



Newsletter



OIC RESEARCH CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC HISTORY, ART AND CULTURE

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a conference of historic importance

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Republic of The Sudan, to IRCICA (23 January 2008)

H.E. Maître Abdoulaye Wade, President of Senegal,
visited IRCICA (20 February 2008)

Visit of H.E. Mr. Ertuğrul Günay, Minister of Culture
and Tourism of the Republic of Turkey, to IRCICA (4 February 2008)

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its Centenary" Congress held in Istanbul, 7-10 May 2008

Symposium on "The Role of Cultural Exchanges in
Promoting Cultural Relations" held at IRCICA, 9-10 April 2008

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Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and
Ruler of Dubai, to digitize the IRCICA Library at Yıldız Palace

Academic workshop held within the framework of the "Al-Quds 2015"
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Newsletter



Research Centre for Islamic History,
Art and Culture (IRCICA)

January - April 2008, No. 75

The Newsletter is published quarterly:
Three issues in the official
languages of the OIC
(English, French, Arabic)
and one in Turkish

Publisher

Research Centre for Islamic History,
Art and Culture (IRCICA),
Organisation of the Islamic Conference

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Editorial

Several memorable events marked the four months period since the last issue of the Newsletter. We were honoured to receive on our premises two Heads of State, namely, H.E. President Omar al-Bashir, President of the Republic of The Sudan, and H.E. Prof. Abdoulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal, during the period of their respective State visits to Turkey. Furthermore, two IRCICA events were held during this period: the congress on “The Second Constitutional Period/*Mesrutiyet* of the Ottoman State on its Centenary” and the Symposium on “The Role of Cultural Exchanges in Promoting International Relations”. Scholars and researchers from all countries around the world came together on these occasions in an atmosphere of enthusiasm and cooperation. Meanwhile, in January, our Centre held a first academic workshop within the framework of the “Al-Quds 2015” Architectural Heritage Program, whereby architects from various universities in Turkey and Europe conducted studies on the major sites and monuments and urban settlements, recommending measures for improvement and development. The program will continue with series of architectural workshops. During the same period, IRCICA co-organised or participated in cultural events held in some Member States, namely in Kuwait, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates, by coordinating art exhibitions and workshops.

The first article in this issue outlines the proceedings of the Eleventh Islamic Summit Conference which was held under the Chairmanship of H.E. Abdoulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal, in Dakar, on 13-14 March 2008. It was a session of historical importance: it underscored the strengthening and effectiveness of the OIC as one of the world's leading international organisations in the 21st century. Numerous resolutions were taken on the various issues concerning the Muslim countries. The Member States reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining solidarity among themselves and implementing the Ten-Year Programme of Action which was issued by the Third Extraordinary Summit held in Makkah al-Mukarramah in

December 2005. They took note of remarkable progress achieved by the OIC in many fields in recent years. One of the decisions of historic importance taken during the Conference was the amendment of the OIC Charter. Furthermore, the Conference re-elected the Secretary General, H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, for a new term of office. I would like to express on this occasion, on behalf of IRCICA and myself, our happiness and our deep gratitude on the renewal of His Excellency Prof. İhsanoğlu's mandate. It is surely a re-expression of the Member States' confidence in H.E. Prof. İhsanoğlu and his leading initiatives aiming to strengthen the profile of the OIC and optimize its operations which gave tangible results in a short span of three years after His taking the office. Expectedly, increased progress and efficiency is directly reflected on the whole OIC system including the subsidiary organs, among them IRCICA, and certainly our Centre will continue to fulfill its share of the OIC's activities with commitment and enthusiasm in the coming years.

We have submitted reports and publications to the Summit Conference highlighting the progress of our activities, relating, particularly, to the long-term programs such as the “Al-Quds 2015” program of architectural workshops and the “Prince Sultan bin Salman Architectural Heritage Data Base”. We also had the chance of meeting with ministerial delegations from the Member States participating in the Summit and invited them to ensure participation and contributions from their respective countries in these programs of IRCICA.

