



INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION & SYMPOSIUM ON PRODUCTIVITY, INNOVATION, KNOWLEDGE & EDUCATION

“Optimizing Innovation in Knowledge, Education and Design”

EXTENDED ABSTRACT



e ISBN 978-967-2948-56-8



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eISBN 978-967-2948-56-8

Published by:
Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Cawangan Kedah,
Sungai Petani Campus,
08400 Merbok,
Kedah,
Malaysia.

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Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh,



First and foremost, I would like to express my gratitude to the organizing committee of i-Spike 2023 for their tremendous efforts in bringing this online competition a reality. I must extend my congratulations to the committee for successfully delivering on their promise to make i-Spike 2023 a meaningful event for academics worldwide.

The theme for this event, 'Optimizing Innovation in Knowledge, Education, and Design,' is both timely and highly relevant in today's world, especially at the tertiary level. Innovation plays a central role in our daily lives, offering new solutions for products, processes, and services. By adopting a strategic approach to 'Optimizing Innovation in Knowledge, Education, and Design,' we have the potential to enhance support for learners and educators, while also expanding opportunities for learner engagement, interactivity, and access to education.

I am awed by the magnitude and multitude of participants in this competition. I am also confident that all the innovations presented have provided valuable insights into the significance of innovative and advanced teaching materials in promoting sustainable development for the betterment of teaching and learning. Hopefully, this will mark the beginning of a long series of i-Spike events in the future.

It is also my hope that you find i-Spike 2023 to be an excellent platform for learning, sharing, and collaboration. Once again, I want to thank all the committee members of i-Spike 2023 for their hard work in making this event a reality. I would also like to extend my congratulations to all the winners, and I hope that each of you will successfully achieve your intended goals through your participation in this competition.

Professor Dr. Roshima Haji Said
RECTOR
UiTM KEDAH BRANCH



WELCOME MESSAGE (i-SPIKE 2023 CHAIR)



We are looking forward to welcoming you to the 3rd International Exhibition & Symposium on Productivity, Innovation, Knowledge, and Education 2023 (i-SPIKE 2023). Your presence here is a clear, crystal-clear testimony to the importance you place on the research and innovation arena. The theme of this year's Innovation is "*Optimizing Innovation in Knowledge, Education, & Design*". We believe that the presentations by the distinguished innovators will contribute immensely to a deeper understanding of the current issues in relation to the theme.

i-SPIKE 2023 offers a platform for nurturing the next generation of innovators and fostering cutting-edge innovations at the crossroads of collaboration, creativity, and enthusiasm. We enthusiastically welcome junior and young inventors from schools and universities, as well as local and foreign academicians and industry professionals, to showcase their innovative products and engage in knowledge sharing. All submissions have been rigorously evaluated by expert juries comprising professionals from both industry and academia.

On behalf of the conference organisers, I would like to extend our sincere thanks for your participation, and we hope you enjoy the event. A special note of appreciation goes out to all the committee members of i-SPIKE 2023; your dedication and hard work are greatly appreciated.

Dr. Junaida Ismail

Chair

3rd International Exhibition & Symposium Productivity, Innovation, Knowledge, and Education 2023 (i-SPIKE 2023)

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ABSTRACT

EZ-ZAWAF is a digital transformation in the management of zakat, sadaqah and waqf at Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) since the COVID-19 pandemic hit the world. This digitization innovation is implemented through two phases, the first, the phase of adapting changes towards a hybrid digital system, while the second phase focuses on the full implementation of digital systems and the strengthening of new systems implemented. Focus is given to the aspects of zakat, sadaqah and waqf collection that are implemented online, and then the aspects of implementation that are controlled and implemented in synergy and integrity. Next, the evaluation by outcome is made based on the framework of Maqasid Shariah and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in line with the instruments of zakat, sadaqah and waqf implemented at UiTM. Through this management transformation innovation, the management of zakat, sadaqah and waqf in UiTM becomes more efficient, user-friendly and meets the purpose of implementation through the evaluation based on Maqasid Shariah and SDGs. The implementation of EZ-ZAWAF can be the best guide to the management of zakat, sadaqah and waqf in universities throughout Malaysia, and can be a guide in the implementation at the State Islamic Religious Council (SIRC) throughout Malaysia.

