

Islamic Asset Management: Forming the Future for Shari'a-Compliant Investment Strategies

Foreword

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Islamic banking and finance today has achieved significant advancement to evolve into a comprehensive Islamic financial system that is able to contribute effectively to the economic growth process. As the intermediation process ventures across borders, Islamic finance is increasingly becoming an integral part of the international financial landscape. This achievement is evidenced by the existence of a well-developed Islamic banking sector; wide-ranging products both in Islamic banking, Islamic insurance and capital markets; and support by an enhanced regulatory and legal framework. The progress that has been achieved reflects the combined efforts and resources channelled by regulatory authorities, the industry, the market players and the community at large. All these positive developments have aimed to contribute towards developing Islamic banking and finance into an efficient and sustainable functioning system.

In charting further inroads for the Islamic financial services industry as a viable form of intermediation, the spectrum of continuous promotion to enhance awareness and consumer education, accelerate financial innovation as well as build the human intellectual expertise are vital to sustain this growth momentum. Also, an important dimension is the need for the Islamic financial services industry to leverage on the advancement in information technology to enhance its development, competitiveness and distribution capabilities in the fast emerging nature of the financial services industry

The publication of this book on *Islamic Asset Management: Forming the Future for Shari'a-Compliant Investment Strategies* is a welcome addition indeed. I sincerely hope that the publication of this book will contribute towards more constructive and productive discourse among the financial community to address the many challenges inherent in the development of Islamic finance. Indeed, its evolution and integration into the international financial system has the potential to contribute towards global financial stability and thus to enhance prospects for a more balanced global growth and greater shared prosperity.