As usual, the January-April issue of the Newsletter covers events up to the end of the month of April, but the congress on “The Second Constitutional Period/*Mesrutiyet* of the Ottoman State on its Centenary” held at the beginning of May is also included. We also announce in the present issue the congresses to be organised in 2008 and 2009.

Dr. Halit Eren

The Eleventh Islamic Summit held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal: a conference of historic importance



The Eleventh Session of the Islamic Summit Conference of Heads of State and Government of the OIC Member States was held in Dakar, capital of the Republic of Senegal, on 13-14 March 2008. The session was preceded by the Senior Officials' Meeting held on 8-9 March 2008, which was followed by the Preparatory Ministerial Meeting on 11-12 March 2008.

The Summit Conference adopted the motto "The Muslim Ummah in the 21st Century" for its current session, taking note of the fact that it convened at a period marked by major world developments in the political, ideological, economic, scientific and technological fields, and that it was the first to be held since the Third Extraordinary Summit of Makkah Al-Mukarramah (7-8 December 2005) which issued the "Ten-Year Programme of Action to Meet the Challenges facing the Muslim Ummah in the 21st Century". The Eleventh Summit reaffirmed the commitment of the Member States in all fields to the visions and mandates of the Ten-Year Programme of Action as a blueprint document to prepare the Muslim world to meet the challenges of the 21st century in solidarity and in action. The Conference underlined the pivotal role of the OIC General Secretariat in coordinating the implementation of the Ten-Year Programme of Action and appreciated the progress achieved so far through the action taken by the OIC General Secretariat, Subsidiary Organs and Specialized and Affiliated Institutions under the coordination of the General Secretariat. The Conference issued the Dakar Declaration, a historic document which underscores the guidelines contained in the Programme of Action and the Member States' belief that "...the Ummah's

unity should remain, in our hearts and minds, an ultimate goal that dictates on our countries a conduct that prefers abnegation, values and common interests to division, hatred and confrontation. The leaders of Muslim countries hereby renew their pledge to preserve world peace and security, one of the OIC's objectives, and thus to fully adhere to the United Nations' key mission in this regard as well as international legality as a rule for all without any political double standards. This is the reason why we proclaim, once again, our resolve to make sure that the Ummah's entire causes prevail in accordance with resolutions adopted in this regard by the Islamic Conference and the United Nations." The full text of the Dakar Declaration can be found in the OIC's website oic-oci.org.

The Conference unanimously elected H.E. Maitre Abdoulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal, as Chairman of the Eleventh Islamic Summit Conference. The addresses delivered at the opening ceremony of the Conference pointed to the objectives of the OIC in the face of present international challenges and the importance of the joint action undertaken in this regard. The President of the Senate of Malaysia delivered the message of H.E. Dato' Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Prime Minister of Malaysia and Chairman of the Tenth Islamic Summit Conference (2003). The statement indicated that Malaysia's priority was to revitalize the OIC General Secretariat and the OIC system, to make it more efficient. It stressed the role of the OIC in contributing more effectively to achieve international peace and security. Addressing the session, President Wade emphasized that the rekindling of the Muslim world in the 21st Century will be

achieved through a revitalized Organisation, endowed with institutional capacities and human and financial resources commensurate with its ambitions.

H.E. Mahmoud Abbas, President of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), spoke on the situation in Palestine and pointed to the worsening situation in Gaza due to the continuing Israeli aggression against Palestinian people in the occupied territories. He expressed grave concern over the present threats to Al-Quds because of the judaization of the city and the ongoing excavations under Al-Aqsa Mosque. He emphasized that there will be no final peace without resolving the issues of Al-Quds and refugees and strongly rejected unilateral solutions and in the form of a State with provisional borders.

H.R.H. Prince Saud Al-Faisal, Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Head of the Saudi delegation, said that his country considered the Dakar Summit as an important development as it came after the adoption of the Ten-Year Programme of Action by the leaders of the Muslim world during the Third Extraordinary Session held in Mecca Al-Mukarramah in December 2005. He emphasized the need to implement all aspects of this programme.

