



ACADEMY
THE PATH TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE

E-Newsletter

Empowerment

AUTUMN 2016 | ISSUE 5



The Management Development Programme Cohort from August 2016 at IR Academy, Birmingham

Welcome to the Autumn Issue of the IR Academy E-Newsletter

News



IR Academy Leads the Establishment of New Consortium*

The Consortium can be used as a platform for developing training material for the humanitarian sector, addressing current gaps in the sector. With six other members bringing together academia and humanitarian and development organisations from the UK, USA and South Africa this is an exciting time for Islamic Relief.

The Consortium includes, in addition to Islamic Relief the following core member organisations: ActionAid, Plan International, Coventry University, Praekelt.org, Osman Consulting and ACTION Support Centre.

The process of formulating the consortium has already opened up new partnerships for Islamic Relief with a range of organisations that are at the cutting edge of technology in the NGO sector and have a long track record of learning provision for humanitarian workers.

We will inshallah provide more updates very soon.

*The consortium was established in response to a RFP from the HLA.

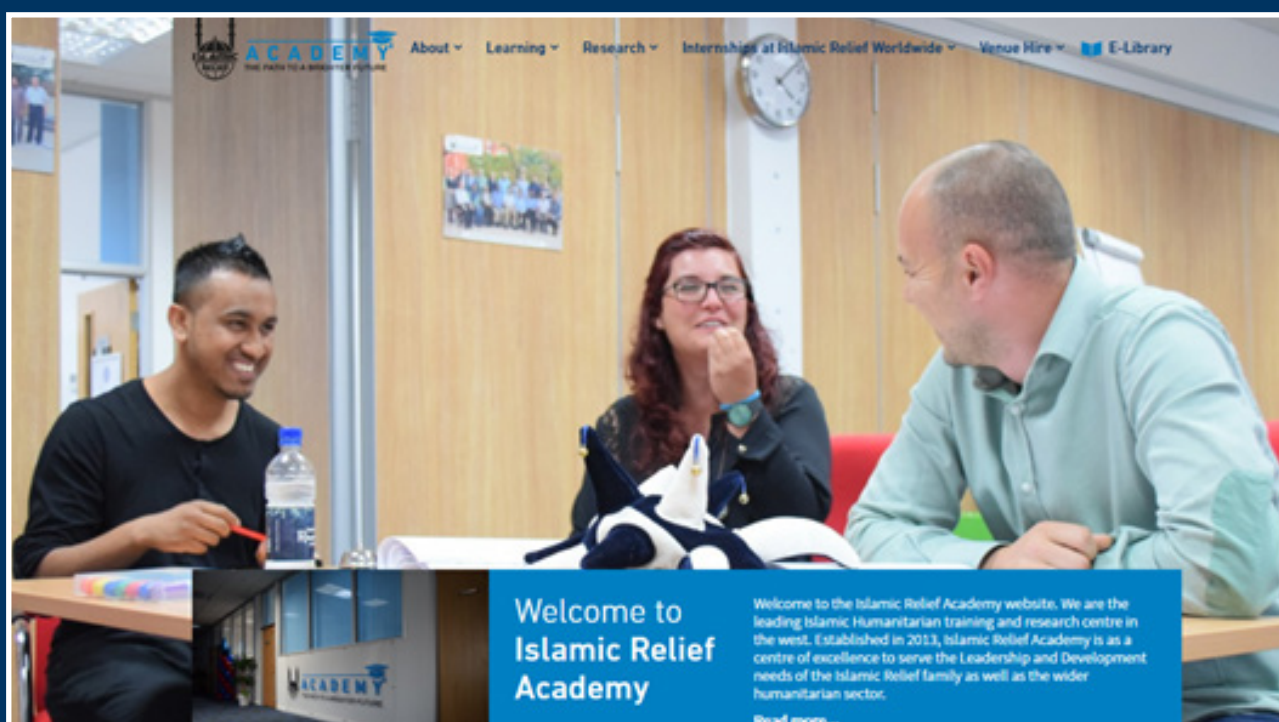
IR Academy Website is live!

