

REPORT



MARCH 25TH, 26TH & 27TH
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Organized by



Central Zakah

Part Sponsor



Muslim Credit Union
Co-operative Society
Limited

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

ORGANIZER

SPONSOR

THEME

OBJECTIVES

PROGRAMME

DATES & DURATION

VENUE

ATTENDANCE

SPEAKER FACULTY

PAPERS

RESOLUTIONS

APPENDICES

PROGRAMME

ATTENDANCE

INTRODUCTION

The Caribbean region encompasses over 30 nations incorporating Muslim communities at various stages of development. Some communities are fledgling communities with very small numbers of Muslims while others are well established with economic and political influence in their societies. There is, therefore, a dire need to raise the standard of the lesser developed communities and bridge the disparities among the various communities.

The Caribbean Muslim Forum, therefore, is a platform for lively exchange of information and ideas, discussion, sharing of experiences and identifying/proposing solutions to common problems.

As an important networking event, the Forum promises to be a Premier Muslim Event in the Caribbean focused and aimed at furthering the development of Muslim communities, improving their social and economic conditions, preserving their cultural and religious identities and urging their meaningful contributions to the development of their countries.

ORGANIZER- CENTRAL ZAKAH

Central Zakah, formerly Central Zakah Facility of T&T, a registered non-profit company in Trinidad and Tobago, organized the Forum. The president of Central Zakah, Imtiaz Ali, who is also the Caribbean representative of the Islamic Organisation of Latin America (OIPAL) was the co-ordinator of the Forum.

SPONSORS

Muslim Credit Union Co-operative Society Ltd. (MCU) part-sponsored the Forum. Established in 1983, the MCU is a membership-based co-operative providing Shari'ah-compliant financial services to the Muslim Community in Trinidad & Tobago.

THEME

The theme of the Forum was "Developing Communities in Developing Nations."

OBJECTIVES

The Forum served as a platform to

1. Exchange ideas and share experiences in addressing matters of national and regional interest.
2. Deepen the participant's knowledge and understanding of the current situation of Muslims and Islam in the region.
3. Initiate and develop co-operation among Muslims in the Caribbean region.

4. Foster linkages between Muslim communities in the Caribbean.
5. Nurture a sense of belonging and affinity among Caribbean Muslims.
6. Showcase Caribbean Muslim communities to Caribbean and extra-Caribbean Muslim communities and institutions.
7. Intensify and broaden the efforts of Muslim communities and institutions at national development

PROGRAMME

The three-day programme included lectures, multi-media presentations and group discussions. See attached.

DATES & DURATION

The Forum was originally scheduled for four (4) days but because of travel commitments of most of the foreign participants it was shortened to three (3) days i.e. March 25, 26 & 27.

VENUE

The proposed venue, Le Sportel Inn, was unavailable at the time of finalizing the arrangements. The venue was then shifted to the Headquarters of the Trinidad Muslim League at St. Joseph. While these facilities were sufficient for the sessions, meals and Salah, the Formal Opening was held at the La Joya Auditorium and participants were accommodated at Muslim homes in Valsayn and its environs.

ATTENDANCE

Thirty-seven people, representing twenty organizations from ten (10) countries participated in the Forum. See list attached.

SPEAKER FACULTY

Some participants served the double role of participant and lecturer while almost all participated in the workshop-type sessions.

