

## Implication of International Scholars' Influence on the Direction of Abdul Hadi's Political Thought

Implikasi Pengaruh Ilmuan Antarabangsa Terhadap Hala Tuju Pemikiran Politik Abdul Hadi

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### ABSTRACT

*Influence involves a state of two-way direction or relationship between what or who is influenced and the influencer. The influencer has the capacity to cause an effect on the character, behaviour or development of someone or something. The effect or influence in this research is not limited to only the political but extends to tarbiyah, social, economic, jihad, dakwah, knowledge and thought aspects. Abdul Hadi is a recognised figure of political movement and dakwah in Malaysia and internationally. His leadership and personality in dakwah and politics is believed to have been influenced by some factors, among them, his direct and indirect interaction with international leaders and scholars. This article discusses the network and implication of the influence of international Islamic movement leaders and scholars which positively impacted Abdul Hadi's socio-politics. This research was qualitatively designed using document analysis approach. Under protocol, in-depth and structured interview method was used and data descriptively analysed. Research findings show a positive impact by scholars and leaders of international movements on Abdul Hadi's thought in devising and drawing up dakwah and political strategies at national and international levels.*

*Keywords: influence; network; dakwah (preaching); international; thought; Abdul Hadi Awang; political figure*

### ABSTRAK

*Pengaruh melibatkan suatu keadaan yang mempunyai dua hala atau hubungan antara apa yang dipengaruhi dengan apa yang mempengaruhi bersesuaian dengan tindakan. Pengaruh itu tidak terhad dalam aspek politik sahaja malah merangkumi pelbagai bidang seperti politik, tarbiyah, sosial, ekonomi, jihad, dakwah, ilmu dan pemikiran. Abdul Hadi merupakan tokoh gerakan politik dan dakwah yang dikenali dalam negara dan antarabangsa. Kepimpinan dan keperibadian beliau dalam dakwah dan politik dipercayai dipengaruhi dari beberapa faktor antaranya ialah hasil daripada interaksi secara langsung dan tidak langsung dengan pemimpin dan ilmuan antarabangsa. Artikel ini membahaskan jaringan dan implikasi pengaruh pimpinan gerakan Islam antarabangsa yang memberi dampak positif terhadap sosiopolitik Abdul Hadi. Justeru, kajian ini menggunakan rekabentuk kualitatif dengan menggunakan kaedah analisis dokumen. Protokol temubual mendalam dan berstruktur juga digunakan dan dianalisis secara deskriptif. Hasil kajian mendapati impak positif oleh ilmuan dan pimpinan gerakan antarabangsa terhadap pemikiran Abdul Hadi dalam mencorak dan melakar strategi dakwah dan politik di peringkat nasional dan juga di peringkat antarabangsa.*

*Kata kunci: pengaruh; jaringan; dakwah; antarabangsa; pemikiran; Abdul Hadi Awang; tokoh politik*

### INTRODUCTION

Religious scholars are knowledgeable in religious sciences and fulfill certain group criteria and characteristics. In addition, they are inclined to preach to disseminate knowledge and are active in the political arena (Shukri 2001). The Islamic Movement is an organized effort to apply Islam as a complete way of life in its entire aspects. In order to achieve

this goal, it must move on the basis of preaching which is the main task of the Apostles of God and this mission is continued by the Islamic Movement (Badlihasham 2009, Haziyah & Sahirin 2013). The purpose of the Islamic Movement is to propagate its thought and implement various practical steps in local and international politics (Abu Maryam 2020). The Islamic political movement is consistently preaching for Islamic unity. Any disputes of the

ummah has an effect on the Islamic struggle and would cause failure of the ummah. As Allah SWT stated in al-Quran, verses al-Anfal 8: 45-46, with the following meaning:

“O you who believe, when you meet an army, be firm, and remember Allah much, that you may be successful...And obey Allah and His Messenger, and dispute not (with one another) lest you get weak-hearted and your power depart, and be steadfast ...”

Abdul Hadi has matured in his political thought and movement due to the influence of international scholars. His involvement in the Islamic movement began in the year 1964, while he was studying abroad. He uses the political path to propagate dakwah efforts.

