

# MAI INSTITUTE

## MARKAZ AL IHSAAN



INSTITUTE OF ISLAMIC THEOLOGY

# PROFILE

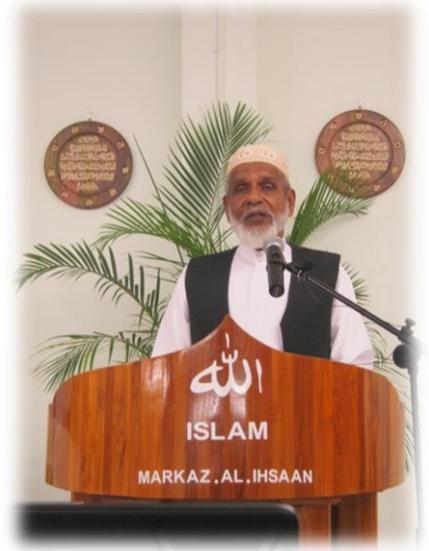
## WELCOME

Markaz al Ihsaan (MAI) is an Institute of Islamic Theology, committed to disseminating the message of Islam to all those who are interested in learning more about Islam; and exploring ways in which Islam can be incorporated into everyday life.

Established in 2002, the MAI institute is a private, not-for-profit organization that works towards the realization of an educated Muslim and wider national community, wherein persons can live a refined life based on the Qur'anic guidance and on the traditions of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be on him).

Recognising the volatile global environment in which we live, MAI institute delivers services that span training programmes, focused development initiatives, an active media outreach portfolio and pioneering research in Islamic contributions to contemporary bodies of knowledge and practice.

These efforts are geared to help those interested to understand authentic Islamic tenets, principles and practices, explore the various contexts of interpretation and develop the inner connection with Almighty Allah (on whom be praises), and the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be on him).



## VALUES

The MAI Institute aspires to inculcate a family culture and environment based on key values which include **INCLUSION;** **TOLERANCE** and **RESPECT**

## MISSION

The mission of the MAI Institute is to provide accessible authentic Islamic education effectively and efficiently to all those interested in understanding and applying Islamic beliefs, values and practices in their everyday lives.

## HISTORY

MAI Institute represents a new phase and the culmination of efforts of Maulana Dr. Waffie Mohammed – author and missionary – who has been active in the local and global Muslim community for over 4 decades.

Growing out of a core Islamic Worker Training programme, the Markaz al Ihsaan began as part-time religious classes on the weekends at the Edoo's Welding and Industrial Supplies Company training facility, where it quickly utilised full available capacity.

The MAI Institute moved to its current main campus at the Al Ihsaan Centre, located in the scenic Hermitage Village, La Romaine, and adjoining the Hermitage Mosque.

# TRAINING PROGRAMMES

MAI Institute offers focused training programmes designed to build the calibre of persons seeking to lead better lives in accordance with Islamic teachings, as well as tooling those who wish to become more actively involved within their communities in service to Almighty Allah (swt).

Training programmes cater to persons with no prior background in Islam, and also are structured to accommodate persons with limited time and other commitments across vocation and interest. Programmes include:

- **Alim Programme:** A 3-tiered programme that prepares an individual to master key areas of Islamic Theology, and leverage this for contributions in Research, Dawah and Training to their respective communities.
- **ILM Programme:** This Integrated Management and Leadership (ILM) programme is focused on covering core organisational management and leadership competencies, serving to prepare individuals to serve in a leadership capacity within communities and in the effective management of organisations.
- **Focused Classes on Topical Issues:** This series is conducted at various locations and is geared to isolate and address singular topics of pertinent interest to Islam in the global context, and the Muslim community locally. Classes are delivered by Maulana Dr. Waffie Mohammed and other members of faculty of the MAI Institute, and scheduled based on the specific location. Please visit our website at <http://maiinstitute.com> for further details.

# DEPARTMENTS

MAI Institute has dedicated faculties which aim to ensure the optimal understanding and delivery impact of the various subject areas to persons from varying backgrounds and profiles.