The IR Academy very recently relaunched its public-facing website iracademy.org.uk. We encourage you to visit the site to learn more about:

- The broad range of Learning & Development courses that you can access.
- Current Research and Development projects and collaboration.
- The vast number of Internships at Islamic Relief Worldwide.
- The e-Library and the broad range of publications for you to read and digest.
- Venue hire facilities at IR Academy.

We're also delighted to be able to announce that an Arabic version of the IR Academy website is being constructed.

Exclusive for the worldwide Arabic speaking audience the site will be going live very soon!



IR Academy Facilities team make improvements

The IR Academy facilities team have been working hard to ensure the building internally and externally is safe and hospitable for all staff and visitors.

Very recently work has been completed on the car park area where a new fence has been placed, meaning extra secure parking. A new vending machine has also been placed within the canteen area.

Finally a small garden has been constructed at the back of the car park which allows for all staff to sit and enjoy the peaceful canal setting.

Research and Development

News

IR Academy Research & Development Team at the DSA Annual Conference



R&D attended the 2016 annual conference of the Development Studies Association (DSA) hosted by Oxford University.

The DSA conference offers academics, researchers and development organisations the opportunity to discuss cutting edge issues in development and humanitarian aid.

The conference theme was 'Politics in Development' and focused on the myriad of ways in which politics is conceived of in development. The conference welcomed panels and papers on issues directly relating to the theme and other relevant issues. IR co convened a panel on religion and SDGs, which included the following papers:

- 1) Serve God, Save Earth: A Muslim Spiritual Perspective to Sustainability – Dr. Benaouda Bensaid
- 2) Challenges and Opportunities facing Muslim FBOs in implementing the SDGs - Fadlullah Wilmot
- 3) Universal basic education in Nigeria: can religious actors make a difference? – Dr. Seun Kolade
- 4) Engaging development with religious traditions: Methods, pitfalls and stories in the case of SDGs 12-13 and the Catholic Church – Dr. Augusto Zampini Davies, Dr. Severine Deneulin

Currently, we are planning activities for our Study Group on 'Religions and Development for 2017':

If you would like to contribute your ideas and get involved, please do get in touch: research@iracademy.org.uk

Certified Expert in Microfinance

R&D collaborated with the Islamic Microfinance

Unit to develop content for the Certified Expert in Islamic Microfinance (CEIM) course' in conjunction with Frankfurt Business School. The course was launched in September 2016.

It is a 6-month online course inspired by Frankfurt Business School's existing 'Certified Expert in Microfinance' programme. Participants will benefit from the Academic and Consulting experience of one of the top business schools in Europe (renowned in the field of Microfinance) and the operational experience of a pioneer in the NGO sector.



The programme will run every 6 months (Sept to Feb and March to Aug) and is envisaged to train 25 IR Microfinance related staff each term.

If you are interested please contact the Head of the Islamic Microfinance Unit, Dr Mohammed Kroessin: Mohammed.Kroessin@irworldwide.org

The course brochure is available [here](#).

Asia Regional Consultation on a Muslim Platform for Sustainable Development, Bangkok

R&D is delighted to support IRW's Policy Department and the International Programmes Division (IPD) in their efforts to establish a Muslim Platform for Sustainable Development (MPSD).

There is recognition that faith-based NGOs play a pivotal role in responding to development challenges and mobilising resources to eradicate poverty. Agenda 2030 offers a framework, goals and targets for sustainable development interventions and it is important for Muslim organisations to take an active role in its national implementation.

As Muslim organisations are inspired to adopt the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the MSPD aims to engage and share learning, develop consensus on policy and faith discourse and build capacity of Muslim Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in contributing to the implementation of the SDGs.