#### BRIEF BIODATA OF ABDUL HADI AWANG

His full name is Abdul Hadi bin Awang bin Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Abdullah bin Yusof. He was born on the 20<sup>th</sup> of October 1947 corresponding with 6 Zulhijjah 1366 H in Kampng Rusila, a fishing village located nearby Marang Village, Terengganu. His name, Abdul Hadi was picked by his own father from *Asma' al-Husna* (Nuur Farhana 2016). He is known as “Ayah Chik” to his followers.

His late father, Haji Awang Mohamad bin Abdul Rahman was a religious teacher at Kampung Rusila as well as a political activist of Hizbul Muslimin Party in Terengganu. His father was the community's point of reference and focus, especially in matters relating to politics (Haziyah 2017). His late mother's name was Aminah binti Yusof. Abdul Hadi is the fifth child of nine siblings, four of whom are deceased. He grew up with a strong religious upbringing by his own father (Riduan 2009; Aina 2019; Sahlawati 2018). Raised in a fishing environment, he thus understood the fisherman's life, and his interest in fishing was also cultivated. In fact, his great grandfather on his mother's side, namely, Haji Yusof was a seaman (Abdul Hadi 2020; Abdul Khalil 2020).

Abdul Hadi is a major figure in politics and dakwah in Malaysia, having forged a name in the history pages of Islamic revival in Malaysia at the end of 1970s and the decade of 1980s. He graduated from the Islamic University of Medina and al-Azhar University, Egypt. Abdul Hadi is very well-known among the Muslims as a good personality and astute in political movement (Latifah et.al 2019). He is a Muslim scholar and prominent figure of the local

Islamic movement, Islamic Party of Malaysia (PAS), and active in propagating Islamic dakwah, and is also a model for the young generation in the struggle to uphold the sanctity and supremacy of the Islamic religion (Latifah & Mohd Nasir 2020).

Abdul Hadi's political experience is very interesting and varied. For example, he holds the highest office in PAS as its President. He is also a Member of Parliament for Marang, Terengganu and member of the Consultative Council of PAS scholars. The Prime Minister of Malaysia has appointed him as Special Ambassador to the Middle-East with Ministerial Status in the Cabinet in the year 2020. He was once appointed Vice-President of the International Muslim Scholars Union (IMUS) from 2014 to 2018. He was Chief Minister of Terengganu from 1999 to 2004, and former State Legislature member of Rhu Rendang, Terengganu from 1978 to 2013.

#### METHODOLOGY

Research data is obtained, assessed and analysed through document analysis of his books, articles and speeches at various programs and events. In addition, this research also referred to past research which studied Abdul Hadi's thought, contributions, influence and ideas in implementing a political approach in Malaysia.

Under protocol, an in-depth interview was prepared for the purpose of gathering and obtaining data from several informants. The first informant was Abdul Hadi Awang himself (interviews on 25th November 2019 and 22nd September 2020) followed by other informants who constantly accompanied him or followed his development from time to time. This method helped for a wider and complete understanding by deepening research content. Other informants involved were the following: Khalil Abdul Hadi, Toh Puan Zainab Awang (interview on 20th January 2020), Mustafa Aydein (interview on 3rd March 2020), Dr. Samsuri Mokhtar (interview on 17th December 2019), Datuk Mustafa Ali (interview on 4th December 2019), and Asri Daud (interview on 3rd June 2016). Data obtained was analysed in order to identify the influence of international scholars on his political involvement.

Analysis was made by defining the meaning of influence in this study context. Influence means the capacity to have an effect on the character, development or behavior of someone or something that has affect itself. It is also defined as the power

to affect a way someone or something develops (<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/influence> 2021). This study shows that the international Islamic movement leaders and scholars had great social influence on Abdul Hadi's thought in social politics. Social influence occurs when an individual's thoughts, feelings, and actions are affected by other people (Joanne R. Smith et.al. 2011). By referring to the theory of social influence, it indicates that Abdul Hadi's relation, exposure and interaction with those local and international figures had great influence to his political thought.

