

Phoenix Capital Investments LLC  
47 East 67<sup>th</sup> Street, 5<sup>th</sup> floor  
New York, N.Y. 10021  
Tel: (212) 439-6675  
Fax: (212) 327-1758

April 12, 2008

Mr. [REDACTED]  
Director, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Greetings. I am writing this "cover letter," in order to inform, and to help begin an exploratory conversation with (gauging the possible interest of) the [REDACTED] toward hopefully funding (or preferably, insha-Allah, entering into an institutional partnering with) the International Institute to Study Climate Change in the Islamic World ("IISCCIW"), whose proposal information is enclosed in the packet herein, including a summary project description and a total of ten letters, including this one.

IISCCIW is a gravely needed truly visionary multi-university not-for-profit global initiative, with the critical mission of addressing the urgently required comprehensive scientific understanding of the complex interface of the "Islamic world" with the destructive processes of global warming and climate change.

As I am sure you would concur, the issue of global warming/climate change (and its calamitous effects on our planet) has become the top priority for leaders and organizations, mainly in the "West" (and rightfully so) while unfortunately, we have not seen this critical issue being taken sufficiently seriously in the "Islamic world", including Asia and Africa.

The "Muslim world" (including the religion of Islam itself) has, for many decades, been under continuous attack for being "extremist, violent, and backward," and for not being at the cutting edge of "progressive" movements. We are continuously labeled as "followers" (and NOT LEADERS) when it comes to meeting the challenges that face our increasingly inter-connected world. They say that "Islam" is not compatible with "modernity," etc.

Such ignorance-based propaganda and stigma, both against Islam and Muslims, need to be dispelled by OUR hard work, including initiating LEADERSHIP projects (such as the IISCCIW), not only to portray a different image of the "Muslim world," but also to try to solve a calamitous "common ground" problem of mankind on our imperiled planet.

While our Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was a great reformer, and a bold forward-looking leader of humanity, today the world seems largely ignorant of the great contributions of the Islamic Civilization to our human heritage. When the rest of the world lived in the dark ages, the Islamic world was the center of knowledge, science, and the arts: the beacon of hope and “enlightenment.” We must work hard to regain our rightful place on the world stage--dear ██████████ and I am sure you agree with this urgent multi-faceted imperative.

Relatedly, I was reading today a new report on Islam and the West: The Annual Report on the State of Dialogue, produced by the World Economic Forum, in collaboration with Georgetown University. Many Western political and thought leaders recognize economic and social dislocations in the Arab and Muslim world, and the importance of addressing such issues. The report states that while Muslims constitute 22% of the world's population, almost 40% of the world's out-of-school children happen to be Muslim. It lists a long litany of impediments to growth and development, while social, political, and economic tensions are at the center-stage of this debate about the problems of the Islamic world.

Also, both the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and the World Islamic Economic Forum Foundation (WIEFF), based in Malaysia, have argued that wealth-creation depends on such organizations' ability to promote greater involvement of the less-developed members, highlighting the increasing need for creating, nurturing, and advancing innovative research projects to enhance sustainable economic development.

In relation to the long-running debate within (and about) Islam, regarding the compatibility of “tradition” and “modernity,” one topic that was specifically raised in the report, was the almost total lack of innovative initiatives within the Islamic world, with regards to the threat of global warming/climate change, while this critical planetary issue has moved up the policy and thought agenda across all countries in the Western world.

The report states, for example, that in Bangladesh a sea level rise of only 100 centimeters would reduce the country's land mass by 20%, potentially affecting the livelihood of over 100 million people. In Senegal and Mauritania, a decline in rainfall of 20% would stifle agricultural and food production as much as 50%, with obvious disastrous consequences.

Thus, attending to the issues arising from global warming/climate change is a practical and moral responsibility, not just for the West, but also for WE, as Muslims. But, this huge “common ground” problem is also a historic opportunity to stand in solidarity with a shared moral duty and spiritual purpose, regarding our common bounty: Allah's creation.

Returning back to my purpose for writing to you, I believe that the ██████████ ██████████ would be the most appropriate partner for the International Institute to Study Climate Change in the Islamic World (IISCCIW), which as you can see in the enclosed packet herein, it is a project in tune with the spirit and teachings of Islam, and it also fits quite harmoniously with the core mission of the ██████████ as an institution whose very purpose is to promote socio-economic growth and development in the “Islamic world.”

As you can see in the enclosed, Dr. Mojtaba Aghamohammadi (Mojib Agha), the Founder and Director of the IISCCIW, has worked tirelessly for over a year, not only to develop the innovative vision and thought behind the project, but also to gather the interest and participation of some very prominent academic leaders and scholars, in many leading universities around the world, initially in Iran and the U.S.

Just for one example, thanks to much hard work and preparation, Moji has been able to attract the commitment of one of the most renowned and respected authorities on the Middle East and Asia, namely, Prof. William Beeman, Chair of the University of Minnesota's Department of Anthropology. Dr. Beeman has spent much of his career promoting the cause of the Islamic world in the West. Just like myself (as the project's "financial advisor") he has embraced this invaluable project with much enthusiasm, because of the critical importance of the problem that IISCCIW is trying to address.

As evidenced in the documents that I am sending for your review, two of the project's basic objectives are: 1- Global warming/climate change education in the Islamic world; 2- Developing and conducting comprehensive interdisciplinary scientific research projects, in order to properly understand the complex interface of the Islamic world with global warming/climate change; in order to 3- Develop practical solutions, appropriate policies, and long-term strategies (and visions), locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally.

Dear [REDACTED]

As I am sure you would agree, the seed capital for the IISCCIW is absolutely *insignificant*, especially when one considers the major contributions that it can make for the Islamic world, and for humanity. Furthermore, by being a [REDACTED] source to this visionary project, the [REDACTED] can be a LEADING institution, partnering with this most vitally needed initiative, standing in support of some of our planet's most praiseworthy scientific and humanitarian persons and institutions, in their very hard task of tackling global warming/climate change in the Islamic world.

I am attaching to my "cover letter" herein, the following for your review: (1) The letter from Prof. William Beeman; (2) The request letter and a brief summary of the project by Dr. Moji Agha; and (3) Seven letters of interest/support, from SOME of the project's other partners, the significance of whose participation is self-explanatory.

As always, I appreciate your kindness and attention. I know that your agenda is advancing the cause of the Muslim world, as is mine. So, looking forward to your response, I hope this work will give us an opportunity to work together on a most critical cause for all of humanity, not just for our fellow Muslims, insha-Allah.

May Allah always shed His blessings and mercy upon us all.

Sincerely Yours,



Massy (Ma'soomah) Homayouni

[massy@phoenixinvests.com](mailto:massy@phoenixinvests.com)