



Commemoration of the  
1400<sup>th</sup> Year of the Revelation  
of the Holy Qur'an  
2010-2011

International Inaugural Conference  
held in İstanbul, Republic of Turkey  
26 Ramadan 1431 H / 5 September 2010



ORGANISATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE  
**RESEARCH CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC HISTORY, ART AND CULTURE**



Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA, İstanbul), a subsidiary of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, is an inter-governmental institution with fifty-seven Member States. Since its establishment in 1980, IRCICA undertakes activities relating to research, publishing, documentation and information on subjects concerning the Islamic civilisation and Muslim cultures including the history of Muslim nations, history of science, archeology, architecture and urbanism, fine arts and handicrafts, preservation of cultural heritage, and cultural development issues.

The Centre tries to encourage cooperation between cultural institutions, universities and the interested public for the purpose of promoting scholarly and artistic endeavours. It initiates and follows up collaborative studies to project a correct image of Islam and Muslim cultures in world opinion, strengthen affinities between its member countries and others by way of cultural cooperation, and thus contribute in building harmonious relations among Muslim nations and with other cultures and communities in the West and the East.

IRCICA's work programs are conducted through original research, organisation of congresses, exhibitions, competitions of arts and architecture, and maintenance of library and archives specialised on Islam and the Muslim world.

## Foreword

DR. HALİT EREN

Last Ramadan, the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) set out to commemorate one of the most significant anniversaries to be of interest to all humankind: the passage of fourteen centuries (AD) since the beginning of the revelation of the Holy Qur'an. At the suggestion of IRCICA - the OIC's research centre specialized in the study of Islamic civilization and Muslim cultures, its Member States decided to adopt a joint program to commemorate this anniversary during the year 2010-2011. The decision was taken by the Council of Foreign Ministers of OIC Member States, at their last session in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, in May 2010. With this decision the Muslim world has undertaken a noble mission in the service of the Holy Qur'an, the supreme guide for salvation in this world and the Hereafter.

Thus we have had the honour to launch the "1400<sup>th</sup> Year of the Revelation of the Holy Qur'an" on the date of 26 Ramadan 1431 H / 5 September 2010 corresponding to the Laylat al-Qadr. To mark the occasion, an International Inaugural Conference was organised in İstanbul by IRCICA under the patronage and in the presence of H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey. We are most honoured by the support and encouragement that has been extended by leaders of the Muslim world to this event. The Prime Minister of Turkey gave a comprehensive inaugural address at the opening ceremony of the conference. H.E. Maître Abdoulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal, Chairman of the 11<sup>th</sup> Islamic Summit Conference, and Chairman of the OIC Standing Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs (COMIAC), sent a Message which was received with gratitude by the conference participants and IRCICA. H.E. Prof.

Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the OIC, delivered an address at the opening ceremony. The participants also heard Prof. Ali Bardakoğlu, Head of Religious Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, at the opening ceremony. Similarly, the working session enjoyed a large and high-level participation by states and specialized institutions. Statements were made highlighting the importance of commemorating this anniversary with pertinent research, educational and informational activities.

The working paper IRCICA presented at the conference served as a reference for the participants during their deliberations. IRCICA's preparations and recommendations made during the conference are outlined in the present booklet.

Essentially, in this endeavour we aimed to create a joint forum to respond to the invitation formulated by the Council of Ministers in its Dushanbe resolution, whereby the Council invites the Member States and the OIC subsidiary and affiliated institutions to commemorate this anniversary with all means. The conference paved the way for their contributions and cooperation towards conducting a beneficial and efficient commemoration program.

We gave importance to inviting to this event Muslims' unions and associations based outside the Member States. A large number of them were represented which reflected the global scope aimed for the Year as a joint program of world Muslims. Furthermore, as underlined by IRCICA and participants in the conference, the Year's activities also aim to address a global audience including non-Muslims: to make the Holy Qur'an understood correctly

and carry its message across peoples and cultures.

While we were trying to define the concept and objectives of the Year and the conference itself we took into consideration the suggestions received from institutions and specialists concerned. We based our preparations mainly on the knowledge and experience that is available at IRCICA after long years of research in various areas of Qur'anic studies. We have done research on old and recent copies of the Qur'an, translations of the Qur'an into world's languages, history of the printing of the Qur'an, arts and crafts related to copies of the Qur'an, among other subjects. The activities that IRCICA for its part will organise during the Year will draw primarily from the outcomes of these studies. This will also give us the opportunity to devise special ways of disseminating more of the outcomes of these studies than what is contained in our publications.

The mission we assumed in the context of the Year has at the same time prompted us to assess and to try to make further use of all that is acquired through IRCICA's studies in this area. Our studies have evolved continuously since the 1980s around two main axes: copies of the Qur'an, and translations of the Qur'an. Relating to copies of the Qur'an, we have published the facsimile editions, accompanied by scholarly studies, of two copies attributed to the time of Caliph Othman; one of them is located in the library of Topkapı Palace Museum in İstanbul and the other, originally at Mashhad Imam Hussein, Cairo, was later transferred to the Central Library of Islamic Manuscripts affiliated to the Ministry of Awqaf of Egypt. We are presently coordinating the preparation of a facsimile

edition of the copy attributed to the time of the fourth Caliph, Ali bin Abu Talib, and located in Sana'a. Relating to translations of the Qur'an, our activities involve research, collection of information, and publication of bibliographies, concerning translations of the Holy Qur'an in languages of the world. The first bibliography of printed translations of the Qur'an was published in 1986, covering 2672 translations in 65 languages printed from 1515 until 1980. A forthcoming, revised and enlarged edition will extend its coverage up to 2000. Relating to the translations that are in manuscript form, the first volume of a series titled *World Bibliography of Translations of the Holy Qur'an in Manuscript Form* was published in 2000, with 293 bibliographic entries about complete manuscripts or fragments in 58 languages, excluding Turkish, Persian and Urdu, which have survived to the present day. Manuscript translations in Turkish, Persian and Urdu which are greater in number as compared to the others, are covered in three separate volumes according to language. The volume devoted to translations in the Urdu language, second in the series relating to manuscript translations, has been published, with 226 entries. We are presently preparing the volumes concerning translations in Persian and in Turkish. Besides these research and publication programs, we also lend our cooperation, upon request, in the printing of special copies of the Qur'an. In this regard, the copy printed in Kazan, Tatarstan in the year 1803, which is the oldest printed copy, has been reprinted under the technical supervision of IRCICA on the occasion of the millennium of Kazan city commemorated in 2005. Another example is IRCICA's participation in the preparation process of the "Mushaf Qatar" released in 2010 by coordinating the competition to

select the calligrapher of the copy. Finally, I would like to add that we have initiated a project for the study of the copies of the Qur'an printed in different places with respect to differences sometimes occurring in their orthography. To this aim, taking the opportunity of the presence of scholars in Qur'anic studies at the International Inaugural Conference of the "1400<sup>th</sup> Year of the Revelation of the Holy Qur'an" we held a meeting of experts at the sidelines of the conference where views were exchanged on the aims and modalities of studies that can be undertaken on the orthography of copies of the Holy Qur'an. The project will continue, in coordination with the authorities concerned and specialists of the Member States.

I believe that the "1400<sup>th</sup> Year of the Revelation of the Holy Qur'an" will stimulate a climate of enthusiasm towards more activities, more learning and more teaching in the service of the Holy Qur'an across the world. With its theme and its scope, the inaugural conference was altogether an expression of union and solidarity of the Member States and Muslim communities under the umbrella of the Holy Qur'an. It carried a message inviting all OIC Member States and specialized institutions to contribute to the program with pertinent events and inform the OIC community on activities already planned or conducted on this occasion in their respective realms.

I wish to conclude affirming IRCICA's readiness to contribute in the organisation of cultural, academic and artistic events to be devoted to this Year in the Member States of the OIC and around the world.





Under the patronage of  
H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan,  
Prime Minister of Turkey

## International Inaugural Conference of the 1400<sup>th</sup> Year of the Revelation of the Holy Qur'an

Istanbul, 26 Ramadan 1431 H / 5 September 2010

An International Inaugural Conference organised by IRCICA launched the OIC's program of commemoration of the passage of fourteen centuries AD since the beginning of the revelation of the Holy Qur'an. The conference was held in Istanbul on Sunday 26 Ramadan 1431H / 5 September 2010, date corresponding to the Laylat al-Qadr. The commemoration program will take place during the year 2010-2011 with the participation of the relevant authorities and institutions of the OIC-IRCICA Member States, Observer States, and Muslims' unions and associations across the world.

The Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference at its 37<sup>th</sup> session (Dushanbe, Tajikistan, May 2010) had approved the suggestion of IRCICA on declaring the year 2010-2011 as a year for the Commemoration of the passage of fourteen centuries on the revelation of the Holy Qur'an<sup>[1]</sup> (Resolution no. 37/6-C). The Council of Foreign Ministers invited the Member States and the OIC subsidiary and affiliated institutions to commemorate this anniversary with all means.

The International Inaugural Conference took place under the patronage and in the presence of the Prime Minister

<sup>[1]</sup> Resolution no. 37/6-C, section A, para 11, "Approves the suggestion of IRCICA on declaring the year 2010-2011 as a year for the Commemoration of the passage of fourteen centuries on the revelation of the Holy Qur'an, and invites the Member States and the OIC subsidiary and affiliated institutions to commemorate this anniversary with all means."



## Expert meeting on the orthography of Qur'an copies

On 4 September, the eve of the opening, a meeting of experts was convened at IRCICA which discussed the concepts and modalities of studies that can be undertaken on the orthography of copies of the Holy Qur'an printed at different places.

The same day, the conference participants attended the opening of an Exhibition of old Qur'an copies at the Turkish-Islamic Arts Museum in Sultanahmet, Istanbul.



of the Republic of Turkey H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. It brought together ministers from nine countries (Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Macedonia, Mauritania, Palestine, Qatar, Senegal, Sudan, and Turkey), heads of religious affairs, members of research institutions and specialists from universities, heads and members of governmental and non-governmental organisations, heads of diplomatic and consular missions, representatives of international organisations, and delegates representing Muslim communities all over the world. The conference was at the same time the first activity organised in the context of the program. Statements were given by the participating ministers, heads of institutions, representatives of Muslim communities and religious scholars.

The audience at the conference comprised a large number of invitees from political, academic and cultural circles and media institutions. Together with the participating ministers, the ceremony hosted members of the Turkish Parliament, as well as ambassadors and consul generals of OIC Member States accredited in Turkey. Among those present at the opening ceremony were the Governor of Istanbul Mr. Hüseyin Avni Mutlu and the Metropolitan Mayor of Istanbul Dr. Kadir Topbaş.

## The Opening Ceremony



The opening ceremony began with the recitation of verses from the Holy Qur'an. Then, a documentary film on the history of the revelation and the spread of the Qur'an was presented to the audience.\*

Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, gave a welcoming address. Then, Prof. Ali Bardakoğlu, Head of Religious Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, addressed the audience.

H.E. Maître Abdoulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal, Chairman of the 11<sup>th</sup> Islamic Summit Conference, and Chairman of the OIC Standing Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs (COMIAC), sent a Message to the conference which was read at the opening ceremony by H.E. Mamadou Bamba Ndiaye, Minister of Religious Affairs of Senegal.

\* The film was produced by Mr. Ahmed al-Mofti, a film producer in Syria, at the request of IRCICA.

Then, OIC Secretary General H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu delivered his address.

The opening ceremony then heard the address of H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey.

With its authentic list of agenda items, its 200 participants, 107 of them delegates from the OIC Member States excluding Turkey, Observer States and Muslim communities around the world, and its audience of around 600 in total, the conference marked an auspicious launch for the commemoration program of the "1400<sup>th</sup> Year of the Revelation of the Holy Qur'an".

The International Inaugural Conference held on 5 September 2010 at Grand Cevahir Hotel, İstanbul, launched the program of the "1400<sup>th</sup> Year of the Revelation of the Holy Qur'an" in a functional manner as it constituted itself a joint platform of reflection and consultation



on the ways of commemorating the Year in the most appropriate, useful and efficient ways. The activities to be devoted to the Year by countries and by organisations will altogether form the first program in its field to involve the OIC members, observers and the Muslim communities across the world.

The conference took note of the need to supply an information inflow to the central archive/record of activities that will be maintained by IRCICA. The outcomes of the Year's events and activities would be published and disseminated to countries and organisations concerned. This will be at the same time one of the ways to conclude the program with promises of permanent benefits; suggestions on other ways to do so are expected to come out from the deliberations.