The list of speakers included:

Senator The Honourable Mustapha Abdul-Hamid, Minister of Social Development, T&T (presently Minister of Tertiary Education);

Senator Noble Khan, Former Head of the Inter-Religious Organisation of T&T;

Dr. Rakib Buckridan, Honorary Consul for Pakistan to T&T;
 Dr. Nasser Mustapha, Lecturer, Sociology, University of the West Indies;
 Nafeesa Mohammed, Former Senator and Deputy Political Leader of the ruling party (PNM);
 Shaykh Mohamed Munaf Mohamed, T&T-based representative of the Ministry of Islamic Affairs, Saudi Arabia;
 Imtiaz Hosein, Chairman, Zakah Committee, Nur-e-Islam Mosque
 Lydia Choate, Chairperson, Madinah House
 Mirza Ali Mohammed, Communications Specialist, Petrotrin;
 Aman Hosein, President, Takaaful T&T Friendly Society;
 Imtiaz Ali, President, Central Zakah and Caribbean Representative of OIPAL;
 Muhammad Yusuf Hallar, Secretary General, Islamic Organisation of Latin America (OIPAL) based in Buenos Aires, Argentina
 Shazad Khan, Director, Human Concern International – Caribbean Secretariat

PAPERS

Although a *Call for Papers* was issued long in advance, very few submissions were received. The following papers were received and posted on our website:

- Muslims in the Caribbean- Towards Increased Co-operation and Integration
- An Overview of Muslim Educational Institutions in Trinidad
- Muslim Communities and Economic Development
- An Overview of Takaaful T&T Friendly Society
- Caribbean Single Market & Economy
- Islamic Education Using Internet Technology

Fifty (50) copies of the book *The Role of Muslim Communities and Institutions in Highlighting the Image of Islam* were received from the Islamic Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO); all participants were given a copy. This book was also posted on the website.

When received, the following additional presentations will also be posted:

- Communication Options for Muslims in the Caribbean
- An Overview of Zakah Operations of the Nur-e-Islam Jamaat
- An introduction to the operations of Madinah House
- Political Activism Among Muslim Communities in the Caribbean- Past, Present and Future

Participants also received a special conference bag.

FUNDING

The Muslim Credit Union (T&T) part-sponsored the Forum. A grant was received from the Ministry of Community Development & Gender Affairs (T&T). Business entities

and individuals in T&T also contributed. *Alhamdulillah*, sufficient funds were collected to cover all expenses. The accommodation of participants at the homes of individuals also helped greatly. With one exception, all the foreign participants paid their own airfare. Accommodation, meals, transport and conference materials were provided free of charge to all foreign participants.

RESOLUTIONS

The following Resolutions were discussed and passed:

1. That each Community develops a framework to manage internal diversity.
2. That the CMF moves to form an interim executive body composed of three (3) members from the participants, to run the affairs of the CMF Secretariat and to ensure implementation of its Resolutions until the next forum in March 2006. In this regard, Imtiaz Ali (Chairman) – T&T, Suleiman Bulbulia – Barbados and Fazeel Ferouz – Guyana were unanimously elected as interim executive members.
3. That the Caribbean Muslim Forum (CMF) moves to strengthen the links among the various groups/communities of the Region.
4. That the CMF becomes a member of the Islamic Organization of Latin America (OIPAL) and that OIPAL become part of the CMF so as to ensure effective co-ordination of Caribbean and Latin American issues concerning Muslims.
5. That there be established a Quarterly Magazine to share information and experiences within the region.
6. That an organized pool of volunteer teachers be developed to deliver Islamic education to students in State-run secondary schools.
7. That a syllabus be developed to deliver a programme of Islamic education at different levels in the education system.
8. That each Caribbean territory makes efforts to establish an Islamic section in their respective National libraries.
9. That regular training courses, be developed to enhance the Islamic knowledge and leadership skills of Caribbean Muslim leaders and teachers.
10. That a Steering Committee be set up to explore the possibility of an Islamic University of the Caribbean.

11. That to ensure effective co-ordination between OIPAL and the Caribbean countries, OIPAL may consider funding the provision of a modern communication project to link up with the Caribbean countries.
12. That the possibility of tele-conferencing or some similar method of communication be explored.
13. That properly organized family-life education programmes be made available to Muslims in the Caribbean.
14. That the possibility of Islamic radio broadcasts via the Internet be explored.
15. That Muslim organizations be encouraged to set aside part of their income for investments.
16. That a forum be organized for the discussions and implementation of Zakah programmes.
17. That intra -trade be promoted within the *Ummah* worldwide and that a committee of experts be set up for this purpose.
18. That a committee be formed to support the economic development of Muslims in the region.
19. That the CMF should explore ways for Trinidad and Tobago to become a member state of the OIC.

