COPYRIGHT[©] INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA

ISLAMIC MONETARY SYSTEM: A STUDY ON THE VIABILITY OF TRANSFORMING THE FIAT MONETARY SYSTEM INTO THE GRAIN-BACKED MONETARY SYSTEM

BY

ABULA AIZEZI

A dissertation submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Philosophy, Ethics, and Contemporary Issues

Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization International Islamic University Malaysia

SEPTEMBER 2010

ABSTRACT

Contemporary economy of the world is running under the Fiat Monetary System which is characterized as the most dangerous, unfair and non-Islamic monetary system. For instance, the value of fiat money depreciates day by day and consequently heading towards becoming worthless pieces of paper, nickel and digital characters; it provides the superpower countries with the opportunity of monetary oppression and monopoly on weak nations; fiat money is issued with interest. Therefore, in a quest to contribute to solve these monetary problems of the world as much as possible, this research aims to examine the viability of transforming the Fiat Monetary System into the Grain-backed Monetary System which is characterized as a safe, fair and Islamic monetary system. Thus, this study, firstly, recalls the economic history of the world from Barter System to the Fiat Monetary System and analyzes their advantages and disadvantages. Then, it discusses the Islamic Criteria of Acceptable Trade and the compatibilities of the Barter System and the traditional and contemporary monetary systems with the Islamic Criteria of Acceptable Trade. Finally, this dissertation introduces a new monetary system, namely, Grain-backed Monetary System and analyzes its significance, Islamicity, contributions to the contemporary and future sustainable economic developments of the Islamic world in particular and of the whole world in general.

ملخص البحث

الاقتصاد المعاصر فى العالم يعمل بالنظام النقدى الورقى الذى يوصف بأنه نظام محفوف بالمخاطر، وغير عادل وغير اسلامى، وذلك لأسباب منها أن قيمة النقود الورقية تنخفض يوما بعد يوم وبالتالى هى من الممكن أن تصبح عبارة عن اوراق لا قيمة لها؛ وهى توفر للدول العظمى فرصة القمع والاحتكار النقدى على الدول الضعيفة؛ وأن النقود الورقية تصدر بالفائدة. سعيا للمساهمة فى حل هذه المشاكل النقدية بقدر الامكان، هذه الاطروحة لهدف الى دراسة جدوى تحويل النظام النقدى الورقى السيئ السمعة الى النظام النقدى المدعوم بالحبوب الذى يوصف كنظام نقدى آمن ونزيه ونظام نقدى إسلامى. و النقدى المدعوم بالحبوب الذى يوصف كنظام نقدى آمن ونزيه ونظام نقدى إسلامى. و النقدى المدعوم بالحبوب الذى يوصف كنظام نقدى آمن ونزيه ونظام المقايضة الى بالتالى فإن هذه الدراسة، أولا، تستدعى التاريخ الاقتصادى العالمى من نظام المايضة الى النظام النقدى الورقى تحليل لمزاياها وعيوكما. وبعد ذلك فإلها تناقش المعايير الاسلامي. للتجارة المقبولة وتحلل موافقة نظام المقايضة والانظمة النقدية التقليدية والمعاصرة مع هذه النظام النقدى المرقى الموافقة نظام المايضة والانظمة النقدية التقليدية والمعاصرة مع هذه النظام النقدى الموافقة نظام المايضة والانظمة النقدية التقليدية والمامان في السلامية النظام النقدى المواقية نظام المايضة والانظمة النقدية التقليدية والمعاصرة مع هذه النظام النقدى الدعوم بالحبوب، تحليلا لأهميته ومدى مشروعيته الاسلامية واسهاماته فى النظام النقدى المامو المالية للاقتصاد المستديم للعالم الاسلامية والماماته فى النظام النقدى المامو مالموانية للاقتصاد المستديم للعالم الاسلامية والعام كله النظام النقدى المامو مالماية للاقتصاد المستديم للعالم الاسلامي بشكل خاص والعالم كله بشكل عام.

APPROVAL PAGE

I certify that I have supervised and read this study and that in my opinion it conforms to acceptable standards of scholarly presentation and is fully adequate, in scope and quality, as a thesis for the degree of Master of Philosophy, Ethics and Contemporary Issues.