## The "1400<sup>th</sup> Year of the Revelation of the Holy Qur'an"

In the conducive environment created from the beginning of the Qur'anic revelation 1400 years ago, the civilisation of Islam developed and spread across four continents with concentrations mainly in Asia, Africa, the Middle East, the Iberian peninsula, and eastern Europe. Mergers and interactions of this civilization with local cultures created a diversity of traditions, developments of urban centers, sciences and know-how, languages and arts that made the richness of its living heritage.

The Qur'an's message of peace, compassion and tolerance and its emphasis on learning, knowledge and science, are of utmost necessity for entire humanity at all times. World peace depends on understanding and achieving these eternal values and principles. Explaining them to believers and to non-believers, making them part of public knowledge, contributing to their application, filling knowledge gaps, correcting misunderstandings and erroneous opinions about Islam and about Muslims, are duties to be fulfilled in the service of the Qur'an.

"1400<sup>th</sup> Year of the Revelation of the Holy Qur'an" aims to contribute in this direction by way of scholarly, educational, cultural and artistic activities that would highlight the meanings of the Qur'an on various subjects and disseminate the results of these and other similar existing activities worldwide. The Year's program is conceived at international level, for the 2010-2011 period. Some activities, depending on their nature, would continue beyond that.

The Year is given a multi-disciplinary scope engaging efforts not only from the fields of Qur'anic sciences, related to the contents and the meanings of the Qur'an, but also from other areas concerning the history of the dissemination and the learning of the Qur'an by means of its copies, its translations in world's languages and dialects, and through the arts and techniques which evolved around it.

## Opening Addresses

Address of H.E. Mr.  
*Recep Tayyip Erdoğan*  
Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey

Dear colleagues, honourable guests,  
ladies and gentlemen,

I greet you most sincerely and congratulate all humankind on the occasion of the 1400<sup>th</sup> year AD of the revelation of the Holy Qur'an. I wish that the month of Ramadan and the Laylat al-Qadr open new horizons to all the Muslim world, to our country and to our nation. On this occasion, I extend a warm welcome to the ministers and heads of religious affairs of the Member States of OIC and IRCICA, the representatives of Muslim communities in the Balkans, Europe, Russia and Africa and to guests, brothers from various countries and regions of the world who have joined us.

I wish to express our happiness to be hosting you in the beautiful city of İstanbul, which is one of the most important cities of Islamic civilization and which became, with its hundreds, thousands of assets, a symbol of our noble civilization, our great civilization.

It is said that the Qur'an was revealed in Mecca, recited most beautifully in Cairo, and copied most beautifully in İstanbul. Not only in religious spaces, but also in almost every building, every structure dating from the period after Mehmed II, do we find magnificent masterpieces of calligraphic art inspired by the Qur'an. Our civilization has considered writing as sacred, treated every single letter as it were a part of the Qur'an, and with love and faith has inscribed each letter on paper, on stone, on leather.



For this reason, İstanbul, this old city, is also a city for the Qur'an; it is one of the cities which most closely witnessed the history of the Holy Qur'an.

Dear brothers,

The Divine Message reached humankind 1400 years ago through the intermediary of our blessed Prophet Mohammed. The Qur'anic revelation started with the order "Iqra!", i.e. "Read!" and from that moment on covered all humankind with its warmth, its wisdom, its light. Each revelation further enlightened humanity; each drop of light further enriched the hearts. The first revelation which came to the Hira cave in the year 610 grew in time into a sea of light, an ocean of wisdom. The Divine Message carried, from that tiny cave to all world, calls of friendship, solidarity, sharing and brotherhood. Crossing countries,

regions, continents, it brought the whole world under its influence; thanks to those messages humanity achieved peace and well-being. Peoples who united around the Qur'an's message became brothers, irrespective of affiliation, race or origin. Our togetherness here today, is the picture of such a brotherhood, such a unity.

Our Holy Book, which is under divine protection, continues today to comfort the hearts and illuminate the paths of believers and to convey messages of peace and brotherhood to all humankind. I will not, of course, express philosophic, theoretical views here, in the presence of distinguished scholars and specialists who devoted a life to the Qur'an. However I would like to bring the following point to your attention: only during the period of my functions as Prime Minister, i.e. within eight years, I visited nearly 100 countries. I saw the picture

in Muslim countries. As Ziya Pasha says: "I went around the land of Islam, saw ruins", unfortunately in visits I made to Islamic countries, I too came across those bitter, those sad sights described by Ziya Pasha.

Indeed, the Muslim countries are living an age where poverty is at its extreme, where the income gap widens, intolerance grows, where wars, conflicts and terror have become as if by predestination. This picture certainly does not ensue from the teachings that brought us to being. No doubt, this picture cannot be a state we would have reached departing from the sources that form the bases of our civilization. On the contrary, this picture is the result of a divulgation, of a gap that has opened between theory and practice. Seeing these, I could not keep myself from wondering why Muslims, who throughout history founded so many cities of virtue, many noble states, many great empires, illustrious civilizations, are today far from being able to build splendid cities and works that would win people's admiration. I wondered why the Muslim world, having reached its golden age in the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries, is not able anymore to continue that activity in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. I questioned why the Muslim world, which opened the way of humanity in almost all fields of science from medicine to astronomy, algebra to geometry, physics to geography and produced ground-breaking ideas and inventions, cannot bring out anymore ideas and inventions that would guide the path of history by shaping the future. Then I said to myself, every day leads to a night but every night has a morning. I know very well that for civilizations, countries and nations too there are days and there are nights. Certainly this profound civilization, which made unique contributions to human history, to

the common cultural and scientific wealth of humankind, will one day regain its status, its essence, and obtain the place it deserves on Earth.

Dear brothers,

I feel we have to remind ourselves that while maintaining our belief and our hope in the future, we should work more than ever hand in hand and cooperate to deal with our present problems in full commitment. Also during the trips I made I observed that particularly in Western countries the image of "Islam", the image and perception of "Muslim" is reflected, in a very unfair, totally wrong manner.

As we all see, there is serious Islamophobia today, especially in the West. I reject, I strongly condemn attempts to defame Islam, to associate Islam with terrorism or terrorism with Muslims. Turkey specially underlines it in all platforms: we say that Islamophobia is a human crime. We continue our insistent emphasis on this so that the whole world sees it that way. We explain that Islam is a religion of peace, a religion of life, that above all it safeguards all peoples' right to life. We recall that the Prophet of Islam said, again in conformity with the spirit and the message of the Qur'an, that "Whoever revives one human being, then it is as though he has revived all mankind; whoever kills one human being, then it is as though he has killed all mankind". Similarly, we remind everybody that Islam is a religion of tolerance, that it offers everybody the right to practice his/her faith. Certainly, ill intention and propaganda have been influential in making it so that the Qur'an is perceived differently particularly in the Western world and in Western society. But, can the existence of ill intentions, of bad propaganda, be an excuse? Indeed, how is it

that while there is a holy book that tells the truth in the best way, while that book was preserved for 1400 years, we face difficulty in explaining the Qur'anic message to the world, in expressing ourselves? If the message of the Qur'an can still not be understood or explained accurately despite the passage of 1400 years, then I think we the Muslims should make a serious self-criticism. We should reflect on what we did, what we are doing, to eliminate the existing prejudices. Big duties and responsibilities rest upon the shoulders of our learned people, scientists and religious scholars in particular. "A candle does not lose from its light by lighting another candle" says Mawlana [Jelal-ed-din Rumi]. What we have to do altogether, is to light this candle. Just as we care for our own children we must care for our new generations, our children and our youth. Wherever there is a good, we must be there; wherever there is evil, or violence, we have to have a contribution, a share in correcting it. Success in this depends on our ability to explain the message of the Qur'an duly. ...

The Divine Message which grew and expanded over 1400 years tells us that "human beings are brothers". This, according to me, does not need interpretation or evaluation. On this occasion, I would like to evoke here in particular, our brothers in Pakistan who were hit by the flood. These events have this meaning that they are a test to our brotherhood. I believe that the Muslim world will succeed in this test, that they will lend all the help they can to Pakistan. Turkey has always been with Pakistan until now. After the flood calamity I called the Pakistani Prime Minister Mr. Gilani and told him we are ready to extend all the help that is needed. I conveyed to him



that in addition to monetary assistance we are ready to help in the restoration of the schools, hospitals, bridges in the country. Thanks God our nation, in full sensitivity, is wholeheartedly supporting the aid campaigns we launched. We have a sincere link with Pakistan between our countries, our peoples, beyond diplomatic and political links. Through your intermediary I would like to extend a call to the whole Muslim world, that they come to the rescue of our Pakistan brothers, respond to their calls for aid, give them comfort and consolation, lend them a helping hand. ...

I conclude my words with these thoughts and once again congratulate all humankind on the occasion of the 1400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the revelation of the Holy Qur'an. I wish that Laylat al-Qadr brings well-being, peace and brotherhood to all humankind.

(original: in Turkish)

Message of H.E.

## Maître Abdoulaye Wade

President of the Republic of Senegal, Chairman of the 11<sup>th</sup> Islamic Summit Conference, and Chairman of the OIC Standing Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs (COMIAC), read at the opening ceremony of the conference by H.E. Mamadou Bamba Ndiaye, Minister of Religious Affairs of Senegal

In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful.

Your Excellency the Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey, Your Excellencies Mr. and Mrs. Ministers, honourable ladies and gentlemen the heads of delegations, distinguished invitees,

I would like, first of all, on behalf of His Excellency Maître Abdoulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal and Acting Chairman of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, and on behalf of His Excellency Maître Madicke Niang, Minister of State, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Senegal, and myself, to sincerely thank the Turkish authorities and the Turkish people for the warm hospitality and the multiple marks of care extended to us: the delegation which accompanies me and myself, since our arrival to Istanbul, a crossing point of civilizations or millennia.

Allow me, by the same occasion, to express my gratitude to Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) for having convened this meeting which coincides with a highly sacred night, that is, Laylat



al-Qadr, a major well-known event celebrated by the entire Ummah.

His Excellency Maître Madicke Niang, Minister of State, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Senegal, asked me to convey to you his cordial greetings and his most sincere congratulations on the holding of this ceremony, which has a great symbolic meaning for all the Muslim community.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Our Holy Book, the Qur'an of which we are celebrating today the fourteenth anniversary, which came to Prophet Mohammed on that sacred night, constitutes the foundation of the Islamic religion. Its message and its prescriptions, beyond their sublime dimension, must be continuously revisited in order to preserve social peace and harmony as well as to ensure progress of our communities.

The divine character of its dogmas, supported by unique lexical and morpho-syntactic attributes, conveys at the same time the virtues and values of Islamic belief and by these offers a rescue for all Muslims. Besides its beauty, which, in fact, comes out everyday through the activities of IRCICA, the Qur'anic text guides the Muslim's action and determines his way of existence.

Therefore we have to read its contents, revealed by Allah, as the unique blueprint which can guide us in a world that is in perpetual mutation and victim to catastrophes that become more complex



and pernicious day by day and from the consequences of which no society is spared.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Today Islam is attacked and detracted by enemies from all sides who try, deviously, by ignorance, fear or simple phobia, to present it as a religion of violence and hate.

This phenomenon, which some name Islamophobia, forms a fertile ground for the misunderstandings between Muslim communities and their neighbours, especially in the West, to persist, and has mounting extremism as a corollary.

Our religion commands us to practice our faith in perfect harmony with our fellow people. Those who propound blind violence on behalf of Islam have since long ago turned away from the Qur'anic Message and from the teachings of our Prophet Mohammed S.A.W.

His Excellency Maître Abdoulaye Wade, Acting Chairman of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, asked me to tell you that the best response of the Ummah in the face of Islamophobia should be to make better known the beauty, the actuality and the pertinence of the Qur'anic Message, a message of love, peace and sharing.

In fact, this morning's meeting constitutes, in the view of Senegal, another opportunity to expand our common ambition to tell about the authenticity of the Qur'anic Message.

It is also within the same dynamics that we have hosted in Dakar, from 7 to 9 June 2010, the Conference of Ulamas of Africa which was a brilliant success.

The meeting was an occasion to emphasize the need for Muslims to rely on the actuality of the Qur'anic Message notably in finding appropriate solutions to the challenges that face the Ummah and entire humanity. The latter, if one needs to recall, would consist of a more significant contribution of the Ummah to governance in the world, sharing of knowledge within the Muslim community, and combating poverty by adopting and implementing innovative mechanisms of collection and distribution of the Zakat.