CONCLUSION

We express our thanks to Allah for His guidance and blessings in organizing this project. Our thanks to the Government of Trinidad & Tobago, Trinidad Muslim League Inc., OIPAL, all donors, support personnel and participants for their co-operation.

CARIBBEAN MUSLIM FORUM 2005**FORMAL OPENING****25-03-05****VENUE- LA JOYA****PROGRAMME**

START- 3PM

CHAIRPERSON- WAJID MOLLICK

QURANIC RECITATION AND MEANING- HISHAM MOHAMMED

ADDRESS- IMTIAZ ALI, PRESIDENT, CENTRAL ZAKAH AND CARIBBEAN REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE ISLAMIC ORGANISATION OF LATIN AMERICA (IOLA)

ADDRESS- MUHAMMAD YUSUF HALLAR, PRESIDENT OF THE ISLAMIC ORGANISATION OF LATIN AMERICA (OIPAL) AND REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MUSLIM WORLD LEAGUE FOR CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA(MWL) AND THE CARIBBEAN AND ISLAMIC EDUCATIONAL SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANISATION (CIESCO)

ADDRESS- SENATOR THE HONOURABLE MUSTAPHA ABDUL-HAMID

PRESENTATION OF PLAQUES TO-

- (1) SENATOR THE HONOURABLE MUSTAPHA ABDUL-HAMID AND
- (2) IMTIAZ ALI

APPRECIATION- IBRAHIM GORIB

CLOSING PRAYER

END – 4.00PM

REFRESHMENTS AND VIEWING OF ARABIC CALLIGRAPHY & ART EXHIBITION

**CARIBBEAN MUSLIM FORUM 2005
PROGRAMME**

Saturday 26th March, 2005

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 8.00 - 8.30. | Breakfast at TML |
| 8.30 - 9.00. | Welcome, Introductions, Orientation |
| 9.00 - 12.00 | <p>Muslim communities in the Caribbean-</p> <p>Muslim communities- role and function; organization; constraints</p> <p>Caribbean Muslim communities- co-operation & integration</p> <p>Communications</p> |
| 12.00 – 12.45. | Lunch |
| 12.45 – 13.00. | Salaatul-Zuhr |
| 13.00 - 16.30. | <p>Relations with non-Muslims-</p> <p>Challenges of diversity, Dialogue & <i>Da'wah</i>;</p> <p>National politics</p> |
| 16.30 - 17.00. | Salaatul-Asr |
| 20.00 - 21.00. | Dinner at Residence of Imtiaz Ali |

**CARIBBEAN MUSLIM FORUM 2005
PROGRAMME**

Sunday 27th March, 2005

8.00 - 8.45.	Breakfast at TML
9.00 - 12.00	<p>Islamic Education in the Caribbean-</p> <p>Trends (formal, informal)</p> <p>Islamic Education via the Internet</p> <p>Challenges & Opportunities</p>
12.00 – 12.45.	Lunch
12.45 – 13.00.	Salaatul-Zuhr
13.00 - 16.30	<p>Welfare & Finance-</p> <p>Paper- Muslim Communities and Economic Development</p> <p>Savings and Investments- Takaaful</p> <p><i>Zakaah-</i> Nur-e-Islam</p> <p>Welfare Institutions- Madinah House</p> <p>Financing Development</p> <p>Disaster Preparedness & Response- Human Concern International/Caribbean Secretariat, Grenada, Guyana</p>
16.30 - 17.00	Salaatul-Asr
17.00 - 18.00	Resolutions
18.00 - 18.15	Close
	Salaatul-Maghrib
20.00 - 22.00	Dinner at Valsayn (Residence of Imtiaz Ali)