Muhammad Uthman El-Muhammidy Supervisor

I certify that I have read this study and that in my opinion it conforms to acceptable standards of scholarly presentation and is fully adequate, in scope and quality, as a thesis for the degree of Master of Philosophy, Ethics and Contemporary Issues.

Wan Sabri Wan Yusuf Examiner

This dissertation was submitted to the International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization and is acceptable as a partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Philosophy, Ethics and Contemporary Issues.

Ibrahim M. Zein Dean, International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this dissertation is the result of my own investigation, except where otherwise stated. I also declare that it has not been previously or currently submitted as a whole for any other degrees at IIUM or other institutions.

Abula Aizezi

Signature

Date

INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA

DECLARATION OF COPYRIGHT AND AFFIRMATION OF FAIR USE OF UNPUBLISHED RESEARCH

Copyright © 2010 by Abula Aizezi. All rights reserved.

ISLAMIC MONETARY SYSTEM: A STUDY ON THE VIABILITY OF TRANSFORMING THE FIAT MONETARY SYSTEM INTO THE GRAIN-BACKED MONETARY SYSTEM

No part of this unpublished research maybe reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without prior written permission of the copyright holder except as provided below.

- 1. Any material contained in or derived from this unpublished research may only be used by others in their writing with due acknowledgement.
- 2. IIUM or its library will have the right to make and transmit copies (print or electronic) for institutional and academic purposes.
- 3. The IIUM library will have the right to make, store in retrieval system and supply copies of this unpublished research if requested by other universities and research libraries.

Affirmed by Abula Aizezi

Sinature

Date

I dedicate this Dissertation to all Muslim and non-Muslim nations which have been suffering from the economic oppression and monetary monopoly under the Fiat Monetary System since its inception.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First of all, I would like to express my greatest appreciation to Allah the Most Wise for His Blessings, Guidance and Mercy and Prophet Muhammad (BPUH). I am deeply grateful to my supervisor, Ustādh (Dr.) Shaykh Muhammad 'Uthmān El-Muhammidy who graciously accorded me in his continuous guidance and valuable assistance in the writing of this dissertation, i.e. this work would never have been accomplished without his advice and support. I really appreciate the examiner, Dr. Wan Sabri Wan Yūsuf for his help. I wish to express my thanks to Prof. Dr. Ibrāhim M. Zein, the Dean of International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization, my honorable lecturers, Prof. Dr. Ajmal M. Razak Al-Aidrus, Prof. Cemil Akdogan and Prof. Muddathir 'Abdel Rahīm, administrators, especially sister Majdivya and, in short, all staff of the International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization (ISTAC) and International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) for their help. I also would like to thank the Malaysian government officers for their building up one of the best Islamic universities of the world in Malaysia and providing the international students with the ease and comfortable environments. I also would like to express my deep thanks to my country mates and friends, especially Māmutjān and 'Abd al-Ahad for their great assistances in translating Arabic passages into English and formatting this dissertation. Finally, my deepest appreciation and indebtedness go to my beloved parents who give to me their unconditional love and support. The same goes to my beloved daughter 'Azīza who has endured of my absence for many years and my wife Marhābā who has patiently taken care of my parents during my study in Malaysia. May Allāh bless all of them, Āmīn.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Abstract in English	
Abstract in Arabic	iii
Approval Page	iv
Declaration Page	v
Copyright Page	vi
Acknowledgement	
List of Tables	
List of Abbreviations	
Transliterations	
CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION, LITERATURE REVIEW, STATEM	ENT
OF THE PROBLEM, OBJECTIVES, SIGNIFICANCE AND MOTIVE	
	1
OF THIS STUDY, RESEARCH METHODOLOGY, AND	1
ORGANIZATION OF CHAPTERS	
1.1 Introduction	
1.2 Literature Review	
1.3 Statement of the Problem	
1.4 The Objectives of This Study	
1.5 The Significance of This Study	19
1.6 Motive of This Study	20
1.7 Research Methodology	21
1.8 Organization of Chapters	21
CHAPTER 2: HISTORY OF TRADING SYSTEMS AND	
THEIR ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES	23
2.1 Introduction	
2.2 Barter System	
2.2.1 Historical and Contemporary Significance of the Barter	
System	
2.2.2 Advantages of the Barter System	
2.2.2 Advantages of the Barter System	
e ,	
2.3 Monetary System	
2.3.1 Commodity Monetary System	30
2.3.1.1 The Usage of Cowries' Shells, Salt, Large	
Carved Stones and the Kisi Pennies as Money	
2.3.1.2 The Usage of Copper and Bronze as Money	
2.3.1.3 The Usage of Gold and Silver as Money	32
2.3.1.4 The Establishment of Islamic Monetary	
System	35
2.3.1.5 Advantages of the Commodity Monetary	
System	41
•	