Keywords: EZ-ZAWAF, Digitalize Innovation, Zakat, Sadaqah, Waqf

1. INTRODUCTION

The Zakat, Sadaqah and Waqf Division (ZAWAF) is one of the Pusat Tanggungjawab (PTJ) at Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) which is responsible for managing the collection and distribution of zakat in UiTM. It started in 1998 with the appointment of UiTM as Assistant Amil at the higher education institute by the Selangor Zakat Board (Yaakob et al., 2023). In order to ensure that the roles and responsibilities that have been entrusted are carried out in the best possible way, the management of ZAWAF needs to ensure that the management of zakat collection and distribution at UiTM is in line with certain objectives that have been set in the al-Quran and al-Hadith.

The Zakat, Sedekah and Waqf Division (ZAWAF) began with the official establishment of the Zakat Unit on June 16, 1998. The main goal of its establishment was to implement and enforce the memorandum of agreement that had been mutually agreed between ITM and MAIS. ITM's Zakat Unit at that time had the role of managing zakat collection among UiTM residents and handing over the entire collection to MAIS. In return for the responsibility of the collection, the ITM Zakat Unit will receive a return of 50 percent of the zakat collection to be distributed to eligible UiTM citizens according to the permitted asnaf, namely asnaf fakir, miskin, muallaf and fi sabilillah. Starting in 2019, the Selangor Zakat Board (LZS) has added Ibnu Sabil to the list of asnafs that are allowed to distribute, bringing the total to 5 asnafs (Yaakob et al., 2023).

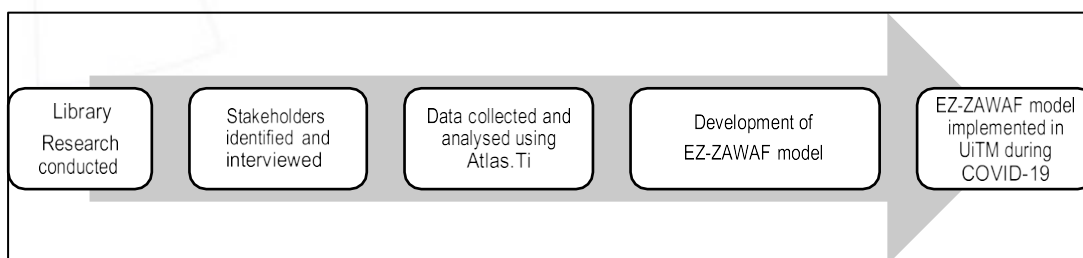
Initially, the zakat application and distribution processes were implemented manually, where applications were done in person and utilised physical form. This process requires a physical meeting, the cost of printing the form, verification of the physical document, a specific place and time of the interview process, a long physical form processing time. Hence, due to the COVID-19 pandemic that spread globally, ZAWAF has changed the existing manual system to a digital-based system.

EZ-ZAWAF, the digital transformation in the management of zakat, sadaqah, and waqf at Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) was then implemented in the UiTM campus. This digitization innovation is implemented through two phases; i) the phase of adapting changes towards a hybrid digital system, ii) the phase focuses on the full implementation of digital systems and the strengthening of new systems implemented. This online and digitalized innovation for zakat, sadaqah and waqf collection is controlled and implemented in synergy and integrity in UiTM and had significantly contributed to the effective collection and distribution of zakat, sadaqah, and waqf in UiTM.

