

Meeting: 1003, Atlanta, Georgia, MAA CP E1, MAA Session on Mathematics in the Islamic World

1003-E1-446 **Helmer Aslaksen*** (aslaksen@math.nus.edu.sg), Dept. of Mathematics, National Univ. of Singapore, 117543 Singapore, Singapore. *How Does the Islamic Calendar Really Work in Different Parts of the World?* Preliminary report.

Traditionally, the Islamic calendar is based on the first visibility of the crescent Moon. However, this is obviously not a very practical method. A number of prediction based methods have been developed over the years. The goal of this talk is to discuss how the Islamic calendar is currently implemented in different countries. This is not always easy to tell. Many Islamic communities claim to follow observations, but in reality they follow predictions. This talk grew out out a student project aimed at analyzing the Islamic calendar in Singapore. (Received September 14, 2004)