2.3.1.6 Disadvantages of the Commodity Monetary
System
2.3.2 Representative Monetary System
2.3.2.1 The Historical Background of the Representative
Monetary System43
2.3.2.2 Advantages of the Representative Monetary
System
2.3.2.3 Disadvantages of the Representative
Monetary System45
2.3.3 Fiat Monetary System47
2.3.3.1 Advantages of the Fiat Monetary System
2.3.3.2 Disadvantages of the Fiat Monetary System48
2.4. Conclusion
CHAPTER THREE: ISLAMIC CRITERIA OF ACCEPTABLE
TRADE
3.1 Introduction
3.2 Islamic Criteria of Acceptable Trade
3.3 Compatibility of the Barter System with the Islamic
Criteria of Acceptable Trade
3.4 Islamic Views on the Barter System
3.5 Compatibility of the Monetary Systems with the
Islamic Criteria of Acceptable Trade
3.5.1 Compatibility of the Commodity Monetary System
with the Islamic Criteria of Acceptable Trade
3.5.2 Islamic Views on the Commodity Monetary System
3.5.3 Compatibility of the Representative Monetary System
with the Islamic Criteria of Acceptable Trade
3.5.4 Islamic Views on the Representative
Monetary System
3.5.5 Compatibility of the Fiat Monetary System with
the Islamic Criteria of Acceptable Trade
3.5.6 Islamic Views on the Fiat Monetary System
3.6 Conclusion
5.0 Conclusion
CHAPTER FOUR: GRAIN-BACKED MONETARY SYSTEM:
ITS SIGNIFICANCES AND ISLAMICITY
4.1 Introduction
4.2 Grain-backed Monetary System
4.3 Significance of the Grain-backed Monetary System
4.4 Compatibility of the Grain-backed Monetary System
with the Islamic Criteria of Acceptable Trade
4.5 Islamic Views on the Grain-backed Monetary System
CHAPTER FIVE: CONCLUSION
BIBLIOGRAPHY 123

LIST OF TABLES

<u>Table No.</u>		Page No.
4.1	US Monthly Average Wheat Price Received for the 1960 – 2009 Calendar Year(s)	99
4.2	US Monthly Average Corn Price Received the1960 – 2009 Calendar Year(s)	101
4.3	Gold Average Prices 1987 – 2010	103

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

B.S.	Barter System
M.S.	Monetary System
C.M.S.	Commodity Monetary System
R.M.S.	Representative Monetary System
F.M.S.	Fiat Monetary System
I.M.S.	Islamic Monetary System
C.C.M.S.	Conventional Commodity Monetary System
I.C.A.T.	Islamic Criteria of Acceptable Trade
G.M.S	Grain-backed Monetary System
G.R.A.	Grains Reserves Agency
B.W.S.	Bretton Woods System
C.B.	Central Bank

ARABIC TRANSLITERATIONS

۶	,	Ċ	kh	ش	sh	غ	gh	ن	n
ب	b	د	d	ص	ş	ڡ۬	f	ھ	h
ت	t	ذ	dh	ض	ģ	ق	q	و	W
ث	th	ſ	r	Ь	ţ	ای	k	ي	у
ج	j	رز	Z	ظ	Ż	J	1		
۲	ķ	س	S	٤	с	م	m		

Short Vowels				
-´	a			
-,	i			
و _	u			

Long Vowels				
1 + -	ā			
۔ - + ي	Ī			
ُ- + وْ	ū			

CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION

This Chapter deals with the introduction, literature review, statement of the problem, objectives, significance and motive of this study, research methodology, and chapter organizations so as to give a clue to readers about the dimensions of this study.