#### INTERACTION WITH INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARS

The result of international interaction and networking was to shape Abdul Hadi's thought in various aspects, particularly in politics and leadership. It is believed that this influence on him began while he furthered his studies in Medina and Egypt. He was involved directly and indirectly in the dakwah and political movement at both universities.

#### FIGURES OF THE ISLAMIC MOVEMENT IN THE MIDDLE-EAST

Abdul Hadi has extensive experience in leadership and international involvement. This shows that during his student days in Medina, he was exposed to the influence of Ikhwanul Muslimin thought of famous Ikhwan scholars and figures such as Professor Dr Muhammad al-Wakeel, Sheikh Said Hawwa and Dr. Satar al-Khudsi. They were among the top leadership of Ikhwan Muslimin. The international scholars had an impact on Abdul Hadi regarding involvement in Islamic movement.

Sheikh Said Hawwa (1935-1989) was a famous figure and scholar of Ikhwanul Muslimin. He was a successful missionary and well-known known through his preaching and books. He authored many books, among them about management principles and structure of Islamic organization, spiritual and practical training suitable for Islamic activists, interpretation issues, fiqh, and Islamic beliefs. As a high-ranking member of Ikhwanul Muslimin in Egypt, he was involved in the turbulence of opposition to the Zionist regime around the 1960s and 1970s. He played a role in the exile in the final phase of the failed Islamic Revolt in Syria from 1976-1982.

Experience in leading as Head of the Malaysian Students Union of Medina University gave Abdul Hadi the opportunity to gain knowledge and learn about the international Islamic movement through attending usrah (community support groups) with figures from the movement. In addition, he also held the position of Secretary-General for the Confederation of South-East Asian Students in Medina.

One of the dominant scholars in Medina who politically influenced him was Abdullah Aziz bin Baz, Rector of Medina University. There were also others who cultivated political awareness. Abdul Hadi explained (2020):

I remember the tafsir teacher, Sheikh Abu Bakar al-Jazairi, Nigerian already deceased, among them Sheikh Abdullah Aziz bin Baz, Sheikh Abu Bakar al-Jazairi who gave a lot of awareness... Said Hawwa was a friend of the teacher... (in ) one (the same) usrah...

While in Egypt, Abdul Hadi assumed the office of Secretary of Shariah and Laws of the Federation Arab Republics (Egypt, Syria and Libya) Section. His involvement in the organization helped him to interact with Ikhwanul Muslimin movement and meet with top leaders such as Mahmud Sowwab, Umar Tilmisani, Ma'mun Hudaibi, Mustafa Mashyur, Mehdi 'Akif and Ahmad Badie'. Abdul Hadi (2016) explained that the overseas leaders who influenced him into joining the Islamic movement were:

Among the figures, I had the chance to meet most of the Ikhwanul Muslimin leaders, like Umar Tilmisani, Ma'mun Hudaibi, Mustafa Mashyur, Mehdi 'Akef and Ahmad Badie'. 5 Mursyidul Am (Spiritual leaders) I had the chance to meet and.. I talked to them

(Abdul Hadi 2016)

This positive relationship led Abdul Hadi to join the international delegation of Islamic movement in 1993, headed by the leader, Sheikh Mustafa Masyhur to Afghanistan, to help establish an Islamic State and avoid conflict between the somewhat fractured Muslim community after Russia retreated from Afghanistan. Also in the delegation were the PAS President, Dato' Fadzil Mohd Noor and leader of Jamaat Islami, Qazi Ahmad Hussain.

The scholars' influence has shaped his thought to collaborate with outside leaders to help in the international struggle of the ummah. Abdul Hadi emphasized that involvement and interaction did not halt but continues until today in the Middle-East region.

In Egypt, Abdul Hadi majored in *Siyasah Shariyyah* (Shariah-based Governance) by conducting research relating to politics. He was mentored by Dr Abdul Rahman Dobba. Abdul Hadi (2016) explained that: He guided me in doing research. Dr Abdul Rahman Dhobba', he is from Egypt, from Azhar. (Abdul Hadi 2016).

In addition, among the famous figures who became points of reference for Abdul Hadi were Hassan al-Banna and Hasan Hudaibi through reading books authored by them. He had also met with Hasan Hudaibi who was a preacher active in politics. This figure was great in delivering his political ideas through his writings.