Faculties include:

- Arabic Language and Recitation
- Shariah (Fiqh)
- Qur'an (Tafseer)
- Hadith
- Dawah
- Islamic Civilisation (Seerah; History; Sects in Islam)
- Islamic Philosophy (incl. Psychology; Sociology and Spirituality)
- Contemporary Islamic Thought (Leadership; Minority Studies)
- Islamic Finance (incl. Economics and Management)

## MEDIA

As part of our activities, we create content in various forms – many of which are available to access for not-for-profit use. Digital and electronic content include:

- Video lectures
- Audio podcasts
- Blog Articles
- Photo Albums of various events
- We also have a Digital Library available for use



## PRINT

MAI Institute has a growing body of publications that cover a range of subjects – most of which are taught in the MAI Institute's training programmes. These publications are produced and distributed by different publishers – the majority under the Markaz publications label, and others by Noordeen publishers in Malaysia.

Titles published include (please visit the website <http://maiinstitute.com> for a complete list):

- Islamic Sociology
- Qur'anic Psychology
- Qur'anic Lessons in Public Speaking
- A Handbook of Islamic Beliefs
- Muslims in Minority
- Introductory Tajweed
- Teach Yourself to Read Arabic
- Ishq-e-Habeeb (Islamic Songs)
- Honouring the Prophet (pbh)
- The Story of Joseph in the Qur'an
- Hinduism in Islam
- Christianity According to Islamic Beliefs

## MEDIA PROGRAMMES

The following represent some of the media programmes hosted, produced or facilitated by the MAI institute (please check our website for more details):

- **The Upright Way:** MAI Institute facilitates the production of 'The Upright Way' – a weekly uplifting programme hosted by Maulana Dr. Waffie Mohammed and aired on 103.1 FM every Friday morning from 5:00 am.
- **Ramadan Series:** MAI Institute produces on-demand programmes for the holy month of Ramadan. These programmes are aired every morning during the month of Ramadan, and include a range of informational, entertaining and inspirational segments featuring MAI graduates, faculty and other talented youths in the community.
- **The Examples of the Prophets:** a programme series that examines the lives, examples and lessons from various prophets in Islam. This programme aired on the Islamic Broadcasting Network (IBN) channel 8 over five years, and segments are featured at different times on various broadcast channels.
- **In-Mosque Broadcasts:** MAI Institute screens various lectures and other content of interest at various locations throughout Trinidad and Tobago. Content include recordings of initiatives undertaken or participated in – and issues raised - in other countries (including Singapore, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Pakistan) as well as locally.

# THE ALIM PROGRAMME

The Alim course is the flagship programme offered by the MAI Institute. It is designed to give working professionals the opportunity to master the key elements of Islam through part-time study, and combines traditional theological courses with pioneering research in subjects geared to treat with contemporary social issues and contexts.

Students pursuing the Alim course cover traditional theological subjects including:

- Islamic Fiqh
- Tafseer
- Hadith
- Tajweed and Qirat
- Hifz (Memorisation)
- Seerah and Islamic History
- Arabic – Reading and Conversation
- Jurisprudence
- Islamic Etiquette
- Islamic Beliefs

Other subjects students cover in the course of study include:

- Islamic Spirituality
- Muslims in Minority
- Islamic Sects
- Qur'anic Psychology
- Leadership in Islam
- Public Speaking
- Islamic Sociology
- Comparative Religion (Christianity and Hinduism)
- Qur'anic Philosophy of Religion

The Alim course is organised in 3 tiers of study:

- Certificate in Islamic Studies (1 year)
- Diploma in Islamic Theology (1 year)
- Alim Level (3 years)



## THE ALIM PROGRAMME

### CERTIFICATE

This level introduces and explores the various foundational elements of belief and practice in Islam.

### ALIM

This level builds in-depth understanding of key aspects of Islam and its manifestation in society today.

### DIPLOMA

This level builds on a sound understanding of Islamic fundamentals and focuses on the practice of beliefs in various facets of everyday life.

