ICT AND THE MUSLIM WORLD

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PROJECT PAPER SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT
FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN
STRATEGY AND DIPLOMACY
(UKM/IDFR)

STRATEGIC STUDIES AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS PROGRAM
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES
UNIVERSITI KEBANGSAAN MALAYSIA

2004/2005
DECLARATION

I hereby declare that all the works in this project paper are my own except for quotations and summaries which have been duly acknowledged.

May 14, 2005

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ABSTRACT

This paper examines the development of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) particularly the Internet to be used as one of the preferable medium of da’wah in the era of globalization. The study is focus on the present status of ICT development in the 56 Muslim countries, which are members of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC). For that matter, the paper suggests that Malaysia, as one the OIC members can be projected as a role model to the other Muslim countries in the field of ICT. The Muslim countries suppose to take the opportunity from the advancement of ICT in the era of globalization for their benefits especially to spread true information and knowledge about Islam and Muslims all over the world. One of the best methods is through the Internet facilities. The facilities, which are provided by the Internet, are such as E-mail, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ), File Transfer Protocol (FTP), Internet Relay Chat (IRC), Mailing List, Newsgroup, Telnet, and World Wide Web (www) or homepage. However, among these various methods, the World Wide Web is a preferable and famous method. The true information, knowledge, and messages about Islam and Muslims can be effectively spread via the Internet to all over the world since it has the capacity to connect tens of thousands of independent networks into vast global and probably the largest Wide Area Network in the world at the moment. However, there are challenges that are currently facing by majority of the Muslims countries. Most except a few of them are at the starting stage of ICT development. Even, some of them still have the problem of high illiteracy rate among their populations while reading and writing are two basic conditions in acquiring knowledge as encouraged by Islam. Based on the current status of the ICT, it is fair to say that Malaysia has a relatively successful in developing its ICT sectors and use the ICT facilities particularly the Internet to portray a positive image of Islam and Muslims to the world.
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