In his general report on major activities of the OIC, H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General, expressed thanks and gratitude to H.E. President Wade as well as to the Government and people of the Republic of Senegal for the tremendous efforts deployed to ensure the smooth running of the Summit proceedings and its successful outcome. He paid tribute to H.E. Dato' Seri Abdullah Badawi, Prime Minister of Malaysia, Chairman of the Tenth Summit, for his wise steering of the affairs of the Chairmanship during his tenure. He expressed high esteem and thanks to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz for his Government's continued support and for granting a spacious piece of land in Jeddah for the construction of the new OIC

Headquarters building. He highlighted the work achieved during the last few years to implement the reforms based on the concept of a new work ethic, and on new perspectives, goals, and vision. He emphasized that ignorance about Islam and also premeditated and historically entrenched animosity on the part of a minority in the West, as well as the failure to disseminate the true values of Islam, are the reasons lying behind the increasing wave of Islamophobia.

H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, H.E. Dr. Amr Moussa, Secretary General of the League of Arab States, and H.E. Mr. Alpha Omar Konaré, outgoing Chairman of the African Union, commended the cooperation and coordination between their respective organizations and the OIC. The Secretary-General of the World Muslim League, H.E. Dr. Abdullah Bin Abdul Mohsin Al-Turki, highlighted the League's activities in various fields.

At the end of the opening ceremony, the Secretary General of OIC Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu presented to the President of Senegal Maître Abdoulaye Wade a work of art prepared by IRCICA. The work was presented to the President as "An expression of gratitude for the invaluable support extended towards consolidating the Organisation of the Islamic Conference and strengthening cooperation among Muslim countries".

It was a large-size framed calligraphic writing in the form of the Ottoman Sultans' monogram, that read "Maître Abdoulaye Wade". The calligraphy was written by Mr. Davut Bektaş and the gilding made by Mr. Muhammet Mağ, both master artists living in Istanbul.

During its working sessions, the Summit Conference discussed and took resolutions on the main issues outlined below (texts extracted from the Final Communiqué of the Conference).



Before presenting the artwork to President Abdoulaye Wade,
OIC Secretary General Prof. İhsanoğlu gave information on the calligraphy and the composition

On the issue of Palestine and the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Conference reaffirmed the central character of the cause of Al-Quds Al-Sharif for the whole Muslim Ummah. It affirmed the Arab and Islamic identity of occupied East Jerusalem and the need to defend the sanctity of Islamic and Christian holy places. The Conference also reiterated its strong condemnation of Israel, the occupying power, for its persistent aggression against Islamic and Christian holy places in and around Al-Quds Al-Sharif, for its illegal excavations beneath Al-Haram Al-Sharif and Al-Aqsa Mosque, and for all such illegal and provocative measures carried out by it with the intention of altering the Holy City's legal status and demographic composition and character, in particular Israel's illegal colonization practices, including, among others, its settlement activities and its construction of the Wall in and around the city in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

The Summit Conference renewed its appreciation of the efforts and initiatives of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, Chairman of the Al-Quds Committee, in support of the just Palestinian cause, and appreciated His Majesty's intensive contacts with influential international powers, particularly the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, in order to urge and compel Israel to adhere to all relevant international resolutions. It also commended the effective role of Bayt Mal Al-Quds to preserve the unique spiritual identity of Al-Quds, safeguard its Islamic holy sites and its civilisational, cultural, and human heritage, and to support its concrete field programmes and plans in the housing, social, educational, and health areas.

The Conference commended the Jordanian role in preserving the Islamic holy sites and Hashemite architecture and in protecting them from plans that aim at altering the status quo in East Jerusalem and safeguarding its historical and civilisational character. It also commended the role of H.M. King Abdullah II Ibn Al-Hussein in projecting the cause of Jerusalem at international fora.

