health care or almost any basic human need. Recognizing our immense moral obligation because of the wealth and abilities that we as a worldwide community have been given is one of the most important aspects to the survival of the planet. Conflict resolution is a science today; we have extensive knowledge of the social sciences needed to resolve much of the human suffering, and yet we don't apply these principals to people in places like Palestine and Kashmir. Muslim philanthropists must facilitate the simple act of listening between peoples. Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said, "It's from the human dignity for a man to listen well to his fellow man."

Our focus as Muslim philanthropists should be towards the advancement of a generation of intellectuals educated in capacity building. The sciences of engineering and medicine have been well served by our community; however, it is now time to encourage Muslims to pursue other fields of academia in order to empower the world community of Muslims. We need Muslims who can effectively run NGO's; Muslims who can bring about policy changes; Muslims who will enable our non-profit organizations to be more effective and influential on the world stage, ensuring all the checks and balances are in place from all sides.

Encouraging and supporting education will help build a middle class in the Muslim world. The collapse of the middle class in the West is one of the most dangerous phenomena on the horizon today. As displayed in many societies around the world, lack of a middle class results in widespread government corruption, which in turn disrupts the necessary balance needed to ensure a just society. Achieving and maintaining the balance necessary for a just world society must be the immediate and future focus for those of us who have the means and the will to see it happen.

“ The secular and the religious communities value the same ideals; however, both sides often fail to understand that while the terms used to describe the ideals may be different, the goals are the same. ”

Giving in Tough Times: Preserving Legitimacy in a Rapidly Changing Political Environment

There are 2.7 billion people – constituting almost 48% of the world's total population – who are poor; they live on less than 2 dollars per day. According to UNESCO, there are almost 900 million people, that is approximately 1/6th of the world's population, who are illiterate - unable write or read in any language. Charitable giving is one way to express compassion and mercy to those people who are in need of help.

We must be careful to ensure that the sensitive issue of counter-terrorism does not lead to unintended consequences, like committing injustices against people who need help, or villanizing institutions that are giving needed assistance. Pre-9/11, it was uncommon to see relief organizations that operated with a structure of transparent financial responsibility towards its donors. This created an atmosphere of distrust on the part of donors, and on the part of the government toward these institutions. This lack of transparency may also have attribute to the attitude that direct donations are better than a donation to an institution; for example, in Turkey, nearly 87% of donations are direct donations. This bypasses philanthropic organizations, and thereby excludes aid to the neighborhood in which the donor resides. This model of giving stagnates capacity building.

Due to the increased scrutiny of monies going in and out of the United States post-9/11, Islamic philanthropic organizations have become increasingly responsible in their financial reporting and communication with donors. This positive change – necessitated by unfortunate circumstances, and a serious communication gap between governments and philanthropic organizations – has resulted in greater strength and confidence in the organizations that can do the most good.

Islamic organizations should focus on capacity building, and strategies for helping the needy. However, efforts of any organization should also be focused on political circles and legal circles in order to protect their future. Clear communication, transparent work, and a clear vision toward building coalitions with non-Muslim charitable organizations are very important. Communicating with governments and updating them of our work and our vision is crucial in soliciting their support. Muslim philanthropists must become accustomed to working under the spotlight, with open communications, to eliminate suspicion and unfair targeting of Muslim institutions.

It is also important to remember that as a true reflection of our faith, we are obligated to aid all of humankind. This work will shift the perception of Muslims as a threat to our global security to one that is a blessing to humanity.



Left: Prof. Ali Carkoglu,
Sabanci University, Turkey
Right: Mr. Nihad Awad,
National Executive Director, CAIR, USA

Human Development Check: A Closer Look at Inequities in the Muslim World

Muslim countries, or areas where most of the Muslims live, rank the lowest on the scale of human development indicators. According to the most recent research, over half of the world's population of illiterate people are Muslims. Similar statistics hold for access to safe drinking water. Close to four million people a year die because of unsafe drinking water, and at least half of those four million are Muslims. So, while Muslims make up a quarter of the earth's population, they are in the majority in terms of poverty and illiteracy.