Mastery of these challenges by the Ummah, which necessarily depends on a return to Qur'anic teachings, will be reinforced during the Conference of Ulamas of the Muslim World scheduled to take place in 2011.

I cannot conclude my words without inviting you take part in the 9<sup>th</sup> Session of the Standing Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs (COMIAC) of the OIC which will be held in Dakar on 11-13 October 2010.

That session, to deal with the challenges of information and culture within the Ummah, will also be an occasion to pursue the reflection on further possible initiatives in the line drawn by IRCICA to commemorate the 14<sup>th</sup> century of the Qur'an.

(original: in French)

Address of H.E. Prof.  
*Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu*  
Secretary General of the OIC

Your Excellency the Prime Minister,  
Honourable Ministers, Heads of  
Religious Affairs, distinguished delegates,

I feel honored and privileged to greet you on this auspicious occasion of commemoration of the passage of the fourteen centuries of the revelation of the Holy Qur'an. The Glorious Qur'an is the eternal and timeless Divine Message given by Almighty Allah to all human kind to stay on the path of goodness during the period of our mortal life.

It is timely to launch the commemoration of the 1400<sup>th</sup> year of this great revelation that saved humanity and brought them out from darkness into the light on the date of the Laylat al-Qadr of the blessed month of Ramadan (the month of Allah) in which the Holy Qur'an was revealed to our beloved Prophet Mohammad (P.B.U.H.).

On this auspicious occasion, on behalf of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference and myself, I would like to express my gratitude to His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey, for his patronage of the program and honoring this conference with his presence, and my gratitude to Their Excellencies the ministers and delegates participating from all over the Muslim world.

In particular I would like to congratulate the Director General of the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA)

and his team for organizing this event in implementation of the decision of the 37<sup>th</sup> Council of Foreign Ministers held on May 18-20, 2010 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan by which the proposal of IRCICA regarding this commemoration was adopted.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

This holy book that was the last revelation of the Almighty Allah with lofty teachings set the basic principles and guidelines for the human being to manage his behavior and relationship with himself, with others and with his God. The Qur'an brought within itself a complete code of life to the human kind to follow and to carry out the worldly business in the best possible manner.

Since the early days of revelation, the Qur'anic message was and has been very clear and was addressed to the whole humanity without any discrimination or distinction. Time and again, verses of the Holy Qur'an were studied, analyzed, examined by its followers as well as non-followers with different perspectives and approaches. The more it was studied and applied, the more it proved the truthfulness of its message and manifest the divine wisdom and knowledge behind it.

The conservation of this revelation intact from the days it was recorded in its copies until today without any single change, increase or decrease, is a property exclusive to the Holy Qur'an. The studies conducted by IRCICA for many years and the historical copies of the Qur'an it reprinted, especially its having printed editions of two copies of the Holy Qur'an attributed to Caliph Othman, brought to attention best examples of evidence to that.

One of the unique aspects of the teachings of the Holy Qur'an is that they transcend time, history and space and thus are universal. Qur'an speaks of universal peace, security and brotherhood and forbids killing of innocent human beings and considers murder of an innocent person from any religion or color and ethnicity as the murder of the humanity at large.

I have to underscore how strongly Qur'an gives emphasis to reading and seeking knowledge and its first injunction was to read. Muslims were instructed to learn, teach and help others learn. On this basis, Islam was, in reality, a call to human beings to observe, reflect and ponder on the wonder of the universe, to obtain knowledge to guide his life in tandem with the laws of nature. This was the spiritual incentive that prompted Muslim scientists to explore all venues of knowledge and all branches of science.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

The verses of the Holy Qur'an teach us lessons that apply to our everyday lives and keep us morally, spiritually and materially on the right path. One of the core values of the Holy Qur'an is the question of human rights since it embraces all aspects of human life. The Holy Qur'an is rightly considered as the pioneer of human rights by those who have an in-depth knowledge of it.

Among important aspect of Qur'anic teachings is the emphasis given to humanitarian work. Qur'anic injunctions repeatedly call for the humanitarian aid and make it obligatory on every Muslim to pay part of his income for the welfare of needy and poor. For Muslims humanitarian

work is a way of being rewarded by God and erasing sins. Islam indeed, established a mechanism for the charity work such as *zakat*, *waqf*, *kaffara*. This system of solidarity in the form of humanitarian and charity



work used to be instrumental in bringing about positive social development and prosperity.

As I mentioned earlier, one of the basic teachings of the Holy Qur'an is to reach out to those in distress and to help them and alleviate their sufferings. A great number of people of Pakistan have been hit by calamitous floods and are in the face of an unprecedented humanitarian tragedy. The floods are considered to be the worst humanitarian disaster in the world in recent history. The Pakistani people are in a pressing need of further urgent relief support to be able to respond to its daily needs and overcome this plight. I would like to reiterate once again here, as I affirmed it during my visit to Pakistan, the solidarity of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and its Member States with the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and with the Pakistani people in these critical times. Our Organisation calls once more upon the international community at large and the Islamic World in particular at the level of States, institutions and individuals to extend urgent in-kind and financial support to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to alleviate its burden and help it overcome this humanitarian disaster. I would therefore, appeal to all of you to be inspired by the message of Qur'an and to show your generosity and solidarity with the flood-affected people of Pakistan.

Distinguished Participants,

Before I conclude my statement, I would like to mention that unfortunately despite all the peaceful messages and lofty teachings of the Holy Qur'an, negative campaigns against Islam and the Holy Qur'an are increasing. The rising trend

of Islamophobia is inciting the hatred of Islam and Muslims. Some vested quarters are involved in defaming and smearing the Holy Qur'an by distorting its message and portraying a wrong image of it. Hate campaigns against Qur'an such as the production of the movie called "Fitna" by the Dutch Parliamentarian Mr. Geert Wilders in 2009 and the current initiative launched by a US Church in Florida to burn Qur'an on the occasion of the 9<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the September 11 attacks, have contributed largely in keeping misgivings and misunderstandings about the teachings of Qur'an alive.

I earnestly believe that understanding Qur'an with reason and knowledge, would undoubtedly contribute in dispelling the misgivings and result in developing a culture of mutual understanding, respect and dialogue built on the commonalities and shared values.

I am confident that through the very important initiative of commemoration of the fourteen hundredth anniversary of the Holy Qur'an revelation, and your valuable contributions, the lofty teachings of the Holy Qur'an would get wider recognition and more people will come to know about the real message of the Holy Qur'an.

Address of H.E. Prof.  
*Ali Bardakoğlu*  
Head of Religious Affairs,  
Republic of Turkey

Your Excellency the Prime Minister,  
Your Excellency the Secretary General,  
Honourable Ministers, Heads of Religious  
Affairs, distinguished guests,

Fourteen hundred years ago a book was sent from Heaven, a book that was written in eternity. It was a book that started with the order "Read!" and that read all humanity page by page, phrase by phrase, letter by letter. A book that was sent by Allah as a source of light and salvation. A book which gave knowledge about the Truth by providing evidence and opening horizons that completed each other and thus encompassed all life. A book which enlightened those who stood in darkness. It spoke to us about ourselves, made our God known to us. A book which disclosed the secrets of the universe, of the Creation and of eternal life. It gave well-being as it was read, serenity as it was understood. Fourteen hundred years ago a book was sent by Allah from Heaven, to bestow upon us happiness in life and in the Hereafter. It called human beings to reflection and to learn the truth of existence. It told them that the one who has conscience of himself would be in conscience of Allah, know about the universe and be happy. It led human beings to a noble ethic. It ensured that man lives in harmony with himself, his neighbourhood and his environment. It linked society together with bonds of brotherhood and affection. It became the preface and the epilogue of all books. It is a source of knowledge and learning, full of



knowledge and wisdom. It is a guide of ethic and worship for believers, a book of ruling and orders for those who know it, and books written in later times were written to explain it. This book, which enlightened the horizon of humankind was the Holy Qur'an, the knowledge of Truth which illuminates the path and the heart of human beings at all times. This book, with the values and meanings it carries, the principles of ethic and virtue it sets, remains always fresh and new while everything else wears out. 1400 years ago, on a sacred night of a sacred month, humankind was addressed with a sacred order. The Holy Qur'an reached us on Laylat al-Qadr during a month of Ramadan. That was a night more auspicious than one thousand nights. Today we are on the 1400<sup>th</sup> year of its revelation. Today we have to reread it, understand

it and live with it and for this, we have to head towards the wisdom of Allah and obey to this savior call. .... Our God protected the Qur'an from any damage that might have been caused to it by humans while the Qur'an protected us the believers from any divulcation, ignorance and excesses.

Dear guests,

The Presidency of Religious Affairs declared the 1400<sup>th</sup> year of the beginning of the revelation of the Holy Qur'an, which honoured the world of humans with its messages full of compassion and wisdom, to our Holy Prophet, as the "Year of the Holy Qur'an" and set to endeavour towards a better understanding of the Holy Qur'an and our holy Prophet. For the purpose, it planned series of activities to be undertaken all over the country and everywhere abroad where there are our citizens and related communities, which enjoys the committed support of our civil society. The planned activities aim to convey the timeless and universal message of the Qur'an to as many peoples as possible, to deploy efforts which would open up new avenues of understanding in

conformity with its spirit. It is a source of great pleasure to see that the call to come together around the Qur'an in the Qur'an Year aroused so much interest in our country and at international level.

Dear invitees,

We believe that the activities of the 2010 Qur'an Year will be an occasion for renewed brotherhood, solidarity and union for society and peoples to reinforce their solid, sincere and permanent ties with the Holy Qur'an and to more closely get acquainted with the Holy Qur'an. We believe that the meeting with the Qur'an and the bringing it closer into our hearts, more strongly on the occasion of the Qur'an Year, will not only offer human beings an opportunity to obtain knowledge from it but also to feel revived with the breeze of the Divine Message, to find a respite in the climate of the Qur'an, to improve one's conduct in the light of Qur'anic teachings and to acquire a more learned perspective in contemplating the Creation.

With these thoughts and feelings I congratulate all the participants. I congratulate Dr. Halit Eren who organized the meeting and all IRCICA. I pray to Allah that you all live a proud life in the spiritual climate of the Qur'an, that all activities of the Qur'an Year achieve success, that all prayers made on this sacred night bring unity, solidarity and togetherness of the Muslim world, that all humankind lead a life of brotherhood, love, peace and welfare as aimed by the Qur'an's universal message, and that the Qur'an Year brings happiness to our country, to the Muslim world and to all humankind.

(original: in Turkish)



Address of Dr.  
Halit Eren  
Director General of IRCICA

Your Excellency the Prime Minister of Turkey, Your Excellency the Secretary General of the OIC, Your Excellencies the Ministers, Heads of Religious Affairs, representatives of institutions, distinguished participants, honourable guests,

*In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful. "We have indeed revealed this (Message) in the Night of Power. And what will explain to thee what the Night of Power is? The Night of Power is better than a thousand months. Therein come down the angels and the Spirit by Allah's permission, on every errand: Peace! ...This until the rise of morn!" (Al-Qadr, 97/1-5)*

Peace flew from the dawn from where sprang out the Qur'anic light in a sacred night of the month of Ramadan in order to guide men to the right path and allow him distinguish right from wrong. Peace set in since this light spread out from Mecca, was transcribed by Turks in İstanbul, and preserved by the noble custodians for fourteen centuries until this day. May peace be upon you. Welcome to this meeting that we convened in obedience to the word of Allah: "And in truth We have made the Qur'an easy to remember; but is there any rememberer?" (Al-Qamar, 54/17)

Since the news from the heavens appeared in the Hira grotto enjoining the chosen Mohammed bin Abdallah S.A.W., him, to warn the people to glorify the name of Allah, to clean his dress, to quit all evil,



and to submit to Allah's orders, since the glorious victory Allah gave to his Prophet by leading the faith to perfection and sending us Islam as religion and the Qur'an as constitution, since that day when Allah sent his compassion on his servants who since then have not ceased to record this holy message, to recite it day and night, to gain love and knowledge from its teachings and draw inspiration from its verses for governance and then to set laws. This is the Noble Qur'an, the beautiful word of Allah to His servants, human beings and djins, who are fascinated by the beauty of His word and the pearls it contains. Thus, centuries passed without its being altered or falsified, despite numerous attempts to make it so. It remained the sacred

book conveying the Divine Message to His servants. It is the noble, the great and the magnificent Qur'an that we continue to recite, fourteen centuries later, in the way Prophet Mohammed used to recite it, after he received it, most certainly, through Angel Gabriel.