The Conference expressed grave concern about the deteriorating socio-economic conditions and the worsening human crisis in the Gaza Strip, in particular due to Israel's continuing illegal closure, siege, and blockade and other illegal measures against the Palestinian people there. It was alarmed by the rising poverty, unemployment, and hunger, as well as by the declining health status among the Palestinian civilian population, including widespread malnutrition and anemia among children, due to Israel's deliberate obstruction of access to adequate food, medical supplies, and health care and reduction of fuel and electricity supplies. It determined that such collective punishment of the civilian population by Israel is tantamount to a grave breach of international humanitarian law and that the occupying power should be held accountable for such war crimes. It thus called upon the international community to pressure Israel, the occupying power, to immediately cease its siege and collective punishment of the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip by lifting the siege and opening all of Gaza's border crossings to allow for the movement of persons and goods

into and out of the Gaza Strip, including unfettered access for humanitarian aid and personnel and movement of sick persons requiring medical treatment outside of Gaza. The Conference emphasized the significant role played by both the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Arab Republic of Egypt in order to ensure the provision of such assistance through their untiring diplomatic efforts.

In its other resolutions relating to political matters, the Conference condemned the Israeli aggression against Lebanon in 2006 and the associated crimes. It condemned the decisions of the US administration to impose unilateral economic sanctions on Syria. Concerning The Sudan, the Conference welcomed the signing of the Agreement between The Sudan and Chad alongside the Eleventh Session of the Islamic Summit Conference in Dakar and congratulated H.E. President Maître Abdoulaye Wade on accomplishing this achievement aimed at restoring peace and harmony between these two brotherly peoples.

The Conference welcomed the establishment of representative political institutions, a free media, building of security sector institutions, improvements in the health and education sectors and human rights in Afghanistan. It expressed its support of the efforts of the people and Government of Afghanistan to combat terrorism and the drugs problem and achieve security, stability, and comprehensive and sustainable development. It also welcomed the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to the 34th ICFM (15-17 May 2007, Islamabad) to hold an International Conference of the Ulema and Muslim Scholars in Kabul in order to discuss the noble principles of Islam and its role in the fight against terrorism under the auspices of the OIC.

The conference expressed strong support for the continuation of the Ankara Process initiated by Turkey in April 2007 aimed at contributing to the development of Pakistan-Afghanistan relations through mutual trust and cooperation.

The Conference reaffirmed its strong support for the National Government of the Union of Comoros in all its endeavors to restore national unity in accordance with the constitution and urged the leaders of Island of Anjuan to end their rebellion in order to pave the way for lasting peace, progress, and development.

The Conference strongly reiterated that Iraq's sovereignty, political independence, national unity, and territorial integrity must be respected by all; stressed the Iraqi people's right to freely determine their political future, as well as to full control over their natural resources; and noted that Iraq now has a democratically elected Government, formed in accordance with the provisions of its constitution. It stressed the principle of non-interference in Iraqi domestic affairs and welcomed Iraq's declaration to establish good relations with the neighboring countries, its announcement of the steps adopted in this regard on the basis of mutual respect, and its declared commitment to abide by existing conventions and agreements, particularly those relating to internationally recognized borders.

The Conference welcomed the lifting of the unilateral sanctions which were imposed on the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, and recognized Libya's right to compensation for the damages suffered as a result of those sanctions.

The Summit Conference reaffirmed its support for the people of Jammu and Kashmir for their legitimate right to self-determination, in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions. It called for the full implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the OIC Mission led by the Secretary General's Special Representative on Jammu and Kashmir to Pakistan and Azad Kashmir.

The Conference reiterated its condemnation of the continuing aggression by the Republic of Armenia against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan, which constitutes a blatant violation of the norms and principles of the United Nations Charter and international law. It called for total, unconditional, and immediate withdrawal of the Armenian forces from all the occupied Azerbaijani territories. It condemned Armenia and demanded that it stop these activities, as well as the continued destruction of Azerbaijani cultural and historical heritage, including Islamic monuments.

