

# Preface

---

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

والصلوة والسلام على سيد المرسلين . اما بعد

Alhamdulillah, In June 2011, a gathering of Ulamaa', businessmen, academia and professionals took place at Darul Khair Center, Karachi. The purpose of this meeting was to highlight the need of a business model aligned with the Islamic teachings, that is clear, practical and easy to implement for those who wish to do so.

There was a consensus that the current paradigms and practices of business prevailing even with Muslims are based on and promoting a materialistic blind consumer lifestyle far removed, moreover in direct contradiction to our true purpose as human beings; Ubudiyah; The servitude of Allah in all aspect of our lives.

It was concluded that we need to create a manual in which we should provide guidelines for conducting business in the way prescribed by Allah سبحانه و تعالی and His Noble Prophet ﷺ. The discussion led to the formation of six teams based on their expertise in their respective fields. With every team there was one Mufti to provide assistance in 1) identifying the unlawful practices in that area. 2) advising on contemporary practices with regards to their permissibility. 3) Identifying best contemporary practices that are also in line with Islamic principals.

Most of the team members were already engaged in full time jobs therefore it was expected that the task would most likely take an extended period of time to complete. Once the initial drafts of guidelines were completed pilot audits were conducted in various organizations and feedback was shared with the UBM teams. The ensuing learning helped bring improvements to the documents.

After completion of guidelines, the next step was to get them approved by senior Muftis. Further research, corrections and amendments were then carried out and finally Alhamdulillah with the Tawfeeq of Allah سبحانه و تعالی the manual was completed in December 2014.

As the guidelines are an initial effort, much of which is basically new research, there definitely will be room and need for improvement. Your constructive feedback / suggestions are highly encouraged and welcomed.

You may take note that the structure of guidelines is not entirely uniform in all the modules as the nature of processes and practices widely differ from area to area.

Among our intentions in preparing this manual were: 1) To provide guidance to the business community in the form of guidelines and 2) Assistance in implementation through our team of consultants.

In the end, we must concede that whatever is found in this document to be correct and beneficial, it is by the Tawfeeq of Allah سبحانه و تعالی alone. And what ever is found contrary is from us and Shaitan!

It should also be noted that this document is covered by a copyright primarily to retain its authenticity and guard against its abuse, whereas UBM Trust is a not for profit organization and permission for the use of this document will in sha Allah be freely granted once the intentions of those seeking its use are verified.