Sukuk Structure with Embedded Options as a Risk Mitigation Tool



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ABSTRACT

Sukuk market has grown tremendously and has gained attention from many countries. Various innovation has been designed to ensure the marketability of such instruments. However, these innovations have generated various shariah and financial issues and controversies. Among others, is the issue of the sukuk risk whereby the risk structure needs to be disclosed and conformed with shariah values. Even though *sukuk* is recognized as one of the Islamic financial products, it does not necessarily mean that it is free from the elements of risk. Even Islam has acknowledged the concept of risk as al ghurm bi al ghunm (entitlement to return is related to the liability of risk) in the application of *muamalah* (transaction, trade). Consequently, the aim of this paper is to suggest the application of sukuk with embedded options as to mitigate the risk faced by sukuk holders. Previous research has suggested the use of embedded options as a way to mitigate the risk. This paper will cover and discuss the issues pertaining to sukuk structures, the shariah values and the risk mitigation technique. A proposed *sukuk* structure and the mathematical model for finding the value of the real asset will also be covered in this paper. This study concludes with limitations of the study and recommendation for future research.

Keywords: Sukuk, risk, embedded options, assets value, multifactor model

FULL REPORT

1.INTRODUCTION

Sukuk market has developed rapidly over the years. Both Government and corporate companies has issued *sukuk* to raise capital and financing. In Malaysia, the development of the *shariah*-based market has grown rapidly, driven by the growth of the *shariah*-based banking, mutual funds as well as *takaful*. Malaysia is the largest *sukuk* issuer in the world for the first seven months of 2009 comprising 45 per cent of US\$93 billion worth of new issuances (IFR, 2009). In addition the Malaysian government had facilitated a platform for *sukuk* issuance and trading activities capable of more efficient issuances and enhanced the price discovery process. For global investments, flexibility is also accorded for foreign investors to leverage on international clearing and settlement systems.

To ensure success of the *sukuk* market, various and more dynamic *sukuk* structures are needed as to mitigate the risk in the financial market. As investors are becoming more sophisticated and well-informed, their expectation towards the products innovation has changed. Thus, more suitable *sukuk* structures should be innovated and not limit to just looking at the fundamental part of *sukuk*. This study will focus on the embedded options as the way to mitigate risk. An embedded option is an alternative whereby the sukuk holders can convert *sukuk* into real assets. This type of *sukuk* is also known as convertible or exchangeable *sukuk*.

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