

## **ICIB- February, 20-22. 2016**

### **MESSAGE FROM MR. SAEED AHMAD DEPUTY GOVERNOR, STATE BANK OF PAKISTAN**

The contemporary global Islamic finance Industry is one of the most dynamic areas of financial services today with an increasing presence in both Muslim and non-Muslim countries alike. The financial and economic meltdown caused by the financial crisis 2007-08 has led to a greater search for an alternative system capable of sustaining and absorbing shocks and volatility of today's activities in financial markets. This has attracted attention to innate strengths of the Shariah compliant financial system which is entirely based on real economic activities and has no space for any gambling, speculation and typical leveraging in financial dealing. However, despite all the positive developments during the last four decades there exist many critical issues that need to be addressed to sustain the growth momentum of the industry on a long term basis.

One such area is developing and structuring Islamic finance products and strengthen practices in such a way that socio-economic objectives are effectively achieved and Islamic financial institutions are able to provide efficient financial intermediation between the resource surplus and resource deficient units in economies.

It is encouraging to see that Riphah International University has arranged the fourth international conference with product innovation, Maqasid e Shariah, and financial inclusion as being central themes. As the Islamic finance industry is maturing to the next level, it is highly important to increase its outreach to the strategic sectors like agriculture, small and medium enterprise, affordable and low cost housing, and micro finance. It also require to be more active in branchless banking and W-Wallet to advance the objective of enhancing financial inclusion.

Events like this are highly important given the evolving phase of Islamic finance industry. It is heartening to see the participation learned scholars and experts. This gives high expectation that concrete proposals and novel ideas and strategies will be forthcoming to address the issues and challenges faced by the Islamic finance industry. I wish Riphah University all the best for making this a successful event.

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