IFN Investor Awards of Excellence 2026

Recognizing outstanding achievements in the global Shariah compliant investment industry

The annual IFN Investor Awards were established to recognize and celebrate excellence across the Islamic investment industry – including top-performing Islamic funds, leading fund houses and outstanding service providers. These awards highlight innovation, strong performance and commitment to Shariah compliant principles across a diverse range of asset classes, regions and industry roles.

There are three distinct categories for the IFN Investor Awards:

- **IFN Investor Fund Awards**
- **IFN Investor Fund House Awards**
- **IFN Investor Service Providers Awards**

IFN Investor Fund Awards

INTRODUCTION

The IFN Investor Fund Awards recognize the best-performing Islamic investment funds globally over a defined evaluation period. These awards are based entirely on quantitative performance and do not require submissions from fund managers. By relying on publicly available and independently verified data, the IFN Investor Fund Awards aim to uphold objectivity, consistency and transparency across markets and asset classes.

METHODOLOGY

The IFN Investor Fund Awards are assessed using a weighted composite score derived from the IFN Investor Funds Database. The scoring model assigns 80% weight to fund returns and 20% to AuM growth. This ensures transparency, consistent regulatory oversight and reliable benchmarking based on publicly available information. Only Shariah compliant public funds – those listed and traded on recognized exchanges – are eligible. This ensures reliable benchmarking based on regulatory oversight and publicly available data.

Privately held funds are not eligible, as their ownership structure may limit transparency, hinder performance tracking and reduce compliance oversight.

The IFN Investor Fund Awards are presented at three distinct levels:

Country Awards

These recognize the top-performing Shariah compliant funds within each fund domicile. Awards are further segmented by asset class and base currency and are evaluated over both one-year and three-year periods. This dual timeframe highlights both short-term results and long-term fund consistency. Scoring is based on the composite model outlined above, applied at the country level.

Regional Awards

Regional winners are selected from five global regions: Asia Pacific, Middle East, Europe, Africa and the Americas. These awards are derived from normalized scoring across all eligible countries in each region, accounting for disparities in fund universe size, regulatory environments and market maturity. Regional awards also consider both one-year and three-year performance periods.

Global Awards

Global awards highlight the top-performing Islamic funds worldwide, based solely on absolute composite scores for each asset class. These awards are not subdivided by country or currency but represent the highest-performing funds across the entire universe of public Islamic investment products.

The IFN Awards Board reviews the final scores to confirm winners in each eligible fund category.

FUND AWARDS CATEGORIES

- Balanced Funds
- Commodity Funds
- Cryptocurrency Funds
- Equity Funds
- ESG Funds
- ETF Funds
- Fixed Income Funds
- Growth Funds
- Income Funds
- Mixed Assets Funds
- Money Market Funds
- Real Estate Funds
- Retirement Funds
- Sukuk Funds
- Waqf Funds

IFN Investor Fund House Awards (Submission based)

INTRODUCTION

The IFN Investor Fund House Awards celebrate Islamic asset managers that have demonstrated leadership, innovation and long-term value in the Shariah compliant investment space. These awards recognize organizations, not individual funds, and focus on a firm's ability to drive investor outcomes, expand market presence and uphold high governance standards.

METHODOLOGY

Fund houses participate by submitting entries through the official submission form, highlighting their achievements over the past 12 months. Submissions for the Fund House Awards are evaluated through a structured and transparent process led by the independent IFN Awards Board. This methodology is designed to assess not only how well a fund house performs financially, but how it contributes meaningfully to the Islamic investment landscape. Key evaluation criteria include:

- Innovation in product development or strategy
- Performance across managed funds
- Strength of Shariah governance practices
- Market reach and investor engagement
- Contribution to the advancement of Islamic investing

Only one submission is permitted per category, although a firm may nominate itself in multiple categories. Judging is based on merit and qualitative value – not solely size or scale.

FUND HOUSE AWARDS CATEGORIES

- Best Overall Islamic Fund House
- Best Fund House for Institutional Investors
- Best Fund House for Retail Investor
- Most Innovative Islamic Fund House
- Best Islamic Commodity Fund House
- Best Islamic ESG Fund House
- Best Islamic Equity Fund House
- Best Private Equity Fund House
- Best Islamic Fixed Income Fund House
- Best Islamic ETF Fund House
- Best Islamic Real Estate Fund House
- Best Islamic Thematic Fund House
- Best Islamic Waqf Fund House
- Best Regional Fund House

IFN Investor Service Providers Awards (Poll)

INTRODUCTION

The IFN Investor Service Providers Awards acknowledge the vital role of firms that support the infrastructure, administration, advisory and compliance needs of the Islamic investment industry.

