

Inspired by A True Story of A Global Entrepreneur

I HAVE 25 HOURS A DAY

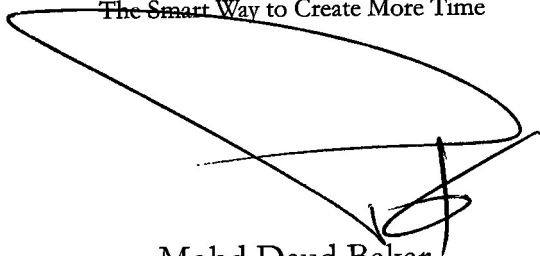
The Smart Way to Create More Time

Author of Shariah Minds in Islamic Finance

MOHD DAUD BAKAR

I Have 25 Hours A Day

The Smart Way to Create More Time



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Preface

How on earth could there be 25 hours a day? You must be thinking that this is somewhat a made-up story, if not a fairy tale. Scientifically, there won't be any extra hours in a day. By implication, there couldn't be 8 days in a week. Everything is fixed. However, I had for a long time been making a remark that in order for anyone to succeed in this world, "We need to work 25 hours a day and 8 days a week".

Many people, upon listening to this remark, tend to laugh and smile. While some have thought that I was just making a joke, others took it quite positively. But they understood the statement metaphorically, that is to simply urge everyone to go that extra mile. No one ever took and perceived this statement literally. In this book, I am persuaded and motivated to 'prove' that statement in practice. In actuality, everyone can create this one extra hour a day by looking at one's accomplishments.

Many years ago, at the start of my career as a global *Shariah* advisor to many Islamic financial institutions located across many geographies and time zones of the world, I read a book – a brief but impactful book – on how to earn an extra hour in our daily lives. The book is entitled "*How to Gain an Extra Hour Every Day – New Strategies That Work*" by Ray Josephs. The book motivated me greatly to relook the way I was managing and using my time of 24 hours a

day to my advantage. I am not embarrassed to admit that I learned much myself. The book is full of both actionable and practical insights. I have put most, if not all of the tips in that book into practice in my own professional life as a global *Shariah* advisor and in other professional capacities as well.

The results have been truly encouraging and promising. Now I feel that I always have time to do more things. The feeling of having more time to do more things is a good beginning in this journey. Throughout my journey, I have also observed and experienced some patterns of conducts, and work style and findings that are useful and impactful in my career; a career typified by a very hectic schedule indeed. This book will share the stories of these observations and outcomes that happened in my life, both as a global *Shariah* advisor and as a *Shariah* entrepreneur, establishing many new start-up companies in many areas of business. When you work on new start-up companies, the challenges are always forthcoming on many fronts. Well, this is actually an understatement. The challenges are always painful and bleeding. Yes, financially bleeding.

In this book of mine, I am happy to articulate all the important lessons, tips and experiences that I have gone through, which are useful for motivating others. My journey in this book is inspired by many true events and incidents that I have personally experienced. Be mindful that not all of these incidents and practices are positive and fulfilling. I had also encountered some failures and downtimes. These bad experiences are still useful, as we can also learn how to avoid the mistakes that I have made and how we can put forth better measures to get things right.

Evidently, examples of failed products or projects are hard to find. On the contrary, successes are easy to find.

Everyone likes to share the bright sides of their stories. Certainly, many entrepreneurs started off as failures, only to find success later on. Akio Morita formed a company whose first product was a rice cooker that unfortunately burned the rice. The company went on to attain success in other areas – it's now Sony. We all know Sir Richard Branson's Virgin Records and Virgin Airlines, but how many of us remember about Virgin Cola? Likewise, have you ever heard of Steve Jobs' Apple Lisa? Of course, there is a right way and a wrong way to fail. I've also had my own failures.

I strongly feel that many accomplished personalities should also write about their failures – both genuine and irresponsible mistakes. This would be innovative, in terms of enriching the collection of books on motivation and management. Nobody has ever reached the top without suffering many bruises and casualties. Nobody. Perhaps the failures aspect of their stories or biographies, though painful, has been relatively much more impactful to the stroke of genius and breakthrough achievements which came later.

