

NATIONAL



Photos show Head of Government Relations and Special Projects Haji Mohammad Yusri bin Haji Wahsalfelah and Head of Retail Banking Junaidi Bahrum with participants of the Cambridge Islamic Finance Structuring Master Programme. PHOTO: BIBD

Bank strengthens Islamic finance expertise

As part of Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam's (BIBD) efforts to strengthen its position as a leader in Islamic finance, two members of its senior management, Head of Government Relations and Special Projects Haji Mohammad Yusri bin Haji Wahsalfelah and Head of Retail Banking Junaidi Bahrum completed the Cambridge Islamic Finance Structuring Master Programme (Cambridge IFSM) in Madinah, Saudi Arabia.

The Cambridge IFSM, organised by the Cambridge Institute of Islamic Finance (Cambridge IIF) in collaboration with the Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance (BIBF), is one

of the most advanced training programmes in Islamic finance.

The five-day programme equipped participants with comprehensive knowledge in structuring over 60 Islamic financial products, including *sukuk*, *takaful*, and Islamic investment products, while ensuring Syariah compliance and economic efficiency.

The programme's strategic focus on innovation and financial inclusion reflects the growing need for Islamic financial institutions to adapt to an evolving market landscape.

The training covered key areas such as: structuring Islamic investment products -

developing innovative investment structures, including I-REITs, private equities, and *sukuk*, while maintaining Syariah compliance; use of technology in Islamic finance - exploring the role of FinTech in enhancing product development and customer experience; financial inclusion structures - designing microfinance products to increase access to financial services and promote financial inclusion; Islamic social finance and mutuality - structuring *takaful* and cooperative models to support social impact-driven financial solutions; and innovation in *sukuk* - introducing new *sukuk* structures, including liquidity management

and structured products. BIBD's participation in this programme reflects its strategic focus on product innovation, digital transformation, and financial inclusion - key pillars that align with Brunei Vision 2035 and the BDCB Financial Sector Blueprint, and as part of ongoing efforts to offer innovative, Syariah-compliant financial solutions that meet evolving customer needs and reinforce its status as Brunei's flagship Islamic financial institution.

The participation also highlights BIBD's ongoing investment in developing talent and leadership capabilities to drive long-term value for its customers and stakeholders.