## MAJLIS UL ULAMAA

As part of its commitment to disseminating authentic Islamic information and education to the Muslim community locally, the MAI institute is honoured to host the secretariat of the Majlis ul Ulamaa – Council of Scholars – of Trinidad and Tobago (<http://majlistt.com>).

Majlistt is a forum that facilitates the collaboration of Islamic scholars active and resident in Trinidad and Tobago, working to define the Islamic position as it relates to topics of interest and issues facing Islam, the Muslim and the wider national community.

The focus of the Majlistt is the realisation of 'One Position. One Voice. One Ummah.' and the clarification of misrepresentations of Islam which are pronounced and prominent in a technology-intensive era.

The MAI institute was instrumental in the formation of the Majlis ul Ulamaa, and by hosting the Secretariat facilitates key deliverables including:

- the coordination of meetings of the Shariah Council (the key organ of the Majlis ul Ulamaa),
- dissemination of information to the various publics,
- engagement in research for and on behalf of the Shariah Council as instructed, and
- provision of general support for Shariah Council activities.

Visit the Majlis ul Ulamaa (Council of Scholars) website at <http://majlistt.com/>

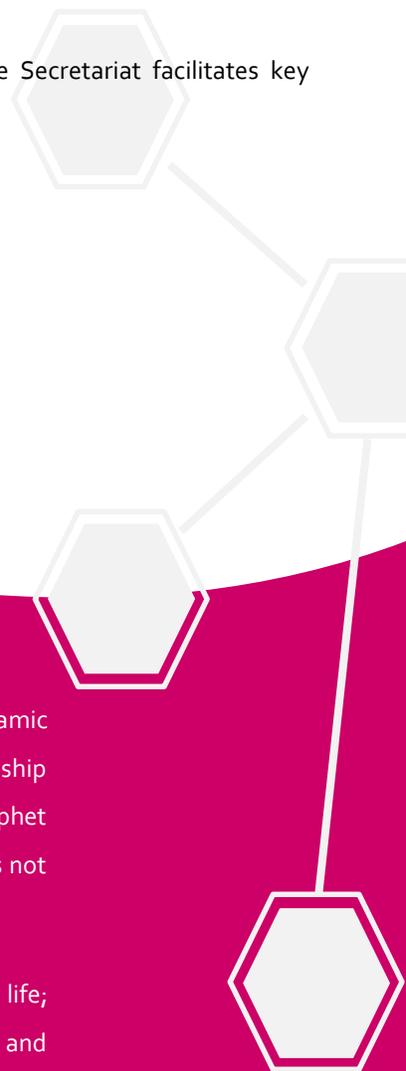


## ISLAMIC SPIRITUALITY

MAI Institute conducts – under the guidance of Maulana Dr. Waffie Mohammed – weekly Islamic spirituality sessions at the Hermitage Mosque. These sessions are focused on building your relationship with Almighty Allah (swt); establishing and strengthening your connection to the Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbh); and refining your personality to be guided to what is good and eliminate what is not beneficial.

These sessions prove invaluable to many people in society – those facing stresses of everyday life; persons struggling with personal challenges; or persons wanting to 'unplug' from daily demands and meditate in an environment of peaceful tranquility.

Sessions also feature a thought-provoking talk on a topic of relevance, which offers an opportunity for contemplation on the spiritual journey and the destination.



## BEYOND EDUCATION

Islam is not restricted to the classroom, but manifests (or not) in all that we think, say and do. To this end, MAI Institute aims to inculcate Islamic knowledge and practice across diverse contexts to allow for the development of a complete personality.

MAI facilitates numerous, and equally diverse, activities for our student body, stakeholders and guests. These allow for pursuit of interests beyond the study of Islamic theology, and permeates fun and exciting indoor and outdoor sporting and family-oriented events.

- **Hikes:** MAI facilitates occasional hikes to various attractive destinations situated throughout Trinidad and Tobago. Trekking through the tropical forests to waterfalls, river-banks, mud-volcanoes and other such destinations allow for family fun, excitement and camaraderie as we explore nature and the magnificence of creation.
- **Ladies Afternoon Tea:** Elegant and interactive, this event delivers a relaxed social atmosphere for the women of the MAI – and guests – to treat themselves to crumpets and chats. The programme typically incorporates engaging topics and presentations of interest. The Ladies Afternoon Tea party is an affair not to miss,
- **Indoor Games:** for those interested in board and computer games, we provide activities that push your competitive capabilities all within an Islamic environment. Popular board, card and computer games feature for the discerning competitors, avid amateurs, the mildly curious and the uninitiated.

