

## MESSAGE OF EDITOR- IN-CHIEF

I AM GLAD to note that the first issue of *The Dialogue*, a research journal of the Qurtuba University, is ready for publication. It is indeed a commendable beginning for a newly established private university.

Needless to emphasise that research is the essence, soul and substance of higher education whilst research itself is parasitic upon dialogue, debate and discussion. It may be recalled that it was 'Socrates' who insisted that where there was no finality of knowledge available to human mind, dialogue, debate and discussion are the next best possible options.

It is interesting to note that Islam also lays heavy emphasis upon dialogue and debate, discussion and consultation and *shura* and even the Prophet (P.B.U.H.) himself was enjoined by the teachings of the Quran to consult (*shura*) his righteous companions where revelation was silent. To be more precise, for Muslims compliance is necessary where revelation is available; whereas consultation is obligatory where revelation is silent.

It is unfortunate that Muslims could not evolve *shura* to an institutional level (especially beyond the period of 'the Righteous Caliphs') and thus lost the blessings of collective wisdom and drifted towards dictatorship and monarchies with all the attendant evils in their socio-political life. Even today we need to restore dialogue and discussion, consultation and *shura* and elevate it to an institutional level rather than to submit to dictatorship and authoritarian rule.

I pray that *The Dialogue* may have a wholesome impact on our staff and students as it may inspire them to turn to discussion and dialogues and reinvigorate their constructive and creative impulse. I wish the best to the staff and the students of the university who have

contributed their articles to their journal. I also congratulate the administration especially the President of the University for initiating and sponsoring the publication of *the Dialogue*.

With warm regards,

**Prof. Dr. M. Saleem**

Editor-in-Chief

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