

Outsourcing IIPS

Introduction

This paper presents an alternative perspective on the future of the IIPS. It should be noted that this new perspective is over and above the paper that was presented at The World Federation's Conference in Dar es Salaam in May 2011.

Background of this Paper

The paper on the future of the MTP that was to be presented to the Conference in May 2011, was moved to the next Executive Council meeting due to insufficient time to read and deliberate it. That paper explored the possibility of establishing a new institute in Najaf, and broadened the IIPS concept to include alongside the four-year MTP:

- o 1 year MA course
- o Arabic language courses of various duration
- o Simultaneously running courses that would be able to intertwine

In the time that has passed since the Conference and as a result of a number of informal discussions with regional federations, it has transpired there is very little support in establishing an institute either in Najaf or anywhere else. Some of the main concerns are:

- o The vast amounts of expenditure
- o The obvious lack of support from Jamaats and Regional Federations throughout the world
- o The lack of student uptake
- o The continued political turmoil in the Middle East

However, most delegates felt the original vision behind the establishment of IIPS was important and that the services of competent Muballigheen throughout the worldwide Khoja communities was of a great need.

This current paper sets out a concept that attempts to address some of these perceived needs.

The Main Idea of this Paper

Key Idea: Facilitate eligible students to take up a one-year MA course through distance learning, delivered at an institute in the UK. The main beneficiaries of this course will be the pool of students currently studying in Qum, who have already completed their Hawza studies. This one-year MA gives these students a qualification from a western university.

Once the students graduate from this, they have a number of options that would normally be open to a graduate of any Islamic-based educational system:

- o Become a full time resident alim
- o Continue to study for a PhD
- o Research opportunities (although these opportunities are very limited at this level)
- o Teach at BA Level and lower

This programme has the potential to increase chances of creating competent resident alims, and also for increasing the capacity of Muballigheen for our worldwide community in general.

This course could be offered by Winchester University, through a UK based institute, provided we meet the requirements.

Proposal: offer a minimum of five scholarships to eligible students, at a UK based institute.

Costs

Name of Option	Mode of Delivery and Length of Course	Cost (fees)	Other Information
1. MA from Middlesex University	On-site Learning, 1 year	£10,000 per student	There will be an additional cost of accommodation, stipend, travelling and all other related costs.
2. MA from Winchester University, administered by a UK-based university or institute	Distance Learning, 1 year	£7050 – £8050 per student approximately (includes admin costs) £5050 per student approximately (excludes admin costs)	If we choose that the host university/institute undertakes the administration of this, then there will be an additional cost of £10,000 – £15,000 for the salary of one administrator. If we choose to undertake the administration of this within the current WF-Secretariat then there would be less than £10,000 – £15,000 cost of an administrator. The course will only run if there are 5 students or more.

3. BA from Middlesex University, & MA from Winchester University	On-site Learning, 5 years	£34,000 per student (£6000 per year for the BA and £10,000 for the MA)	There will be an additional cost of accommodation, stipend, travelling and all other related costs. From September 2012, one Hawza studies programme will be accredited by Middlesex University, for a 5 Year programme, under 'work based learning'. This implies modular credits will be provided for 'practical' skills such as lecturing, leading prayers, and Tableegh activities.
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Conclusion

The options presented in this paper ensure that Islamic education to Muballigheen continues in the light of the cessation of IIPS. However, the measures do not go anywhere near replacing IIPS; rather, the options provide the opportunity to continue to promote Islamic studies under the broad heading of 'creating capacity amongst Muballigheen'.

If the Executive Council agrees in principle with the Key Idea presented in this paper, then:

- o Office Bearers will perform due diligence and select a worthy UK-based provider for this to be implemented on an approved budget for a minimum of 5 students
- o If the agreement is reached and the budget approved, then the programme would commence in September 2012
- o If the agreement is reached the course will not proceed without a minimum intake of 5 students

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