

A AMSi Event  
(Association of Muslim Surveyors)  
Eid at the RICS  
1 May 2024  
5 – 8 PM  
Westminster, London

Assalam o Alaikum everyone, peace be upon you, hello and welcome.

Bismillah ir Rahman ir Rahim.

Birmillah ir Rahman ir Rahim is an Arabic phrase that means “in the name of Allah, The Most Gracious and The Most Merciful”. Muslims say this when they begin an important task or any action. With it is a reminder that everything is for His sake.

Thank you for joining us to Celebrate Eid at the RICS.

Eid al-Fitr marks the end of Ramadan, the Muslim holy month of fasting, and is celebrated during the first three days of Shawwal, the 10th month of the Islamic calendar, two weeks after, this event is to mark the occasion.

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) is a global professional body for those working in the Built Environment, Construction, Land, Property, and Real Estate (the industry), it is an established and old organisation.

The AMSi (Association of Muslim Surveyors Initiative) came about last year, to mark Eid the RICS offered to host the first event which was a success, it drew people with interest in the industry, Arab News wrote an article: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2297811/world>.

AMSi has simple aims:

- To pave the way into professional real estate institutions and organisations.
- To raise awareness of the professions in communities, particularly Muslim, as the role of a surveyor is not known.
- To create a platform that is for everyone, Muslim and non-Muslim.

We also aim to build bridges in society by developing an understanding of each other, and over the past year, we have welcomed the support of sister organisations and partners.

Last year we delivered four events, two in the RICS and two in London's mosques.

This is our fifth event, we hope this will be a happy and light occasion, albeit like all our events it will be a simple event as we are an unfunded initiative, therefore if anything is lacking, please be prepared to help.

We changed the short talk on Ramadan and Eid to a special audience with Tariq Usmani MBE, like me he has a long history in UK Real Estate, we are very pleased he accepted our invitation.

The RICS will talk about their organisation and you get to hear from their Board Members. Then there will be an award an announcement on the UKREiiF ticket winner, followed by an update on AMSi.

Last year we inspired the formation of the Quantity Surveyors of Bangladesh, by doing these events we hope others do the same, we aim to keep what we do simple.

The Quantity Surveyors Group of Pakistan joined our July event, Muslim in Rail UK as well, also the CUBE network and the Muslim Council of Britain joined a mosque event, invited we will join them as well, although we cannot go to everything ourselves.

This evening is your opportunity to look around the RICS HQ in Westminster, London, usually a member building, and to network. It is kind of the RICS to host us again.

We are not a charity, and we are not run on grant funding.

After we platformed Adewole Ademolake, MRICS at our first event, the RICS invited him back to talk at a "Welcome to the Profession Event" and he made a YouTube video: <https://youtu.be/qQfDXvayBsc?si=mdyZGskibKQPfGf6>.

We are pleased we can platform young unknown talent from diverse communities, people who would not ordinarily be seen, we also draw out stories from a few hidden elders.

This is a public event, people may take photos or make videos, we cannot be responsible if you are in them, we will do this too and may use the material we gather for marketing, and the RICS will as well.

We hope you enjoy the talks.

What next for AMSi?

We learned a lot of lessons last year.

To run a society is a big responsibility so I can only commit to what I can do.

When I can, I will continue to grow the strategic advisor's panel.

I will continue to get to know sisters and brothers' network and maybe one day map them.

We will consider how we offer sponsorship opportunities; we welcome conversations.

We will continue with member events, Insha'Allah maybe big Eid, here again, we are being invited to Birmingham as well and need to confirm a date.

I have an offer to go Edinburgh and do an event at a university too. People in Saudi Arabia wanted a network, brothers there took good care of me recently.

The Ambassadors network is an informal arrangement, this time we have several such people in the room, all of whom came forward and said they would help.

Where we have opportunities, if we have enough time we will run competitions, we like that we did this for UKREiiF as it brought forward Mohamed.

We will give gift vouchers to say thank you to people whose work we publish, and we seek articles on industry hot topics or relevant to the profession and society issues.

Depending on the benefit, we will invite contributions.

We have a global presence.

Each place has its local context, and we encourage others to set up local networks.

The work we do is sadaqah, training, knowledge sharing, and showing a way.

From what we know, the people who benefit from our services are not zakat (charity) eligible. Most are young, able, and capable, and even if some do not have money they can volunteer and develop high-value skills. Some people are well-established.

The Association of Muslim Surveyors is our founding, we have registered the trademark.

On the tickets, when we asked people what their relationship was, it was nice to read some people wrote we are members, people associate with the brand.

AMS came out of my Hajj journey, I never expected to have a society.

I thank our special guest, my brother Tariq Usmani MBE, UKREiiF, RICS, our guests, members, and ambassadors.

Insha'Allah see you at big Eid, please forgive me if anything was less, this is my father's legacy my mother's prayers, and my former mothers-in-law too.

The values I learned from them I hope we can create in any society I am responsible for, mostly from them I learned about self-sufficiency and to try and keep trying.

“fa inna ma’al usri yusraa,” which means, in every hardship, there is relief.

Thank you for coming.

One young man touched my heart, he said as it is his mum’s birthday he booked tickets for all his family, happy birthday to Faran’s mother, she is a lucky lady to have such a son.

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