Life is all about understanding certain patterns of conducts and behaviours. Understanding the patterns of success and the right way to fail is important, and equally important, if not more critical, is the ability to learn from these successes and failures as well. Some people could however be sticky and glued to a certain lifestyle - good or bad. As humans, we can learn from different lifestyles to our advantage. Patterns, being predictable, are a good and reliable coach and mentor, as well as a motivator. Patterns can't go wrong.

Therefore, if we could understand and internalise the right and value-added patterns of life, success will surely

come. Likewise, if we are addicted to the wrong and detrimental patterns of life, misery and failure will damage our personality and smear our resume. Strictly speaking, I am not suggesting in any way that by having extra time in a day, you would not meet with any failures and casualties. I am simply implying that by having extra time in your life, you can definitely do and accomplish more than what your peers of the same standing and position can do. You simply need extra time to achieve your dreams and more importantly, have fun doing it.

As time is the most valuable asset to man, man needs to spend more time (*time again*) to understand this phenomenon. Although time is so close to our lives, many of us never noticed its proximity and what it can do, either for us or against us. You might find some people in society (my hope is not so many) who are very happy to spend more than one hour for their normal lunch breaks during weekdays or to be trapped in the traffic jam for many long hours (though they can leave their house early to come to the office to avoid the massive traffic) or to travel to a foreign land a few days ahead of his official and scheduled meetings. Let me elaborate on the latter point, as this is closer to the pattern of my current life-and-work-style.

Here, the individual failed to appreciate the importance of spending more time in one's home country to have a more focused work period and get better results, rather than spending that time working in a foreign land. He also failed to appreciate the idea of having back-to-back meetings. On the contrary, he would prefer to take one day off in the foreign land before his official meeting starts. Honestly speaking, based on my own personal experience observing some people who attend official functions overseas, this type

of person would likely have many and diversified (definitely diversified) excuses to justify this type of preferred travelling schedule. Worst still, he will arrange all his meetings in such a way that he will have only one or maximum two meetings a day, so that he can spend more days in a foreign land away from his office and home.

From my rough observations, this complacent-like attitude by some of us towards time management in a foreign land has always been motivated by a few common traits, and most of them are not so encouraging. People might indulge in this pattern of planned travelling schedule because they are using other people's money or simply other people's budget (worse in the case of public money), instead of using their own money. Or they are happily taking advantage of spending more time overseas for their own personal benefit and satisfaction. They may tend to do this, especially when their travel expenses are borne by others or simply because they have plenty of time to waste. As you will see later, this bad pattern of life-and-work style will easily reduce or eliminate the allocated available time for more productive work. Instead of getting extra time, this not-so-rigorous behaviour will render his time wasteful and less efficient.

The phenomenon of back-to-back meetings is quite popular among many great achievers in all fields of life. This is one of the many tips and insights that this book will endeavour to relate to the readers. The biggest challenge of this book is however to convince the readers that time is very special and time is also very 'personal' and relative to a person. The relativity theory of time to a person is something that hasn't clicked in the minds of many people as yet.

On the contrary, many people live under the wrong

impression that they cannot do much to create a “better” and “more spacious” time. People often believe that time manifests or allocates a standard time horizon to everyone. They are not wrong. This rule has been carved in stone since the coming of man to this Earth. Why should they strive for more time if time is after all, already fixed, measured and quantified? Based on their conviction, they believe that sixty minutes that a student has in the lecture hall, for example, will not be different from the sixty minutes that his peers have in the same lecture hall listening to the same lecture by the same professor.

This is a major structural problem in appreciating the nature of the relativity theory of time. If we cannot break and dispel this conviction and perception, then everyone will be doomed to have twenty four (24) hours a day and not a minute more. Not a minute more. However, the fact that some of us are able to reap and enjoy the impact of the results or accomplishments equivalent to more than what twenty four (24) hours of working hours can normally accomplish means that this prevailing perception is not only artificial and external, but can also be decoded and dismantled. The question here is how to simply achieve that? In other words, some people may ask bluntly, “Show me the way, please!”

