

**thinkTALK**  
a community dialogue session  
SERIES 2021

Organised By



An Initiative By



# E-FUNDING AVENUES FOR SMES: **BORDERLESS FINANCING**

- 📍 24 JUNE 2021, THURSDAY
- 📍 4.00PM - 5.00PM (UTC+8)

#WIEFDIGITALISATION2021

2nd EDITION





## OVERVIEW

WIEF thinkTALK is a virtual session specially designed to empower young changemakers with compelling ideas plus deep knowledge on leadership, business, entrepreneurship and pressing issues from prominent leaders as well as industry experts. It welcomes inspired thinkers willing to contribute their thoughts, and individuals from every discipline, who seek knowledge in a world of disruption in which we now live.

At this crucial time when the prosperity of SMEs and startups has been brutally hit by the COVID-19 crisis, WIEF thinkTALK Series 2021, a virtual initiative by WIEF Young Leaders Network (WYN), serves as a recovery guide for small businesses through online discussions with experts, and positively affect growth.

# PROGRAMME

TIME (MY)

24 JUNE 2021

4.00pm - 4.05pm

**MOCOfest Pop-up**

A solo performance by WIEF MOCOfest artist.

**Artist:**

**Amir Jahari**

Singer – Songwriter, Malaysia

4.05pm - 5.00pm

**E-funding Avenues for SMEs: Borderless Financing**

Funding is crucial for SMEs and startups to survive, especially in the current turbulent situation. During this volatile economic period, small and new businesses should explore other avenues for funding other than financial institutions. E-funding market and platforms need to be reinforced as an alternative funding source to cater to SMEs funding needs.

This edition of WIEF thinkTALK Series 2021 discusses:

- opportunities from platforms such as fintech for micro businesses
- investment and funding possibilities of cryptocurrencies
- developing SMEs into borderless businesses, thus, globalising them

**Speaker:**

• **Henri Arslanian**

Crypto Leader and Partner, PwC, Hong Kong

**Moderator:**

• **Mohammad Ridzuan**

Country Director and Head of ASEAN Business, WorldRemit, Malaysia

## SPEAKER



### HENRI ARSLANIAN

Crypto Leader and Partner  
PwC, Hong Kong

Henri Arslanian is Crypto Leader and Partner at PwC, former Chairman of the FinTech Association of Hong Kong and an adjunct professor at the University of Hong Kong where he teaches the first fintech university course in Asia. He advises numerous world-leading crypto exchanges, investors, financial institutions and tech firms on fintech and crypto initiatives as well as numerous governments, regulators and central banks on fintech and crypto regulatory and policy matters.

Henri is a TEDx and global keynote speaker, a best-selling published author and is regularly featured in the media including Bloomberg, CNBC, CNN, The Wall Street Journal and the Financial Times. His expertise has been acknowledged via numerous awards including most influential individual on Finance globally on LinkedIn by Analytica and one of the global Top Voices in Economy and Finance by LinkedIn. He hosts Of the FinTechCapsules™ and CryptoCapsules™ social media series.

Henri's latest book *The Future of Finance: The Impact of FinTech, AI and Crypto on Financial Services* was ranked as one of Amazon's global top 10 bestsellers. Before joining PwC, he was with a fintech startup and spent many years with UBS Investment Bank in Hong Kong.

Henri speaks English, French, Armenian, Spanish and Mandarin, holds a master's degree in Chinese law from Tsinghua University, a joint Global Executive MBA from Columbia Business School, London Business School and Hong Kong University. He holds a Bachelor of Law from the University of Montreal and a master's degree in transnational law from the University of Sherbrooke.

## MODERATOR

### MOHAMMAD RIDZUAN

Country Director and Head of ASEAN Business  
WorldRemit, Malaysia

Mohammad Ridzuan Abdul Aziz has over 20 years of commercially-driven regulatory, compliance and technology experiences in Asia Pacific. He is currently the Malaysia Country Director and Head of ASEAN Business for WorldRemit, and on the board of KAF Investment Bank, AKRU robo-advisory as well as Ethis Global Ventures.