Approximately 20 years ago, research estimated that six billion dollars could provide basic education for children all over the world. The world is spending about one trillion dollars on military expenditures—half of that figure is by the U.S. alone. The rest of the world combines to make up the other half. The OIC countries are spending close to seventy billion dollars a year on military expenditures. Therefore, even if only the Muslim countries diverted ten to twenty percent of their military spending, we could educate the entire world. The impact of this would be tremendous in terms of the current perceptions of Muslims globally, as well as contributing to sustainable world peace.

The first World Congress of Muslim Philanthropists emphasized and identified the need for civil society organizations to develop collaborated networks and take a strategically aligned approach, rather than waste time and resources on individualized efforts. We must institutionalize the community development efforts. There is a great need for centers of learning to train leaders and managers in the developing world. We must support and promote scientific research to determine what works and what does not work in terms of community development.

In the last five years, there has been an almost three-fold increase in US funding of humanitarian assistance to Muslim nations, reaching more than 7.8 billion dollars last year. Yet, over the last thirty years, private funding has far surpassed the funding from the United States. At the same time, Muslim society needs rational discussion of their own situations, on their own terms. While America is sincerely trying to figure out how to work with developing Muslim nations better we must encourage developing Muslim nations to put more emphasis on the salaries of their educators and health care workers, and rely less on foreign aid and resources to bring their populations up to basic education standards.

Besides the need for improved education of the world's Muslim youth, the issue of women's rights in Muslim-majority countries must be addressed. There is no justification in Islam for the oppressive behavior towards women; in fact, there is no justification in any system of ethics anywhere. A strong and united effort among people of goodwill in all Islamic communities and countries toward gender equality is necessary. It calls religious leaders to act with restraint and dignity to support what is best and most humane in our faith.



“ In the last five years, there has been an almost three-fold increase in US funding of humanitarian assistance to Muslim nations, reaching more than 7.8 billion dollars last year. Yet, over the last thirty years, private funding has far surpassed the funding from the United States.”

— Mr. Mark Ward, Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator, USAID

Crossing Borders for Common Good: Partnering Beyond Color and Creed

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Today, practical and religious imperatives for multi-religious cooperation have aligned. The suffering that inflicts our world - war, poverty, and the destruction of our environment - simply doesn't respect community lines; it cuts across all the world's communities. We all are growing in awareness of the fact that "my" security depends upon "your" security. No walls can be built high enough to protect us from the needs of others, so the well-being of others must be the concern of everyone. We, as a human family, are no safer than the most vulnerable among us.

Cooperation helps align diverse communities on common problems. All the world's faith communities can place their problems in the center of the table, and while respecting differences, can weigh in and work towards solving the problem. Cooperation highlights the complimentary character of diverse religious communities, and the diverse gifts within each of the communities.

From Charity to Change: Trends in Arab Philanthropy

Among the philanthropic community, there is a paradigm shift away from individual charity, toward the need to address the root causes of the problems faced in the world today. The trend and dynamism seen in the Arabic-speaking philanthropic community today tends toward addressing the social ills at their root. Strategic philanthropy, as opposed to traditional "charity", is social investment that leverages systematic change, maximizing impact to solve significant societal problems through addressing their root causes.



In the Arabic-speaking world, there is a profound realization that governments cannot and will not provide the solutions to our problems, and neither will the markets. However, some kind of partnership between the people, the citizens, market forces, and the government, must join together to address the scale of problems that we are facing. While in Western capitalism these ideas of social responsibility have been add-ons, they had to be lobbied for, because they go against the basic capitalist theory. That's not the case in the Muslim world. It is central to economic systems in Islam that there be a moral framework, and that framework supports those who are in need by those who have prospered, making sure that no one is left behind.

