Islam&Cyberspace Newsletter

| Office of Islamic Studies on Cyberspace | November 2022 |

interview Hujjat al-Islam Bahrami:
In cyberspace, We Need Researchers More Than Activists

Hujjat al -Islam Ghodrati pointed:
Jihad of Explanation Countermeasure against Media War

member of the Assembly of Experts for Leadership said:
The output of the virtual space for society should be faith and good deeds

Islamic Fintech Poised for Growth

All major plans of the seminaries must have an artificial intelligence attachment

Tuesday, September 2022 ,6, In a meeting with the Members of Management Center for Seminaries Intelligent Technologies, Ayatollah Arafi said: All strategic documents and major plans of the seminaries must have an artificial intelligence attachment.

Ayatollah Alireza Arafi, Head of Iran's Seminary said: The entry of the seminaries into new technologies, especially artificial intelligence, should be active, accurate, deep, thoughtful, up-to-date, fast and based on Islamic seminary traditions, values and standards. This field is one of the strategic needs of seminaries. seminary theses on the subject of artificial intelligence should have priority.

In cyberspace, We Need Researchers More Than Activists

Wednesday, September 202 ,7, in an interview Hujjat al-Islam Bahrami, the head of the cyberspace Studies Association, said: In cyberspace, we need researchers more than activists.

He added: One of the gaps in the field of virtual space is the issue of cyberspace studies. We have many virtual space activists in the Islamic seminaries, but we have not defined virtual space and our relationship with it.

Hujjat al-Islam Bahrami said: we have no a comprehensive system and a scholarly view in this filed which would be based on today's knowledge and religious and Islamic revolutionary foundations and its relationship with virtual space. Although we have many experts and writers in seminaries, but the production of thought in cyberspace is very little. We have many concerned and active people, but regarding to the thinking and researching about cyberspace, not much has been done yet.

the head of the cyberspace Studies Association added: When we look at the words of the Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei, we see that in addition to the harms of cyberspace, it is emphasized that this space is like a global *Minbar* and this capacity and its benefits should be used. Thus, if the negative and defensive thinking about cyberspace prevail over its capacity it would be harmful.

Jihad of Explanation Countermeasure against Media War

The Kurdistan seminary professor said, «The pen, media, satellite networks and cyberspace have become means of hegemony in the present world, and therefore it is media that determine the political and diplomatic future of countries and the direction of politicians.»

Hujjat al -Islam Ghodrati pointed out that a large part of the media war of the West is against the Islamic Revolution and added, "The presence, authority and strength of the Islamic Republic of Iran cannot be tolerated in any way by the Western governments, especially the Americans and the Zionist Regime, so They would take any measures in order to marginalize Iran."

Pointing out that the broadcasting of thousands of hours of satellite programs in Persian by the imperialist countries definitely has clear reasons, he said, «Billions of dollars are being spent on the media war against Iran, therefore it is our duty to move towards the realization of the Jihad of explanation and do not act passively against such negative propaganda."

In another part of his speech the Kurdistan seminary professor pointed out that the potential of media confrontation with Western governments and enemies in the country is well prepared and noted, "This huge amount of hostile media activity against the Islamic Republic of Iran conveys the message that the Iranian Islamic Revolution is a powerful country, therefore protecting this power is a common duty for us all."

Islamic Fintech Poised for Growth

The 2022 Global Islamic Fintech report found that the global Islamic fintech market was worth 79$bn (66.66£bn) in 2021, accounting for 0.8 per cent of the total global fintech market.

The report – which was created by Dinar Standard and Elipses – predicted that the size of the Islamic fintech market is expected to reach 179$bn by 2026.

Shariah-compliant peer-to-peer lending platform Qardus noted that the Islamic fintech market has been "progressing at pace" and has a "clear opportunity to further embed itself within the world of global finance."

"With the socio-economic upheaval and geo-political changes brought about by the global COVID19-pandemic and the ongoing war in Ukraine, Islamic fintech currently has the chance to become not only a game changing, disruptive force within global finance, but an influential driver of global financial inclusion," said Qardus representative Ali Ismail.