I intend to remove this subconscious (and not-so-constructive) feeling by going inside the psyche of the people around us to see how they think about time; how they plan to do things; how they do things on a daily basis; and what they can attain by doing things the way that have long been done. Then, we will compare this pattern with another pattern using the same time allocation and time constraint and the same expected deliverables from them to really visualise the impact of creating one extra hour

every single day. Of course, some people cannot even see and appreciate this “X-factor” if they always have surplus units of time on a daily basis from the time they wake up until they go to bed in the evening. Why bother with trying to create more time if the time that they have is more than enough?

The need, push and motivation to create one extra hour (or more) will only be felt and appreciated by those who are always experiencing time deficits, whereby the work and expected deliverables to be accomplished far exceed the time that they have. Thus, there is a compelling need to manage this deficit unit of time to their advantage. Practically speaking, faced with this hard fact, they only have two options, which are declining additional jobs, tasks and assignments (which will in turn affect their productivity level) or to create more time in their lives, if that is at all possible.

By and large, the first option is not really an option for those who believe in using his time to his level best and to the fullest. Being content and complacent with less output when you can potentially do more is an unbecoming act. Complacency kills innovation. As a matter of fact, being complacent is the enemy for most things; innovations, value creation and even sustainable performance and achievement. I will explain later in the relevant chapters why this is an undesirable act on many fronts. But take note that not being able to take on more jobs and accomplishments as a result of a time constraint is one consequence of this option.

The second option looks much more promising and rewarding but extremely challenging. I am keen to consider and adopt the second option throughout this book, which forms the main thrust and thesis of this book. Can we really

afford to have another option if we are really committed to learn and embrace the meaning of all-around-excellence the smart way?

I have structured a few chapters in this book to build up and reinforce this argument from the ground-up. The very first chapter provides in a simple way on the need to create an extra hour in a day, inspired by my own hectic schedule. The second chapter is a brief enlightenment on how people perceive time from various perspectives; religious, scientific, management theory and even common sense. Included in this chapter is the issue of whether time is somehow a living organism, whereby it has both the up and downtime. Is that right? It seems superstitious. The chapter will undertake some expositions of how real this phenomenon is in one's life. Sometimes, we may feel something inside us but we cannot describe what and why it is so. Most likely, this internal feeling relates to time, as well as to many other phenomena which are beyond one's tangible comprehension and even description.

Both chapters three and four are the core thrusts of this book. They heavily dive into the life-and-work style of my diary, both as a global *Shariah* advisor and entrepreneur, while managing so many expectations and business initiatives across the globe. Doing so many things in a limited time frame has always been a challenge to humans. However, humans are well prepared to overcome this limitation. I will share many useful tips and experiences, including both the successes and failures. I will do this to stimulate the minds of the readers and remind us all that every single thing that we do or plan to do must be time-sensitive or time-centric, which refers to the utilization of our time most efficiently and effectively. Also, more

importantly, is to salvage some of the time allocation to do new things which were not initially allocated and calculated in that time frame provision.

Chapter five reinforces the stories and incidents presented in earlier chapters by proving the notion that we can earn more time if we manage it properly. Many useful and practical tips and secrets will be further highlighted to support this notion and to ultimately guide (and motivate) the readers to believe that they can create more time from their own allocated time (which is technically and scientifically unknown). I have dedicated chapter six to see the impact measurement when we really get this extra hour, either for the employee or employer or anyone else for that matter, especially those who could or want to enjoy this additional extra hour in their day.

While chapter seven seeks to prove that earning an extra hour a day is not a myth and it is not rocket science either, chapter eight devises the clean slate template to show how we can start our new day from tomorrow onwards with an additional hour in our tank of time. Both these two chapters are easy to navigate, as both actually aspire to motivate everyone who reads this book to implement all the tips presented in this book (plus both the upstream and downstream elements of these skills) in their own lives, regardless of their current or future assignments. I hope these tips would work well for you, as they have worked very well for me for the last two decades.