Learning beyond the classroom – in exciting and engaging ways – is one way the MAI Institute ensures you can apply what you learn and have fun in the process.



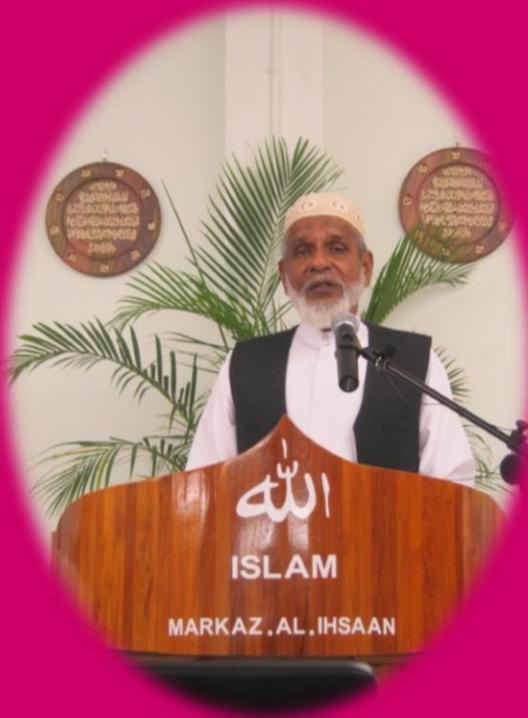
## PRINCIPAL PROFILE – MAULANA DR. WAFFIE MOHAMMED

The first Trinidad and Tobago national to have earned a doctorate in the study of Islam, Dr. Waffie graduated from the University of Karachi with a PhD in Islamic Studies, obtained in parallel with Al-Kamil certification from the Aleemiya Institute established by Dr. Fazlu R. Ansari.

On his return to Trinidad, Dr. Waffie contributed as missionary of the Muslim World League to the development of the Muslim communities located throughout the country and the region, while at the same time serving the wider national communities. This led to his appointment to the Senate in 1981, and his later appointment as Director of the Muslim World League regional office for the Caribbean and Latin America, a position through which he contributed to global Muslim development until his retirement in 2003. In this time he was also instrumental in the establishment of the Islamic Banking Service offered by Clico Investment Bank Ltd. where he also served as the Chairman of the Shariah Board.

Dr. Waffie is the Founder and Principal at the Markaz al Ihsaan Institute of Islamic Theology. He also serves as a spiritual leader of the local chapters of the Qadri and Nakshbandi Orders within Islamic Spirituality Circles. He was the inaugural chairman of the Shariah Council of the Majlis ul Ulamaa (Council of Scholars) of Trinidad and Tobago.

The author of numerous books, articles and publications dedicated to Islam and contemporary social issues, Dr. Waffie also has a growing number of pioneering works in contemporary Islamic studies.



# CONNECT



## MAI LOCATIONS

### HERMITAGE (Main Campus)

#161 Dumfries Road  
Hermitage Village  
via La Romaine  
Trinidad and Tobago

Phone: +1-868-488-0178  
Fax: +1-868-652-4924

You can connect with us through any of the following:

Email: [admin@maiinstitute.com](mailto:admin@maiinstitute.com);  
Website: <http://maiinstitute.com>

Address: #161 Dumfries Road, Hermitage Village,  
via La Romaine, Trinidad and Tobago

Phone: +1-868-488-0178

*(Office hours are 7.30 am to 12 noon Monday to Thursday)*

### CUMUTO

MAI Institute delivers its Alim programme via the Cumuto ASJA Mosque, which is situated in the north-east of the island.

Asja Cumuto Masjid  
Cumuto Road  
Via Sangre Grande  
Phone: +1-868-488-0178