



IIIT
INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ISLAMIC THOUGHT
-
EAST AFRICA

JUNE WORKSHOP
HELD FROM 16TH - 17TH JUNE, 2023
AT
THE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY IN UGANDA
(IUIU)

WORKSHOP REPORT

COMPILED BY
CONFERENCE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION.....	1
Over View of Activities at the Workshop	3
Integration of Knowledge; An Ontological Rationale	4
Integration of Knowledge; An Epistemological Perspective	5
Integration of Knowledge; A Methodological Perspective	5
Integration of Knowledge; An Islamic Perspective.....	6
Discussions and Question & Answer Sessions	6
Challenges.....	6
Presentation of Certificates	7
Appreciation	7
Conclusion	7
Appendix A. List of Participants	8
Appendix B. Workshop Program.....	12
Appendix C. Organizing Committee.....	14
Appendix D. Workshop Gallery	15
Appendix E. Links for the Workshop Zoom Recordings	19

1. INTRODUCTION

This report provides an overview of the workshop organized by the International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT) – East Africa in partnership with the Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU) held from 16th - 17th June, 2023 at Islamic University in Uganda, Kampala Campus. The theme of the workshop was “*The Integration of Knowledge Thesis: An Islamic perspective.*” The objective was to expose the participants to a body of theoretical and practical research on integration of knowledge from the scientific and Islamic standpoints. The workshop was physically attended by no less than 40 participants (**Appendix A. List of Participants**); and over 50 participated via the various online media platforms including Zoom (**Appendix E. links for the Zoom Recordings**) and YouTube.

2. AN OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES AT THE WORKSHOP

The workshop followed the programme as outlined in the agenda distributed to the participants -Workshop Program, **Appendix B.**

First were the preliminaries which included: recitation of the Glorious Quran, Remarks from;

❖ DR. ABDUL HAMIID SLATCH

Dr. Abdul Hamid Slatch the Regional Coordinator IIIT – East Africa, thanked the members and welcomed them to the Workshop. Thanked the IIIT Secretary General Prof. Omar Hassan Kasule and the Rector of Islamic University in Uganda Prof. Ismail Simbwa Gyagenda for all the tremendous support towards the success of the Workshop.

He informed members that, Prof. Mohamed Al-Hasan Biraima (Main Presenter) has been working on a research program on Integration of Knowledge, The Thesis of Epistemological Foundation, and that Alhamdulillah the work was complete, and thus the purpose for the Workshop.

Asked members for their total commitment and attention throughout the Workshop and wished them well.

- ❖ Welcome address by the Rector, Prof. Ismail Simbwa Gyagenda, Rector of the Islamic University in Uganda and,
- ❖ overview of the workshop by H.E. Prof Omar Hassan Kasule, the Secretary General – International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT).

In his welcome address, the Rector emphasized the significance of the theme and its relevance to the mission and vision of Islamic University. He appreciated the initiative of IIIT –East Africa in co-organizing the workshop as part of its contribution to IUIU and the community it serves.

On his part, Prof Omar Hassan Kasule, while presenting an overview of the workshop, explained that integration of knowledge covers both the material and spiritual aspects of reality and that this much will be reflected in the presentations that would be made by the facilitator, Prof Mohammed Al-hassan Biraima in four sessions where four sub-themes of the workshop would be treated. The sub-themes are: Integration of Knowledge: an ontological rationale; integration of knowledge: an epistemological foundation; and integration of knowledge: a methodological approach; and integration of knowledge: an Islamic perspective.

After the preliminaries, the facilitator made presentations covering the four subthemes outlined above with two sub-themes treated each of the two days (questions-answers and discussions were taken after each session). What follows is a brief synopsis of the sub-theme as presented:

2. 1 Integration of knowledge: An Ontological Rationale

Ontological rationale of integration of knowledge was explained and discussed in this session by the facilitator. Apart from delving into details about what ontology means in this context, the facilitator made use of this session to introduce the whole idea of integrative knowledge as well as defining the theoretical context of each of the sub-topics. To that end, the facilitator explained that all theoretical positions are dependent upon particular assumptions about ontology (which means theory of being: what is the world made of? What objects do we study?), epistemology (theory of knowledge: how do we come to have knowledge of the world?), and methodology (theory of methods: what methods do we use to unearth data and evidence?). Understanding the true of things (the ontological rationale), the facilitator explained

further, will enable us to understand the nature of the meta-crisis confronting our world at all levels and proffering the appropriate integrative remedies to it.

