

Preface

In this book, the authors have investigated poverty and its reduction strategies in the Muslim World using, as proxy, selected member countries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). The principal objective in this study lies in exploring the possible channels out of poverty leading to livelihoods sustainability in the Muslim countries. The analysis has, therefore, been patterned along the parameters of natural resource endowments (particularly mineral resources), the level of social and economic development and finally the enabling role of governance in poverty reduction. Again, the significant role of *Zakat* in resources mobilization for poverty reduction has been demonstrated in this book, especially on the urgent need to give *Zakat* a befitting institutional support. Using linear regression in Chap. 8, the study has discovered an inverse correlation between GDP per capita PPP and poverty reduction. The coefficient of determination (r^2) is .3672, which means 36.72 % of reduction in poverty has been accounted for by the independent variable—GDP per capita PPP performance. Although performance in social and economic development (measured by GDP per capita PPP for the period 1993–2007) has taken a nose-dive except in 2007 for a few of the selected Muslim countries, the study has identified pockets of stronger GDP per capita PPP values with many of the oil-producing Muslim countries compared to the non-oil-producing countries. However, the study has found no correlation between oil-resource endowments (daily oil production) and poverty reduction, as some of the oil-producing countries pose high poverty headcount ratios as in many of their non-oil-producing counterparts. On the other hand, the majority of the oil-producing countries pose quite minimal poverty headcount ratios. This finding seems to suggest that natural resource endowments present mixed blessings if you like, and, to a significant extent, cannot be utterly described as constituting a complete “curse” or “panacea”, as portrayed in some quarters of the development literature—at least in the case of the selected Muslim countries. Against this backdrop, the study has recommended, among others, the intensification of collaboration among the Muslim countries to facilitate achieving sustainable development objectives. For that reason, a multi-dimensional development collaboration model called *Development Collaboration Octagon Model (DeCOM)* has been developed that seeks to offer an alternative approach to

achieving effective collaboration among the Muslim countries and beyond. The model also seeks to fill the loopholes characterizing the existing conventional bilateral and multi-lateral collaborations.

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