Today as we celebrate the Qur'an as we exalt and glorify Allah, we take happiness in making a call so that the year that runs between 2010 and the year 2011 be the "Year of Qur'an" whereby we would direct our activities towards serving the Holy Qur'an, implementing successive programs in order to benefit from modern techniques in its diffusion by audio-visual means and by all media, and to expand existing such programs. (original: Arabic)

1400 years ago in a month of Ramadan, God Almighty sent the Holy Qur'an, His Divine Message to humankind reflecting His omniscience and the truth of everything that happened and will happen from the past to the future. God Almighty revealed His Divine Message to His Messenger over a period of 23 years. This Message opened to humankind the paths towards understanding the essence, the reasons, the definitions and the conception of Creation for him/her to cross with his intellect, his intelligence and his worship. This was the guide showing him/her the ways to achieve inner peace in this world and the Hereafter. "There is not a grain in the darkness (or depths) of the earth, nor anything fresh or dry (green or withered), but is (inscribed) in a record clear (to those who can read)" (Al-Anaam, 6/59). We thank God for granting us this sublime guide to lead us to salvation. We the humans are experiencing daily the evidences of the miracle of the Qur'an and are able to grasp some of them. One

of these is that the Qur'an, as fresh it is today fourteen hundred years after its revelation, will eternally remain so. For as times pass and humankind's knowledge and experience on this Earth increase, capability to understand the science and the wisdom of the Holy Qur'an grows. Thus the Qur'an is better understood day by day and remains eternally fresh. "We have, without doubt, sent down the Message; and We will assuredly guard it" (Al-Hijr, 15/9). Another piece of evidence that we are able to observe is that Islam, the faith and life system brought by the Qur'an, has expanded in all directions from the first centuries onwards after its revelation and was assimilated everywhere it reached. Thus Islam formed its civilization which displays a wide diversity between regions notwithstanding its essential unity. This civilization was fertilized with the contributions of different cultures in all four continents it reached. The Qur'anic sciences developed over the centuries relating to the reading, the recitation, the translation into different languages, the understanding and the teaching of the meanings of the Qur'an; the sciences that reached a peak in Islam drawing impetus from the Qur'anic precepts encouraging humankind to science and learning; the cities and settlements built with the methods responding to the needs of personal and communal life; the Islamic arts, with their inspirations and techniques displaying a diversity within unity, reflecting humans' all tangible and intangible experiences within the grasp of their intellect; and among them, the arts of writing and the arts of the book which developed around the copies of the Holy Qur'an; and many other activities, all are, again, examples that help us understand the eternal freshness of the Divine Message.



Countless other examples could be added to these, if human strength and lifetime sufficed to do so, just in the way we are not able to count all the gifts of God: "But if you count the favours of Allah, never will you be able to number them" (Ibrahim, 14/34). On the other hand, we have to take note of the fact that in some places and among certain circles, there are groups of people who do not know the Qur'an and who, due to prejudice or lack of information, engage in negative propaganda and defamatory publications about the Qur'an. This situation outrages Muslims of the world and it is important to deploy cooperation to combat it.

It is in cognizance of these facts that Muslims from all parts of the world within

and outside the Islamic countries have come together here today with their shared belief in and respect for the sublimity and eternal validity of the Holy Qur'an. This gives utmost significance to this conference which under the patronage and in the presence of His Excellency Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister of Turkey, inaugurates the program of the 1400<sup>th</sup> year of the revelation of the Qur'an. Thus the conference acquires a historic importance as the first of its kind that brings together the OIC Member States and the representatives of the Muslim communities outside the Member States.

The present conference is also the first international event in the context of the 1400<sup>th</sup> year commemoration. It brought

together here today ministers from various countries, heads of religious affairs, representatives of institutions working in the Qur'anic sciences and in the publication of copies of the Qur'an, specialists from universities, representatives of the information media, and representatives of the Muslim communities from the Balkans, Europe, Russia and Southern Africa, over 100 participants from outside Turkey in total. The decision to commemorate the passage of fourteen centuries since the revelation of the Holy Qur'an with a program to take place during the years 2010-2011 was taken by the Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC at its meeting in Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan, held last May. By this decision the Ministers of Foreign Affairs invited the OIC Member States and the OIC institutions to commemorate this anniversary. The present conference is expected to generate suggestions and recommendations on how best to do so. Thus beside the activities that are being conducted by various countries, a common international program of the Year begins today.

Our Centre, IRCICA, for its part, will carry on with the work of international scope it has been conducting for 30 years in the field of Qur'anic studies. The Centre has been publishing bibliographies of printed and manuscript translations of the Qur'an in world languages. Furthermore, after having published facsimile editions, accompanied with technical studies, of the Qur'an copies attributed to the time of Caliph Othman and preserved at Topkapı Palace Museum, İstanbul and at Mashhad Imam Hussain, Cairo, respectively, it is now preparing an edition of the copy of Sana'a attributed to the time of Caliph Ali.

On this occasion, I would like to express my profound gratitude to His Excellency Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister of Turkey, who never refrains from reminding the world of the truths and justice in the way to God, who established the alliance of civilizations and supports the related academic works, and granted his support to IRCICA for many years now, and has honoured this conference today by his presence despite his busy schedule of work.

I wish to convey my profound gratitude to His Excellency Maître Abdoulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal, Chairman of the 11<sup>th</sup> Islamic Summit Conference, and Chairman of the OIC Standing Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs, for having honoured the conference with his Message to be read by His Excellency the Minister in charge of Religious Affairs of Senegal.

I would like to express my deep gratitude to His Excellency Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the OIC, who established IRCICA's research projects on translations and exegeses of the Holy Qur'an starting from the earliest years of the Centre.

I wish to convey my deep gratitude to Their Excellencies the Ministers, Heads of Religious Affairs, heads and representatives of organizations and of the Muslim communities, the scholars and experts, and all participants for their presence, and their contributions to the success of the program. May all our efforts serve the good of humanity "And say: "Work (righteousness): Soon will Allah observe your work, and His Messenger, and the Believers" (At-Taubah, 9/105). Thank you for your attention.

## The Working Session



Following the opening ceremony, the conference continued with its working session, under the chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Faruk Çelik, Minister of State of the Republic of Turkey.

The working session was conducted according to the following agenda presented by IRCICA.

### Agenda

1. Presentations and statements by the participants
2. Discussion and formulation of remarks and suggestions on
  - Principles, scope, perspective and guidelines of the Year's program
  - Activities that are already implemented, planned and proposed by the Member States, national, regional and international organizations within and outside the Program
  - Events and activities to be organised within the framework of the Program, international cooperation
  - Modalities of organisation, implementation, cooperation, communication and highlighting of the results of the Year's activities

### 3. Other matters

Presentation of the recommendations of the Consultative Experts Meeting on "Orthography in copies of the Qur'an" held at IRCICA on the sidelines of the Conference

Recommendations on cooperation for the follow-up of the International Inaugural Conference



Presentations and statements at the working session



A total of 25 presentations and statements were delivered during the working session on behalf of the Member States and Muslim communities. Eight ministers took the floor, representing Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Macedonia, Mauritania, Palestine, Senegal, Sudan, and Turkey; high officials from the ministries, state departments for religious affairs, of the Member States also took the floor. An outline of the proceedings is given below, where the presentations are arranged according to the alphabetical order of the countries.



**Mr. Ramiz Zekaj**

*Director General, Albanian Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilisation, Tirana,*

pointed out that today Albanians are settled not only in Albania but also in Macedonia, Kosovo and even Serbia. "Albanians have been interested in Qur'anic studies since they adopted Islam; they rendered considerable services to Qur'anic sciences. Until the beginning of 20<sup>th</sup> century the Qur'an was not translated into Albanian. Interest in reading the Qur'an is still growing today. ... Speaking of Qur'anic studies, I would like to underline that the King Fahd Complex for the Printing of the Holy Qur'an is an important institution. It renders significant services to Qur'anic studies. I would like to take this opportunity also to thank IRCICA here for its studies in this area."

**Mr. Bouzeid Boumedienne**

*Director of Culture, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Awqaf of Algeria,*

gave information to the audience on the activities being carried out in Algeria. An international competition for the memorization of the Qur'an is ongoing,



with the participation of 53 children. “We are trying to keep alive the tradition of memorizing and reciting the Holy Qur’an. We are trying to match old traditions with new technologies. This synthesis of old and new offers us a new model, one that is advanced with respect to form and content.” Mr. Boumedienne then touched upon the question of the differences observed in the recitation and explanation of the Qur’an. “In certain countries we see excesses in the reading, whereby some are trying to develop local methods; this is not advisable. We should underscore and benefit from the richness of our past. Variations in reciting the Qur’an must be preserved; in Africa, in Morocco, in Turkey, this diversity is preserved.” Mr. Bouzeid Boumedienne also referred to the aesthetical dimension of Qur’an copies; “Achievements in calligraphy in copying the Qur’an must be underlined. The successes recorded in Turkey in this field since Ottoman times are praiseworthy.”

**H.E. Mr. Hidayat Orujov**

*Chairman, State Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan for Work with Religious Associations,*

underlined the significance of the conference in bringing all Muslim countries together which would help strengthen their solidarity. He said “As was pointed out by late President Heydar Aliyev in 1994, the religion of Islam has for centuries formed the basis of the spiritual existence of Muslim peoples and enabled them to acquire a place in the world. In Azerbaijan, the Holy Qur’an is our guide towards progress in the path of God; this path we followed until now and this path we shall follow in future. Perhaps one of the main reasons, maybe the first reason why

we are facing problems today is that we have not been able to fully understand and accurately make known to others the contents and the principles of our religion, particularly of our Holy Book. Though Muslims are divided into a number of sects the Qur’an as the sole divine source unites them. Today we have to understand and make known our Holy Book at least as precisely as fourteen hundred years ago. . . . In order that brotherhood is strengthened and confidence is built in the Muslim world, we must give importance to wider diffusion of the truth of Islam. In this regard, we consider the Organisation of the Islamic Conference as a significant step and a great opportunity in this direction.” Mr. Orujov recommended that “For the Holy Qur’an be understood and learnt correctly, there is a need to promote scholarly publications to be prepared by specialists from the Muslim countries. For that, no doubt, a big task is incumbent upon the Organisation of the Islamic Conference and its institutions.” Mr. Orujov presented to IRCICA a beautiful edition of the Holy Qur’an copied in artistic calligraphy under the direction of the President of Azerbaijan H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, as a souvenir of the conference.

**H.E. Mr. Shahjahan Miah**

*Minister of State for Religious Affairs, Bangladesh,*

expressed his sincere thanks, on behalf of the government and the people of Bangladesh and himself, to the Prime Minister of Turkey H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan who gave his patronage to the event and to IRCICA which organised the meeting. The Minister said that the 1400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the revelation of the Holy Qur’an is significant not only for Muslims but for all humanity. “For 1400 years now

peoples and countries are enlightened by the light of the Qur’an. In Bangladesh which won its independence in 1971 after a revolution, 85 % of the population are Muslims. We have 300 000 mosques and tens of thousands of madrasas. The Government of Bangladesh provides all kind of support to these institutions. Around 3800 copies of the Qur’an and books on Qur’anic subjects have been published until now in Bangladesh comprising Qur’an exegeses, books on hadith, encyclopedias and biographies of Islamic scholars. Thousands of madrasas offer courses on recitation, interpretation and memorization of the Qur’an. Most of our universities and all Islamic universities have undergraduate and graduate programs in Qur’anic studies. They also offer PhD programs to study the Qur’an under its different aspects. The information media broadcast special programs relating to Qur’an exegesis. The people of Bangladesh are entirely ready to commemorate the 1400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the revelation of the Holy Qur’an. We have planned to publish books and journals, organise seminars, prepare radio and TV programs that highlight this anniversary. I should also mention that on the occasion of the 1400<sup>th</sup> year of the revelation of the Qur’an, Islamic Publishing institution will publish a three-volume Encyclopedia of the Holy Qur’an.