Ridzuan is a member of the board advisor for the Fintech Association of Malaysia where among others, focuses on raising Malaysia's unique combined values of mature on-shore eco-system. He is one of the advisors for Labuan Financial Services Authority, Asia Pacific University, Taylor's University Business School, Quest International University and Policy Streets.

Ridzuan founded regulatory technology advisory firms RHT Compliance Solutions and CS Technology Solutions Sdn Bhd. He was the CEO of Sedania As Salam Capital Sdn Bhd and was a regulator with the KLSE during the 1998 Asia financial crisis, the Securities Commission in 2001 and then redeployed to a joint task force between the Securities Commission and Bank Negara Malaysia during the formation of the investment bank concept in 2002.

Ridzuan holds a Bachelor of Science in accounting and finance from University of Wales, Aberyswyth and has an MBA specialising in management information system from International Islamic University Malaysia.



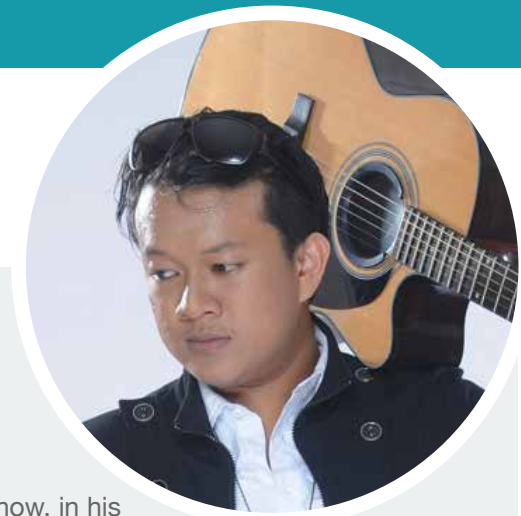
## ARTIST

### AMIR JAHARI

Singer - Songwriter  
Malaysia

Amir Jahari is a Malaysian singer, musician and songwriter. He started out as a street busker and now, in his 30s, he is a successful recording artist with multiple hits and albums.

Amir has won a variety of awards and had numerous concert performances in various countries including Malaysia, Indonesia and Australia.





## ABOUT

# WORLD ISLAMIC ECONOMIC FORUM (WIEF) FOUNDATION

World Islamic Economic Forum (WIEF) Foundation was established in 2006. It is the organising body of the annual World Islamic Economic Forum. The Forum serves as a focal point where country leaders, captains of industry, emerging entrepreneurs, academics and other stakeholders from the Muslim World and beyond, meet to build bridges through business. The Foundation also undertakes various capacity building programmes under the WIEF initiatives of the Businesswomen Network (WBN), Young Leaders Network (WYN), Education Trust (WET) and Roundtable Series (WRT).

# WIEF FOUNDATION'S YOUNG LEADERS NETWORK (WYN)

Aimed at promoting cross-border business opportunities and social projects for the common good, the WYN is a global youth network for young pioneers and changemakers to connect and collaborate. WYN's flagship leadership programme, Young Fellows, focuses on creating a top-class leadership mentality in the next generation, coupled with a strong moral compass embodied in its philosophy of altruistic leadership under the tagline 'Learn. Empower. Earn. Return'. Other initiatives include IdeaLab, a boutique startup conference that connects global investors to the most promising startups around ASEAN, and MOCAfest, which aims to bridge the gap between the creative industries and the business world.

# EVENT ORGANISER

Organised By







## CONTACT DETAILS

### WORLD ISLAMIC ECONOMIC FORUM (WIEF) FOUNDATION

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#### Social Media Links

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-  @WIEF\_Foundation
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-  WIEF\_Foundation
-  WIEF Foundation TV

[www.wief.org](http://www.wief.org)




Initiative By



## WIEF YOUNG LEADERS NETWORK (WYN)

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#### Social Media Links

-  WIEF Young Leaders Network (WYN)
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-  [wyn\\_wief](https://www.linkedin.com/company/wyn_wief)

[www.wyn.wief.org](http://www.wyn.wief.org)