The Conference expressed its firm support for the just cause of the Muslim Turkish Cypriot people and, within the context of the call made by the then UN Secretary-General in his report of 28 May 2004, as reaffirmed by the UN Secretary-General in his reports of 4 June 2007 (S/2007/328) and 3 December 2007 (S/2007/699) and of previous OIC resolutions, reiterated its decision to put an end to the unjust isolation of the Turkish Cypriots. It strongly called on the international community to take, without further delay, concrete steps to end this isolation. Recalling the UN Comprehensive Settlement Plan aimed at establishing a new state of affairs in Cyprus in the form of a new bi-zonal partnership with two equal constituent states, the Conference acknowledged that neither side may claim authority or jurisdiction over the other and that Greek Cypriots do not represent the Turkish Cypriots. The Conference expressed its deep disappointment about the unwillingness on the part of the Greek Cypriot side to find a comprehensive settlement to the Cyprus issue on the basis of the UN plan. Through a unanimously adopted resolution, the Conference once again requested the Member States to closely associate with the Turkish Cypriots and to increase and expand their relations in all fields; and encouraged the Member States to exchange high level visits and business delegations and develop cultural relations and sports contacts with the Turkish Cypriot side.

The Conference expressed its firm support for the just cause of the Turkish Muslim Minority in Western Thrace; called on Greece once again to take all necessary measures to ensure the respect of the rights and identity of the Turkish Muslim Minority in Western Thrace under the bilateral and international treaties and to recognize the elected Muftis of Xanthi and Komotini as the official Muftis; and also called on Greece to allow elections for the administrative councils

of Islamic Waqfs by the Turkish Muslim Minority to take place.

The Conference noted the declaration of independence by the Assembly of Kosovo, on February 17, 2008. Recalling the continued interest of the OIC regarding Muslims in the Balkans, it expressed its solidarity with the Kosovar People.

The Conference reaffirmed the commitment of the Member States to preserve the unity, territorial integrity, and sovereignty of Bosnia and Herzegovina within its internationally recognized borders as a home to different ethnic, cultural, and religious groups living in harmony together.

The Conference emphasised the importance of establishing, maintaining, and strengthening close relations between the OIC and international and regional organizations and groupings and affirmed that a policy-oriented and effective cooperation between them would contribute positively to the realisation of their respective objectives. It requested the Secretary General to continue his efforts to further improve the OIC cooperation with international and regional organizations and groupings and conduct a study on the subject for submission to Member States. It also urged the various organs of the OIC system to take effective measures in order to broaden the scope of their cooperation with relevant international and regional organisations and groupings.

The Conference renewed its support for and endorsement of the Secretary General's efforts, initiatives, and good offices in the search of just solutions to the causes of Muslim communities and minorities in non-OIC Member States, whether politically, culturally, or economically, in implementation of the Islamic Conferences' resolutions and the Ten-Year Programme of Action. It commended the Secretary General's efforts, particularly in dealing with the issues of Muslims in Southern Philippines, Southern Thailand, the Republic of Myanmar, and Western Thrace in Greece, as well as the issues of Muslims in the Balkans, the Caucasus, India, and elsewhere, all within the framework of respect for the sovereignty of the States to which these Muslims belong. It also stressed that the current challenges call for the adoption of the principles of dialogue and cooperation, and the duty to respect the cultures and customs of all peoples, away from violence, coercion, and exclusion.

The Conference reaffirmed the inalienable right of all states to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. It encouraged cooperation among the OIC Member States on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The Conference expressed its growing concern over the tragedies provoked by armed conflicts in Africa which cause the loss of thousands of African lives, particularly children and women, and engender great burdens which further undermine the African economies. It called upon the international community to effectively help curb the devastating impacts of armed conflicts and eliminate their causes.

On counter-terrorism, the Conference emphasized that terrorism completely contradicts the peaceful nature of the teachings of Islam, which urged tolerance, mercy, and non-violence. It also condemned any connection between terrorism and any race, religion, and culture. It renewed the call for an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations to define terrorism and to distinguish it from the legitimate struggle of people under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation for self-determination in accordance with the United Nations Charter and international law. It also called for a high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on terrorism.