To summarise, this book is essentially devoted to anyone who aspires to do more work in relatively less time. By picking up this book, you have taken the first step towards learning to create more time in your originally allocated time, in the sense that you can get more work

done in less time. Thus, you can take on more additional tasks. I don't think I can explain this using a mathematically sound formula or equation, but you need to experience this yourself. The mathematical numbers will spin in your mind but you somehow are not able to put this number down in writing. After all, who cares about the mathematics if the result is already awesome! A disclaimer is that this book wasn't written to be an exhaustive list of ways to earn an extra hour a day.

"I Have 25 Hours A Day" relates to, and affects all areas of life, as it helps you to take on more work and also to relieve you from a chaotic lifestyle while working on so many fronts. "Focus on One Job" strategy has no place in this book. Many people believe in this mantra however. Nothing is fundamentally wrong with this widely believed management dictum. Many writers have also articulated this theory of management, where they stress on the need to be 'focused' in whatever you do. I know with certainty that this philosophy of life will work well in their favour. It should.

However, there is nothing special about this mantra that we can talk about and be proud of. By right, you should do exceptionally well if you have only one or a few limited tasks to accomplish. Thus, there is nothing great about this attitude or ability to accomplish only a few tasks. What is really special and rare is the ability to do relatively more jobs and tasks successfully within the same allocated or available time compared to what the believer in, and practitioner of "Focus on One Job" strategy could have done. I hope you can see my point by now.

Enjoy reading this book. Read harder and faster so that when you are done with this book, you can pick up another

book in your intellectual journey. The more you read, the better you would be. Trust me on this. Learn to earn an extra hour from this very moment onwards and learn to read more books using the same allocated time that you have initially set aside to read only one book. As for me, once I have developed the high motivation to read any book, I will read it cover-to-cover in no time. Hence, I can devote the time that I have managed to conserve or salvage to read another book. Does this sound like science fiction or do I have a time machine? I suspect you yourself will know the answer later.

CHAPTER ONE

HOW I CREATED 25 HOURS A DAY AND HOW YOU CAN TOO

Many people who know what I do day in and day out have asked me on many occasions to share how I managed my time, given my multi roles and multi tasks in many time zones of the world and many business initiatives that I have been embarking on. I simply replied to them that I don't really manage my time. I simply created more time. Honest. Curious, they further asked how that was possible. In other words, frankly speaking, I can see through their eyes that they didn't seem to believe my statement. Fair enough.

I have registered the above unresolved mind boggling issue in my brain for quite some time. However, while writing my first book, "*Shariah Minds in Islamic Finance: An Inside Story of a Shariah Scholar*" and describing the diary and life-and-work style of those active global *Shariah* advisors, it triggered my desire to put a few lines and words on this aspect. On one hand, I attempted to resolve the outstanding mind boggling question that I have just

elucidated above. But on the other hand, I strived to share some useful tips and time management secrets, based on actual life cases and incidents, for everyone else to learn from.

Although the main story and narration in this book is about my life-and-work style, the same pattern can be replicated and recreated in other walks of life, irrespective of your age, gender, profession, religion and socioeconomic standing and background. Remember that we have something in common, which is time. Everyone, I believe, is dreaming and desirous to have more time in his day-to-day activities. This is a given. The book seeks to help on making this dream a reality. This is not a heavy and serious book, and I don't plan it to be one. You can read this book wherever and whenever you are.

To begin with, I take the liberty to utilise the relevant sections from my first book entitled "*Shariah Minds in Islamic Finance*" to set the right and contextual tone for this book. These quotes actually form the genesis and origin of this book of "*I Have 25 Hours A Day*". Typically, for any book on general themes of management or motivation to gain more credence and prominence, it should be based on actual and proven track records or at least tested and experienced actions in real life, irrespective of the actual outcomes. What is important is the real experience that someone has gone through. This set of experiences of either the author himself or others will be the new defining events and insights for others to be inspired and motivated or at least enlightened by.