**Mr. Şabanali Ahmet**

*Head of the Supreme Islamic Council of Bulgaria,*

said that in Bulgaria, similarly to many other Balkan countries, after the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire Muslims entered into an effort to maintain their faith and preserve their identity. “This was not possible until the 1990s; in socialist times

the people had difficulties even in finding copies of the Qur’an to read. At present, services relating to the Qur’an are being established in Bulgaria drawing from the experiences of other countries, in particular Turkey.” The speaker then gave data on these services: 600 course programs were instituted last summer to teach the Qur’an. A school for the memorization of the Qur’an has been active for some years. “Among countries of the European Union, Bulgaria has the largest Muslim population. However in a country which has become full member of the European Union, Muslims’ problems grow day by day. Taking the opportunity of our participation in this international platform, I would like to give you the following information: especially during the last three to four months, there have been problems between state authorities and our Council.”

**Sheikh Ahmed Issa Hassan Elmasarawy**

*from al-Azhar University, Egypt,*

spoke of the methods of memorizing the Qur’an. He recommended that the “Rabbani” method be followed, this being the method taught by Angel Gabriel to Prophet Mohammed. The Qur’an was recited before it was copied in writing, therefore the method of its recitation is important.

H.E. MR. HIDAYAT ORUJOV



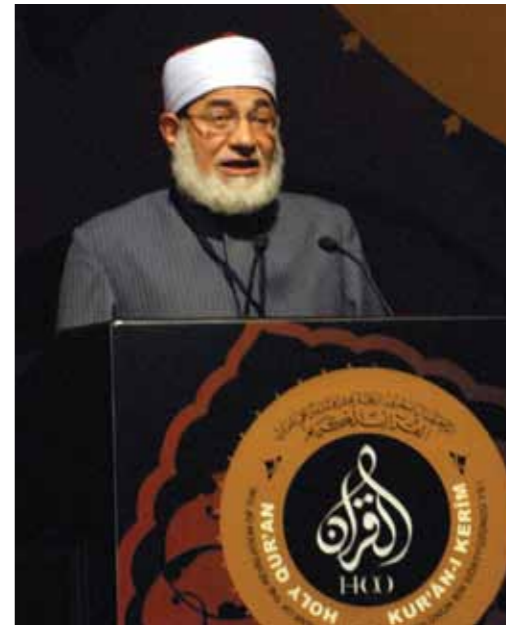
H.E. MR. SHAHJAHAN MIAH



MR. ŞABANALI AHMET



SHEIKH AHMED ISSA HASSAN ELMASARAWY





**Mr. Alhaj Muhammad L. Touray**

*President of the Supreme Islamic Council of The Gambia,*

pointed to the importance of the conference as a platform of cooperation for the development of new strategies.

“Islam expanded rapidly in a short period of time, grew with the contributions of peoples from different nationalities and with different languages, and founded one of the world’s greatest civilizations. The formation of such a great civilization was made possible by the Qur’an, it is a miracle of the Qur’an. From a small community, there grew a large community and a great civilization. This reality must be underlined and its meanings must be researched. ... We must try to understand the policies applied by our Prophet, follow the key to his strategies; this key was the Holy Qur’an. The Prophet invited everybody to adopt Islam and while doing so he was inspired by the Qur’an. What we need today is to understand the Qur’an in the way the companions the Prophet understood it. We need to grasp how the Qur’an was perceived at that time, and our future depends on our understanding of the Qur’an.”

**Mr. Ahmet Haciosman**

*Deputy in the Greek Parliament, representing the Turkish Muslim Community in Greece,*

said that the conference was going to leave an indelible trace in the memories of the participants and expressed his appreciation to IRCICA for having convened it. “Today the Prime Minister of Turkey gave an important message to us, to the Muslim world. We have to be cautious and question ourselves: are we fulfilling our duty towards the Holy Book? Allah’s blessings are numerous. Are we using them properly, as is due? ... Surely the messages given here today will illuminate our path towards the future. Today in this conference we are two colleagues representing the Turks in the Greek Parliament. Our distinguished Mufti is also with us. In Western Thrace there are 150 000 Muslim Turks. Teaching of the Holy Qur’an is done by our elected Muftis, in mosques.”

**H.E. Mr. Muhammed Ali Taskhiri**

*Secretary General, World Forum for Proximity of Islamic Schools of Thought, Islamic Republic of Iran,*

evoked the fundamental universal aspects of the Qur’anic message as the last message sent by Allah to his servants. Thus the Holy

Qur’an completes the message of Allah as the ultimate message to human beings.

**Mr. Ammar Mousa Taher al-Mosawi**

*Director General, Religious Education Office in Diwan of Sheii Waqf, Iraq,*

said that fourteen centuries the Qur’an is being read in homes and in mosques. “We live around these verses, which guide our lives. At the beginning of some Souras there are some letters the meaning of which is not known to us; scholars say there are profound meanings to them. ... In order to know the secrets of the Qur’an, we have to fully observe its orders in our lives. This Holy Book will be preserved eternally. This Book leads all humanity to Allah and to Paradise. While speaking of the Qur’an, we should refer not only to the past; it does not speak of the past only but speaks at the same time of the present and the future. Therefore we should benefit from the Qur’an in building the future.”

service rendered. Mr. Samarrai also gave information on the Muslim community in their region; he said that Islam spreads from the North to the South and that Japan has around 400 mosques.

**Mr. Abd al-Karim Salim al-Khasawnah**

*Mufti of Jordan,*

pointed to the universal principles and teachings of the Holy Qur’an. He said that the Holy Qur’an brings peoples together as exemplified in the present conference. “From the statements made until now, I can speak of a revival in Islam. ... As we all belong to the same Ummah, we must not distinguish between members of this Ummah. ... Just as each nation and each person is being subjected to a test since the earlier times, we are all being subjected to tests today as well. Only in this way can we distinguish good evil ....”

**H.E. Mr. Mutlaq Rashid al-Qarawi**

*Assistant Undersecretary of External Relations, Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs of Kuwait, spoke on behalf of H.E. Mr. Rashid Abdulmuhsin Al-Hamad, Deputy Prime Minister for Legal Affairs, Minister of Justice and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Kuwait.*

Recalling, on one hand, the attacks being directed against the Holy Qur’an and Islam at different places of the world and, observing, on the other, that in many places there is a decadence in the understanding of the Holy Qur’an whereby people perceive it as a text and do not make efforts to grasp its meanings and apply its orders, he said that the Muslim world has to renew its commitment to its duties and responsibilities towards the Holy Qur’an. “We must understand and obey to the Qur’an in the senses it was sent by Allah

**Mr. Salih Samarrai**

*Chairman of the Islamic Center Japan,*

expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the OIC Member States for their decision to commemorate the 1400<sup>th</sup> year of the revelation of the Qur’an; he also thanked IRCICA for having made the suggestion in that direction. He gave information on the activities that the Islamic Center of Japan is organising in Japan and also in Korea. Mr. Samarrai pointed to the difficulty in organising such programs in countries where Muslims are in minority. He said that publishing translations and exegeses and promoting Qur’anic education in such countries would be a great

MR. ALHAJ MUHAMMAD L. TOURAY



MR. AHMET HACIOSMAN



H.E. MR. MUHAMMED ALI TASKHIRI



MR. AMMAR MOUSA TAHER AL-MOSAWI



MR. SALIH SAMARRAI



MR. ABD AL-KARIM SALIM AL-KHASAWNAH



H.E. MR. MUTLAQ RASHID AL-QARAWI



and understood and practiced by our Prophet.” Mr. Qarawi spoke of the activities being carried out in Kuwait. “The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs makes all efforts possible in the country towards the printing of the Qur’an and diffusion of its message worldwide. At the Ministry we are working continuously to institute new venues where the Qur’an would be recited and explained. We have developed a project for the youth in particular to come together and read the Qur’an. We will benefit from any effort we make to better understand the Qur’an. The Qur’an will be read, understood correctly, and with the strengthening of Islamic thought Islam will regain its original status. This is the main goal of our institutions. I would like to mention that in the field of Qur’anic education, 80 course programs have recently been opened where over 2000 students have learnt to read the Qur’an. This year our Ministry has established a Centre for Qur’anic Studies which is also in charge of printing copies of the Qur’an.”

**H.E. Mr. Hadi Nezir**

*Minister of State of Macedonia,*

said that all Muslims are brothers and thanked IRCICA Director General Dr. Eren for convening the meeting. H.E. the Minister told the audience the following anecdote: “an American professor studied the Holy Qur’an for 25 years and then converted to Islam; telling his story to his students, he said ‘I adopted Islam after reading the Qur’an; had I looked at Muslims only I would never do so.’ That is to say, reading and understanding the Qur’an is not sufficient; we have to apply the Qur’an’s principles in our life and thus serve as example to other peoples. Though we lived under communism for fifty years the

call for prayers from our minarets never stopped. We never failed to read the Qur’an in our mosques, we will never fail to do so in future and will obey to it until eternity.”

**H.E. Mr. Ahmed Ould Neini**

*Minister of Islamic Affairs and Education, Islamic Republic of Mauritania,*

reaffirmed Mauritania’s readiness to endeavour in the service of the Holy Qur’an and the Islamic civilization. The Minister pointed out that the Qur’anic message must be diffused further, lecture and recitation of the Qur’an must be given emphasis. “In my country, children of very young age succeed in memorizing the Qur’an. We have a radio station that broadcasts recitations of the Qur’an on 24-hour basis. What I would like to emphasize here is that whenever we see belief in the Qur’an weaken in hearts and minds, we should pay attention and multiply our efforts. I would like to thank Turkey for its efforts in this direction.”

**H.E. Mr. Mahmoud al-Habbash**

*Minister of Awqaf and Religious Affairs, Palestine,*

referred to the devoted and self-sacrificing struggle Palestinians are leading for the cause of Al-Quds, the cause of Islam. “Under the hard conditions imposed by occupation, embargo and oppression, we have been able to publish a new edition of the Beit al-Makdis Qur’an copy. Thus efforts to reproduce a facsimile edition of the Beit al-Makdis copy have enabled us to prepare it for printing.”

**Mr. Murat Yusuf**

*Mufti of the Muslims in Romania,*

on behalf of the Muslim community in

Romania and himself, thanked Dr. Halit Eren, IRCICA Director General, for having convened the conference in the sacred Laylat al-Qadr of Ramadan. “Thus the Muslim countries on one hand, and the Muslims living in minorities elsewhere on the other, all came together in the Ottoman capital which in my opinion corresponds very well to the order of Allah in the Holy Qur’an that reads ‘And hold firmly to the rope of Allah all together and do not become divided.’” [Al-i Imran, 3/103]

**Mr. Muhammed Salim bin Shedid al-Aoufi**

*Secretary General, King Fahd Complex for the Printing of the Holy Qur’an, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,*

said that the King Fahd Complex for the Printing of the Holy Qur’an, located in Medina, the place of origin of Islam, endeavours in the service of the Holy Qur’an with the support of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdallah Bin Abdulaziz. “We instituted faculty departments, established programs, organised competitions at national and international levels, the most noteworthy among them being the King Abdulaziz Competition. Many competitions were held at national level. We have a 24-hour radio station and a TV channel for the Qur’an: In addition, we have a TV channel that broadcasts programs relating to the Sunna (tradition) of the Prophet. ... The copies of the Qur’an and translations of the Qur’an published at the Medina Complex are distributed worldwide; tens of millions of copies are distributed in Muslim countries every year; a total of 260 million Qur’an copies were distributed until now. Scholars from various part of the world cooperate in this complex. .... In a few months we shall organise a conference in our Complex...”

Referring to the differences in the recitation and the orthography of the Qur’an, “As the Minister in the Sudanese delegation has mentioned, the differences in the recitation and the orthography of copies of the Qur’an must be preserved...”

**Mr. Haroon Kalla**

*President, Board of Trustees, AwqafSA, South Africa,*

recalled that the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Islam in South Africa was commemorated recently, and that the experience gained in that commemoration would now serve in commemorating the 1400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the revelation of the Holy Qur’an. Mr. Kalla formulated two suggestions of the delegation of South Africa to IRCICA: first, that an institute be established by OIC and IRCICA to work in the area of Qur’an exegesis, and that this institute coordinate the editing of a new exegesis of the Qur’an which would take into consideration the difficulties and problems facing Muslims in our time and which would be arranged according to thematic headings such as social justice, economy, environment, etc. The second suggestion was that efforts be intensified to promote the teaching of Arabic in non-Arabic speaking countries.

