Foreword

It is with a real feeling of gratification that I write the foreword to Professor Islahi's work *History of Islamic Economic Thought*. This work is among Professor Islahi's continuing efforts exploring the history of Islamic economic thought. The book highlights contributions of Muslim scholars to economic thought, an area which deserves more attention by economists.

The book has been prepared in response to a quest for a common ground for dialogue among civilizations in the field of economics. So, it documents the multidimensional linkages and influences between the Islamic civilization and medieval European culture, particularly in the area of economic thought. Muslim scholars' influence on medieval Europe with respect to philosophy, science, mathematics, medicine, geography, history, art and culture is well-documented and known in the circles of concerned subjects. But their impact on economic thinking and institutions is yet to be fully explored and recognized. The present work is a serious attempt in this direction. Professor Islahi also notes the changing trend in recent years of Western scholars towards Muslim contribution to economics and growing admission of indebtedness to the Muslim intellectual heritage in the European renaissance. This tendency will not only bridge the gap in history of economic thought left by earlier writers, but will also increase understanding between the East and the West and facilitate interaction at academic and intellectual levels.

The Islamic Economics Research Center, now the Islamic Economics Institute, has an unmatched history of supporting research work on the history of Islamic economic thought and it has produced a number of studies on the subject. The present book by one of the researchers at the Institute is another landmark in this series. I am confident that it will, by Allah's will, be of great help for teaching and researching on history of economic thought in general and Islamic economic thought in particular in universities all over the world.

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