"If Islamic fintech continues along the same path of rapid growth that it has been travelling along on for some time, the sector will unquestionably emerge as a competitive selection of Sharia-compliant alternatives to the wide range of innovative fintech startups and established fintech giants that have been a mainstay of Western, Asian and more recently African economies over the last quarter century."

German FinTech to Launch Sharia-Compliant Cryptocurrency and Blockchain

German FinTech company Caiz Development is building a Sharia-compliant cryptocurrency and blockchain designed to unlock financial opportunities for millions of underbanked people in developing countries.

Caizcoin will conform to the principles of Islamic finance. The blockchain will also offer transactions that follow the rules of Sharia.

"In 2018 to 2019, we got the idea of building a cryptocurrency that can be used in the Islamic world under all its restrictions, such as no interest, knowing your counterparties, no anonymity or speculation," said Joerg Hansen, chief executive of Caiz Development. "We conferred with Islamic scholars whether this is permissible before we decided to design the token. We made the best efforts to make Caiz Islamic-compliant, but we also wanted to build an inclusive product that can be used by everyone."

The output of the virtual space for society should be faith and good deeds

Wednesday, August 2022, 17, Ayatollah Abbas Ka›bi, a member of the Assembly of Experts for Leadership said: The output of the virtual space for society should be faith and good deeds, and this space should provide comfort, psychological security and peace for community members. He added: Due to the fact that the virtual space has a special roll in the field of social communication, employment, comfort and psychological security of people, the institutions in charge of the country's virtual space must properly perform their duty in this field. Also the Judicial system of the Islamic Republic of Iran should take a serious action with the Inefficiency of institutions.

How Digital Technology Is shaping European Muslims' Views on Faith-Related Issues

Experts will seek to build a clearer picture of the way online platforms are affecting traditional structures within Islam across the continent.

The study team, led by specialists at the University's Centre for the Study of Islam in the Contemporary World, has been awarded almost 1.4€million by the Collaboration of Humanities and Social Sciences in Europe.

Researchers say that while digital platforms have strengthened ties among Europe's Muslim communities, this has widened inter-generational differences within these groups.

Digital natives are, for instance, more likely than older generations to value YouTube as a source of Islamic knowledge over the local mosque or other traditional sites of religious learning.

The research team wants to deepen understanding of the creation, use and influence of so-called Online Islamic Environments (OIEs) in European contexts.

The project will investigate the characteristics of contemporary OIEs, and their effect on the social and religious practices of different Muslim populations in Europe.

Researchers will examine how Muslim populations in five countries – Lithuania, Poland, Spain, Sweden and the UK – use digital platforms to share advice on issues related to Islam.

Six Persian Gulf States Warn Netflix Over Content Violating 'Islamic values'

Saudi Arabia Develop AI Ethics Principles

The Saudi Artificial Intelligence Ethics Principles provide a set of practical standards for AI development and implementation in the Kingdom.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia announces its AI Ethics Principles for public consultation. They were designed by the Saudi Data and Artificial Intelligence Authority (SDAIA) to be a practical guide to incorporating AI ethics throughout the AI system development life cycle. AI Ethics principles recognize the importance of developing artificial intelligence and technology innovation into the Kingdom's services for its citizens and visitors. After analyzing global and domestic standards and guidelines for AI use, SDAIA has developed an operational framework that entities can use to promote AI while limiting the technology's irresponsible use.

AI ethics will provide a common ground or standards to help the Kingdom avoid or reduce technology limitations. The seven AI ethics principles are fairness, privacy & security, humanity, social & environmental benefits, reliability & safety, transparency & explainability, and accountability & responsibility.

"We are excited to advance our technology capacity through implementing AI solutions into our current processes and operations. The AI Ethics principles will also help us ensure that we implement these capabilities in a measured, data-responsible and ethical way", said Dr. Majid Altuwaijri, CEO of the National Center for AI.

A group of Persian Gulf states have threatened Netflix with legal action if it continues broadcasting content that "contradicts" Islam, while Saudi state media indicated that the offending material centered on shows depicting sexual minoritie,The platform was contacted to remove this content, including content directed to children," the statement said.A lawyer said in an on-air interview that these were "very unfortunate and painful clips for our children, grandchildren and the next generation".