Philanthropy in the Arabic-speaking world is becoming more institutional. The responsibility to give has underpinned Muslim giving for centuries. But, if one's only responsibility is to give, then interest and oversight ends at the moment in which the gift leaves one's hand. This means that the giver may not care very much about impact, follow up, or even how the gift really used. The trend today, across the region, is toward feeling a responsibility to make a difference; ensuring that the money is not only given as a religious obligation, but that there must also be social benefit for it to be considered a truly worthy gift.

“What Muslim society needs is a rational discussion of their own situation, and on their own terms.”

Dr. Nafis Sadik,
Special Advisor to the UN Secretary General

Many in the Arab world have now moved on, from focusing inward on their personal wealth and legacy, toward being ready to work for the rest of their society. With the realization that unless economic prosperity is for all citizens, then the economic future for the even the wealthiest children and grandchildren is not very promising. It is also becoming more apparent to those in this wealthy community that we need to get beyond the typical areas of charitable work (women, children, orphans and widows), and address the concerns of rights-based disadvantaged groups (ethnic minorities, illiterate, handicapped), and also be more courageous in taking on the issues of the sectarian-strife of minorities.

Perspective and Future Prospects for Change: Patterns of Change in Philanthropy

While lacking more research, current events and trends suggest we are now on the brink of another golden age of philanthropy. This is seen in terms of “the traditional foundations” - making the shift from “hardware” (buildings, schools, hospitals, museums), to the “software” needs (education reform, curriculum reform, teacher training, etc.) A second trend is moving toward increased funding for innovative programs and projects at the local and national levels. The third trend seen is the recognition of the need for development of new partnerships and collaborative initiatives that will maximize the leveraging of financial and non-financial resources in achieving impact.

All these trends portend a shift from charity to strategic giving. We are seeing philanthropy move and expand toward developing program strategies with more specific objectives to achieve impact. More new developments are in Diaspora philanthropy, and additional partnerships are being formed.

Promoting opportunities for people to learn and become professionals in this sector is important, as well as continuation of research so we can see where we are; where we are going; and what we need to do to get there.



To address poverty in a meaningful way, we have to look at the respective roles of governments, of donors and private philanthropists, and of the poor themselves.

Global public policies have been much less friendly to labor, which is, of course, the only productive resource that the world's poor own. Therefore, even as we have liberalized the flow of capital and goods, we have actually restricted the flow of labor. It should therefore be no surprise that the impoverished, who depend on their labor for their livelihoods, have come out on the wrong end of the stick in this latest experiment in globalization. It's crucial to understand that imbalances in the global economy are a recipe for perpetuating poverty and inequality.

In the core debates about policies that will shape the lives of the poor, they themselves are simply not present. In a more just global order, the underprivileged would have a right to an equal voice in the formulation of public policies, so as to shape anti-poverty programs to the needs of those most affected. In other words, to fight poverty, we must find structural ways to include the poor in the policy debate.

Philanthropy could and should continue to support both emergency and longer-term training needs as a key part of any development strategy. Philanthropists must invest not only in emergency needs and in longer-term training, but also in strengthening poor people's movements to enhance their civic participation.

Private philanthropy should not replace the role of the state. However, private philanthropy should help the poor to negotiate effective anti-poverty solutions with the state, which could potentially leverage much more investment from governments. Philanthropy can be about including the excluded voices in the debate.

Protecting the Environment: A Religious Duty and a Social Call

The degradation of ecosystems and their services could grow significantly worse during the next 50 years. This would present a significant barrier to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, particularly the eradication of poverty and hunger. If you do not address the environmental problem, you are not going to wipe out poverty. Most of the driving forces causing the degradation of ecosystems are either staying constant or growing in intensity.

If urgent measures are not taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, gradual global warming could trigger a sudden shift in the Earth's climate, causing parts of the world to dramatically heat up or cool down in the span of just a few years. A Pentagon study in 2004 concluded that in a worst-case scenario, global warming could make large areas of the world uninhabitable, causing massive food and water shortages, which in turn would spark widespread migrations and war.