INTRODUCTION

Optimizing its economy is one of the imperative agendas of a state. This is because the function of the economic power of a state is in some ways similar to the function of the heart in a man's body, i.e. the heart provides blood for the whole body of a man from the toe to the brain, so the economic growth of a state contributes power to the functions of a state's governmental organizations from the top to the bottom; it accelerates the developments of commercial, educational and healthcare institutions, manufacturing, merchandises, etc. and consequently brings ultimate welfare to individuals' daily lives as well. But the state cannot optimize its economy without revitalizing its monetary system since money plays a crucial role in an economy, i.e. money functions in an economy as liquid asset, framework of the market allocative systems, a causative factor in the economy and controller of the economy generally; specifically, it functions as a unit of account, common measure of value, medium of exchange, means of payment, standard for deferred payments and store of value.¹ This is the reason why Lenin, the founder of the Russian Communist Party, is said to

¹ Glyn Davies, A History of Money: From Ancient Times to the Present Day, (Cardiff: University of Wales Press, 1994), 27.

have declared that "the best way to kill off a capitalist society is to debauch its currency."²

As far as what has been observed by this researcher, from the times of antiquity to the modern age, currency³ has mainly played the same role in the economic sector. But the instruments of currency have frequently been changed. For example, in ancient times, people deployed precious metals such as gold and silver as currency. Since the sixteenth century, traders had used tokens of commodities as currency until 1970s. Starting from 1970s, both Muslim and non-Muslim nations unanimously have been deploying some strange commodities as currency. Some basic characteristics of the modern currency and currency system are as follows:

First, modern units of currencies are neither made of precious metals such as gold and silver nor backed by commodity reserves but rather made of ordinary pieces of paper, nickels and digital characters. Their materials which are made to serve as currencies are not commensurate with the prices which are decreed by governments. For example, the material that is used to make \$100 note may cost only \$ 0.05 cent or less than this.

Second, despite the fact that all national currencies of the world are made of paper, and nickel in almost the same quality, each of them differs from one another in foreign exchange markets in relation to values. But even in this they are not constant; all of the currencies' values continuously fluctuate based on economic factors like inflation, industrial production, and geopolitical events. Therefore, each currency can be exchanged for another based on its current price. For example, among the world currencies, the national currency of Kuwait, the *Kuwaiti dinar* is considered as the

² Barry N. Siegel, *Money, Banking, and Economy*, (New York: Academic Press, 1982), 3.

³ Currency is a system of money in general use in a particular country. See Patric Hanks, *The New Oxford Dictionary of English*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001), 451.

highest currency of 2009 in value, i.e. 1 Kuwaiti dinar = 2.8914 - 3.1011USD.⁴ In contrast, the national currency of Zimbabwe, the *Zimbabwe dollar*, was the lowest currency of 2009 in value that 362.300 Zimbabwe dollars were officially equal to U.S. \$1.⁵ But nobody can predict which unit of currency will be at the highest and lowest level of values in the foreign exchange markets in the future.

Third, all national units of currencies in the world have codes that are published by the International Standardization Organization (ISO). Each code consists of three letters. The first two letters of the code are the two letters of ISO 3166-1 alpha-2 country codes which are used as the basis for national top-level domains on the Internet. The third letter is usually the initial of the currency itself. For instance, Japan's currency code is JPY, i.e. JP represents for Japan; Y represents for yen.⁶

Fourth, each unit of national currency of the modern world has an equivalent three-digit numeric code that represents a nation's unit of currency and fund. For instance, 978 is the numeric code for the currency of European Union (EU), the euro; 971 represents the currency of Afghanistan, the Afghani; 840 represents the currency of the United States, the US dollar.⁷

Fifth, some currencies of the contemporary world have graphic symbols that indicate the identity of a particular country's currency. For instance, the graphic sign \in indicates the euro; the symbol \$ refers to the US dollar; the graphic sign ¥ represents the Chinese Yuan.⁸ However, since new currencies are frequently created

⁴ "Exchane Rates," Central Bank of Kuwait, <http://www.cbk.gov.kw/profile/pride.html>, (accessed September 15, 2009).