The following were among the Ikhwan Muslimin figures whom Abdul Hadi interacted with: Umar Tilmisani (1904–1986), Mursyidul Am. Umar headed the organization 1972 to 1986. Mustafa Mashhur (1921–2002) was the 5th Mursyidul Am and Head of Ikhwanul Muslimin, from 1996 to 2002. Ma'mun al-Hudaybi (1921–2004) was the 6th Mursyidul Am, he was the son of Hassan Al-Hudaybi (2nd Mursyidul Am). His successor was Mohammed Mahdi Akef (1928- 2017), from 2004 to 2010. Dr Muhammad Badi bin Abdul Majid Sami (8th Mursyidul Am who headed the organization since 2010).

#### PEACE MOVEMENT FIGURE IN NUSANTARA (MALAY ARCHIPELAGO)

Abdul Hadi's role at the international level was evident in his involvement with issues faced in the Nusantara, especially Aceh. He contributed his energy and support to achieve self-autonomy for Aceh, together with Nusantara scholars such as Mohammad Natsir (1908-1993) who became Indonesia's 5th Prime Minister, founder and leader of political party Masyumi, and one of the leading Islamic figures in Indonesia; and KH Abdul Kahar Muzakkir (1907-1973), another leader of Masyumi.

...outside the country, certainly I follow the overseas political movement. I have met Indonesian figures such Almarhum Pak Natsir, met ...Pak Muzakkir in Jogja.. I have attended his speech... visited him at Medina when he came for hajj.

(Abdul Hadi 2016; 2020)

This influence of Nusantara scholars gave birth to cooperation in issues of universal peace and well-being. Abdul Hadi (2009) asserted that he is always prepared to be the liaison in seeking a solution to conflict. Among his contribution and involvement was helping to settle the conflict between Free Aceh

Movement (GAM) and the Indonesian Government (UD 2009). He gave his support and encouragement for Aceh's self-autonomous status as a province within Indonesia. Mustafa Ali (2019) explained the role of Abdul Hadi in the collaboration with Aceh province to gain self-autonomy from the Indonesian government.

We also played a role in Aceh, together we accompanied to see the Aceh freedom fighter in Norway or Sweden, Norway, at that time the present Governor of Aceh, Tengku Malik. He was like a king, he was a refugee there with... who was earlier Governor of Aceh, we met them and Hassan Ditiro.

(Mustafa Ali 2019)

Mustafa Ali (2019) asserted that Abdul Hadi was a figure for ummah unity at the international level, particularly South-east Asia:

The reason he is said to be at international level, he represents South-east Asia in matters of development at the international level, he is the figure representing all these, because in Thailand it is not allowed to politic that way and in Indonesia it's like that, but it's clear the Islamic party that shapes Islam is PAS and PAS is better known than the others at the international level.

(Mustafa Ali 2019)

In addition to interacting with political figures, Abdul Hadi also created an academic network leading to award of degree in *sanad* from a well-known scholar who originated from Nusantara but resided in Mecca, namely, Sheikh Yasin al-Fadani (1915-1990) a scholar of hadith sanad, falaq and Arabic language.

#### FIGURE FOR POLITICAL COLLABORATION IN TURKEY

Scholars had a great influence and impact on Abdul Hadi's involvement in local and international politics. He was never one to pass an opportunity to learn from well-known intellectuals in Egypt and Medina, for which he was respected by other Malaysian students there.

Besides the abovementioned scholars and leaders, there was also a figure of the Turkish movement who played an important role in Abdul Hadi's political life. This figure, a leader who became his good friend, was Najmuddin Erbakan, the 23rd Prime Minister of Turkey, and an Islamist politician since the year 1960 to 2010: ...In international politics, I take many views from Profesor Najmuddin Erbakan of Turkey. His views taught me much about international politics (Abdul Hadi 2016).

Abdul Hadi also forged political cooperation with Turkey, after Erbakan, through Oguzhan Asilturk, *Mursyidul Am* (Spiritual Leader) of Saadet Party of Turkey (Oguzhan Asilturk 2020).