ATTENDANCE

#	COUNTRY	#	NAME	#	ORGANISATION
1	ARGENTINA	1	MUHAMMAD HALLAR	1	OIPAL/MWL/ISESCO/MIN. AWQAF, KUWAIT
2	MEXICO	2	OMAR WESTON	2	ISLAMIC CULTURAL CENTER OF MEXICO
3	CUBA	3	RASHEED INUSAH	3	ISLAMIC ORGANISATION OF CUBA
4	ANGUILLA	4	YUSUF ABDUL ALI	4	ANGUILLA ISLAMIC SHURA
5	BARBADOS	5	SULEIMAN BULBULIA	5	BARBADOS MUSLIM ASSOCIATION
6	ST. CROIX, USVI	6	HATIM YUSUF	6	IQRA ACADEMY
7	GUYANA	7	RAFAA QUERTANI	7	IQRA ACADEMY
		8	FAZEEL FEROUZ	7	CENTRAL ISLAMIC ORGANISATION OF GUYANA
		9	WAZIR BAKSH	8	GUYANA ISLAMIC TRUST
		10	MUSA AMIN	8	GUYANA ISLAMIC TRUST
8	ST. MAARTEN	11	BILAL CHANGA	9	SAINT MARTEEN ISLAMIC CENTER
9	GRENADA	12	AZAM RAHAMAN	10	GRENADA ISLAMIC FOUNDATION
		13	SALIM RAHAMAN	10	GRENADA ISLAMIC FOUNDATION
10	TRINIDAD	14	MTIMA SOLWAZI	11	UNITED ISLAMIC ORGANISATION OF T&T
		15	IMTIAZ HOSEIN	12	NUR-E-ISLAM
		16	AMAN HOSEIN	13	TAKAAFUL T&T FRIENDLY SOCIETY
		17	WAJID MOLLICK	14	TRINIDAD MUSLIM LEAGUE
		18	FAZEELA MOLLICK		
		19	FAROUK KHAN		TRINIDAD MUSLIM LEAGUE
		20	SENATOR NOBLE KHAN		TRINIDAD MUSLIM LEAGUE
		21	DR. NASSER MUSTAPHA JAMADEEN		TRINIDAD MUSLIM LEAGUE
		22	MOHAMMED		TRINIDAD MUSLIM LEAGUE
		23	SABRINA MOHAMMED	15	TML LADIES
			MIRZA ALI		
		24	MOHAMMED	16	ISLAMIC DAWAH MOVEMENT
		25	IMTIAZ ALI	17	CENTRAL ZAKAH
		26	ZAFIR ALI		CENTRAL ZAKAH
		27	ZAHEER JUMAN		CENTRAL ZAKAH
			FAWWAAZ		
		28	MOHAMMED		CENTRAL ZAKAH
		29	ABDUR RAHMAN MOHAMED		CENTRAL ZAKAH
		30	ABDEL KHAN		CENTRAL ZAKAH
		31	DR. RAKIB BUCKRIDAN		HONARARY CONSUL FOR PAKISTAN TO T&T
		32	NAFEESA MOHAMMED	18	SAN JUAN MUSLIM LADIES ASSOCIATION
		33	YVONNE FARIDA TEELUCKSINGH		
INTERNATIONAL		34	SHAYKH MOHAMED MUNAF MOHAMED	19	MINISTRY OF ISLAMIC AFFAIRS, SAUDI ARABIA/T&T- BASED
INTERNATIONAL		35	SHAYKH FYZAM MOHAMMED	20	MUSLIM WORLD LEAGUE, SAUDI ARABIA/T&T-BASED PREACHER
INTERNATIONAL		36	SHAZAAD KHAN	21	HUMAN CONCERN INT'L/CARIBBEAN-GUYANA-BASED
		37	ZAID JALEEL		
		38	DR. SAEED ABDOEL		SURINAME/T&T