Islamic Relief has planned a series of regional consultative meetings- in Asia, Middle East & North Africa, Africa, Europe and North America- with other local and national NGOs/CSOs around

Research and Development

the world. The first meeting took place on the 16th August in Bangkok and brought together representatives from some IR offices and various other organisations within the region - such as Universiti Sans Malaysia (USM), Asian Muslim Action Network (AMAN), Muslim Aid, Helping Hands and others- for the purpose of exploring the possible aims, structures and modes of operation for this initiative.

The one day meeting consisted of thought provoking discussions around the challenges and threats Muslim organisations face as well as the opportunities available to achieve the SDGs and provide an Islamic discourse, thus amplifying the Muslim voice.



Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) Funding

In September, R&D learnt that a bid submitted to the highly competitive Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) network grant was successful! The R&D department, working alongside academics from Leeds University and SOAS are project partners and members of the steering group.



The project will create a network consisting of research and non-academic partners in Ethiopia, India, and the UK and aims to enhance international and cross-sectional exchange about the role of

religions in defining, implementing, and safeguarding 'sustainable development', as codified in the UN 'Sustainable Development Goals' (SDGs).

IR country offices in India and Ethiopia will be involved and engaged in the network – more to come on this exciting project!

E-Library

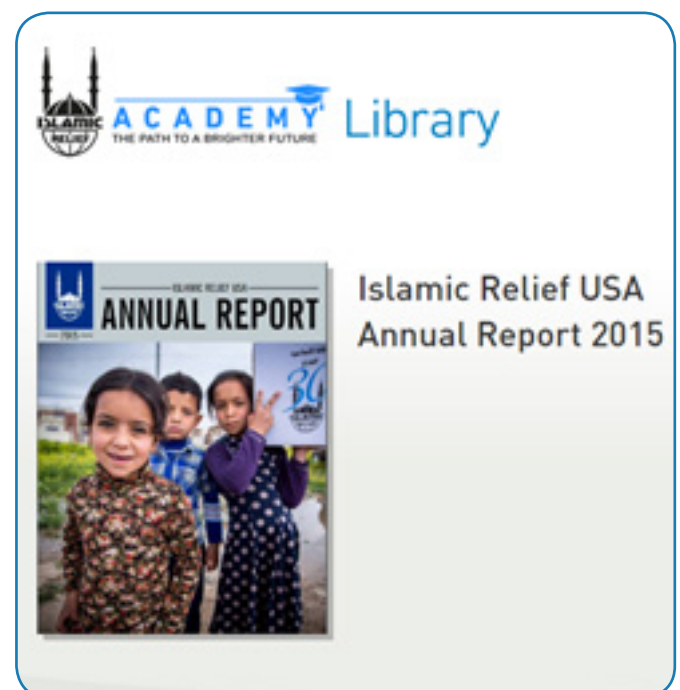
At R&D, we are working with the Archives & Record Management (ARM) team to preserve and improve access to a wide range of publications (both old and new) created by the IR family, including improvements to the IR e-library.

The e-Library is a centralised, fully searchable online resource available to the public.

It is hoped that the resource will be useful to anyone with an interest in the previous, current and ongoing work of IR such as students, researchers, and academics as well as development and humanitarian practitioners.

The e-Library is regularly updated with new publications and can be accessed at the link below.

<http://library.iracademy.org.uk/>



For feedback and comments, please email: research@iracademy.org.uk

Learning and Development

Investing In Our Staff Across the Globe

It has been a busy few months for the Learning & Development Team.

The first delivery of the Aspiring Managers Programme (AMP) took place at the IR Academy Training Centre in Birmingham this August. It was closely followed by the Management Development Programme (MDP) to staff from both IRUK and IRW and staff in IR Kenya.

The AMP has also been delivered to IR USA staff in September whilst Presentations Skills was just one of the many courses delivered when we visited IR Bosnia staff in October 2016.

We have also delivered induction training to new staff and also assisted in the launch of the Volunteer Leadership Programme led by IRUK – first of its kind in the NGO sector.