**H.E. Mr. Azhar al-Tigani**

*Minister of Awqaf of Sudan,*

said that in order to protect their societies from violence and extremism, Muslim countries’ best guide is their religion, Islam. “Islam is a religion of moderation. We see that Islam calls us to moderation in all aspects of our life. Especially in the present time, when globalization carries a number of negative elements in it, we

H.E. MR. HADI NEZIR



H.E. MR. AHMED OULD NEINI



H.E. MR. MAHMOUD AL-HABBASH



MR. MURAT YUSUF



MR. MUHAMMED SALIM BIN SHEDID AL-AOUFI



MR. HAROON KALLA



H.E. MR. AZHAR AL-TIGANI





from the point of view of the psychology of Qur'an readers can be undertaken, and this psychological analysis can become part of modern scholarship in Qur'anic studies. IRCICA can guide such works with the support of the Member States. ... I would like to thank Turkey for playing a central role in promoting the Islamic civilisation."

**Mr. Ahmed al-Mofti**

*a calligrapher from Syria,*

praised the project undertaken by IRCICA whereby the Centre publishes editions of the Qur'an copies dating from the time of Caliph Othman. He said that this reminds us of the Qur'anic studies that were done at that time. He suggested that a council be formed to examine existing exegeses and correct distorted and incorrect interpretations they might contain.

**H.E. Mr. Faruk Çelik**

*Minister of State of Turkey,*

informed the participants of the activities of commemoration undertaken in Turkey to commemorate the 1400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the revelation of the Qur'an. "Until now 500.000 copies of the Qur'an and its Turkish translation were distributed free. Messages highlighting the Qur'an Year were publicized on 2.500 billboards, with 500.000 posters. Seventeen symposia, twenty panels, and 1.227 lectures were organised in different cities. 1.650 programs of Qur'an recitation were broadcast, 959 competitions and 804 other programs were shown on TV channels. 27.147 Qur'an recitation programs were done, among others. These activities will continue in the coming months." Mr. Çelik expressed his appreciation to all representatives of the

have to keep the dynamism of our youth by advising them on the basis of the Qur'an. We must benefit from the activities of institutions such as IRCICA." The Minister said that the Qur'an has to be made known to all humanity, and made recommendations on activities to be undertaken during the Year and afterwards. "The message of the Qur'an must be understood wholeheartedly; states must make an effort to promote the lecture of the Qur'an; competitions for the recitation and understanding of the Qur'an must be multiplied at national and international levels. Furthermore, an effort must be devoted to preserving the different recitation methods developed in different regions. Qur'anic studies must be promoted by setting up departments with specially designed curricula in universities. Academic programs must be established, seminars must be instituted. I would like to invite IRCICA to direct a research project on the universality of the Qur'an's message. For example, an analysis of this message

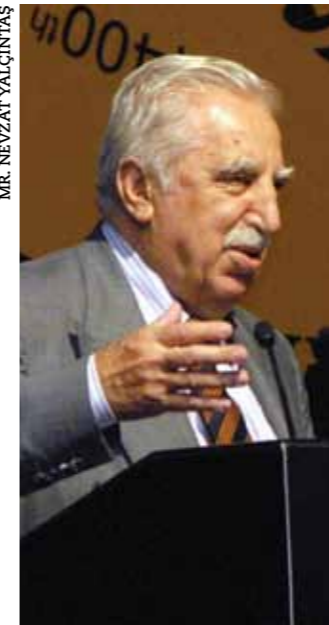
MR. AHMED AL-MOFTI



H.E. MR. FARUK ÇELİK



MR. NEVZAT YALÇINTAŞ



**Mr. Ahmet Şişman**

*from the Holy Qur'an 1400 Platform, Turkey,*

gave information on the activities being held within the framework of the commemoration program launched under the supervision of the Presidency of Religious Affairs of Turkey. He expressed thanks to IRCICA for carrying the commemoration initiative to international level. Mr. Şişman pointed out that an important aspect of the activities organised in Turkey is the participation of NGOs, and that therefore, all authorities and institutions concerned and pertinent NGOs came together to form the Holy Qur'an 1400 Platform. As to the international aspect of the commemoration, it aims to enlarge it to the entire Muslim world. "The 1400<sup>th</sup> year is one year among the others, but what we aim by this is to make a new

states and associations participating in the conference for their contributions.

**Mr. Nevzat Yalçıntaş**

*former deputy in the Turkish Parliament,*

suggested that a conference as this one could be repeated each year, or at least once every two years. Then he emphasized the importance of the mosque as a place to learn to read the Qur'an.

"The mosque and the teaching of the Qur'an are inseparable from each other. ... Today there are mosques in all major capitals; however there is none in Athens, where live hundreds of thousands of Muslims. ... This has been an excellent meeting where everybody has been able to make suggestions. I hope it will be renewed in the coming years."



beginning, a good beginning, a regular and strong beginning."

**Mr. İbrahim Şerifi**

*the Mufti of Muslims of Western Thrace,*

said that the importance his community attaches to this conference was evident in the wide composition of the delegation attending it. "We are 150.000 Muslims living in Western Thrace for more than eighty years in full attachment to our values. I can say with confidence that we are living in conformity with the Qur'an. 70% of Western Thrace population are able to read the Qur'an from its original Arabic. Our customs and traditions continue in a way that is conform to the traditions of the Prophet. In the Komotini province where I work, we are teaching the Qur'an to 3 000 primary school pupils in 95 course programs."

MR. AHMET ŞİŞMAN



MR. İBRAHİM ŞERİFİ



Discussion and suggestions on various aspects of the program on the basis of the Working Paper presented by IRCICA

The participants, having heard the statements and presentations made and taken note of the Working Paper presented by IRCICA, formulated suggestions on scholarly, artistic, educational, and other activities that can take place at national, regional and global levels. These suggestions, outlined below, can serve as references and guidelines.

**I Organisational modalities: authorities and institutions**

The authorities and institutions to collaborate in the program of the “1400<sup>th</sup> Year of the Revelation of the Holy Qur’an” are: the pertinent Ministries and religious authorities in OIC Member States and Observer States; religious representations and associations of Muslim communities in non member states; universities’ departments of Islamic studies, faculties of letters, faculties of fine arts, research institutions and NGOs involved in these areas, the press and public media, specialists of the sciences and the various arts connected with the study and the diffusion of the Qur’an. Engagement and

cooperation of civil society, information media, cultural and artistic publications as well as TV channels, is a necessary condition to help widen the audience and the impact of the activities.

It was suggested that countries designate their focal points to communicate with IRCICA so that information on their events and activities be included in IRCICA’s archive/records and consequently, in the report of the program.

**II Types and themes of activities**

Scholarly, artistic, educational, and other activities to be devoted to the Holy Qur’an on the 1400<sup>th</sup> year of the beginning of its revelation, and which can be organised at national, regional and global levels, can include the following.

**II 1. Types of activities:**

- 1 Symposiums, conferences and lectures to be held in the Muslim world and beyond, including the major European, Asian and American capitals. These events would be organised in cooperation with major media and TV organs and with universities (their departments of theology, letters, history, their divisions of Islamic studies, comparative religions, Middle Eastern/ African/Asian studies, among others)
- 2 Additions to the contents of lectures and course materials in the relevant departments of universities to highlight the special occasion of the Year
- 3 Posting highlights on the Year in websites about Islam and the Muslim world; establishing a special website on this occasion



- 4 Holding exhibitions in major museums and libraries
- 5 Broadcasting TV-radio program series, publishing special issues of major cultural periodicals
- 6 Promoting the recitation of the Qur’an by various activities including
  - i. enhancing recitation courses already conducted in the Member States by special lectures highlighting the 1400<sup>th</sup> year of the beginning of the revelation
  - ii. expanding the competitions for the recitation of the Qur’an existing at national and international levels in order to highlight this occasion
  - iii. organising Qur’an recitation sessions by teams to travel to different venues within and outside the Muslim world; holding sessions for non Muslim audiences at cultural centers and enriching them with lectures/interpretations by scholars
- 7 Examining the translations of the Holy Qur’an, organising congresses with this aim
- 8 Instituting award competitions to acknowledge remarkable individual and institutional contributions in:
  - i. studies (through publications) and audio-visual media products and services (such as documentaries, archives), especially on themes of universal relevance in our time, such as ensuring correct understanding of the meanings of the Qur’an, inter-faith dialogue, etc.
  - ii. arts and skills developed around the copying of the Qur’an (such as calligraphy, gilding, illumination, binding, inscriptions and applications of verses on various materials)
  - iii. other achievements in all areas



- 9 Promoting the Qur’an museum, by
  - i. raising awareness and increasing public knowledge about the Qur’an museum, making better known the existing Qur’an museums and other museums and libraries/archives holding collections of copies of the Qur’an
  - ii. drawing a roster or a guide to these institutions
  - iii. supporting the establishment of such museums or library departments at places they do not exist which would help to bring together and preserve the Qur’an copies found at those places
  - iv. working towards establishing a virtual Qur’an museum on Internet for the reference of all those interested
- 10 Diffusing programs on major international TV channels and in cooperation with academic institutions in order to generate long distance interactive dialogue and question-and-answer sessions addressing various groups of society – faith communities, students, etc. with the aim of correcting misunderstandings and misinformation about the Qur’an

**II 2. Themes of the activities:**

The themes are to be selected from a vast field of knowledge and experience.

Examples are:

- 1 On Qur’anic concepts and teachings and their eternal significance: The Holy Qur’an and the Prophet; The Holy Qur’an as source of civilization; The human being, human rights and tolerance in the Qur’an;

Science and learning in the Qur'an; The Qur'an as a source of solutions to present-day problems; Misunderstandings and misinformation about the meanings of the Qur'an

**2** On the history of the spread of the Qur'an across the world: The oldest and old copies of the Holy Qur'an, making them better known through studies and publications; Studying and teaching the history of the printing of the Qur'an; History of translations and exegeses of the Qur'an (bibliographic studies)

**3** Relating to fields of studies about the Qur'an: Records and rosters of institutions engaged in the printing and diffusion of the Qur'an, in the study and teaching of the Qur'an, in the conservation of its copies, and other work in the service of the Qur'an

**4** On the arts related to the copies of the Qur'an: History of development and significance of the arts related to the Qur'an; Case studies, regional cases, etc. in the history of arts related to the Qur'an; Inscriptions and applications of Qur'anic verses in architecture and archaeology.

### III Diffusion and conservation of the results of the program:

**1** "1400<sup>th</sup> Year of the Revelation of the Holy Qur'an" is expected to contribute to promoting religious and spiritual life, public and formal education, social solidarity and cooperation among peoples in the Muslim world and beyond and to inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogue. The "1400<sup>th</sup> Year of the Revelation of the Holy Qur'an" thus promises to bear a wealth of products in the form of publications, documentary, audio-visual recordings, artworks, etc. part of which would be additions to sections in libraries, archives and museums. Other

results expected to be of long-term benefit include:

i. greater awareness of the public as well as professionals concerned on the institutions of scholarly research and education engaged in various types of activities in the study and diffusion of the Holy Qur'an

ii. exchanges and collaboration among the institutions engaged in research, teaching and other activities in the service of the Holy Qur'an

iii. promotion and encouragement of the studies, authorship, education, arts, etc. relating to the Holy Qur'an, among others.

**2** Diffusion and conservation of these results and their mobilization for continued benefit in the service of the Holy Qur'an require that all parties participating in the program provide a regular inflow of information to the archive at IRCICA about their activities and also publicise them in their relevant websites and by other means in order to increase their impact. Regular exchange of information and regular contacts will help to ensure the permanence and continuity of the outcomes of the Year, because in this way international cooperation can be deployed to publish them, to co-organise their expansion into larger projects, to build partnerships in institutionalizing them in the form of long-term research and activity programs, among countless other potential benefits that can thus continue to serve the objectives of the Year even well after its commemoration.



## Concluding remarks

State Minister of Turkey Mr. Faruk Çelik, who chaired the working session of the conference, and Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, gave concluding remarks. The Governor of Istanbul Mr. Hüseyin Avni Mutlu greeted the audience expressing congratulations on the occasion of Laylat al-Qadr. The concluding remarks are outlined below.

*Concluding remarks by Mr. Faruk Çelik, Minister of State of Turkey, Chairman of the working session*

The Minister of State said that what was being done to commemorate the Year was described during the session, and that future events to be organized during the Year had to be determined. "In our country we have 90 thousand mosques; over 100 thousand permanent staff are serving in them; these figures alone indicate the density of activity in this domain". The Minister said that the speakers at the session had made important recommendations. "In these recommendations I took note of two points: the activities must be planned in a way to have a strong impact. Everybody must know about the Qur'an. Everybody must feel it. The Qur'an is not addressed to the Muslim world alone; it addresses whole humankind. Therefore, I consider it as a duty in the service of the Qur'an to make known the Qur'an to the entire world, instead of limiting ourselves to certain regions. I believe we must see the matter from this angle. Secondly, in these activities we must make use of new means as well."