⁵ "Currency Trading and Forex Tips," The World's Favorite Currency Site, http://www.xe.com/ucc/profile/pride.html, (accessed August 10, 2009).

⁶ "ISO 4217: 2008 Codes for the Representation of Currencies and Funds," International Standardization Organization, < http://www.iso.org/profile/pride.html>, (accessed August 15, 2009).
⁷ Ibid.

⁸ "The List of Currency Symbols," The World's Favorite Currency Site, http://www.xe.com/profile/pride.html, (accessed August 10, 2009).

due to the establishment of new governments, treaties between countries on standardization of currencies or revaluation of currencies because of excessive inflation, the codes of some countries' currencies seldom change. For example, the code of the Turkish old lira was TL. But, in 2005, the new Turkish government changed its currency code from TL to YTL. So, the Turkish currency code is YTL today. Before the first of January, 2002, Western European nations used to use different codes for their national units of currencies, i.e. Austria used ATS for its currency, the Shilling; Cyprus used CYP for its currency, the pound. Now, 16 member countries of the European Union are sharing the same alphabetical code, the EUR.⁹ According to the currency codes which were revised in 2008, about 171 currencies which differ from one another not only in shapes and values but also in numerical and alphabetical codes or symbols are being in circulation in the world today.¹⁰

Sixth, according to constitutional organizations of states, the authorized authorities for issuing currencies slightly differ from one another. For instance, in the United States, the Federal Reserve System (the Fed) plays the same role as does the Central Bank, i.e. it is responsible for issuing the national currency of the U.S; it conducts monetary policy; it plays a major role in the supervision and regulation of banks and bank holding companies,¹¹ whereas in Western Europe, the Central Bank (ECB) has total control over all EU monetary policies, including maintaining the Euro's purchasing power and price stability in the Euro area.¹² In Saudi Arabia, The Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA) issues currency, the riyal, stabilizes the

⁹ "ISO 4217 Currency and Funds Name and Code Elements," International Standardization Organization, http://www.iso.org/profile/pride.html, (accessed August 10, 2009). ¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ John J. Klein, *Money and the Economy*, (San Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Publishers, 1986), 279, 280.

¹² The European Central Bank, <http://www.ecb/profile/pride.html>, (accessed August 10, 2009).

exchange rate, administers monetary reserves, regulates the banking system, and supervises commercial banks.¹³ In Pakistan, The State Bank of Pakistan issues banknotes, manages currency and credit, secures monetary stability and supervises commercial banks.¹⁴ In Malaysia, Bank Negara Malaysia is the Central Bank of Malaysia that promotes monetary and financial stability, conducts monetary policy and preserves purchasing power of the ringgit.¹⁵ In short, almost all of the member states of the United Nations (UN), and some dependent states such as Hong Kong and Macao have their own national or central banks that issue their national currencies and supervise their use.¹⁶

Seventh, there is no one fixed worldwide monetary policy of using currency and determining its value that has been approved by all the nations in the world unanimously, i.e. each state, whether it is *de jure* or *de facto* one has its own choice of using a specific currency and to decree its value. Therefore, some countries commonly use the same currency whereas more than one currency is used in one country simultaneously. For example, in Western Europe, 16 *de jure* independent states share the same currency with the same values, the Euro.¹⁷ In contrast, there are three currencies: the Hong Kong dollar, Macao's *patacas* and the *renminbi*, commonl called the *yuan* are simultaneously used within a single *de jure* sovereign state, China with the different names and different values,¹⁸ i.e. 7.80 HKD = 1 USD;¹⁹ 1 CNY = 0.

¹³ "Functions of the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency," Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency, http://www.sama.gov/profile/pride.html>, (accessed August 15, 2009).