“ I commend WCMP for bringing together influential Muslims, who when combined can be immensely powerful and hugely important in the effort to eradicate global poverty. ”

— Honorable Shahid Malik
Minister for International
Development, United Kingdom

It is the developed countries that are primarily responsible for global warming, but it is the developing countries that are largely paying the price. The United States, with only 5 percent of the world's population, contributes nearly 25 percent of worldwide greenhouse gas pollution annually. In fact, the US emits more carbon dioxide than China, India, and Japan combined. The African continent, with 14 percent of the world's population, contributes only 3 percent of the global greenhouse gas emissions. This includes the contribution to global warming from the oil, gas, mining, and extractive industries, and deforestation that supports the consumption habits and lifestyles of the US and other rich countries, as well as our own local African elite.

Muslim NGOs, and particularly Muslim philanthropists, should not only be concerned about building mosques or even education. We should put focus on how to protect our environment.

Promoting Literacy: Path to Peace and Prosperity

Although the first World Congress of Muslim Philanthropists was conducted by Muslims, it was for the benefit of all the needy in the world, not only needy Muslims.

Education is thought to be a basic human right, and it is enshrined in various international conventions, some national constitutions, and development plans. Formally, this right is stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Refugees' Convention, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Geneva Convention. However, while the vast majority of countries have signed up to and ratified these international conventions, far fewer have integrated these rights in national constitutions or provided the legislative and administrative frameworks to ensure that these rights are realized and practiced. Today, the right of education is still denied to millions around the world. Education is so vital to communities, which even during high profile emergencies, recipients often identify support for schooling as the priority intervention.

Overall, aid in the Arab states region rose from 6.5 billion dollars in 2000, and reached 23 billion dollars in 2005. However, the share of educational aid has declined considerably in proportion to overall aid during this period, from 16 percent in 2000 to just 6 percent in 2005. Only 1/3rd of educational aid is allocated to basic education. For Iraqi refugees, major donor governments agreed to provide 139 million dollars to enhance the educational aid in Iraq. However, only 9 million was recovered from those donor governments. The question remains: how are we to reach that goal? We need to join forces to succeed; the UN is recognizing the goal of donors, multilateral agencies, and civil societies in forging a joined vision.

It is proven that education is a priority over all things when asking aid recipients what they need most. It is obvious that financial resources are the major roadblock to improving access to education. Meeting the learning needs of excluded populations requires targeted measures and strategic philanthropy, rather than ad hoc giving.

Building effective networks between NGO's, civil societies, and organizations such



as UNESCO, are needed to set a standard of practice in each development field. Training of new entrants into each field must be established. We need a multifaceted approach to this challenge. However, too often the focus of dialogue has been between ministries of education and consortium of donors, with little space for the active engagement of civil societies. Yet, for national education plans to be effective, they need to be owned and supported not just by the government, but by wider society with national governments accountable to their own citizens for the direction and effectiveness of educational reform. To achieve this requires significant investment in the capacity of civil societies. We need to raise awareness about philanthropy and corporate social responsibility. For this trend to flourish, a supportive legal framework facilitating independence and good governance of foundations is required. Governments are recognizing the advantages of joint efforts with private philanthropists and corporations to address challenges, but it is still at a smaller scale. Research can be more effective when undertaken in partnership or consultation with strategically aligned stakeholder organizations. And lastly, we should ask them what they want. When we go to countries, we should not impose a plan that has a private agenda, or one that does not cater for the cultural background. Rather we should ask them what sort of training and education they want, and let them buy into it and give them ownership.



Left: Abdul Kadir Konukoglu, Chairman,
SANKO Holding, Turkey
Right: Ahsan Saleem,
Chairman, Crescent Steel, Pakistan

We need a new education compact between developing countries, bilateral and multilateral donors, and the international financial institutions whose core objective is to channel increased aid to countries with sound national strategies for achieving education for all. Such a compact would create clear incentives for increased country effort by helping to generate a coherent, predictable, and transparent donor response to good national and international plans. It would provide the international community with a framework for identifying the countries that are making serious efforts toward EFA goals.