Therefore, the entire corpus and ideas of this book will

be inspired by the true events and episodes in my career as both a *Shariah* advisor and a *Shariah* entrepreneur from my two decades of hectic and unpredictable experiences. I have also shared, to a lesser extent, some of my experiences that I have personally encountered before setting up my own company in 2005. Although these incidents relate closely to my career and my life-and-work style, the same predictability of challenges and constraints, as well as way-outs and solutions, is almost identical and applicable to many other careers and others' life-and-work styles. This is true when the element of time is intensively crucial to make or break the person in any given situation or simply to get a better compounded result.

This book is far from being relevant and useful for those who always have surplus units of time. The reason is very obvious. If they don't have any deficits in their time, so why create more time? This is akin to someone who has a lot of money to spend; thus, he does not need to manage his spending like someone who faces a limited budget but with unlimited wants and needs. Likewise, someone with a lot of free time does not need to create extra time, as the time that he already has is more than what he actually needs.

The book is however devoted and dedicated to those who need more or extra time every single day to accomplish recurring and new emerging, as well as expected and unexpected future tasks and duties (perhaps new hobbies). By the way, for someone who always has surplus time, he should instead consider writing a book or a memo to share how he managed to accomplish so many

things, while still having surplus time. How amazing this person is. Having said this, there is no harm for someone having 'surplus' time to go through this book to scan their real accomplishments vis-à-vis the abundance of their free time. Perhaps they can accomplish more after reading this book. Now, that would be something amazing!

The Schedule of Scholars

"If you are longing to become a true and effective *Shariah* scholar, just be close to one of the leading scholars. Spend your time as much as they spend for reading, research and thinking. These scholars can teach you how. The lifestyle of a scholar, for all intents and purposes, is a good practical guide that provides a step-by-step guide of activities. So, what kind of lifestyle are we talking about here?

My observation and recollection on this aspect tends to indicate that the lifestyle of a scholar does not differ that much from one scholar to another. Indeed, their lifestyle is predictable because the nature of their work and duties is almost the same, despite living and working in many different locations and time zones around the world. Yet, despite these differences, the lifestyle and work behaviour of these scholars are remarkably similar. Their lifestyle share one common attribute, which is *scarcity of time* (italics for emphasis).

If any practising *Shariah* scholar feels that he or she has a lot of free time, then he or she has not fully entered the real world of *Shariah* advisory practice. There are many things to plan and to do - on a daily basis - as a contemporary scholar who interacts with the whole ecosystem of a modern financial system. His engagement

will be of multi levels, tasks and dimensions. In any case, I have learned that scarcity is a source of strength and great achievements. The less time one has, the more he can produce and accomplish. His mind would all the time be focused and structured, since the amount of time that he has does not commensurate with the amount of work that needs to be done, not to mention having tight deadlines for many of the deliverables.

Apart from attending to their family matters and societal obligations, they will normally start their day by checking the emails that were sent to them when they were soundly asleep. Their minds would try to absorb as many issues as possible, and will then store these issues in their minds for a moment, while allowing their minds to start cracking all the potential issues and challenges that they need to respond to. They do this quietly using the power of their *Shariah* minds, while doing other routine activities in the morning, such as performing some physical exercises or having breakfast or reading some books or spending time with their family members and relatives.

As for me, while taking my morning walk, my mind starts digesting all the issues, trying to get the right perspective of the *Shariah* issues (if any) and to respond to these issues (if that is feasible). As far as I am concerned, morning walks have many functions and normally it serves well to prepare me to start the day as an active *Shariah* scholar. When I am ready to start my day, almost all of the issues have been resolved, at least in the frame and recesses of my mind.