¹⁴ "Core Functions of State Bank of Pakistan," State Bank of Pakistan, <<u>http://www.sbp.org/profile.pride.html</u>>, (accessed August 10, 2009).

¹⁵ "Roles and Functions of Bank Negara Malaysia," Bank Negara Malaysia, <<u>http://www.bnm.gov.my/profile/pride.html</u>>, (accessed on August 10, 2009).

¹⁶ "Bank for International Settlements," http://www.bis.org/profile/pride.html (accessed on September 4, 2009).

¹⁷ "The Euro," European Central Bank, <<u>http://www.ecb/profile/pride.html</u>>, (accessed August 20, 2009).

¹⁸ See the official websites of People's Bank of China, Hong Kong Monetary Authority and Monetary Authority of Macao at http://www.pbc.gov/profile/pride.html,

146302 USD; MOP = 0.125272 USD.²⁰ In some parts of the world, some countries share the same name of a unit of currency. But, in reality, it is not the same since there are huge differentiations among purchasing powers and physical appearances of these currencies as well. For example, Australia, Canada, Singapore, etc. called their units of currencies as dollars, just as the United States does.²¹ Likewise, in the Middle East, some countries such as Saudi Arabia, Iran, Oman, Qatar, etc. called their units of currencies as *riāl* or *riyāl*. But they are altogether different currencies with different values, i.e. 1 CAN = 0. 918360 USD; 1 AUD = 0.833833 USD; 1SGD = 0.691993 USD; 1 SAR = 0.267006 USD; 10,105 IRR = 1 USD; 0.3840000 OMR = 1 USD; 3, 64 QAR = 1 USD.²²

Eighth, in the modern monetary system, money circulates between financers and borrowers based on its face value rather than exchange value in domestic level despite the fluctuation of the exchange value of money every day in domestic level. . For example, values of money comprise of two distinct concepts of value, i.e. face value of money and exchange value of money. Face value of money refers to an amount of value which is decreed by government and printed on the paper money or on a coinage money such as 1 Ringgit, 10 Dollars, 50 Euro, 100 pound whereas the exchange value of money refers to the purchasing power of an amount of value. The face value of money is constant, i.e. it never becomes eroded, nor fluctuates forever

<http://www.info.gov.hk/hkma/profile/pride.html>, and <http://www.amcm.gov.mo/profile/pride.html>, (accessed August 21, 2009).

¹⁹ "Exchange Rate," Hong Kong Monetary Authority, http://www.info.gov.hk/hkma/profile/pride.html, (accessed September 5, 2009).

²⁰ "Currency Trading and Forex Tips," The World's Favorite Currency Site, http://www.xe.com/ucc/profile/pride.html, (accessed August 30, 2009).

²¹ "ISO-FAQs-ISO 4217 Currency and Funds Names and Code Elements," International standardization Organization, http://www.iso.org/profile/pride.html, (accessed August 30, 2009).

²² See the official websites of Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency, Central Bank of Oman and the Qatar Central Bank at http://www.cbi.ir/profile/pride.html, http://www.cbi.gov.ga/profile/pride.html and http://www.cbi.gov.ga/profile/pride.html and http://www.cbi.gov.ga/profile/pride.html and http://www.cbi.gov.ga/profile/pride.html (accessed August 30, 2009).

according to market forces after it has been printed. In contrast, the exchange value of money always fluctuates according to market forces and becomes eroded by the flow of time.

Ninth, modern currency system was not initiated by Muslims. It was initially created as token or representative money²³ in the West a few centuries ago.²⁴ Later, the use of token money instead of commodity money had been widely acknowledged by all nation states and individuals as well since its inception until 1978. By the collapse of the Islamic Caliph, the Ottoman Empire in early 20th century, all Islamic nation states adopted the Western monetary system, the Representative Monetary System (RMS) and gradually started to create their national currencies without being conscious of the situation as to whether the RMS was compatible with the tenets of Islam or not. In 1978, the Unites States Congress formally cut the connection between \$ dollar and gold. Consequently the Representative Monetary System (RMS) was arbitrarily superseded by the Fiat Monetary System (FMS).