2. METHOD & MATERIAL

The development of EZ-ZAWAF for the collection and distribution of Zakat, Sadaqah and Waqf in UiTM began with conducting library research. Careful examination of relevant information and sources including articles, related legislation (enactment and act), reports, fatwas, etc were done to ensure a strong foundation for the development of this model. After sufficient literature had been collected and analysed, relevant stakeholders were then identified to acquire relevant information on the existing activities of collection and distribution of zakat, sadaqah and waqf implemented in the country, especially in Selangor. At this stage, officers from Lembaga Zakat Selangor (LZS) and Perbadanan Wakaf Selangor were interviewed. The interviews were transcribed and further analysed using Atlas.Ti. Concurrently, data collected through library research were also captured and analysed using Atlas. Ti. Eventually, the EZ-ZAWAF model was developed and implemented in UiTM during COVID-19. The methodologies utilized in this study is as illustrated in Figure 1 below:

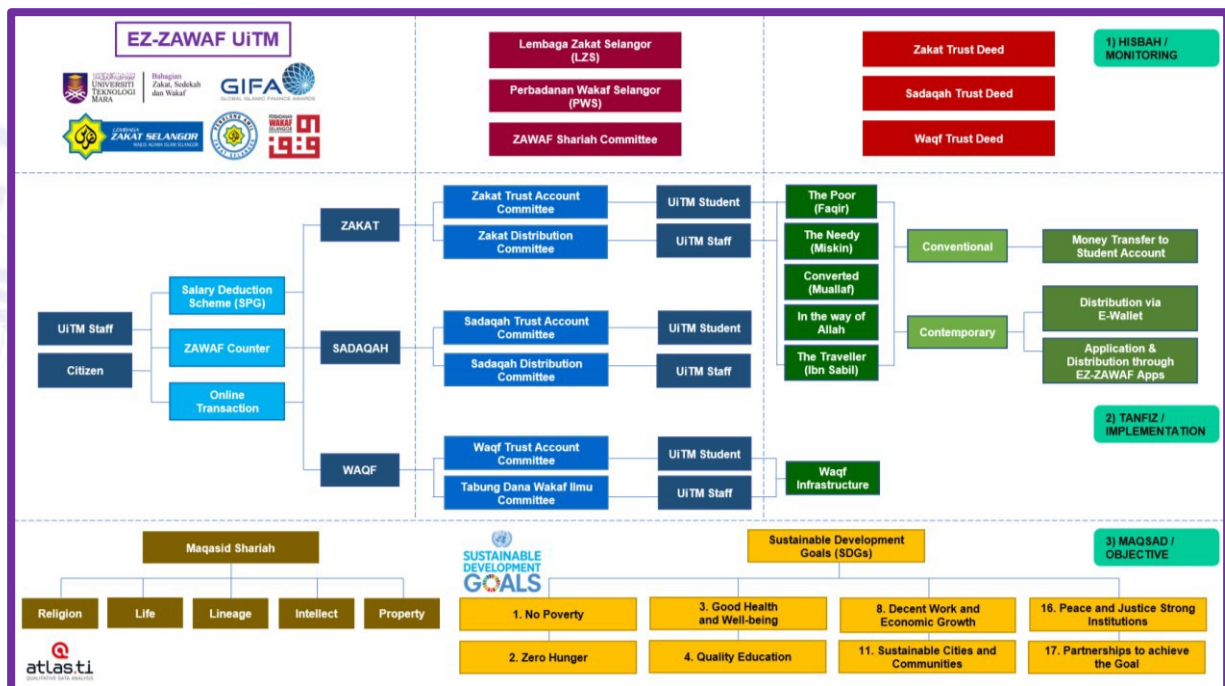
Figure 1: Illustration of the development of EZ-ZAWAF UiTM for the collection and distribution of Zakat, Sadaqah and Waqf in UiTM



3. FINDINGS

The Digital transformation in the management of zakat, sadaqah and waqf at Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) through utilization of EZ-ZAWAF has successfully facilitated the management of zakat, sadaqah and waqf at UiTM. This EZ-ZAWAF model has made the process of collecting and distributing zakat, sadaqah, and waqf more efficient, easy, and user-friendly. Besides, the assessment of the outcome of this implemented model in UiTM is made based on the framework of Maqasid Shariah and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Figure 2: EZ-ZAWAF UiTM model implementation based on Maqasid Shariah and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)



1.1 Project significant

The implementation of the EZ-ZAWAF model in UiTM is very significant based on a few benchmarks as listed below:

1. Fully digital implementation in zakat, sadaqah and waqf collection at UiTM.
2. Distribution of zakat and sadaqah through E-Wallet in 1st phase of implementation.
3. Application process and distribution of zakat and sadaqah is fully implemented through the EZ-ZAWAF Apps in the 2nd phase of implementation.

