ISLAMIC VALUES FOR ICT DEVELOPMENT WITH REFERENCE TO MALAYSIAN CONTEXT

AZNAN ZUHID BIN SAIDIN

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Name of Candidate: AZNAN ZUHID BIN SAIDIN (I.C/Passport No: 740923-10-5665)

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Fakulti Sains, Universiti Malaya
50603 Kuala Lumpur

ABSTRACT

This study seeks to form an understanding for the incorporation of Islamic values in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) development. ICT development is defined as the activities related to the creation and application of ICT for the purpose of meeting the needs of individuals, organisations, communities, nations and the society at large. The purpose of this study is set upon the backdrop of the need for Muslims ICT practitioners to offer a kind of ICT development that is not void of God-consciousness and Islam as the way of life. Even though previous works have been done on Islamic values and ICT related issues, for example privacy and cybercrime, the fundamental human activities of ICT, namely the communication process, information content creation, and technology shaping, have yet to be discussed in relation to efforts for incorporating Islamic values in ICT development. In other words, with regards to these three human activities, the main questions are what are the issues that needs to be looked into and how to address them in an Islamic manner. The 'how' in this case is treated more in the conceptual sense rather than methodological. Therefore this study approaches ICT development through the three human activities and identifies within the existing literature aspects that provide for the incorporation of Islamic values. For each activity, several points are proposed that reflect the issues that should be given attention and consideration in guiding the effort to incorporate Islamic values in ICT development.

In grounding the discussions of this study, a qualitative fieldwork study is conducted to explore the views of Malaysian ICT government officials on incorporating Islamic values in ICT development within the Malaysian context. Findings from this study exemplify issues that requires further studies on this matter.

At the end of this study, from what is presented in the discussions, a framework is proposed as a conceptualisation of the incorporation of Islamic values in ICT development. This framework can be used in guiding future studies on ICT and Islamic values. An example is given using the findings from the qualitative study. It is hoped that this study would initiate more efforts to develop information and communication technologies that are Islamicly sound and beneficial to humanity.

ABSTRAK

Kajian ini bertujuan membentuk satu pemahaman berkenaan penggabungan nilai-nilai Islam dalam pembangunan teknologi maklumat dan komunikasi (TMK). Pembangunan teknologi maklumat dan komunikasi didefinisikan sebagai aktiviti-aktiviti yang berkaitan dengan penciptaaan dan penggunaan TMK bagi tujuan memenuhi keperluan individu, organisasi, komuniti, negara dan masyarakat pada umumnya. Tujuan kajian ini adalah berdasarkan keperluan pengamal TMK Muslim menawarkan satu bentuk pembangunan TMK yang tidak kosong daripada hakikat kesedaran bertuhan dan Islam sebagai cara hidup. Walaupun kajian-kajian yang terdahulu ada menyentuh tentang nilai-nilai Islam dan isu-isu TMK, contohnya privasi dan jenayah siber, aktiviti-aktiviti asas manusia berkaitan TMK, iaitu proses komunikasi, penciptaan kandungan maklumat, dan pembentukan teknologi, masih belum pernah dibincangkan dari segi usaha-usaha penggabungan nilai-nilai Islam dalam pembangunan TMK. Dengan kata lain, persoalan utama di sini adalah apakah isu-isu yang berkaitan dengan ketiga-tiga aktiviti ini yang perlu diberi perhatian dan bagaimanakah menanganinya secara Islam. 'Bagaimana' dalam hal ini lebih merujuk kepada maksud dan bentuk yang konseptual berbanding bentuk yang bersifat metodologi atau kaedah. Oleh itu, kajian ini melihat kepada pembangunan TMK dari sudut ketiga-tiga aktiviti tersebut dan mengenalpasti menerusi kajian sedia ada, aspek-aspek yang memberi ruang kepada penggabungan nilai-nilai Islam dalam pembangunan TMK. Bagi setiap aktiviti, beberapa perkara dicadangkan yang menggambarkan isu-isu yang perlu diberi perhatian dan pertimbangan dalam memandu usaha-usaha menggabungkan nilai-nilai Islam dalam pembangunan TMK.

Bagi meletakkan perbincangan-perbincangan kajian ini pada suatu keadaan realiti, satu kajian lapangan yang bersifat kualitatif dijalankan bagi meneroka pandangan pegawai-pegawai TMK yang berkhidmat dalam kerajaan Malaysia berkenaan dengan penggabungan nilai-nilai Islam dalam pembangunan TMK dalam konteks Malaysia. Hasil dapatan daripada kajian lapangan ini menggambarkan isu-isu yang perlu kepada kajian yang lebih mendalam berkenaan dengan penggabungan nilai-nilai Islam dalam pembangunan TMK di Malaysia.

Di akhir kajian ini, berdasarkan apa yang diperbincangkan, satu rangka kerja dicadangkan sebagai satu konsepsualisasi penggabungan nilai-nilai Islam dalam pembangunan TMK. Rangka kerja ini dapat digunakan bagi memandu kajian-kajian di masa hadapan berkenaan TMK dan nilai-nilai Islam, di mana satu contoh diberikan berdasarkan dapatan kajian lapangan yang dijalankan. Adalah diharapkan kajian ini dapat mencetuskan lagi usaha-usaha untuk membangunkan TMK yang memenuhi ciri-ciri Islam dan bermanfaat kepada manusia sejagat.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation Technology
ACM	The Association of Computing Machinery
AITP	Association of Information Technology Professionals
BCS	The British Computer Society
CDMA	Code Division Multiple Access
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
COINS	Corporate Information Superhighway
CMA	Communications and Multimedia Act 1998
CMCF	Communications and Multimedia Content Forum
CSL	Civil Service Link
DEL	Direct Exchange Lines
EU	European Union
GITN	Government Integrated Telecommunications Network
IAP	International Advisory Panel
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ICTs	Information and Communication Technologies
ICTD	ICT and Development
ICT4D	ICT for Development
ICT&S	Information and Communication Technology and Society
IDD	International Direct Dial
IEEE CS	Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers Computer Society
IS	Information System
ISDN	Integrated Services Digital Network
ISP	Internet Service Provider
IT	Information Technology

JAKIM	*Jabatan Kemajuan Islam Malaysia* (Department of Islamic Development Malaysia)
JARING	Joint Academic and Research Integrated Network Project
KLCC	Kuala Lumpur City Centre
KLIA	Kuala Lumpur International Airport
MDeC	Multimedia Development Corporation
MCMC	Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission
MIMOS	Malaysian Institute of Microelectronic Systems (later known as MIMOS Berhad)
MOSTI	Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation
MSC	Multimedia Super Corridor
NALIS	National Land Information System
NITA	National IT Agenda
NITC	National IT Council
NITF	National IT Framework
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OIC	Organisation of Islamic Conference
R&D	Research and Development
SMPKE	*Sistem Maklumat Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif* (Chief Executive Officer Information System)
STD	Subscriber Trunk Dailing
STMB	*Syarikat Telekom Malaysia Berhad*
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

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