In short, the elements of the plan are simple. A regularly updated, country-by-country assessment and monitoring report would give a clear picture of progress towards meeting clear policy challenges, as well as analysis of current financial resources and outstanding resource gaps. It should identify countries that are on track or off track or that may be in need of additional support. It should give the donor community an overview of financing trends, and allow donors to identify bottlenecks or areas that are being neglected. In calculating financing gaps in individual countries, the World Bank should improve on simplistic projections based on average unit cost. The financial implications of strategies to improve access, quality, and equity must be factored fully into plans.

We need a financing framework to fill financing gaps. The financing framework should maximize existing partnerships at national and international levels to channel additional resources from a range of bilateral and multilateral sources. It should not be a fund, though. Some donors may wish to contribute through a dedicated financing facility. Rather, it should provide mechanisms to enhance cooperation among donors in order to ensure a rapid and transparent response to all countries that initiate serious plans for achieving the EFA goals.

Endowment Building: Strategic Approach Towards Community Uplift

Building endowments means reestablishing and reinstitutionalizing the foundation of *waqf* (Islamic charitable and religious endowments). These ministries of *awqaf* must be models of good management rather than a mediocre model of mismanagement. What triggers the potential of the Muslim ummah to give and to go back and revive itself in the art of giving has to be planted rebuilding the institution of *waqf*.

The Islamic model of endowment building needs to be promoted to society at large. Other faith communities have set a good example of showcasing their own endowment building models—Muslims must begin to do the same.

Media Mastery: Empowering Communities Towards Community Uplift

We achieve the task of helping people help themselves by first inspiring people with information. A very important aspect to all charity organizations is optimizing volunteer efforts. Media can be used to inspire people to volunteer through interviews, multimedia information, and media coverage, and then empower them with action tools. This will also help establish the volunteer culture, which is sometimes missing in many areas of the Arab world, and worldwide in general.

The Internet has opened up doors for philanthropy, providing useful tools for many functions. E-training can be used by charity organizations to deliver knowledge and skills to anyone, anywhere. E-training can also be used to support relief efforts by providing the needed training very fast and to large numbers of people at the same time. “Eyewitness” opportunities through media allows anyone to be a reporter around the world, and it can be a very powerful tool for inspiring volunteerism and participation.

Media in philanthropy can be used for two major causes. One is to create awareness - showing an issue that hasn't been noticed, or one which requires investigation and thought in order to take action. The other is fund-raising. With the right cause, and an efficient and professional campaign, the media can shed a positive awareness to the cause, and hopefully help raise needed funds that will ultimately benefit society.

Corporate-Community Collaboration: Catalyst for Sustained Social Change

The corporate responsibility movement has worked towards incorporating social and economic issues to create new and sustainable solutions that allow for continued profit-making and social well-being within the society simultaneously. Now the shift also creates new synergies, particularly between the corporate world and the non-profit sectors. While the motivation for targeting citizens differs, it cannot be ignored that the longevity of any business organization or society is the support of its citizens. Citizens are also consumers of goods and services that sustain growth of the private sector, and citizens are also the direct recipients of the majority of the non-profit sectors activity.

While charitable institutions do bring dynamism and entrepreneurship to the civil society organizations (CSOs), but corporations like to not just see enterprise but they also like to see longevity, transparency, succession and long-term sustainability. Corporations are therefore keen to partner with structured community based organizations.

Compassion in Action: Providing Effective Disaster Relief

There are three basic ingredients to successful disaster relief. One is compassion, the other is comfort – do we feel comfortable in working with each other? Call it trust building, or having confidence in each other, but the comfort factor is crucial. The third ingredient is coordination and collaboration.

The philanthropic community has plenty of compassion; it is what drives one forward to help, especially in times of disaster. However, communication must be built among organizations and people on the ground, so that everyone feels comfortable together and can work efficiently and effectively. Establishing new lines of communication should not be done in the midst of a disaster; it should be done when the waters are calm.