Oguzhan asserted that Abdul Hadi's involvement in Turkey was very considerable. In the year 1994, Abdul Hadi was appointed member of a coordinating committee of the Islamic movement based in Turkey and was invited to attend an *Ijtima' Am* organised by Pakistan Islamic Party (Jamiat Islami). He represented PAS at the 5th World Organisation of Islamic Conference in Istanbul in 1996. This reflects that Necmatin Erbakan's influence had a direct positive impact in connecting the network with world Islamic delegations in Turkey. Mustafa (2020), Head of Teachers' Union in Turkey explained that Abdul Hadi played an important role in national politics:

So the important element which introduced Abdul Hadi Awang, the first element or reason that the Islamic movement people here know and admire Tuan Guru more was from the bond of friendship with Necmatin Erbakan based on the involvement at the international level, meaning in terms of those involved in the movement.

(Mustafa 2020)

Political influence gave Abdul Hadi's support and encouragement in reconciling the Islamic political struggle in Turkey in facing the reality of a secular Constitution, i.e., to overcome the tense relationship between the two Turkish political parties, namely, Saadet Party and Justice and Development Party (AKP) through cooperation (Izwan 2018).

#### IMPLICATION ON DIRECTION OF ABDUL HADI'S THOUGHT

##### POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT

The positive impact from the intellectual network and influence of international movement figures may be seen through Abdul Hadi's involvement with political and dakwah movement at national and international levels for Ummah unity.

His political involvement began in adolescence even before furthering his studies in the Middle-East to read his Bachelor and Master's degrees. He held various positions at both national and international levels. The result of interaction with world figures and leaders determined the direction of his thought in drawing up strategy and style of political leadership (Latifah 2020).

##### SOCIAL INVOLVEMENT

Abdul Hadi was also involved in education and dakwah, among them in the year 1978, he taught at Maahad al-Ikhwan (Institut Berakan), a private school founded by some PAS youth at Mengadang Akar, Kuala Terengganu. He applied the practice of attending usrah in the Middle-East to society in the homeland by holding weekly and monthly usrah for PAS leaders and followers. In addition, weekly lectures were also held at Rusila Mosque, Terengganu, attended by various levels of society from the whole country. He also began delivering Dhuha Lecture at that mosque to continue the teaching his father began in 1976 (Haziyah 2018).

In addition, Abdul Hadi also began scheduled monthly lectures in the Klang Valley since the 1980s at Mujahidin Mosque, Damansara. However, the monthly lectures entitled Islamic Aqidah was discontinued for certain reasons. In October 2017, he was given space to deliver the Prime Dhuha Lecture organised by Kolej Universiti Islam Zulkiffi Muhammad entitled *Dunia Islam Masa Kini (Hadir al- 'Alam al-Islami/ The Muslim World Today)*. In fact, Abdul Hadi has been actively lecturing and appears as a guest speaker at various platforms at institutions of higher learning as well as mass platforms since the past until now. It is said that he can speak fluently and clearly, and compared to others, is more knowledgeable (Samsuri 2020).

##### INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL RELATIONS

The influence of international scholars formed the bridge of relations for Abdul Hadi's involvement in the arena of international politics through various medium such as seminar, conference, round table consultation and so on, to resolve crises in the Muslim World, for example, in Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, Yemen, Syria, Palestine and Bosnia-Herzegovina. As a leader of a local political party, Abdul Hadi not only leads the Islamic movement in Malaysia, but is also active on the international stage together with other Islamic movements in handling the problems of the ummah.

##### CONFLICT PEACE NEGOTIATOR FOR THE MIDDLE-EAST AND EUROPE

According to Riduan (2009), in the year 1990 Abdul Hadi was already involved in international

relations through joining a delegation of members of world Islamic party leaders and met with kings and presidents of West Asian countries before the Gulf War. He also joined a delegation of Islamic Party Members of Parliament, headed by Dr. Najmuddin Erbakan, to the United Nations, USA in the mission to resolve the crisis in Bosnia and Herzegovina. They held meetings with Boutros Ghali, Secretary-General of United Nations, and met with members of US Congress and foreign embassies.