3.2. Originality of Innovation

The originality of innovation refers to the novelty or uniqueness of ideas, products, or solutions. It is a measure of how different and distinct the innovation is compared to what already exists. In this aspect, ZAWAF can be considered a pioneer in developing and implementing a fully digital-based model and system that had successfully been integrated into UiTM. Since originality is a key characteristic of successful innovations, the EZ-ZAWAF model has conveniently set itself apart from another existing or known model of similar function. This could be perceived from the description below:

1. Conventional methods in the zakat application process are done in person and in physical form.

2. This process requires a physical meeting, the cost of printing the form, verification of the physical document, a specific place and time of the interview process, and a long physical form processing time.
3. Through the implementation of EZ-ZAWAF, all processes were reconstructed and changed to online digital methods. The application is online, faster, easier, transparent, and user-friendly.
4. The first known implementation of zakat distribution via E-Wallet that suits the pandemic environment, systematic, controlled (restrictions on alcohol, cigarettes etc.), payment of tuition fees and college through one system, and also cash withdrawal.
5. EZ-ZAWAF E-Wallet also connected to off-campus merchants for the purchase of student necessities such as Tesco, Mydin, Segi Fresh, Eonsave, Domino, 99 Speedmart, KKmart, MrDIY and C-Zone.

3.3 Replicability

EZ-ZAWAF UiTM has made the process of collection and distribution of Zakat, Sadaqah and Waqf implemented more efficiently, easily and quickly, and at the same time user-friendly and suitable to be implemented in pandemic situations that hit the world. This EZ-ZAWAF model could be made as reference for other Zakat, Sadaqah and Waqf institutions at the national and international levels as illustrated in Figure 3.



Figure 3: EZ-Zawaf model can be made as reference for other Zakat, Sadaqah and Waqf institutions at the national and international levels.

4. DISCUSSION

Zakat, Sadaqah and Waqf Division (ZAWAF), Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) has set a target for the implementation of full digital transformation in the management of Zakat, Sadaqah and Waqf in UiTM in 2025. Digitization initiatives in all aspects of management will be implemented in stages according to the set phases. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic that hit the world and the implementation of the Movement Control Order (PKP) throughout Malaysia, ZAWAF UiTM managed to adapt to the current situation and accelerate the digital transformation process within a year through the implementation of EZ-ZAWAF UiTM.

The implementation of digital transformation through EZ-ZAWAF UiTM has made the process of collection and distribution of Zakat, Sadaqah, and Waqf implemented more efficiently, easily and quickly, and at the same time user-friendly and suitable to be implemented in pandemic situations that hit the world.

5. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the implementation of EZ-ZAWAF has revolutionized the traditional Zakat, Sadaqah, and Waqf application and distribution process by digitizing it and introducing innovative features such as E-Wallet functionality and integration with off-campus merchants. This transformation has brought about significant improvements in terms of efficiency, accessibility, transparency, and control, ultimately enhancing the experience for both applicants and beneficiaries of Zakat, Sadaqah, and Waqf funds in UiTM.

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Yaakob, M. A. Z., Bhari, A., Saidin, N. Khalid, M. M., Mohamed Yusof, M. F., and Abdullah, M. Y. (2023). Analisis Pelaksanaan Matlamat Pembangunan Mampan (SDGs) di Bahagian Zakat, Sedekah dan Wakaf (ZAWAF), Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), *Journal of Contemporary Islamic Studies*, Vol. 9 (1). Pp 1-12.

e ISBN 978-967-2948-56-8

