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Global activity has broadly strengthened and is expected to improve further in 2014–15, according to the April 2014 WEO, with much of the impetus for growth coming from advanced economies. Although downside risks have diminished overall, lower-than-expected inflation poses risks for advanced economies, there is increased financial volatility in emerging market economies, and increases in the cost of capital will likely dampen investment and weigh on growth. Advanced economy policymakers need to avoid a premature withdrawal of monetary accommodation. Emerging market economy policymakers must adopt measures to changing fundamentals, facilitate external adjustment, further monetary policy tightening, and carry out structural reforms. The report includes a chapter that analyzes the causes of worldwide decreases in real interest rates since the 1980s and concludes that global rates can be expected to rise in the medium term, but only moderately. Another chapter examines factors behind the fluctuations in emerging market economies' growth and concludes that strong growth in China played a key role in buffering the effects of the global financial crisis in these economies.

"An important body of work that contributes so effectively to the knowledge base in this growing ecosystem." ~ Abdul Hasib Basit, Co-Founder & Principal at Elipses and Chairman at Yielders. "The book is a tour de force overview of the subject area and will allow the reader to delve deeper if they should so desire." ~

Sultan Choudhury OBE "Mufti Faraz is working closely with the Islamic finance and fintech industry, not just in performing the essential role of certification, but more importantly in "moving the needle"." ~ Harris Irfan, Chairman, UK Islamic Fintech Panel

Introduction to Islamic Fintech is the ideal primer which not only simplifies the entire world of Fintech, it equally empowers the reader to navigate their way through this subject and advance to more technical and niche areas within Islamic Fintech. This book addresses 10 different areas including blockchain, smart contracts, crypto-assets, alternative finance, crowdfunding, investment-based technologies, neo-banking, banking-as-a-service, insurtech and Zakattech. Each area is discussed in terms of their back-end tech models, front-end operations, Shari'ah structures and Shari'ah compliance. Contents:

Chapter 1: What is Islamic Fintech? Chapter 2: The Tale of Islamic Fintech Chapter 3: Blockchain Chapter 4: Smart Contracts Chapter 5: Crypto-Assets Chapter 6: Alternative Finance Chapter 7: Crowdfunding Chapter 8: Investment-based Technology Chapter 9: Neo-banking Chapter 10: Banking-as-a-Service Chapter 11: Insurtech and Takafultech Chapter 12: ZakatTech Chapter 13: The Future of Islamic Fintech About the Author Mufti Faraz Adam is considered by many a thought leader in the Fintech subject and is known for his detailed and nuanced analyses of contemporary matters. He is a UK-based Islamic Finance & Fintech advisor and heads the Shariah advisory firm Amanah Advisors. He serves as an advisor on several global Shariah boards in countries such as