These awards recognize the contributions of service providers that enable Shariah compliant investments to operate effectively, grow sustainably and innovate within the market.

METHODOLOGY

A list of eligible firms will be provided and readers of IFN Investor will be invited to vote during the voting period. On completion of the voting period extensive due diligence will be undertaken with the poll results accounting for 80% of the weighted overall result. The remaining 20% will be determined by the IFN Awards Board. Results will be announced at the end of October.

The IFN Awards Board will take into consideration the following criteria:

- Service innovation and value addition
- Technical and operational excellence
- Market impact and client growth
- Shariah-aligned practices where applicable
- Strategic support for the Islamic investment ecosystem

Detailed listings of all categories can be found in the appendix below.

SERVICE PROVIDERS AWARDS CATEGORIES

- Best Advisory Firm to the Funds Industry
- Best Consultancy Firm to the Funds Industry
- Best Custodian to the Funds Industry
- Best Fund Administrator
- Best Law Firm to the Funds Industry
- Best Multi Family Office
- Best Private Bank
- Best Private Equity Firm
- Best Rating Agency to the Funds Industry
- Best Robo-Advisory or Digital Investment Platform
- Best Stock Exchange for Listing of Funds
- Best Trustee to the Funds Industry
- Best Venture Capital Firm
- Best Wealth Manager to the Islamic Investment Industry
- Leading Sovereign Wealth Fund in the Islamic Investment Industry

Awards and Certificates

To enhance recognition and promote performance transparency, the IFN Investor Awards will acknowledge the top three ranked funds within each eligible cluster for the respective time horizon.

IFN Investor Fund Awards

The top-ranked fund in each cluster will be formally designated as the IFN Investor Fund Award winner and will receive a trophy and certificate. The second and third-ranked funds will be publicly acknowledged as runners-up. These funds will not receive a trophy but may request an official certificate of recognition.

IFN Investor Fund House Awards

The winner in each cluster will be formally designated as the IFN Investor Fund House Award winner and will receive a trophy and certificate.

IFN Investor Service Providers Awards

The winner in each cluster will be formally designated as the IFN Investor 'Service Providers' Award winner and will receive a trophy and certificate.

All certificates can be issued physically or electronically, based on request and event attendance.

Submission Guidelines

- IFN Investor Fund Awards are determined by IFN Investor data and do not require submissions. These are limited to public funds – those listed and traded on recognized exchanges.
- For the IFN Investor Fund House Awards, Fund Houses may submit entries for one or more award categories. Only one submission per category is permitted, but a firm may be nominated across multiple categories if applicable.
- For the IFN Investor Service Providers Awards, voting will take place amongst qualified investors during a one-month period. Votes will count for 80% of the overall score, with the remaining 20% being determined by the external and independent IFN Awards Board.

Eligibility Period for IFN Investor Fund Awards

- For 1-year evaluation: Minimum of 1 full year of operations between 1st July 2025 and 30th June 2026
- For 3-year evaluation: Minimum of 3 full years of operations between 1st July - 30th June. These categories will only begin in 2027.

Submission Format and Requirements

- Each category submission must:
  - Be no longer than two pages
  - Be written in bullet form
  - Be submitted in Microsoft Excel, Word or PDF format
  - Clearly state the award category at the top of the document (submissions without this will not be considered)
- All submissions must include supporting documentation such as audited factsheets for performance verification and detailed responses to the IFN Investor Awards submission document, ensuring a rigorous and transparent evaluation process.
- Any confidential information must be clearly highlighted in yellow.
- In the event of a tie or if additional clarity is needed, the judging panel may request a follow-up call. Relevant executives should be made available if contacted.
- All documents must be submitted in English.

Submission Deadline & Contact

- Submission Deadline: Friday, 30th October 2026
- All submissions are to be emailed exclusively to: Andrew.Morgan@REDmoneygroup.com
- Polling will take place between Monday 28th September and 30th October 2026
- All results will be announced on: Wednesday 18th November 2026

IMPORTANT TO NOTE

- Awards will only be given for categories with a minimum of three qualified submissions, from a minimum of two separate organizations
- The IFN Awards Board may reassign a Fund House or Service Providers to additional or more suitable categories at its discretion.

IFN Investor Awards Ceremony

- IFN Investor will host an annual awards ceremony, which will be held in Dubai and Kuala Lumpur in April 2027.
- If you have any questions regarding submissions, please contact Andrew Morgan at Andrew.Morgan@REDmoneygroup.com