2.2 Integration of knowledge: An Epistemological perspective

The facilitator defines epistemology as the theory of knowledge that answers the question: do we know things? If yes, how do we know? According to the facilitator, knowledge – whether scientific or revelation knowledge-originates from ALLAH.

The facilitator suggested General Systems Transdisciplinary (GSTD) as a methodological framework to develop a strategy for IIOK for a number of reasons including its acceptability to scientific communities and due to the fact that conducting Islamic integration of knowledge (IIOK) within the framework of GSTD helps to ensure that we are on a par with the scientific efforts of the world and the input of IIOK should be a valuable contribution and a welcome addition to these efforts. IIOK project, he posited further, will benefit from the most mature methodology and methods available for integration of knowledge which is the focus of the next session.

2.3 Integration of knowledge: A Methodological perspective

Having laid foundation for the methodological approach in the previous session, the approach in this session is to elaborate a particular (methodological) approach described by the facilitator as systemism.

According to him, systemism invites us to analyze wholes into their constituents, and consequently it rejects the epistemology inherent in holism. The system approach is integrative leaning of integrative dealing with the whole rather than just a part of the body of knowledge and is the basis of IIOK as discussed in the last session on Islamic perspective.

2.4 Integration of knowledge: An Islamic perspective

The facilitator made a case for an inclusive, integrative systemic qur'anic world view. The integrative systemic qur'anic world view will usher in a post-materialist science that does not reject the empirical positions of scientific enquiry while at the same time it seeks to expand the human capacity to better understand the miseries of nature and rediscover the place of spirit and mind in the universe. The facilitator explained that the systemic qur'anic worldview encapsulates proper relation with what he calls the five universals derived from verses of the Quran namely: knowledge, iman (faith), self, wealth and children.

3.0 Discussions and Question-answer session

There were questions and answers as well as contributions from the participants after each paper was discussed by designated discussants. The discussants for the first presentation were Prof Abdul Fadl Mohseen and Dr Madinah Nabukeera; the second by Prof Hamza Njozi and Prof Maimuna Nimulola, the third by Dr Jaha Mulema and Prof Muhammad Karama. The last paper was followed by a recap and conclusive remarks by Prof Kasule.

4.0 Challenges

The programme was a tremendous success based on the feedback from the participants. However, there were few challenges. First was the fact that some of the participants observed the presentations, in the beginning, were based on hard, arcane scientific terminologies. Fortunately, this challenge was overcome as majority of those who raised this issue said subsequent discussions by the facilitator and the participants clarified otherwise arcane concepts.

The second challenge was the issue of lateness- many participants arrived late. This issue was raised by Prof Kasule.

5.0. PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES

The Rector Islamic University in Uganda presented awards and certificates to the conference presenters/facilitators and to participants.

6.0. APPRECIATION

Sincere thanks go to; Prof. Muhammad Alhassan M. Biraima (The Main Presenter), the General Secretariat of the International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT) headed by His Excellency the Secretary General Prof. Omar Hassan Kasule, the Islamic University in Uganda headed by the Rector His Excellency Prof. Ismail Simbwa Gyagenda, the entire participants, and the Organizing Committee

Appendix C.

6.0. CONCLUSIONS

Based on the presentations, the remarks by the rector and IIIT Coordinator –East Africa, the wrap-up by Prof Kasule mentioned in paragraph , the discussions as well as contributions, the workshop concluded, in general , that there is urgent need for comprehensive and sophisticated integrative frameworks for knowledge are needed as fragmentation of knowledge is a major cause for the meta-crisis confronting the world and that Islamic integration of knowledge provides such a comprehensive and integrated framework. Specifically, participants were urged to build their research in their different disciplines around this framework and disseminate their research through extensive writing and publications.

Appendix A – LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY IN UGANDA(IUIU)

IN COLLABORATION WITH INTERNATIONAL INSITUTE OF ISLAMIC THOUGHT (EA)

WORKSHOP: “The Integration of Knowledge thesis: An Islamic perspective”

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

S/NO	NAME	DESIGNATION & INSTITUTION	CONTACT / EMAIL
1.	PROF. OMAR HASSAN KASULE,	SECRETARY GENERAL, I.I.I.T, WORKSHOP CHAIRMAN	iepistemology@hotmail.com
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IIIT – INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ISLAMIC THOUGHT – EAST AFRICA



JUNE WORKSHOP

Friday 16th to Saturday 17th June, 2023 at
Islamic University in Uganda, Kampala

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://iuiu-ac-ug.zoom.us/j/98836296182?pwd=VDIzWGIEakhVZVRtaldzNkp3NE5LUT09>