As a member of the International Committee of the International Islamic Secretariat for the Defence of Baitul Maqdis centred in Amman, Jordan, Abdul Hadi with the delegation of Islamic Party Members of Parliament headed by Necmettin Erbakan visited Europe. He also joined a delegation of Islamic movement world leaders in their visit to Baghdad upon invitation by the late President of Iraq, Saddam Hussien during the crisis of the Gulf War.

In the year 1993, Abdul Hadi joined a delegation of world Islamic movement leaders led by Ikhwan al-Muslimin leader, Sheikh Mustafa Masyhur to Afghanistan, to help establish an Islamic state and avoid conflict among the fractured Muslim community after the withdrawal of Russia from Afghanistan. Also in the delegation were PAS President, Dato' Fadzil Mohd Noor and leader of Jamaat Islami, Qazi Ahmad Hussain. In the year 1994, he joined in the same mission continued by a delegation of the International Committee of the International Islamic Secretariat to Istanbul, Turkey. And in Tehran, Iran in the year 1995, he delivered a speech at an International Seminar on the Ummah's Unity in facing the Bosnia-Herzegovina problem. In the year 1996, he represented PAS in the 22nd International Muslim Community Congress at Istanbul, Turkey.

In the year 2010, Abdul Hadi was appointed as Chief Peace Negotiator for the war crisis in Yemen. The same year, in March 2010, he became guest of honour at the 23rd Conference of World Islamic Union at Tehran, Iran, he delivered a speech attended by the former President of Afghanistan, Prof. Dr. Burhanuddin Rabbani and former Indonesian Minister of Religion, Prof. Dr Muhammad Quraish Shihab.

On 11th September 2011 in Tehran, he was given the honour of delivering a speech entitled, Islamic Revival: Wisdom in Handling it (*Kebangkitan Islam: Kebijaksanaan Menanganinya*) at the International Conference on Islamic Revival. 700 delegates from Muslim countries discussed the latest conflict

happening in West Asia such as Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, Yemen, Syria and Palestine. Former President of Afghanistan, Professor Dr. Burhanuddin Rabbani also attended but nine days later after the conference ended, he passed away on the 20th September 2011.

On 14th July 2013 Abdul Hadi delivered a speech at a Rally: "Protest against Coup: We Rally for Egypt" organised by the Saadet Party of Turkey. On 23rd to 25th May, also in Istanbul, he delivered a speech at the 22nd International Muslim Community Union Congress based on the theme "New World and Fair Approach: Seeking New Solution for the Muslim World (*Dunia Baru dan Pendekatan Adil: Mencari Penyelesaian Baru Dunia Islam*)". The Congress was attended by Rashid al-Ghannushi, En-Nahdah leader from Tunisia, Ismail Haniyeh and Khaled Meshal, from HAMAS of Palestine, Muhammad Badie, from Ikhwanul Muslimin of Egypt, Syed Munawwar Hassan, from Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan, and Riyadh al-Sakfa, from Ikhwanul Muslimin of Syria, Riyadh al-Sakfa. The Congress also listened to keynote address from two leaders of Muslim nations, Dr Mohammed Morsi (Egypt) and Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (Iran).

In the following year, on 22nd November 2014, at Lahore, Pakistan, Abdul Hadi delivered a speech in a convention, *Ijtimak Am Jamaat Islami*, which was attended by representatives from Keadilan Sejahtera Party (Indonesia), Ikhwan al-Muslimin (Egypt) and Ennahda Party (Tunisia).

Abdul Hadi received international recognition upon appointment as Deputy President of International Union of Muslim Scholars (IUMS) in the year 2014, together with Dr. Ahmad al-Raysuni and Sheikh Ahmad Al-Khalili headed by Dr. Yusuf Al-Qaradawi (S Abdallah 2020).

Abdul Hadi's ideas and thought were channelled through the 24th International Muslim Community Union Congress from 26th-28th November 2015. He gave a prime lecture at a closing ceremony of the 10th International Conference of Muslim Youth. Abdul Hadi shared his thought in a Prime Lecture on the 28th April 2015 in Singapore, at Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), and Nanyang Technological University (<https://www.rsis.edu.sg/>).

