



RUNNING SHEET

MCFS symposium - “**Islamic financial services: What Role for Australia?**”
*sponsored by Department of Industry, Innovation and Regional Development,
Government of Victoria*

Friday November 21, 2008, **8.30am** – 1pm (*light sandwich lunch provided at conclusion*)
Venue: RMIT Business, School of Economics, Finance & Marketing,
Level 8, **Room 18, 239 Bourke Street**, Melbourne Victoria 3000 Australia

8.30 – 8.40am Welcome and Introduction

David Michell, Business Development Manager, Melbourne Centre for Financial Studies

Academic presentations

8.40am - 9.00am

“How different is Islamic banking from conventional finance”

Professor Mervyn Lewis, Banking and Finance, University of South Australia

9.00am – 9.20am

“Is Islamic Banking a Successful Alternative for Conventional Banking? A Comparison of Two Banking Systems”

Mr Abdelnasir Abdullah, Ph D candidate, School of Accounting, Economics and Finance, University of Southern Queensland (USQ)

9.20am – 9.40am

“Regulatory Challenges and Opportunities: A Case of Australia”

Presented by *Dr. M. Kabir Hassan, Professor, Department of Economics and Finance, University of New Orleans, USA*

9.40am – 10.00am

“Islamic Banking and Finance Symposium: Ethics and Financial Practice in Global Perspective”

Professor Michael Skully, Department of Accounting and Finance, Monash University

10.00am – 10.30am

Academic Panel discussion – “Research directions and Insights from Islamic Finance for Western finance”

Our academic speakers will be joined by (among others):

- *Prof Kevin Davis, Director, Melbourne Centre for Financial Studies and Commonwealth Bank Chair of Finance*

10.30am – 11.00am **Morning Tea**

Practitioner presentations

11.00am – 11.20am

“Factors that are important to the establishment of an Islamic finance industry in Australia”

Mr John Masters, Partner, PricewaterhouseCoopers

11.20 – 11.40am

“Sharia-compliant mortgages / leases in Australia”

Mr Gerard Kennedy, Principal, Macpherson & Kelley Lawyers

11.40am – 12.00noon

“Becoming an Islamic bank in Australia - MCCA’s experience so far with the regulators”

Mr Chaaban Omran, Managing Director, Muslim Community Co-operative Australia Ltd

12.00noon – 12.20pm

“GCC investment into Australia - legal reforms and Australia's competitiveness as a place of investment”

Mr Asad Ansari, Director, Kuwait Finance House Australia

12.20pm – 12.50pm

Panel – “Future Directions & Insights from Islamic Finance for Western finance”

Our practitioner speakers will be joined by:

- *Ms Luhua Tang, Senior Industry Adviser - Financial Services, Australian Trade Commission (Austrade)*

12.50 – 1.00pm - **Thanks and Conclusion**

Prof Kevin Davis, Director, Melbourne Centre for Financial Studies and Commonwealth Bank Chair of Finance