In regards to disaster preparedness, the only way to have sustainable capacity building is to work at the local and regional levels. We must look at exit strategies that are required to make sure we aren't leaving a legacy of harm but rather a legacy of good.



Dr. Mohammed G. A. Al Maadid, Secretary
General, Qatar Red Crescent



Key Messages from the First Congress of Muslim Philanthropists

Harnessing the “wisdom of the gathering” is vital for purposes that actually contribute to community learning and ultimately the greater good. The first assembly of World Congress of Muslim Philanthropists brought together visionary leaders, grant-makers, academicians and practitioners of unique backgrounds and experiences. Ten most important lessons learned at the 1st World Congress of Muslim Philanthropists (WCMP 2008) are summarized here. They can be specific to the keynote addresses, research presentations, panel discussions, or even the informal interactions that took place in the corridors or over a meal. WCMP presents these key take-aways in the hope to learn and grow collectively.

1. The worldwide community of Muslim philanthropists should be proactive in reaching out to the needy, irrespective of their race or religious beliefs.
2. The work of Muslim grant-makers could be furthered strategically through enduring and sustained international engagement amongst key partners in critical areas of philanthropy.
3. Muslim Philanthropists should take a closer look at the potential new challenges ranging from environment to political conflict, and from Islamophobia to extremism, and set their giving priorities according to the newly emerging sociopolitical frontiers.
4. While compassion is the most powerful driving force behind helping victims of natural and man-made disasters, there is a need for capacity building, mutual cooperation and communication among Muslim humanitarians for ensuring well-coordinated, low-cost and high-efficiency relief operations.
5. Developing benchmarks, such as establishing a clearing-house, creating best practices, and helping NGOs leverage the available capital and human resources through effective consulting and training, are vital for the growth of Muslim philanthropy.
6. Accountability and transparency of the recipient organizations should be a must-criterion in grant-making process. A mechanism that can educate and update grantees on compliance and cross-border giving needs to be explored and implemented.
7. Besides donating to the faith-based, educational and health-care institutions, it is essential to fund the non-conventional initiatives that promote research, leadership development, economic and social entrepreneurial advancement, environmental stewardship, religious and cultural tolerance and effective response to the negative aspects of globalization.
8. Muslim giving needs to shift its focus from conventional to strategic thus making long-term impact rather short-term, through building endowments and incorporating strategic planning. As important as emergency assistance will always be, Muslim philanthropy must also engage the root causes of poverty and conflict and be ready to invest in longer term solutions
9. Strategic partnerships and alliance building with mainstream philanthropies around the common global issues should be encouraged.
10. Gatherings of Muslim philanthropists through annual conferences, regional or national grant-makers roundtables and workshops should be promoted.

***The Chronicle of Philanthropy:** “Muslims around the globe contribute billions of dollars to humanitarian causes a year, but their efforts are often poorly organized and not well-known to the world. The World Congress of Muslim Philanthropists is formed to help Islamic donors and nonprofit groups to overcome these obstacles.”*

***Muslim Media Network:** “The congress aimed at creating philanthropic networks that could better pool and leverage available capital and human resources to combat critical global issues such as poverty, HIV/AIDs, poor education, environmental degradation and religious extremism.”*

***Philanthropy UK:** “The World Congress of Muslim Philanthropists was formed to help Islamic donors and non-profit groups to overcome obstacles such as poorly organised efforts in the contributions of Muslims to humanitarian causes and unacknowledged giving of Islamic communities.”*

***Premier Ebrahim Rasool:** “Global poverty and inequality have become structurally embedded in world society, and yet at the same time, the contributions of Muslim philanthropists has been placed under severe pressure. Coordination is needed so that efficiencies can be built into current efforts, while avoiding the pitfalls of giving to the wrong causes.”*

***Sheikha Aisha bint Faleh Al Thani:** “Islam’s tradition of alms giving must be bolstered to be an effective bulwark against the misappropriation and misrepresentation of the faith by fringe extremists who seek to destroy rather than build.”*



WORLD CONGRESS
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Benevolence Beyond Social Divides™