We are pleased to announce that Prof. Dr. Ahmed Ibrahim Abushouk, holder of the Georg Forster Research Scholarship, will be research associate at ZMO (Zentrum Moderner Orient) during the period from 01.10.-31.12.2009. He will be at the Centre for a second stay from 01.04.-30.06.2011.

Ahmed Ibrahim Abushouk is Professor of History at the Department of History and Civilization at the International Islamic University of Malaysia (IIUM), and is currently Deputy Dean for Research and Postgraduate, Kulliyyah of Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Human Sciences. The areas of his interest include Islam and Arabs in Southeast Asia, Islamic revivalism, and British colonial rule in the Middle East and Sub-Saharan Africa. He has published in Arabic and English, including his latest edited books: AL-?th?r al-K?mila li Mujallat al-Man?r 'an Jan?b Sharq ?sy?, 2 volumes, (Kuala Lumpur: Research Centre, IIUM, 2006); The Hadhrami Diaspora in Southeast Asia: Identity Maintenance or Assimilation? (co-editor with Prof. Hassan Ahmed Ibrahim), (Leiden: Brill, 2009).

During his stay at ZMO Prof. Abushouk is working on the project "Ahmad Muhammed al-Surkitti (1876-1943): His life, thought and Islamic reform in Indonesia".

Shaykh Ahmad Muhammad al-Surkitti (1876-1943) was an important figure in the Islamic reform movement in early twentieth-century Indonesia. He was born in the Sudan in 1876, studied in Makkah and Madina for fourteen years (1897-1911), and established his career as a school teacher and a celebrated reformist leader in Indonesia (1911-1943). The purpose of this research project is to examine the early life and career of al-Surkitti in the Sudan and Saudi Arabia, and assess critically his contribution to the islah and tajdid movements in the Malay-Indonesia world. His intellectual and religio-political discord and conflict with the Alawi traditionalists will be investigated in the context of Hadharmi identity and discourse between 'orthodox Islam' propagated by Surkitti and his followers and 'popular Islam' that gave the Alawi sayyids special recognition in their home society in Hadramaut and Diaspora in Indonesia.

For further information on Prof. Abushouk's research visit his homepage: http://staff.iiu.edu.my/abushouk/

If you want to be informed about events with Ahmed Ibrahim Abushouk and for interview arrangements, please, contact: regina.sarreiter@rz.hu-berlin.de
