## ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION IN THE MALAY WORLD

Edited by Mohd. Taib Osman

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## Project Committee

Regional Project Director

National Project Director

**Project Coordinator** 

Regional Secretariat

Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu

Haji A. Aziz Deraman

Raja Fuziah Raja Tun Uda

Rohani Rustam (Head)

Aizan Mohd. Ali

Zanariah Abdullah

Copy Editor

Kamsiah Mohamed

ur knowledge of the spread of Islam to Southeast Asia, specifically to the Malay world, has been steadily enlarged over the years. There is no denying that we have benefitted a great deal from the pioneering contributions of non-Muslim scholars specially western students of eastern civilizations and history. Of late, however, a number of Muslim and other native scholars of Southeast Asia, have been offering fresh perspectives on the subject.

The publication of *Islamic Civilization in the Malay World*, can indeed be seen as yet another effort by indigenous scholars of Southeast Asia to understand and explain the social and cultural ramifications of the advent, spread and entrenchment of Islam in the region. The scholars contributing chapters to this book perceive their efforts as an exercise in the rediscovery and reinterpretation of the social and cultural history of the Malay world – a cultural domain in which Islam has indeed played a crucial role. Given the uniquely "native" perspective of their contributions, the contents of the book therefore reflect the historical, cultural and sociological distinctiveness of the Malay world as a product of the dynamic interplay between Islam and Malay culture.