Meeting ID: 988 3629 6182

Passcode: 54321

TOPIC

THE INTEGRATION OF KNOWLEDGE THESIS: AN ISLAMIC PERSPECTIVE

RESEARCHER AND PRESENTER

Prof. MOHAMMED ALHASSAN BIRAIMA



Prof. MOHAMMED ALHASSAN BIRAIMA



Prof. OMAR HASSAN KASULE,

*Secretary General, I.I.T
Workshop Chairman*

WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

FRIDAY- DAY ONE, 16th JUNE, 2023

SESSION ONE – IOK: AN ONTOLOGICAL RATIONALE

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 9:00 – 9:05 | Recitation of the Holy Quran |
| 9:05 – 9:15 | Welcome remarks by Prof. Ismail Simbwa Gyagenda |
| 9:15 – 9:30 | Overview of workshop by Prof. Omar Hassan Kasule |
| 9:30 – 11:00 | Start of Session One, Presented by Prof. Mohammed Alhassan Biraima |
| 11:00 – 11:30 | <u>Health Break</u> |

11:30 – 12:15 Academic Discussant by **Prof. Abul Fadi Mosheen Ibrahim and**

Dr. Madina Nabukera

12:15 – 1:00 Planery Discussants, Questions and Answers

1:00 – 2:30 Prayers and Lunch

SESSION TWO – IOK: AN EPISTEMOLOGICAL FOUNDATION

2:30 – 4:00 Start of Session Two, Presented by **Prof. Mohammed Alhassan Biraima**

4:00 – 4:30 Health Break

4:30 – 5:15 Academic Discussant by **Prof. Hamza Njozi and Prof. Maimuna Nimoulola**

5:15 – 6:00 Planery Discussants, Questions and Answers

SATURDAY- DAY TWO, 17th JUNE, 2023

SESSION THREE – IOK: A METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

9:00 – 9:30 Re-cap of day one by **Prof. Omar Hassan Kasule**

9:30 – 11:00 Start of Session Three, Presented by **Prof. Mohammed Alhassan Biraima**

11:00 – 11:30 Health Break

11:30 – 12:15 Academic Discussant by **Dr. Jaha Mulema and Prof. Mohammed Karama**

12:15 – 1:00 Plenary Discussants, Questions and Answers

1:00 – 2:30 Prayers and Lunch

SESSION FOUR – IOK: AN ISLAMIC PERSPECTIVE

2:30 – 4:00 Start of Session Four, Presented by **Prof. Mohammed Alhassan Biraima**

4:00 – 4:30 Health Break

4:30 – 5:30 Conclusion and way forward by **Prof. Omar Hassan Kasule**

5:30 Closing Dua and Departure

APPENDIX C – ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Organizing Committee

Chairperson

1. H.E. Mr. Abdulhamid Slatch – International Institute (III) Regional Coordinator, East Africa.

Members

2. Mr. Mutyaba Abdallah – Senior Administrative Assistant (IUIU)
3. Ms. Zamzam Ahmed – Senior Administrative Officer (IUIU)
4. Mr. Saim Celik – Coordinator Centre for Capacity Development and Lecturer, Faculty of Arts and Social Science – IUIU
5. Ms. Nabukalu Aisha – Senior Administrative Secretary (IUIU)
6. Ms. Nakimuli Fatumah – Internship (IUIU)

Rapporteurs

1. Dr. Tajudeen Sani – Lecturer Faculty of Law (IUIU).
2. Mr. Saim Celik – Coordinator Centre for Capacity Development and Lecturer, Faculty of Arts and Social Science – IUIU
3. Mr. Abdallah Mutyaba - Administrative Secretary Main Campus (IUIU)

Appendix D. – Workshop Gallery









Appendix E. Links for the Zoom Recordings.

Click the Links below and enter the Passcode to view the Recordings.

Day One. 16th June 2023.

<https://iuiu-ac-ug.zoom.us/rec/share/7TuJZYbIieXbXAf5D4JnLdgjDJKpRULRE4rUnsUmjmXwJa6A4zYYaYM4yFfFPvYW.1OmNYIFtC41MRPFg>

Passcode: Cp8=qA18

Day Two. 17th June 2023

https://iuiu-ac-ug.zoom.us/rec/share/YRNaTKVDHuB6yHpxe8ykXbYnyDMNJKNA2I3lVPq28maZkZTOXNYdZuoB_qROAYwu.hC9Uvlnrh6iYAJpv

Passcode: akK\$5pwJ