There has also been a number of external training take place at the Academy with the 'Cartooning for Trainers' Workshop, 'LinkedIn for HR Professionals' and 'The Method' (an interactive session looking at how staff could improve performance and personal impact) enjoyed by internal IRW, IR Academy staff and external attendees.

L&D hoping to add more courses and will be communicating these with you very soon!

We've added pictures from our training across the page!



LINGOS Available for Staff

Lingos have launched a brand new website dedicated to Project Management. Access world class tools and guides via:

<http://pmdprostarter.org/>

All IR staff can now get access to world-class learning and tools, expert learning guides, and be part of a global community of organisations who share your learning goals

For more information please contact Mohammed Randera on Mohammed.Randera@iracademy.org.uk.



LINGOs
Learning for International NGOs



PMD Pro

Congratulations Diane & Mariam

Diane Conway (L&D) and Mariam Nagi (Emerging Markets) recently completed and passed the assignments associated with the Management Development Programme to attain Level 5 certificate in Leadership & Management.

Diane has also completed the Sphere Handbook. The "Sphere Handbook in Action" e-learning course aims to strengthen the effective use of the Sphere Handbook, Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response.



Learning and Development

IR Bosnia Love L&D Training!

Some feedback from IR Bosnia staff about their recent training:

“This training on presentation skills led me to think about my bad and better side of my personality”.

“I feel that my confidence has grown”.

“During the training in the past, we were not relaxed in front of each other but thanks to Mohammed and his professional approach, we all relaxed and collaborated effectively in the workshops.”

“I honestly think that this cycle five-day training was an excellent choice for our employees and L&D have met all my expectations”.



Semir Velija Kukuruzović from IR Bosnia

Pictures From Training We've Recently Delivered



The Aspiring Managers Programme (AMP) took place at IR Academy, Birmingham, UK.



Management Development Programme (MDP) took place at IR Academy, Birmingham, UK.



IR Volunteers Training in Leicester



Cartooning for Trainers, Workshop at IR Academy at Birmingham UK.



Mo Randera with Naeem Muhammad Community Outreach Manager at IR USA and star of Native Deen!



IR Bosnia in Presentation Skills training.

L & D: coming to your office soon

Soon all IR offices will have a bulletin board in their office displaying all L & D opportunities – keep an eye out.

For further information please contact mohammed.randera@iracademy.org.uk

Internship Programme

Internship Reunion and Award Ceremony

In August 2016 IR Academy held an Internship Reunion and Award Ceremony in order to celebrate and recognise the great achievements of all interns who have taken part in the IR Internship Programme as well as the IRW staff members that supported them. The event was attended by current and former interns as well as a number of Directors and the CEO.

The event marked a key milestone in this programme with over 50 interns contributing 1400 voluntary working hours. The programme has proved to be an excellent opportunity for young Graduates, providing them sought after work experience opportunities and invaluable insights into the work of a large humanitarian NGO.

Interns delivered eloquent presentations which described their own experiences, achievements and how the internship has positively impacted them along their journey and resulted to where they are now. In all the presentations made by the Interns there was a recurring theme which highlighted the high level of support they received from their respective line managers. In recognition of their contribution to the success of the programme the following people were given the following awards:

- **Waseem Ahmed - IPD Director:** The division hosting the most interns
- **Dr Mohammed Alsousi - Head of MEEE Region:** The department hosting the most interns
- **Idiris Sharif -International Accounts Supervisor:** The department hosting the most interns
- **Mohammed Kroessin** for his direct support of interns
- **Talat Ahmed** for her direct support of interns
- **Harpal Singh – HR Services Officer:** Outstanding Contribution to the Success of the Internship Programme
- **Tanvir Sultan – Senior Support Technician:** Outstanding Contribution to the Success of the Internship Programme

Following their participation in the IR Internship Programme, many Interns have been able to successfully enter the employment market:

- 12 have been employed by IRW
- 24 have been employed elsewhere in the UK
- 2 have secured employment overseas
- 3 are studying at a postgraduate level





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