In the early afternoon, when their minds have finished

analysing the issues and have started to offer some responses and solutions, the scholars will spend some time to reply to all the queries that they have received. Some of the responses could be easy and straightforward, but some would be rather complicated. Replying to all the emails or text messages or taking the calls while in the office, relatively speaking, is a pleasant job to do. However, that is seldom the case. More often than not, the active scholars need to reply and to make a decision between meetings and sometimes, when they are on the move, and on many other occasions, while passing through all the immigration and security checkpoints at the various airports of the world. This has always been a painstaking exercise.

The situation will become more chaotic and hectic if the scholar needs to deal with financial institutions located in various time zones. The minds of the great scholars rarely sleep, as they are responding to many time zones in one day, which may exceed 24 hours a day in the time of a scholar, i.e. when he is moving through many different countries in many different time zones in a day. This is quite normal in the diary of many active scholars. In that scenario, I need to spend more than 24 hours a day, which is quite tiring but very encouraging, as I am able to connect to the world at large in any single day in my cross-border time zone.

Now, I have come to discover that it is quite possible for someone to have more than 24 hours a day, sometimes on a regular basis, particularly when he is a frequent East-to-West traveller. In that case, one wonders what would

be the total number of hours that these scholars have in a calendar year.

As for the evenings, they may have their own activities for the society or perhaps for themselves in many ways. These may include replying to emails or taking a conference call from a country that just started their day somewhere around the globe. Practically speaking, scholars cannot stop reading and thinking. They may have the option of not writing or producing research papers or books. However, they cannot avoid continuous and persistent reading to train their intellect on a daily basis, and to be enlightened by great views and thoughts, as well as perspectives of other scholars and thinkers.

Perhaps the description of this part of the diary is rather simple, but the real substance of the diary of many leading scholars is quite heavy and demanding on a daily, as well as hourly basis. In life, there are two traits that help someone succeed: intelligence and the desire to excel, or simply willpower. I think every scholar is intelligent but only a few would have a very strong willpower, which cannot be underestimated. This is the surest way to sustain all the heavy responsibilities, day in and day out.

As for me, I always had more to-dos than the time to do it. My inbox is always swelling with messages that need my attention every day. Any tardy email response reflects the scholar's quality of service. The worst thing that can happen in the diary of a *Shariah* scholar is when the deadlines "mature" from "overdue" to "alarmingly late". I cannot afford to fall behind, as falling behind and missing a deadline will turn everything into a vicious

cycle. Old and outstanding issues need to be addressed but new ones are equally important for me to act upon in a timely manner.

The only solution is to manage the diary quite strictly and to work meticulously to finish them without delay. The busier you are, the greater the need for you to meticulously manage your diary or simply say no to a new assignment. You need to avoid double-booked meetings and assignments, as this reflects that you are committing time that you do not have. Bad time management leads to embarrassments or poor job performance. All in all, the scholars have not much luxury of spending their time for something else. However, I am happy to report that the scarcity of time has been the source of strength and achievements for many active scholars (end of quote from "*Shariah Minds in Islamic Finance*").

A Snapshot of My Diary

To complement the above narration of the diary of (any one of the active) *Shariah* scholars, I will share a screenshot of my own diary from 1st to 14th December 2015, based on actual detailed events. It is hoped that this would be able to highlight how time is crucial in the life of a global *Shariah* advisor, as well as those who are multi-tasked and anyone who is adamant to be an accomplished personality.

The diary started with my role as part of the joint organisers for the 12th Kuala Lumpur Islamic Finance Forum (KLIFF) in Kuala Lumpur from 1st to 3rd December 2015. This is the 12th series or instalment of this event, which has been held annually. My partners and I crafted KLIFF

12 years ago and the event has now become a household name in the global diary of international Islamic finance conferences. The first session of the first day was supposed to be the opening ceremony for the whole event.

However, at 2130 hrs on 30th November, we received news that the designated Minister would not be able to come to our opening ceremony, as he was needed for another more important and far reaching event for the nation. As much as we understood this crucial task of the Minister, for obvious reasons, we were hoping that we could stick to our original plan. Eventually, we reluctantly realised that we could not save the opening session anymore. We had to let it go.