*Concluding remarks by Dr. Halit Eren, Director General, IRCICA*

IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren said: "Today, a torch has been lit here; a torch that illuminates the international side of the activities to be held in the coming year. His Excellency the Minister proposed that activities of high impact be organized. Actually this morning after the opening, we had a talk with the Head of Religious Affairs of Turkey and agreed on the principle of holding an international conference on the Holy Qur'an, not a one-day conference like this one but a conference which can perhaps look into all aspects of the Qur'an. We shall begin the related preparations as of next week. As to the present one, I would like to recall its background process, which I could not describe earlier due to time limitations. About six months ago, when the Presidency of Religious Affairs launched the Qur'an Year program, some colleagues came to us and asked what IRCICA could do. I said that we could extend an invitation to the Muslim world and raise the matter to international level. Then our suggestion was met positively by the Council of Foreign Ministers. The Council decided that the Year be commemorated in all Muslim countries." Dr. Eren affirmed IRCICA's readiness to cooperate with states, their authorities and institutions and the Muslim communities to organise events and activities during the coming period of one year. "As indicated by His Excellency the Minister, we are expecting to receive suggestions on the activities to be held during the Year, to receive proposals for joint activities, upon which we shall look into the possibility of realising them and also submit these proposals to the forthcoming OIC conferences."

## List of participants

### ■ Albania

Ermal Muça, *Consul General*  
Ramiz Zekaj, *Director General, Albanian Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilisation*

### ■ Algeria

Bouzeid Boumediene, *Director of Culture, Ministry of Religious Affairs & Awqaf*  
Rachid Meddah, *Consul General*

### ■ Azerbaijan

Hidayat Orujov, *Chairman, State Committee of Religious Affairs*  
Gunduz Ismayilov, *Head of Department, State Committee of Religious Affairs*

### ■ Bahrain

Ebrahim Yousef al-Abdullah, *Ambassador*

### ■ Bangladesh

Md. Shahjahan Miah, *Minister of State for Religious Affairs*  
Zulfiqur Rahman, *Ambassador*  
Md. Zafor, *Director General (West and South Asia), Ministry of Foreign Affairs*  
Soumendra Lal Chandra Sailen, *Assistant Undersecretary, State Ministry for Religious Affairs*

### ■ Bosnia and Herzegovina

Ismet Busatlic, *Dean, University of Sarajevo*  
Mustafa Jahic, *Director, Gazi Husrev Bey Library*

### ■ Bulgaria

Şabanali Ahmet, *Head, Supreme Islamic Council*  
Kasım Dal, *Deputy, Bulgarian Parliament*  
Mustafa Hacı, *Grand Mufti, Bulgaria*  
Basri Bekir Eminefendi

### ■ Egypt

Sheikh Ahmed Issa Hassan Elmasarawy, *al-Azhar University*  
Mohammed Assem Ibrahim, *Ambassador*  
Abd al-Karim Awad Salih, *al-Azhar University*  
Ashraf Mohamad Saadi Ali, *Scientific Council for Research on Qur'an and Sunnah*  
Hasan Allam, *Media Reporter, Akhbar al-Yawm*  
Hala A. Zaki Attia, *Media Reporter, Al-Ahram Newspaper*

### ■ Gambia

Njogu L. Bah, *Secretary General, Office of the President*  
Alhaj Muhammad L. Touray, *President, Gambia Supreme Islamic Council*  
Gibril Seman Joof, *Ambassador*  
Kawsu Drammeh, *Undersecretary, Ministry of International Cooperation and Gambians Abroad*

### ■ Germany

Abu Bakr Rieger, *Chairman, European Muslims Union*  
Malik Sezgin, *Chairman, European Muslims Union*

### ■ Greece

Ahmet Haciosman, *Deputy, Greek Parliament*  
Çetin Mandacı, *Deputy, Greek Parliament*  
İbrahim Şerifi, *Mufti*  
Mustafa Sarnıç, *Consul General, Komotini*  
Ömer Cengiz, *Çınar journal*

### ■ Iran

Muhammed Ali Taskhiri, *Secretary General, World Forum for Proximity of Islamic Schools of Thought*  
Hasan Aminyan, *Head, Bureau of International Organizations, Organisation of Culture and Islamic Relations*  
Sadegh Kakouei, *World Forum for Proximity of Islamic Schools of Thought*

### ■ Iraq

Ammar Mousa Taher al-Mosawi, *Director General, Religious Education office in Diwan of Sheii Waaf*  
Adil Zamel Huleys al-Kunewi, *Religious Education office in Diwan of Sunni Waaf*  
Mohamad Al-Hamdany, *Cultural Attache*

### ■ Italy

Yahya Sergio Pallavicini, *Vice President, Italian Islamic Religious Community*

### ■ Japan

Salih Samarrai, *Chairman, Islamic Center Japan*

### ■ Jordan

Abd al-Karim Salim al-Khasawnah, *Mufti of Jordan*  
Yahya Abu Leben, *Deputy Minister, Ministry of Awqaf & Islamic Affairs*

### ■ Kosovo

Naim Ternava, *Mufti of Kosovo*  
Eyup Ramadani, *Islamic Community of Kosovo*

### ■ Kuwait

Mutlaq Rashid al-Qarawi, *Assistant Undersecretary of External Relations, Ministry of Awqaf & Islamic Affairs*

### ■ Kyrgyzstan

Sulayman KayıpoV, *Rector, Kyrgyz-Turkish Manas University*

### ■ Lebanon

Abdulrahim Abuhusayn, *Professor, American University of Beirut*

### ■ Macedonia

Hadi Nezir, *Minister of State*  
Kenan Hasip, *Chairman, Turkish Democratic Party*  
Hayrullah Misin, *Deputy, Macedonian Parliament*  
Hacı Suleyman Recepti, *Chairman, Islamic Union in Macedonia*  
Adnan Ismaili, *President, MERHAMED*  
Afrim Tairi, *Secretary General, Islamic Union in Macedonia*  
Nizam Reşit, *Coordinator, Islamic Union in Macedonia*  
Zerrin Abaz, *Consul General*  
Süleyman Baki, *MATUSITEB*  
Beytullah Muça, *MATUSITEB*

### ■ Mali

Maliene Ibrahim, *Department of Religious Affairs, Presidency Council*  
Oumar Touré, *Department of Religious Affairs, Presidency Council*

### ■ Mauritania

Ahmed Ould Neini, *Minister of Islamic Affairs and Education*  
Mouhamed Mahmoud Ould Bejana, *Advisor, Ministry of Islamic Affairs and Education*

### ■ Mauritius

Dawood Auleear, *President, Alif Society*

### ■ Nigeria

Ahmed Abdulhamid Mallamadori, *Ambassador*

### ■ Oman

Qais bin Salim bin Ali al-Said, *Ambassador*  
Salim bin Hilal bin Salim al-Khrosy, *Head of Department, Ministry of Foundation and Religious Affairs*

### ■ Pakistan

Yousaf Junaid, *Consul General*  
Khurram Qadir, *Director, National Institute of Historical & Cultural Research*

### ■ Palestine

Mahmoud Al-Habbash, *Minister of Awqaf & Religious Affairs*  
Nabil Maarouf, *Ambassador*  
Saliha Ihsan Tawfiq, *Director, Educational City Project, Damascus*

### ■ Qatar

Gaith al-Kuwari, *Minister, Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs*  
Khalid al-Azmi, *Consulate General*

### ■ Romania

Murat Yusuf, *Mufti of Romania*

### ■ Russia

Timur Akulov, *Director of the Department of Foreign Affairs, State Advisor to President of International Affairs*  
İlduz Faizov, *Muslim Religious Board of Tatarstan*  
Radik Gimatdinov, *Representative of Tatarstan in Turkey*

### ■ Saudi Arabia

Muhammed Salim bin Shedid al-Aoufi, *Secretary General, King Fahd Complex for the Printing of the Holy Qur'an*  
Mohamed Raja al-Hussaini, *Ambassador*  
Nabil Hammad, *World Muslim League, Holy Qur'an Memorization International Organisation*  
Zeyd bin Ali al-Dukkan, *Director, External Conferences and Exhibitions, Ministry of Islamic Affairs and Awqaf*

### ■ Senegal

Mamadou Bamba Ndiaye, *Minister of Religious Affairs*  
M. Moustapha Gueye, *Special Advisor to the President*  
Ndeye Oumou Gueye, *Officer, Directorate of International Organizations of Ministry of Foreign Affairs*  
Pape Ibra Samb, *Rector, Université de Thiès*  
el-Hadji Omar Gueye, *Director, Institut Islamique*

### ■ Serbia

Adem Zilkıç, *Reis-ul-Ulema, Islamic Community of Serbia*  
Hasip Sulovic, *Mufti of Sarjak, Islamic Community of Serbia*  
Jakup Lekovic, *Islamic Community of Serbia*

### ■ Slovenia

Nedzad Grabus, *Mufti of Slovenia*  
Ibrahim Malanovic, *Deputy Mufti*

### ■ South Africa

Haroon Kalla, *President, Board of Trustees, AwqafSA*  
Zeinoul Cajee, *CEO, AwqafSA*  
Shaaban Farrag, *Reporter*

## ■ Sudan

Azhar al-Tigani, *Minister of Awqaf*  
al-Fatih Mukhtar Muhammad, *Ministry of Awqaf*  
Atif Muhammad Ali, *Ministry of Awqaf*  
Omer Haider Abu Zaid, *Ambassador*  
Abdellatif Mohamed Elhag, *Embassy of Sudan, Ankara*

## ■ Syria

Sheikh Kureym Rajih, *Ministry of Awqaf*  
Mamoun Hariri, *Consul General*  
Hussameddin Muhammed Salih Farfour, *President, Islamic al-Fath Institution*  
Ahmed al-Mofti, *Calligrapher*