In fact, on 8th November 2018 in Turkey, he once again was given an opportunity to participate in a Lecture entitled "The Future of the Ummah (*Masa Depan Ummah*)" organized by the Economic and Social Research Centre in Turkey, (ESAM). He was also involved in various lectures and conferences

such as the 33rd World Conference of Islamic Union in Indonesia and delivered his speech and presentation, attended by the President of Saadet Party, Dr. Temel Karamollaoğlu.

He also participated in the KL Summit 2019 held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Conference Summit was attended by the President of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of Iran, Hassan Rouhani, Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, HRH the King of Malaysia, Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah and Malaysian Prime Minister, as Chairman of the Conference Summit, Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad.

Abdul Hadi was also appointed a member of the Board of Trustees, *al-Majma' al-Alami li al-Taqrīb Baina al-Mazahib al-Islamiah* (World Forum for Proximity of Islamic Schools of Thought (*Mazhab*) (<http://harakahdaily.org/> 2019, Riduan 2009)

Emphatically, the varied involvement of Abdul Hadi clearly shows the significance of his role as a political thinker and preacher at the international level. His political approach is not only for Muslims in Malaysia but for the global cause of the ummah.

The above discussion shows that the path of his involvement in the Islamic movement began actively with PAS since the year 1964 and he was developed and trained (*tarbiyah*) by the Ikhwanul Muslimin in Medina and Cairo even before his involvement in ABIM and PAS leadership in the mid-1970s. Asri Daud (2016) asserted that:

(Tuan Guru Haji Abdul Hadi Awang) is one of them most qualified to lead the Islamic movement in Malaysia in order for this Islamic movement to run exactly on the pivot of the desired Islamic *harakah* as a *jama'atul muslimin*. So, the Tuan Guru President's *Fiqh Siyasah* (Deep understanding of Governance) has to be learnt and digested by *abnau* *harakah* in the Islamic Party of Malaysia (PAS).

(Asri Daud 2016)

Involvement in international politics influenced Abdul Hadi through Professor Necmatin Erbakan, from their meetings in the 1980s until Necmatin Erbakan passed away. They met to discuss international issues. This international figure and scholar was a major influence on Abdul Hadi's political thought. This statement was supported by Khalil (2019) :

Among outside figures who largely influenced Abdul Hadi politically was Dr Najmidin Erbakan (Turkey) who was the main influence and considered political guru overseas. And Sheikh Sa'id Hawwa, Abu Hassan al-Nadawi and some others.

(Khalil 2019)

Abdul Hadi is well-known among the Muslims for his good personality in Malaysia and abroad. He is a scholar and leading figure of the Islamic movement actively propagating Islamic *dakwah*. Mustafa stated:

Tuan Guru in Malaysia, as one of the leaders in the Muslim world, is seen as just as great as Erbakan. Both are pioneers in moving the modern Muslim world, the Muslim world of this age, both are said to be its jewels in pioneering the world Islamic movement.

(Mustafa Aydien 2020)

## CONCLUSION

By implication, international scholars had influenced Abdul Hadi's personality and direction of political thought. In this research, their influence on his leadership or thought is proven as having trained and developed him to become a figure of Islamic movement both locally and at international level. The Islamic movement established is based on *al-Quran* and *al-Sunnah*.

Abdul Hadi mobilised the Islamic movement with complete awareness of the responsibility of a figure who calls society toward peace and reconciliation, and implementation of the Islamic system. Also to bring on the realization to return to Islamic *ukhuwah* as the basis of universal ummah unity.

Abdul Hadi's thought, influenced by international scholars, led to the formation of an Islamic movement to champion the ummah's interests not merely for the Muslim society in Malaysia but for non-Muslims as well. In fact, the struggle for the ummah at the international level is not only in Malaysia. Abdul Hadi's involvement in local politics and international relations are proven as influenced by international scholars leading to the development of an authoritative figure in all fields, including *tarbiyah*, *dakwah* and politics. This shows that his personality (*sahsiah*) and thought developed under the influence of international scholars such that he is observed as prominently active in local and international politics.

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