Islamic banks

Are Islamic banks halaal or haraam?.

Praise be to Allaah.

If these banks really
operate according to Islamic sharee ' ah, and they do not deal with riba which

is haraam, and they do not take what is called interest in return for
deferring payment, which is in fact the riba (usury) of the Jaahiliyyah,
even if they call it by some other name, and they do not engage in
transactions which are not acceptable in sharee ' ah, such as selling what one
does not possess, or ' aynah sales or other kinds of transactions that are
not permitted by sharee ' ah – then undoubtedly a bank that does not do these
things is halaal and dealing with it is acceptable according to sharee ' ah.

But if these banks are Islamic in name only and they deal
with riba and other forbidden transactions, then dealing with them is
haraam, even if they call themselves " Islamic banks ", because what counts is
what really happens, not mere names.

The Standing Committee for Issuing Fatwas was asked: Is it
permissible to deal with Islamic banks, even though some of them go against
sharee ' ah and engage in kinds of transactions that are forbidden?

They replied:
It is permissible to deal
with banks and financial institutions that do not deal with riba. But if

they deal with riba then it is not permissible to deal with them, and they are not Islamic banks.

Fataawa al-Lajnah al-Daa ’ imah,
13/310.

And it also says in Fataawa al-Lajnah (13/365):
If the Islamic bank does
not deal with riba, and rather it invests money according to shar ’ i principles, then it is permissible for you to deposit your money with them for investment purposes.