MASJID AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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ABSTRACT
The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) has shown us the best example of activities that could be organized in Masjid. When the Prophet migrated to Medina, the Prophet (PBUH) provided an opportunity for Muslims to deal with their problems and discuss their issues at the masjid. The masjid was the institution for dealing with people’s problems and clarifying Islamic politics. In this paper a few examples of important activities that could be done in the masjid, are described. In fact the mosque is a very important institution for spreading of knowledge. Acquiring knowledge is obligatory for all Muslim men and women. It is interesting to note that educational activities also include literary gathering. Thus, activities that should be organized at masjid should not be confined to worshipping Allah swt only, but should be broaden to include a wide spectrum of activities, such as guiding and educating people, judging about their disputes, dealing with their problems, for the betterment of the community at large. The processes for numerous masjid activities could be simplified by utilising computerised system known as Speedpro. This digitised system was designed to speed up the process of the Malaysian Institute of Accountants Qualifying Examination (MIA QE). However, this system could be tailor made for all masjid activities to and it could ensure that all events could proceed accordingly; for example, the system could also ensure that the classes could be conducted timely, with proper documentation and adequate audit trail for audit purposes. Speedpro could detail out the activities, and the person incharge could easily trace the extend of work completed at any time.

Keywords: Masjid activities, Information Technology, Malaysia, Speedpro, knowledge
1. Introduction

E-Government is digital interaction between a government and citizens, government and businesses/commerce/eCommerce, and between government and government (including government agencies). This digital interaction consists of governance, information and communication technology (ICT), business process re-engineering (BPR), and e-citizen at all levels of government whether in the city, state/province, at national and international level.

Multi Media Super Corridor (MSC) was introduced in 1996, and the government is aggressively encouraging people and organizations to use ICT. The government has introduced a number of Acts relating to ICT, such as Digital Signature Act 1997, Copyright (Amendment) Act 1997, Computer Crime Act 1997, Telemedicine Act 1997, Electronic Government Activities Act 1997, Communications and Multi Media Act 1998, Government Circulars etc. It is a very important tool to enhance the competitiveness of the economy and it can affect productivity of the country (Tiago Oliveira and Maria Fraga Martins, 2011)

Modernization and Management Planning Unit (MAMPU) developed the Public ICT Strategic Plan in order to align various public agencies’ ICT initiatives to the Malaysian government ICT vision, and also to ensure the quality and efficiency of service to the Malaysian citizen.

Following the launch of the ICT plan, the e-Government website, was launched. The myGovernment Portal (www.gov.my) acts as the one-stop source of Malaysian government information and services for the citizens. The Public Sector ICT Strategic Plan outlines the strategic direction of ICT implementation in the Malaysian Public Sector for the next 5 years (http://www.mampu.gov.my/images/agensikerajaan/perkhidmatan/The-Malaysian-Public-Sector-ICT-Strategic-Plan-2016_2020) The plan supports the achievement of vision 2020. In addition it should align the use of technology with the business direction of the Public Sector and also align the ICT implementation with ICT agenda of the Public Sector.

2. Activities at Masjid:

One of the Officers at Baling State Religious Islamic Council stated that, masjid should be the center for Islamic development (http://agbaling.tripod.com/peranan.html)(Pusat Pembangunan Islam). Among activities that can be organized in masjid are as follows:

Enhancement of knowledge
The mosque should be equipped with proper library whereby the books should be made up of various topics such as social sciences, economics, politics, sciences etc. The books could be requested from publishers and printers or donations from institutions and individuals.

Center for Islamic Civilisation
The mosque should be the centre for Islamic civilization. Adequate space should be provided to exhibit the glory of Islam in the past, especially the achievement in medicine, astronomy, mathematics philosophy. Photographs and life stories of Ibn Sina, Al-Jabir, Imam Ghazali, etc.

Centre for Brainstorming
The mosque could also be the place for brainstorming; dialogue, lectures, and seminars to sharpen the mind.
Centre for Al-Quran and Hadith (Scriptures)
Perhaps the imam can allow the talented young imam to be the imam and check on the imam reading the Al-Quran especially the tajwid.

Centre of Learning Al-Quran
In this country, most mosques have been used as a center of learning Al-Quran. This practice should be continued and it could be further improved by explaining the meaning or interpretation of the Al-quran.

Centre for Education
Mosque should serve as an education center where children and families can be educated in masjid. Masjid also can be used as a strengthening of knowledge.

Centre For Strengthening The Soul
Mosque should also serves as the centre for extensive charging of the soul spiritually. In addition it can be the centre for faith and piety.

Supplementary Centre
Every child is exposed to education at home and later in school and Masjid. In this case Masjid can be the center of complementary manners, politeness and so on. In other words, it may be a mosque Institutions of “finishing school”.

