



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / 27 OGOS 2025

MEDIA STATEMENT

WORLD ZAKAT AND WAQF FORUM 2025: Sponsorship Handover Seals Strategic Partnerships

KUALA LUMPUR, 27 August 2025 – The 14th World Zakat and Waqf Forum (WZWF) Annual Meeting and International Conference will be held from 13 to 15 October 2025 at the Hikmah Exchange Event Centre, Kuching, Sarawak. This landmark edition, organised in conjunction with the 70th Anniversary of Majlis Islam Sarawak, will be officiated on the first day by the Premier of Sarawak, Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari, a visionary architect of Sarawak's economic and development agenda; from digital economy initiatives to hydrogen energy, industrialisation, infrastructure, and rural development. He is also an avid supporter of Waqf as an enabler towards empowering social community development.

On the third and final day, the Forum will be honoured by a Special Prime Ministerial Keynote Address by the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Datuk Seri Anwar Bin Ibrahim underscoring Malaysia's leadership in positioning zakat and waqf as key enablers of enduring and inclusive development. The proceedings will then culminate in the pinnacle of WZWF 2025 — the Kuching Declaration, to be delivered by the Secretary General of the World Zakat and Waqf Forum, setting forth the shared vision and global commitments of the Forum.

In a special ceremony today held in Kuala Lumpur, major sponsorship contributions were officially handed over to the World Zakat and Waqf Forum (WZWF) as the main organiser and to Yayasan Waqaf Malaysia (YWM) as the Waqf Partner for WZWF 2025. The handover was witnessed by the Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Religious Affairs), Senator Dato' Setia Dr. Mohd Naim Mokhtar, underscoring the Government of Malaysia's strong commitment to advancing Islamic social finance.

The distinguished sponsors confirmed for WZWF 2025 are MBSB Group, Yayasan Waqaf Malaysia (YWM), Lembaga Zakat Negeri Kedah (LZNK), BERNAS, Malaysian Kuwaiti Investment Co. Sdn Bhd (MKIC), Pusat Pungutan Zakat – MAIWP (PPZ-MAIWP), and Yayasan Infaq ANGKASA. We



are also honoured to have the Association of Shariah Advisors in Islamic Finance (ASAS) as the Knowledge Partner for the conference. Their invaluable support will ensure the successful convening of global leaders, policymakers, scholars, and practitioners from around the world. Sponsorship opportunities for WZWF 2025 remain open, welcoming more partners to be part of this landmark global movement.

The event is hosted by the Sarawak Government, Majlis Islam Sarawak (MIS), and Tabung Baitulmal Sarawak (TBS), who also serve as the primary sponsors. This collaboration marks a historic milestone in Sarawak's journey to position itself as a leader in progressive zakat and waqf governance, both nationally and globally. The hosting of WZWF 2025 also coincides with the 70th Anniversary of Majlis Islam Sarawak, celebrating seven decades of institutional service and leadership in advancing Islamic affairs in the region.

WZWF 2025 will also welcome a diverse and dynamic line-up of panel members, masterclass leaders, workshop facilitators, and delegates from across the globe. Confirmed participants include representatives from South Africa, Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia, Germany, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Nigeria, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and ASEAN countries, with many more to be announced in the weeks ahead. Their participation reflects the Forum's stature as a truly global platform, uniting thought leaders, policymakers, and innovators to reimagine zakat and waqf for the digital age.

Sarawak is poised to showcase its commitment to modern zakat and waqf development. This is not only a celebration of 70 years of Majlis Islam Sarawak but also the beginning of a new era of co-creation and service to the Ummah."

Datuk Dr. Mohd Ghazali Md Noor, Secretary General of WZWF, said:

"The confirmation of major sponsors and partnerships marks a bold step towards ensuring the success of WZWF 2025. Their support, together with the leadership of Majlis Islam Sarawak in its 70th anniversary year and Tabung Baitulmal Sarawak, embodies the spirit of innovation and inclusivity that we envision for the future of zakat and waqf—across global, regional, national, community, and family levels, encompassing all imperatives of life."



*Dr. Ridzwan Bakar, Chief Executive Officer of Yayasan Waqaf Malaysia, said:
“As both Waqf Partner and Sponsor of WZWF 2025, Yayasan Waqaf Malaysia is proud to be at the forefront of this global platform. Our commitment reflects Malaysia’s aspiration to champion innovative waqf models that create lasting socioeconomic impact. By aligning with WZWF, we seek to strengthen international collaboration, unlock the potential of waqf as a sustainable instrument, and inspire confidence among contributors, beneficiaries, and global partners alike.”*

Carrying the theme **“NEW GLOBAL ZAKAT AND WAQF ORDER – Innovative Solutions to Contemporary Challenges and Future Socioeconomic and Digital Development,”** WZWF 2025 will feature expert-led plenary sessions on global best practices and policy frameworks, as well as interactive Solution Exchange Sessions on digital transformation, impact investment, and cross-border collaboration.

The Forum aims to move beyond dialogue, acting as a catalyst for **bold ideas, inclusive development, and transformative partnerships**, reaffirming zakat and waqf as vital instruments for global socioeconomic resilience - **END**

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World Zakat and Waqf Forum

(Malaysian Secretariat Office: WZWF Global Forum Sdn Bhd (1583412X / 202401037565))



About the World Zakat and Waqf Forum (WZWF)

The World Zakat and Waqf Forum (WZWF) is a global platform championing the zakat and waqf movement as dynamic twin instruments for social justice, economic empowerment, and sustainable development. Conceived in Malaysia in 2007 during the International Zakat Conference, and formalised with its first Annual Meeting and International Conference in 2010, the Forum was originally established as the World Zakat Forum. In 2022, at Leeds, United Kingdom, waqf was formally integrated into its mandate—marking a significant evolution and giving rise to its present identity as the World Zakat and Waqf Forum (WZWF).

Over the years, WZWF has established itself as a premier global convening platform, bringing together institutional and individual members from 43 countries across Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Americas. Its membership spans governments, zakat and waqf authorities, financial institutions, scholars, civil society organisations, and industry leaders. This diversity enables WZWF to bridge economic contexts—from high-income to low-income nations—while advancing a shared mission: to uplift the Ummah, eradicate poverty, and drive inclusive prosperity through collaborative innovation, strategic policy, and impactful action.

Beyond its annual meetings and international conferences, WZWF actively equips and empowers its members through knowledge-sharing, research, capacity-building, and strategic partnerships. Its programmes focus on strengthening governance, encouraging innovation, and promoting the integration of zakat and waqf into mainstream national and global development agendas. By doing so, the Forum reaffirms zakat and waqf as timeless obligations that remain powerful and relevant in shaping contemporary solutions for a just, resilient, and enlightened global society.

The WZWF Secretariat, headquartered in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, serves as the central hub for coordination, cooperation, and advocacy—acting as a unifying command centre for global stakeholders dedicated to advancing the impact of zakat and waqf for the betterment of humanity.