However, we internally mooted the idea to bring the opening ceremony to the afternoon session. Being convinced that this would be the best option, we rang the Minister on his personal mobile phone. We were lucky. The designated Minister somehow accepted our suggestion, even though he had already fixed a series of back-to-back meetings in the afternoon. I came to realise that his diary is also very impressive - full of activities that we shouldn't take for granted. My team and I will always remember his indulgence for being obliged to our last minute change of plan. This reflected his sincere and visionary heart and mind to give the best to the country.

As for me and other colleagues working on the ground, we had to manage and adjust to the new arrangements of the opening ceremony throughout the night over a few extra hours which no one had anticipated earlier. The new plan transformed the entire dynamics of the

opening ceremony and the forum. Everyone concluded the day around 0100 hrs the next day, 1st December 2015, technically the first day of the conference.

On the morning of 1st December, due to the change of the opening ceremony, we had no option but to bring the two sessions - originally scheduled in early and late afternoon - to the morning session to create the window or space for the opening ceremony in the afternoon. Somehow, by default, I needed to chair these two consecutive sessions - which were originally supposed to be held just before and after the lunch break if we were to stick to the original planned programme. As much as I enjoyed chairing these two high level sessions involving the captains of the industry from both the local and foreign pool of speakers, I needed to generate a lot of energy to keep the discussion focused, enlightening as well as engaging.

I really like to make all the sessions that I chair engaging in character, following closely the style of the "Hard Talk" programme, so that the audience will get the maximum input and insights from the speakers when they are bombarded (for a good cause, of course). Immediately after these two sessions, which ended just before lunch time, we were later preoccupied with the preparation to welcome the Honourable Minister to officiate the event. The whole opening ceremony took about 2 hours in the afternoon and to our surprise, the event went very well, despite being changed and adjusted in just less than 15 hours.

By then, it seemed that all the hard work of the day had been completed. It was time to slow down. But was

it really completed? Was it? Well, not really. We, being the organisers, were immediately engaged in preparing the award dinner to be held on the same evening, which involved another special guest representative from the Malaysian Government. The award dinner also went well without any fuss. Now, all the hard work over the last 24 hours was rewarding. That is what the participants and the special guests could see and notice.

However, they were not aware of a lot of drama that happened behind the scenes for the last 24 hours. Everything was managed under the 'crisis' or 'yellow colour' mode of operation, due to many changes involving many stakeholders, such as speakers, sponsors, media, special guests, etc. Some international speakers were upset as they missed their respective speaking sessions, due to the changes made to the programme up-side-down. I was tasked, for whatever reason, to bring their 'temperature' down. I managed to bring everyone back on track. This is part and parcel of the whole package of managing any event, particularly big events like KLIFF. Expectations were so high, and so were the emotions and tensions.

On the second day of the conference, I did not have any commitments in the morning at the conference. I took this opportunity to spend the early hours in the office, looking into various matters that required my urgent attention, both administrative and consulting work. As always, it was a quick but a very productive one. Scarcity of time is always a positive element to spur us to do things better and smarter.

Just before lunch, I had to rush to one public university

This book is absolutely ideal for those who always experience time deficits daily. There are just not enough hours in a day for you to accomplish your goals. Sounds familiar? Like many, you feel starved for time....

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“I believe I have created 25 hours in some of my days. I hope you can do the same, too. There should be ways to break this code of creating more time.”



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Datuk Dr. Mohd Daud Bakar is one of the leading global *Shariah* advisors in recent times. Apart from acting as the *Shariah* advisor to many Islamic financial institutions around the globe, he also heads numerous start-up companies and initiatives in Malaysia and other parts of the world. He is truly a player in the fast lane of the global superhighway.

He leans on his real experiences to share his stories and anecdotes in “I Have 25 Hours a Day: The Smart Way to Create More Time”. His first debut piece entitled “Shariah Minds in Islamic Finance: An Inside Story of a Shariah Scholar” is dubbed as the most honest and engaging Islamic finance book. This active globetrotter also credits reading and writing as the best cure to beat jet lags. A loving husband, father and grandfather.