## ■ Tajikistan

Habibullah Ismailov, *Embassy of Tajikistan in Ankara*

## ■ The Netherlands

Ahmet Akgündüz, *Rector, Rotterdam Islam University*

## ■ Tunisia

Gley al-Hadj, *Ambassador*

## ■ Turkey

Faruk Çelik, *Minister of State*  
Ertuğrul Günay, *Minister of Culture and Tourism*  
A. Haşimi Baltacı, *Mayor of Arnavutköy, Istanbul*  
Abdulhamit Bilici, *Director General, CHA News Agency*  
Abdülkadir Aksu, *Deputy, Turkish Parliament*  
Adem Esen, *Rector, Sabahattin Zaim University*  
Adnan Şahinler, *RUTEV*  
Ahmet Ciğer, *Head of Board of Trustees, TUSKON*  
Ahmet Emre Bilgili, *Provincial Director of Culture and Tourism, Istanbul*  
Ahmet Misbah Demircan, *Mayor of Beyoğlu, Istanbul*  
Ahmet Selamet, *Deputy Mayor of Metropolitan Municipality, Istanbul*  
Ahmet Şişman, *Holy Qur'an 1400 Platform*  
Akif Beki, *Radikal newspaper*  
Ali Bardakoğlu, *Head of Religious Affairs, Turkey*  
Ali Bayram, *Member, Board of Trustees, Fatih University*  
Ali Özek, *Chairman, ISAV*  
Ali Toy, *Calligrapher*  
Alpaslan Açıkgöç, *Deputy Rector, Fatih University*  
Aziz Babuşçu, *Head of Istanbul Branch, AK Parti*  
Bahaettin Cebeci, *Chief Advisor, Presidency of the Republic*  
Bekir Karlığa, *Chairman, MEDAM*  
Beşir Ayvazoğlu, *Editor, ISAM*  
Cahit Koçtak, *Qur'an translator*  
Cevdet Can, *District governor of Başakşehir*  
Efdaluddin Kılıç, *Calligrapher*  
Emin Saraç, *Ex-Mufti of Istanbul*  
Erşat Hürmüzlü, *Advisor at the Presidency of the Republic for Middle East Affairs*  
Fekri Şaban, *Al-Jazeera representative*  
Fuad Başar, *Calligrapher*  
Güvenç Güven, *Gilder*  
Halis Ayhan, *Member, Council of Higher Education*  
Haluk Dursun, *Director, Ayasofya Museum*  
Hasan Can, *Mayor of Ümraniye, Istanbul*  
Hasan Çelebi, *Calligrapher*  
Hasan Karahan, *District governor of Kadıköy*  
Hasan Selçuk, *Deputy Rector, Marmara University*  
Hidayet Karaca, *Coordinator, Samanyolu TV*  
Hilmi Yavuz, *Professor of philosophy*  
Hüseyin Avni Mutlu, *Governor of Istanbul*  
Hüseyin Besli, *Deputy, Turkish Parliament*  
Hüseyin Bürge, *Mayor of Bayrampaşa, Istanbul*  
Hüseyin Çapkın, *Chief of Security, Istanbul*  
Hüseyin Kansu, *Former parliamentarian*  
Hüseyin Kayapınar, *Haseki Education Center*  
Hüseyin Kutlu, *Calligrapher*  
Hüseyin Öztürk, *Director for Culture, Metropolitan Municipality of Istanbul*  
Hüsnü Mahalli, *Reporter*  
İbrahim Altan, *Secretary General, Deniz Feneri Foundation*  
İbrahim Kafi Dönmez, *Rector, 29 May University*  
İskender Pala, *Expert, ISAM*  
İsmail Kahraman, *Union of Journalists and Radio and TV Broadcasters of Anatolia*  
İsmail Yüksek, *Rector, Yıldız Technical University*  
Kadir Topbaş, *Metropolitan Mayor of Istanbul*  
Kahraman Emmioğlu, *former deputy, Turkish Parliament*  
Kemal Kahraman, *Director, Dolmabahçe Palace*  
Kerim Balci, *Author*  
Lokman Çağrıncı, *Mayor of Bağcılar, Istanbul*  
M. Cemal Çiftçigüzeli, *Chair, Mehmet Akif Ersoy Thought and Art Foundation*  
M. Hüseyin Şeref, *Istanbul Design Center*  
M. Mehdi Sungur, *Caucasus Foundation*  
M. Teyfik Göksun, *Mayor of Esenler, Istanbul*  
Mahmut Kaya, *Expert, ISAM*

Mehmet Akif Aydın, *Chairman, ISAM*  
Mehmet Alacacı, *Birlik Foundation*  
Mehmet Doğan, *Director of Education, Municipality of Istanbul*  
Mehmet Görmez, *Deputy Head of Religious Affairs*  
Mehmet İpşirli, *Professor*  
Melek Aras, *RUTEV*  
Metin Turan, *TRT/Cairo*  
Muammer Yıldız, *Director for Education, Istanbul*  
Mustafa Çağrıncı, *Mufti of Istanbul*  
Mustafa Dündar, *Mayor of Osmangazi, Bursa*  
Mustafa İslamoğlu, *Author*  
Mustafa Kara, *Mayor of Üsküdar, Istanbul*  
Mustafa Vanlı, *Head of OSAV*  
Mustafa Yeşil, *Chairman of the Journalists and Authors Foundation*  
Nabi Avcı, *Chief Advisor to the Prime Minister*  
Nail Atılğan, *BALMED*  
Necati Sancaktutan, *Advisor, Prime Ministry*  
Necmi Sadıkoğlu, *IDSB*  
Nevzat Bayhan, *Director General, Kültür A.Ş., Municipality of Istanbul*  
Nevzat Yalçıntaş, *former deputy, Turkish Parliament*  
Nihat Öztoprak, *Dean, Marmara University, Faculty of Arts and Sciences*  
Orhan Koloğlu, *Author*  
Orhan Öztürk, *District governor of Küçükçekmece, Istanbul*  
Osman Demirhan, *Department of Religious Affairs*  
Osman Kaymak, *District governor of Eyüp, Istanbul*  
Ömer Cihad Vardan, *Chairman of MUSIAD*  
Ömer Güzelyazıcı, *BALMED*  
Önder Bayır, *Head, Department of Ottoman Archives, Istanbul*  
Raşit Küçük, *Dean, Faculty of Theology, Marmara University*  
Recep Sezer, *Director for Education, Bolu*  
Sabri Kaya, *Secretary General, Provincial Administration of Istanbul*  
Sadettin Yücel, *District governor of Beşiktaş, Istanbul*  
Salih Kenan Şahin, *Mayor of Pendik, Istanbul*  
Samiye Aksan, *Calligrapher*  
Seracettin Şahin, *Director, Turkish-Islamic Arts Museum*  
Seyfettin Azizoğlu, *District governor of Güngören, Istanbul*  
Suphi Saatçi, *Architect*  
Şaban Atlas, *Deputy Secretary General, Provincial Administration of Istanbul*  
Şafak Ural, *Deputy Rector, Istanbul University*  
Şerif Ali Tekalan, *Rector, Fatih University*  
Şinasi Gündüz, *Dean, Faculty of Theology, Istanbul University*  
Tahsin Özcan, *Deputy Dean, Faculty of Theology, Istanbul University*  
Tayyar Altıkulaç, *Ex-Chairman of Religious Affairs*  
Turhan Baycan, *Department of Religious Affairs*  
Ümit Kanoğlu, *Regional Director, Anatolian Press Agency*  
Yasin Yıldız, *Head, Department of National Palaces*  
Yusuf Odabaşı, *District governor of Beylikdüzü, Istanbul*  
Yusuf Ziya Cömert, *Editor, Yeni Şafak newspaper*  
Yusuf Ziya Çelikkaya, *District governor of Sultangazi, Istanbul*

## ■ United Arab Emirates

Hamdan bin Musallam al-Mazroui, *Chairman, General Authority for Islamic Affairs and Awqaf*  
Saif al-Shamsi, *Consul General*

## ■ United Kingdom

Mohamed Ebrahimsa, *Muslim Aid, London*  
Omar Ebrahimsa, *Muslim Aid, London*  
İsmail Gitay, *Muslim Aid, London*

## ■ Uzbekistan

Abror Gulyamov, *Consul General*

## ■ Yemen

Abdulqawi Abdlwasa Abdullah al-Iryani, *Ambassador*

## ■ ISESCO

Abdulaziz Ben Othman al-Twajiri, *Director General*  
Hasan Lamarti, *Assistant, Protocol and Public Relations Division*

## ■ League of Arab States

Mohammed al-Fatah Naciri, *Head of Mission, Ankara*

## ■ Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States, Tahrán

Mahmut Erol Kılıç, *Chairman*

## ■ D-8, İstanbul

Widi Agoes Pratikto, *Secretary General*

## ■ TURKSOY

Duysen Kasseinov, *Director General*

IRCICA's activities  
relating to the  
Holy Qur'an



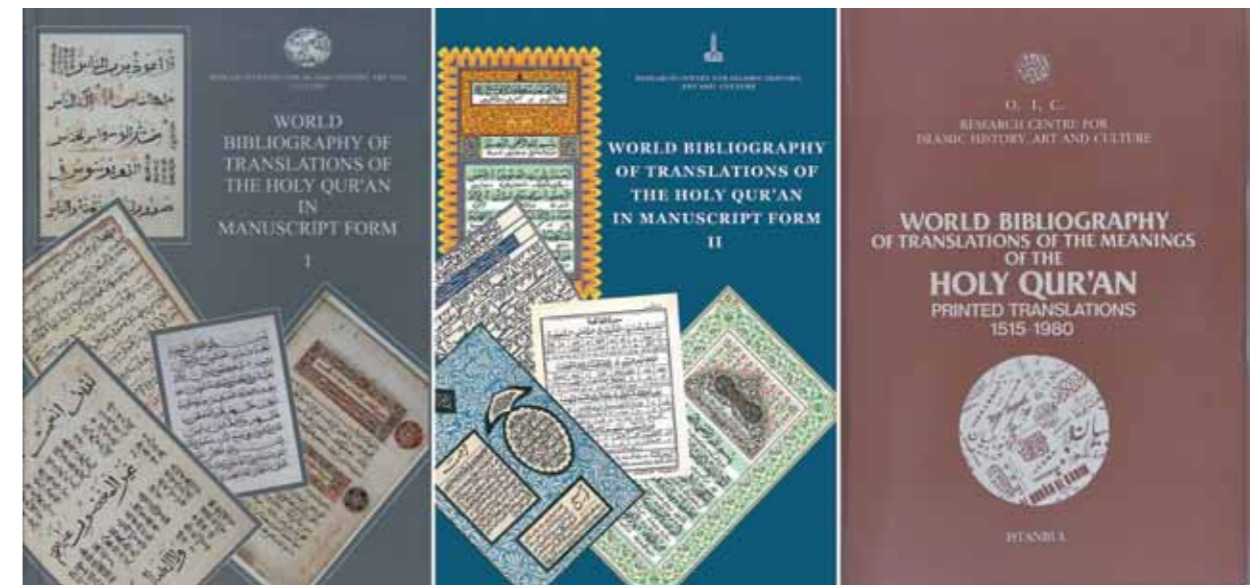
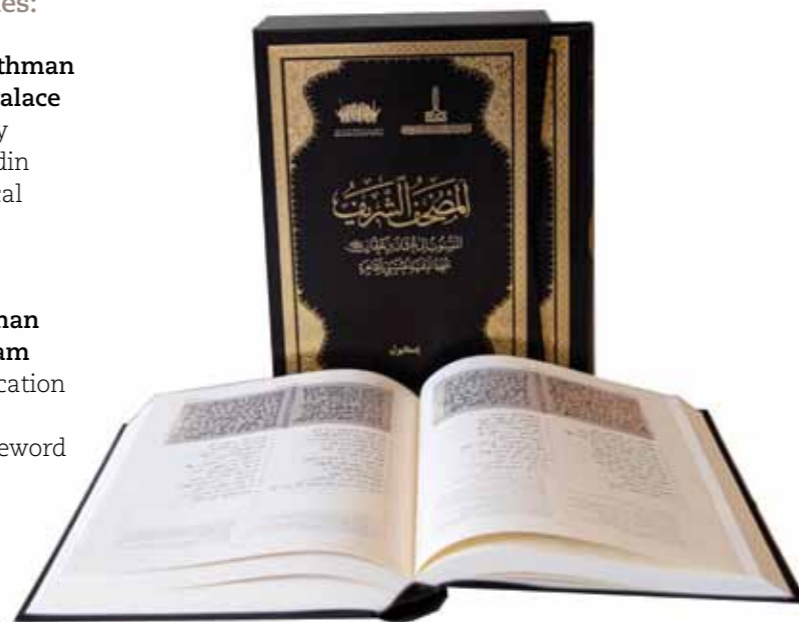
Studies and publications relating to translations of the Qur'an

**I** Facsimile editions, accompanied by scholarly studies, of copies:

**Al-Mushaf Al-Sharif Attributed to 'Uthman bin 'Affan (The copy at the Topkapı Palace Museum)**, prepared for publication by Tayyar Altıkulaç, preface by Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, İstanbul 1428 / 2007, Critical editions series; no. 2 (Introduction in Turkish, English and Arabic)

**Mushaf Al-Sharif Attributed to 'Uthman bin 'Affan (The copy at Mashhad Imam Hussein in Cairo)**, prepared for publication and Introduction by Tayyar Altıkulaç, preface by Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, foreword by Halit Eren, İstanbul, 1430/2009 (Introduction in Turkish, English and Arabic)

Forthcoming: Facsimile edition, and accompanying study, of the copy attributed to the time of the fourth Caliph, Ali bin Abu Talib, and located in Sana'a.



**II** Bibliographies of translations of the Holy Qur'an:

**World Bibliography of Translations of the Holy Qur'an – Printed Translations (1515-1980)**, prepared by İsmet Binark, Halit Eren, edited and preface by Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, IRCICA, İstanbul, 1986

Forthcoming: Revised and enlarged edition, 1515-2000

**World Bibliography of Translations of the Holy Qur'an in Manuscript Form - Turkish, Persian and Urdu translations excluded**, compiled by M. Nejat Sefercioğlu, edited and Introduction by Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, IRCICA, İstanbul, 2000

**World Bibliography of Translations of the Holy Qur'an in Manuscript Form – Vol. II, Translations in Urdu**, prepared by Ahmad Khan, Foreword by Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Preface by Halit Eren, IRCICA, İstanbul, 2009

Forthcoming: *World Bibliography of Translations of the Holy Qur'an in Manuscript Form – Vol. III, Translations in Turkish and World Bibliography of Translations of the Holy Qur'an in Manuscript Form – Vol. IV, Translations in Persian*

