Foreword from the Conference Chair

Praise be to Allah, the Lord of the whole universe. Today is the day I should be grateful deeply, because I have the opportunity to meet all of you in this good meeting in this city. As most of you, I am also a guest in this city, as my house is far from here, namely in Surabaya, about 1000 km away.

We are jointly gathered by Allah in this beautiful city, whose inhabitants are proud to call it the city of a thousand mosques. Given that, the convening of this meeting in this town truly is a gift of Allah, as He is the One who is going to make this conference successful and provides the best results for mankind in general and Muslims in particular.

Any economic system and theory, whether it is capitalism, socialism, fascism, or Islamic economics, of course claimed by their followers respectively as the system or economic theory which aims to create prosperity for mankind. Such a claim is understandable because it is not possible for people to make a living system that is not aimed at making the quality of life better and more prosperous. To achieve these objectives, every economic system has its own way. One prioritizes individual freedom, the other emphasizing common ownership of production factors, while others rely on the power of government as a single economic system controllers, and so on.

Islam, which W.C. Smith referred to as “much more than a religion, it is a complete civilization”, clearly have its own concept about the economy. No doubt, Islam has an economic system that, in contrast to all other economic systems, comes from Allah and carried out by religious moral while pursuing economic prosperity. More clearly, Islam insists that all economic activities, production, consumption, and distribution, are carried out not because one is able to do or because it is profitable, but because it was allowed by the religion. In other words, the choice should be made on the alternatives that are equally permissible or lawful, not on all the alternatives that exist.

Given that this conference, named Call for Papers, International Conference, and PhD Colloquium on Islamic Economics and Finance 2015 (ICIEF’15), was held from 25 to 27 August 2015 at this beautiful city.

This International Conference will address the Strengthening Islamic Economics and Financial Institution for the Welfare of Ummah. We do believe that this conference will be a valuable forum for silaturrahim among Moslems, scholars, and practitioners, to sharing knowledge and experiences as well as to discuss, the practices, concepts, and thoughts about Islamic economics and finance.
I also thank to Allah Subhaanahu wata’aala, AlhamduliLlaah, that the delegates of this conference come from more than 34 institutions from all over Indonesia and 13 institutions from international representative. There are 161 participants registered to the committee that consist of 135 national participants and 26 international participants. They will join and involve in the Plenary Sessions, Ph.D. Colloquium, and Parallel Sessions where 126 papers will be presented. In syaa Allaah. This conference also invites the stakeholders: universities, pondok pesantren, government, mass organizations, business practitioners, and Islamic scholars.

In this conference we hope the Help of Allah to explore and assess how, what can, and will be done by the Islamic economic system whose basis of religion is so certain, in advancing human well-being in general and Muslims in particular.

Therefore, it is very timely if, on this occasion I, representing both the organizing committee and the steering committee, thanked the delegates, the speakers, participants, sponsors and the co-hosts: Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM)-Malaysia, LA-Trobe University-Australia, University of Glasgow-Scotland, STEI Tazkia Bogor-Indonesia, Universitas Internasional Semen Indonesia (UISI) Gresik-Indonesia, and Faculty of Economics UIN Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang-Indonesia. With your help and participation, Allah gives relief and convenience to us in organizing this conference. The same gratitude I convey to the Faculty of Economics, University of Mataram, which has acted as the organizer of this conference.

Finally, I congratulate to follow this conference to complete. May Allah bring maximum results and hopefully this conference would gives the sweet memories to each of us when we return back to our homes later.

Conference Chair