1.2 LITERATURE REVIEW

According to the recently conducted literature review by the present researcher, at the end of the last century, Muslim thinkers and economists started to take a fresh look at the circulation of fiat money among Muslim nations and scrutinized its compatibility with the tenets of Islam. As a result of such events, so far, a number of commendable international conferences on global monetary system in general and Islamic monetary

²³ Token money is a kind of artificial money in which its exchange value is derived from exchange value of a commodity under the prevailing law. See Tarek El Diwany, "History of Banking," in 2002 *International Conference on Just Global Monetary System*, (Kuala Lumpur: Research Centre, International Islamic University Malaysia, 2002), 01.

²⁴ 'Umar Vadillo, *Fatwa on Paper Money*, (Granada: Madinah Press, 1991), 25.

system in particular have been hosted by various Islamic countries; a lot of books, scholarly written articles and monographs on Islamic monetary system have been published by Muslim thinkers and economists. Here, the researcher would like to introduce some published proceedings of the three most important international conferences which have been convened, namely *Money, and Fiscal Economics of Islam,_Teaching Islamic Economics of University Teachers*, and 2002 International Conference on Stable and Just Global Monetary System, as the representative sample of a number of international conferences on global and Islamic monetary systems which have been convened and some selected books and journals which have been published on the subject.

1.2.1 Conferences

The International Seminar on *Monetary and Fiscal Economics of Islam* is one of the most important international conferences on Islamic monetary system. It was held in the Holy city, Makkah. According to Muḥammad Ariff (1982), in the International Seminar on *Monetary and Fiscal Economics of Islam* which was held in the Holy city, Makkah 7-12 October, 1982, under the auspices of the International Center for Research in Islamic Economics, King 'Abdul'azīz University, contemporary prominent Muslim thinkers and economists seriously discussed the monetary and fiscal issues in Islamic economics.²⁵ All the twenty papers presented in that seminar were devoted to the conceptual aspects and issues relation to *ribā*, credit, saving, investment, monetary, banking, fiscal affairs in a *riba*-free economy, international aspects of Islamic banking and finally the formulation of a theoretical framework for

²⁵ Ghazi O. Madani, "Foreword," in *Monetary, and Fiscal Economics of Islam,* edited by Ariff Muhammad, (Jeddah: International Center for Research in Islamic Economics, 1982), vii.

the monetary and fiscal economics of Islam. For example, professor Mohamed Ariff talked about the concept of an Islamic economy; professor Muhammad Nejātullāh Siddīqī focused on Islamic approach to money, banking and monetary policy; professor Monzer Kahf concentrated on saving, and investment functions in a twosector Islamic economy; professor M. 'Umer Chapra focused on money and banking in an Islamic economy. As to the various aspects of the perceived elements of injustice in Islamic Banking system, one of the speakers discussed the issue of monetary compensation for financers, who provide interest-free loans, against erosion in the value of money due to inflation and argued that there is no interest element involved in such compensation. But, in this regard, they reached a decision that the issue of monetary compensation for financiers needs to be approached with extreme caution, as its ramifications remain unexplored. Its permissibility from the Islamic Sharī ah point of view would depend very much on the technicalities which are vet to be spelt out in detail.²⁶ Finally, they called promising Muslim scholars and students to contribute towards the creation of full-fledged Islamic financial, economic, and monetary systems which are fully compatible with the tenets of Islam.

The International Seminar on Teaching Islamic Economics for Teachers was jointly organized by the Islamic Research and Training Institute of the Islamic Development Bank, Jeddah and the International Islamic University, Islamabad, Pakistan and held at the International Institute of Islamic Economics, International Islamic University, Islamabad, Pakistan during 28 *Dhul Hijjah* 1407H – 10 *Moharram* 1408H (22 August – 3 September, 1987). For several days, prominent Muslim thinkers and economists analyzed Islamic economics segmenting it into six parts, i.e.

²⁶ Mohamed Ariff, "Introduction," in *Monetary, and Fiscal Economics of Islam,* edited by Ariff Muhammad, (Jeddah: International Center for Research in Islamic Economics, 1982), 14.