Spiritual Center
Mosque institutions should serve as a spiritual center for the residents of the district and the region, at least for the area. The mosque should be design and be able to appreciate the purity of Islam.

Economic Centre
Mosques should be located in a an area, surrounded by economic and social activities. The mosque should have a shop or a bazaar that sells a wide variety of productsfor eg gift shop that sells something that relates to the artifacts of the surrounding areas.

Central Regional for Products Distribution.
The government encourage each district to produce one product. The mosque should be utilised as one of the places to promote products produced in the region. Fulfilling the needs of people is part of ibadah.

Mosque In the Park
Mosques must have an open space around full of green areas to allow the people to get clean air before or after prayer.It would be simply gorgeous if the mosque could be surrounded and decorated with a beautiful garden.

Consultancy Services
The mosque should also provide consultancy services in various matters; including legal matters. Professionals from various disciplines should be invited to contribute “some time” to the community, perhaps to increase awareness regarding legal matters, financial matters etc. (Abbasali Farahati, 2011).

What is SpeedPro?
The processes for numerous masjid activities could be simplified by utilising the system known as Speedpro. This digitised system was designed to speed up the process of the Malaysian Institute of
Accountants Qualifying Examination (MIA QE). However, this system could be customised for all the masjid activities and it could ensure that all events could proceed accordingly.

3. The benefits of Speedpro

- The digitised system is very **user friendly**. Anyone with minimal computer literacy could be trained to utilise the system.

- **Timely** financial statements. Keeping track of financial matters is very important for masjid. The masjid needs to prepare timely financial statements as these statements are needed for audit purposes. Thus by utilising Speedpro, the masjid can ensure that none of the transactions are left unrecorded thus avoiding error of omission.

- Avoid any **missing** important **activities**. All the activities could be followed through easily. Speedpro could detail out the each activity and the person incharge could easily traced the extend of work completed at any time.

- **Transparent** Information. All the activities could be traced easily and thereby ensuring transparent record keeping for clear detail of activities.

- **Reduce Duplication**. The process can be easily traced and consequently duplication of records could be avoided.

- Sending **Timely invitation**. We know that it is important for masjid to invite speakers at the appropriate time The speedpro system could avoid the problem of not sending invitation to speakers.

- **Clashes** of class schedule. Normally, the schedules in the masjid are very tight. If it is done manually, perhaps sometimes the schedule could be clashed with other classes. For that reason, the system offer to avoid the unforeseen circumstances.

- The system provides proper **record keeping**. It would be easier for the user to keep track of every events that was conducted easily and yearly report could be produced easily.

- The system would enable the masjid to prepare for payment of honorarium to speakers at the appropriate time.

- Additionally the system also would facilitate the order of food and beverages punctually.

- It can also ensure that the microphone is ready when needed; ample time to inform the community the schedule for classes; proper rotation of imam; adequate rotation of speakers etc.

- The system will provide adequate record keeping thereby ensuring adequate **audit trail** for audit purposes.

- The community could be introduced to various professional speakers. **Rotation of speakers** could be done easily as the system could provide the list within seconds, Database of speakers could be generated easily and the database could be shared among the masjids. Different people has different styles of delivery, so in this case muslims could be exposed to
different styles of delivery to attract the young and old to masjid. Technology and multimedia could be utilised to provide more interesting styles of education.

- **Performance Evaluation.** Annual report could be produced to evaluate types of programmes and activities that received the most response from the community. This indirectly reflect the needs of the community.

Presently, according to the Malaysian Minister of Communications and Multimedia Datuk Seri Dr Salleh Said Keruak, Malaysia ranked second in South east Asia. It has climbed five places in the global ranking of the ICT Development Index (IDI) 2016, eighth in the Asia Pacific and 61st globally out of 175 economies (http://www.thesundaily.my/news).

4. Conclusion

Insya Allah the availability of Speedpro system could help the masjid to conduct their activities in an economical and cost-effective manner. We hope to see more diverse activities conducted in masjid to attract muslims from all age range. It is crucial for the mosque management to diversify the activities available at the masjid so that masjid can become the centre of muslims’ development in various disciplines. If the masjid staff and committees provide interesting activities, Insy Allah the masjid will be able to attract people from all walks of life.

The government encourage organization to be actively involved with technology and Electronic Government has been introduced for quite some time. Presently, In terms of technology usage, Malaysian organizations are lagging behind advanced countries Korea, Singapore, Taiwan and other countries. At this point, it is recommended that masjid aggressively motivate Muslim to come to masjid by providing interesting diverse selections of activities to fulfil the needs of societies. The implementation of e-government service will bring benefit to the public, business and government itself.
References


http://techterms.com/definition/it accessed on 20th November 2016


