

## PREFACE

The importance of the Muslim friendly hospitality services can no longer be ignored. Muslim friendly hospitality services has the potential to reach out to more than 50 Muslim majority countries, with no less than 1.7 billion Muslims worldwide. This does not include the opportunity to reach 350 million Muslims, living in non-Muslim majority countries. Realizing the pertinence of this type of hospitality services, the Malaysian Government, through the Ministry of Higher Education has invested a total of 4.7 million Ringgit for studies to be carried out on Muslim friendly hospitality services or Shari'ah compliant hospitality services through its Niche Area Research Grant that was awarded to the International Islamic University, Malaysia championed by the Office of the Deputy Rector for Research and Innovation.

The NRGs 1300-10001 comprises of four groups, the first group looks into the legal and administrative framework that governs Muslim friendly hospitality services and this group hails from the Ahmad Ibrahim Kulliyah of Laws, IIUM. This group has been instrumental in the creation of the Malaysian Standard on Muslim Friendly Hospitality Services Requirements (MS2610:2015). Meanwhile, the second group consists of researchers from the Kulliyah of Architecture are responsible for creating rating tools that would enable the rating of hotels and accommodations interested in offering Muslim friendly hospitality services to the public. The third group from the Kulliyah of Economics and Management assesses the economic impact of Muslim friendly hospitality services on the country. Finally, the Kulliyah of Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Human Sciences is responsible for examining the relationship between Muslim friendly hospitality services with the principles of *Maqasid al-Shari'ah*.

Working together has resulted in the production of this Special Issue that forms a collection of the research outputs relating to issues revolving around Muslim friendly hospitality services in Malaysia. These papers are a result of the research done by the members of the NRGs group as well as the postgraduate students working under this project.

In pursuing this research project, the NRGs 130010001 lost two valuable co-researchers. Hence, this Special Issue is dedicated to two of our co-researchers who have returned to the Al-Mighty. These two special people are *Allahyarhamhu* Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mahamad Bin Arifin, whose expertise was in the area of Islamic Jurisprudence and *Allahyarhamha* Prof. Dr. Naemah Amin, who contributed on issues relating to consumer law and consumer protection. They will always be remembered and may Allah grant them *maghfirah*, *rahmah* and eternal peace in paradise, Insha Allah.

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Majdah Zawawi  
Noriah Ramli

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