

# Market Outlook explores opportunities in sukuk financing, global trends

James Kon

Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam Berhad (BIBD) yesterday hosted the BIBD Market Outlook 2026, a dedicated market briefing for its Institutional, Corporate and PERDANA clients to navigate the current global economic environment, interest rate dynamics, evolving risks and the growing role of *sukuk* financing in today's investment landscape.

Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism Dato Seri Setia Dr Haji Abdul Manaf bin Haji Metussin, as Chairman of Brunei Darussalam Central Bank (BDCB) underscored the importance of staying informed in an increasingly challenging and complex economic and

investment environment, and consider the broader direction of Islamic Finance in Brunei in line with the BDCB's strategic initiatives to strengthen the nation's Islamic finance ecosystem.

BIBD Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Junaidi bin Haji Masri commented that staying ahead in today's markets requires not only access to quality investment solutions but also the right knowledge and guidance to make well-informed decisions.

"The Market Outlook event is designed to offer clients privileged insights, tailored expertise and personalised advisory support that underpin the bank's holistic wealth management proposition," he said.

Themed 'Market Outlook: Navigating Rates, Risks & the Rise of Sukuk Financing', the session brought together the bank's senior management, invited experts and clients for an afternoon of knowledge sharing and networking.

The first keynote, 'Global Macro Review and Outlook for 2026', was delivered by Joe Baraukas of Franklin Templeton, who provided an overview of the latest macroeconomic trends shaping interest rates, growth prospects and investor sentiment heading into 2026.

The attendees gained perspectives on how changing rate regimes, inflation dynamics and geopolitical developments could impact different asset classes, enabling them to better assess risks and opportunities in the year ahead.

The presentation highlighted the importance of a diversified, disciplined approach in navigating cycles while remaining aligned with long-term financial goals.

A subsequent session, 'Unlocking Sukuk Opportunities & Investment Positioning for 2026', was led by Abdul Azim bin Haji Mohammad from BIBD's Corporate Banking Group, alongside Nur Ezza binti Haji Mohd Hani from BIBD Asset Management, BIBD Securities Sdn Bhd.

The speakers discussed the continued growth of global *sukuk* markets and how *sukuk* can serve as a resilient financing and investment instrument amid shifting eco-



Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism Dato Seri Setia Dr Haji Abdul Manaf bin Haji Metussin as Chairman of Brunei Darussalam Central Bank receiving a memento from Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Junaidi bin Haji Masri. PHOTOS: JAMES KON



Attendees at the event

nomical conditions. The discussion examined how investors can tap into *sukuk* to enhance portfolio stability, diversify income streams and support *Syariah*-compliant investment objectives.

The event formed part of the bank's ongoing series of engagements aimed at keeping investors abreast of key financial developments and emerging opportunities in global and regional markets.