



بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

Australian International Islamic College Darwin Campus

**Time and tide
wait for no-one**

A Talk delivered by

The Most Eminent

Sheikh Abdul Quddoos Al Azhari

The National Grand Mufti of Australia

AIIIC's First Graduation Ceremony at

Charles Darwin University

Darwin, Australia

30 November 2022

2022
class of

CONGRATULATIONS!

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In The Name of Allah, The Beneficent, The Merciful

Respected Principal, Mr Andrew Taylor, Mohammed Abdurrahman Azhari, The Board Delegate of AICC, Learned Teachers, Beloved Children and Parents.

Honourable Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis, Honourable Jane Aagaard AM former Speaker of NT Parliament, Mr Sadaruddin Chowdhury- Chairman of Islamic Council of Northern Territory, Mr Shakil Ahmad- President of ISD, our dear friend Mr Vim Sharma- Alderman, City of Darwin and Policy Advisor, Chief Minister's Office, representatives of SBS and ABC Television Darwin, ladies and gentlemen, brothers and sisters

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet this evening. I pay my respect to the elders of the past, present, and emerging.

Tonight, the graduation ceremony at AICC Darwin Campus marks an important milestone. The first graduation ceremony. The successful Transition into Primary School and successful completion of Year 6 graduating into High School.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the students, parents, teachers, and the community as a whole on this wonderful achievement.

2022 Academic Year was full of historical events:

- Establishing the first Islamic School in Darwin
- Setting up the classroom and needed facilities
- Providing resources & staff members
- Organising many functions and programs, including the Family Fun Day, Qur'an Competition, Fun Run, Ramadan Iftaar, and so on
- Attending and entertaining many visitors and dignitaries, including the NT Administrator, Ministers and Government Officials

2023 is going to be another important and exciting year for all of us.

- We will be preparing and planning for the construction of purpose-built classrooms
- And preparing and constructing quality educational and recreational facilities

Ladies and gentlemen, brothers and sisters, last Saturday, we celebrated ISD's Annual Madrassah Day. I was very impressed by the performance of our



beloved children. Congratulations to the volunteer teachers, parents, and community. Some of the photos displayed in the function about ISD Madrassah in 1983 took us 40 years back. For me, personally, it rekindled some memories of the past. 40 years have gone. I spent my early years in Australia with many friends in Darwin, including my good friends Shakil Ahmad, Ghulam Abbas, and Sadaruddin Chowdhury. We all went from Batchelor's and to now Dadas and Nanas. Some of my sisters also are now Dadis and Nanis.

وَالْعَصْرِ

By the token of time. Time. What is it? We always say:

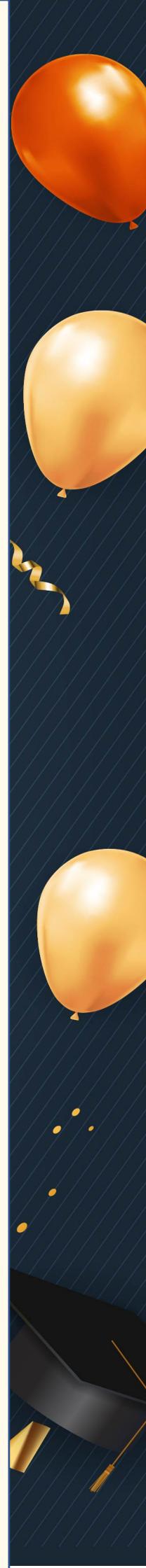
- Time flies
- Time will tell
- Time heals all the wounds
- Time and tide will not wait for man
- He is trying to kill the time
- Nevertheless, time will kill him

A philosopher once said, no one has ever comprehended the complete nature of time. Time, is even with those who have nothing else. Those who have been versed in semantics divided time into the past, present and future. Our parents are representing the past (yesterday), our children are presenting the future (tomorrow), and we represent the present (today).

A very beautiful concept of al- Ihsaan, where al- Qur'an says: Wa bil Waalidayni Ihsaana. Be kind to your parents. Tomorrow, the small and inexperienced, will gradually become today- the young and strong. Today's young and strong slowly but surely will tomorrow become old and frail. And this is how yesterday hands over the torch to today. A generation passing the lead to the next generation. Wa Bil Walidayni Ihsaana- Be kind to your parents. You, today, very soon are becoming yesterday, and your tomorrow, will become today.

A man's work and his business keep him occupied. The wheel of life runs so fast. The greyness of hair appears. Aging and wrinkles start to develop and appear. Yesterday hands over the torch to today. And today starts to prepare the tomorrow to become today, and to take over today's torch.

Dear brother and sisters, ladies and gentlemen, honourable guests, preparing tomorrow, the next generation, and handing over the torch is what we call Tarbiyah. Proper upbringing, training, orientation, and gradual initiation into culture, civilisation, and real-life skills. This is what we call Fardh Kifayah. A collective duty and responsibility of the community. In English, we say, "to educate a child, the entire community must get involved". Prophet Muhammed (peace be upon) repeatedly emphasised this prayer: Allahumma Inna Nas'aluka Ilman Naafi'an- Oh Allah, We Seek from you, beneficial knowledge.



Dear parents and community members, this is our endeavour, and our commitment to provide Ilman Naafi'an- Beneficial knowledge, and life skills for our tomorrow. Someone humorously said that yesterday is a cancelled cheque, tomorrow is a promised note, and today is a cash cheque. Use it wisely.

Let us work together and walk together on this path. The path is a mutual path. We have to walk together. The path could be an uneven path, the path could be filled with rocks, pebbles, and thorny bushes, however, the path is a mutual path. The institution's parents and communities should all walk together on this path, for greater achievement of Tarbiyat Awlaadul Muslimin- Proper upbringing of our Muslim children.

Once again, I would like to congratulate the parents, students, and the community for successfully completing the 2022 academic year. Have a safe, wonderful, and enjoyable holiday. See you all In'Sha'Allah in the 2023 academic year.

و عليكم السلام ورحمة الله وبركاته



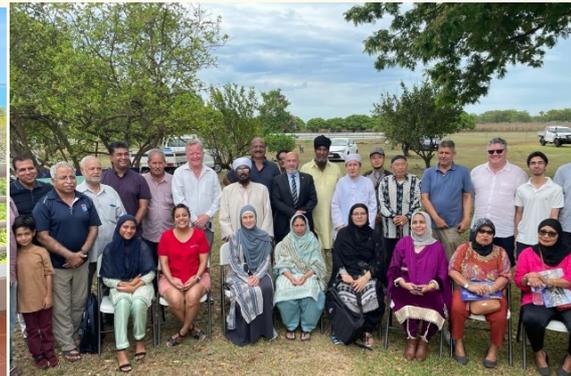
NT Administrator Her Honour the Honourable Vicki O'Halloran, Honourable Ngaree Ah Kit Minister for Multicultural Affairs & International Education, and Dignitaries visiting our School



The National Grand Mufti of Australia- His Eminence Sheikh Abdul Quddoos Azhari visits the Vice-Chancellor of Charles Darwin University, Mr Scott Bowman AO



School Delegation with Deputy Chief Minister Honourable Nicole Manison



AIIIC Darwin Campus Grand Opening Ceremony