Islamic economics, Islamic jurisprudence, micro economics, macro economics, monetary and fiscal policies. For example, professor Moḥsin S. Khan introduced principles of monetary theory and policy in an Islamic framework; Professor Khurshid Aḥmad focused on the nature and significance of Islamic economics; professor Moḥammad Anas Zarqa talked about the methodology of Islamic economics.²⁷

Probably the most influential international conference on global and Islamic monetary system is the 2002 International Conference on Stable and Just Global Monetary System. It was held in the Putra World Trade Center, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on August 19 & 20, 2002. The theme of the conference was The Viability of Islamic Dinar. The great significance of this conference can be seen from a number of viewpoints, among them (1) some of the distinguished economists who came from various countries introduced some new commendable strategies for solving currency problems of the contemporary world in conformity with Islam; (2), some of the scholars present called upon the nations of the world to go back to the gold standard or the gold and silver money era, and (3), some others introduced a new complementary currency system besides gold and dinar and some steps in approaching towards the realization of justice. For example, In his article "Gold Dinar, Paper Currency and Monetary Stability: An Islamic View" which was presented in 2002 Conference on Stable and Just Global Monetary System, Mahmood M. Sanusi insisted that money should be made of gold and silver. The following observation from him reflects his Islamic view on contemporary monetary system:

The *Sharī* ah has placed gold and silver in a prominent position in its monetary system. It considers that these two precious metals best function as a medium of exchange, measure of value, and store of

²⁷ Ausaf Ahmad and Kzim Raza Awan, "Introduction," in *Lectures on Islamic Economics*, edited by Ausaf Ahmad and Kzim Raza Awan (Jeddah: Islamic Research and Training Institute, Islamic Development Bank, 1992), 2.

wealth. The *Sharī'ah* also maintains that the legal currency should be from gold and silver in order to stabilize the monetary system.²⁸

In his essay entitled "Problems Created by the Fiat Money, Islamic Dinar and

other Available Alternatives" presented in that conference, Hifzur Rab argued that any

change in the quality of goods results in corresponding changes in the measurement of

wealth. The following citation highlights his argument:

Any change in the quantity of goods represented by currency results in corresponding changes in the measurement of wealth and that corrupts the accounting process. Manipulation of currency is a case of manipulation of weights and measures that is a fraud that is strictly prohibited under the divine law.²⁹

One of the most important speakers of that conference was 'Umar Vadillo. He

presented his paper on "The Architecture of the Gold Dinar Economy: An Academic

Perspective." According to 'Umar Vadillo, dinar and dirham can fully stabilize costs

of commodities. He states his opinion as follows:

The *Dinar* has no nationality, it is made of gold, so it is the same in Morocco as it is in Malaysia, or China. It has no inflation; a chicken at the time of *Rasūl Allāh, şallā Allāh 'alayhi wa sallam*, cost one *Dirham*, and today you can buy a chicken in Kuala Lumpur for one Dirham. So one thousand four hundred years later, inflation is zero.³⁰

Saiful Azhar Rosly, and Emad Rafiq Barakat, in their essay "The Economic

Thought of Al-Maqrizi: The Role of the Dinar and Dirham as Money" which was

presented in that conference introduced their commendable strategy of removing

injustice involved in money circulation from Islamic economics. The following

observation highlights this aspect of his monetary thought:

²⁸ Mahmood M. Sanusi, "Gold Dinar, Paper Currency and Monetary Stability: An Islamic View" in 2002 Conference on Stable and Just Global Monetary System (Kuala Lumpur: Research Centre International Islamic University Malaysia, 2002), 73.

²⁹ Hifzur Rab, "Peoblems Created By the Fiat Money, Islamic Dinar and other Available Alternatives", in 2002 Conference ²⁹on Stable and Just Global Monetary System, (Kuala Lumpur: Research Centre International Islamic University Malaysia, 2002), 91.

³⁰ 'Umar Ibrāhim Vadillo, "The Architecture of the Gold Dinar Economy: An Academic Perspective," in 2002 *Conference on Stable and Just Global Monetary System*, (Kuala Lumpur: Research Centre International Islamic University Malaysia, 2002), 338.