

## **INCEIF is a step closer to be among world's prestigious business schools**

Kuala Lumpur, 4 May, 2017 – INCEIF is on track for a globally recognised accreditation, the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) which is the most renowned accreditation association of business schools.

Following a two-day AACSB Mentor Visit on campus, Mentor Professor Andrew Griffiths said: "I have seen an improvement from the last visit in 2015. There is a positive shift towards focus on quality and on strategy which is in alignment with INCEIF's goal.

"I also see an improvement in the quality of research being churned out by INCEIF," said Prof Griffiths who is the Executive Dean of Faculty of Business, Economics and Law at The University of Queensland, Australia.

An AACSB Mentor is appointed when an applicant's eligibility application is accepted, and is selected from a pool of Deans/Heads of school who are very familiar with the AACSB standards. It is a voluntary role.

During Prof Griffiths' visit, INCEIF management shared with him the progress of the university's AACSB journey which kicked off in June 2013. One of the things considered under the AACSB accreditation process was INCEIF's impact on the industry.

Since 2015, INCEIF's research has been ranked first in Malaysia amongst the higher education institutions in the Research Papers in Economics (REPEC) rankings.

As at 2016, INCEIF is the only institution to have the research of five professors recognised by REPEC, among the top 30 academics in Malaysia. INCEIF ranked 40th in Asia as a university. Within the Financial Economics & Finance Department category defined by REPEC, INCEIF is ranked 30th in the world. For INCEIF, this is an outstanding achievement as it is ranked higher than even some of the 16 faculties in prestigious institutions such as The London School of Economics and The Henley Business School of the University of Reading.

Prof Griffiths also had a session with INCEIF Student Representative Council.

“I was impressed by the students’ willingness to engage and speak out on their experiences at the university. They also gave shared thoughtful and considerate suggestions on how to improve their time here as a student,” Prof Griffiths said.

INCEIF hopes to fulfil the requirements and be accredited by the AACSB by 2018. With the accreditation, INCEIF gets a step closer to be the global reference point for Islamic finance, and joins other AACSB accredited business schools the likes of Harvard Business School, The Wharton School and London Business School.

INCEIF Deputy President Academic Datuk Prof Syed Othman Alhabshi who chaired most of the sessions during the two-day visit said: “The progress made in our AACSB journey is an important step towards making sure that INCEIF would not only be benchmarked locally but also globally, and also against some of the most respected institutions in the world.”

Since it welcomed its first batch of graduates in 2009, INCEIF now boasts of 1,332 alumni who come from 72 countries worldwide including US, Japan and China. The increasing diversity of INCEIF students is a source of pride for the university. It affirms INCEIF’s role in developing world-class talent for the global Islamic financial services industry and puts Malaysia at the heart of this development.

Ends.

**About INCEIF**

INCEIF was set up by Bank Negara Malaysia in 2005 to develop human capital and knowledge leadership for the global Islamic finance industry. Apart from its academic programmes, which are Masters of Islamic Finance Practice, MSc in Islamic Finance and PhD in Islamic Finance, INCEIF also offers customised executive training programmes and industry-focused applied research in line with its vision to be the knowledge and thought leader in Islamic finance.

INCEIF syllabus is structured with inputs from industry players to bridge the gap between academic knowledge and industry experience. INCEIF faculty members, who are globally respected among the Islamic finance academia and industry, have a combined wealth of experience and diversity. The faculty, coupled with continuous support from the industry, provides INCEIF students with strong mentoring relationships and opportunities for professional development.

Since 2015, INCEIF's research has been ranked 1st in Malaysia amongst the higher education institutions in the Research Papers in Economics (RePec) rankings. We are also the only institution to have the research of five professors recognised by RePec, among the top 30 academics in Malaysia. We are ranked 40th in Asia as a university. Within the Financial Economics & Finance Department category, defined by REPEC, we are ranked 30th in the world.

Today there are 1,332 agents for change in the world from INCEIF. Some of them are already making meaningful contributions to the advancement of Islamic finance at all levels be it product development, policy framework and implementation; regulation and enforcement; and innovation. A few were in the top 3 finalists at the recent EFICA awards held in Dubai recently.

INCEIF's curriculum used and adopted worldwide by various academic institutions. INCEIF has a global reach of our executive education through executive programmes, forums & special programmes. In furthering capability development initiatives, INCEIF works closely with emerging markets such as Maldives, Kazakhstan, Kenya and Kyrgyz for knowledge transfer as well as knowledge building.

For more information, please visit [www.inceif.org](http://www.inceif.org).

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