

ABSTRACT

Panel 5: Political Impact of Charities: New Models of Relations with State and Global Partners

‘Defining Domestic Needs: Charity or Advocacy’

The Presence of International Islamic Relief Associations in Indonesia

Hilman Latief

University of Utrecht, Netherlands

One of the intriguing phenomena in the recent globalized non-state welfare agencies is the multiplicity roles played by faith-based international aid agencies in alternating the state as a welfare provider. In the Muslim World, like elsewhere in Western countries, charity activism cannot be seen only as a local phenomenon which represents the religious and social concern of a small community in a small town. Instead, there is evidence to suggest that Islamic charities in present-times have increasingly become the global movements crossing the borders of the continents. Islamic charities from developed countries, in general, and gulf countries, in particular, have played extensive roles in running a sort of ‘international development project’ by providing aid for people in Asia and Africa. The Muslim Aid (MA) and Islamic Relief (IR) of United Kingdom, and Qatar Charity, and Asian Muslim Charity Fund (AMCF) are among the leading institutions that have set up branch offices in Indonesia. They have actively operated social enterprises and *da’wa* oriented projects and built partnerships with domestic Islamic civil society organizations. This paper analyzes the extent to which Islamic aid associations from Western and Middle Eastern countries define and address domestic welfare issues, establish partnership with local institutions, as well as place their missions in the Indonesia’s social, cultural and political landscape.