The Conference emphasized that terrorism continues to pose a threat to international peace, security, and stability. It has no particular religion, race, ethnic origin, nationality, or geographic region. In this regard, any attempt to associate terrorism with any religion, especially with Islam, would serve the interests of terrorists. It is not possible to combat terrorism effectively without international solidarity and cooperation. The United Nations is the main forum to promote international counterterrorism cooperation. Full compliance with the provisions of the UN Security Council resolutions and international conventions on combating terrorism is vitally important. Moreover, the Conference rejected politically motivated attempts to unjustly associate Islam or any Muslim country with terrorism. The Conference reiterated its support and endorsement of the proposal of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Ibn Abdulaziz, to set up an International Counter-Terrorism Center (Riyadh, February 2005), stating that the eradication of terrorism will ever be possible only through a coordinated international effort and cooperation. It invited the United Nations to create the Center in order to facilitate the exchange of information and expertise and coordination between States to closely monitor and control the movement of terrorist organizations and elements.

Relating to humanitarian issues, in summary, the Conference recalled the need to pursue the process of the convening, in cooperation with the UNHCR, of the OIC Ministerial Conference on the situation of Refugees. It called upon all Member States to channel some of their humanitarian assistance under the OIC umbrella in order to demonstrate the spirit of solidarity and enhance joint Islamic action; and endorsed the convening of a special pledging session for OIC humanitarian initiatives during Heads of State Summits or Ministerial Conferences.

The Conference welcomed H.E. President Abdoulaye Wade's initiative to hold the first conference of humanitarian and charity organisations in Saly Portudal on 7-9 March 2008. It also called for sustained efforts to organize humanitarian and charity action under the umbrella of the OIC and mandated the Secretary General to enhance the OIC's humanitarian role and achieve the objectives defined under the Ten-Year Programme of Action.

Regarding human rights and legal affairs, the Conference emphasized that it was important to follow up and coordinate

work in the area of human rights in Islam among Member States, and affirmed that these rights, by nature, are universal. It stressed that it was important for the international community to treat questions of human rights objectively and as indivisible. It called for drafting the "Islamic Covenant on Human Rights" and the "Covenant on Women's Rights in Islam", and for finalizing the drafting of the "Islamic Covenant on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination". The Conference welcomed the proposal to establish the post of the OIC High Commissioner on Human Rights and instructed the General Secretariat to prepare the draft terms of reference and financial implications and present them to the next Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

Regarding economic issues, the Conference emphasized the need to make optimal use of the Muslim world's economic, human, and natural resources to promote trade and economic cooperation among Member States. It recognized the importance of developing infrastructure, establishment of trade linkages, and networking in financial services, shipping, and aviation among Member States, as well as creating an enabling environment for this purpose. Among others, it stressed the role of the private sector in providing impetus to economic and commercial relations between the Member States, and invited the latter to encourage their respective private sectors to assume active roles.

It called upon the developed countries to implement further liberalisation of trade through increased access to their markets for the products and services of developing and Least Developed Countries. It encouraged Member States to ensure enhanced market accessibility for the products of the Least Developed Countries of the OIC.

It expressed its concern over widespread poverty in the developing countries, particularly the Least Developed Countries, leading to their further marginalization in the global economy. It further reaffirmed the common objective of Member States of eradicating poverty by the end of the next decade as well as the need to incorporate micro-credit programmes in the strategy of poverty eradication.

Among others, the Conference welcomed the setting up of a Special Program for the Development of Africa (SPDA) as yet another fundamental step in implementing the mandates of the Ten-Year Programme of Action. It welcomed the initiative of the Governments of Cameroon and Burkina Faso to organise sub-regional fora for Central and West Africa on the implementation of the SPDA and invited the OIC, and its institutions and Member States to extend their support for the success of the meeting.

The Conference discussed a number of other issues and noted the steps taken by the OIC in various areas. On questions relating to science and technology, it recognised the critical importance of technology transfers and financing to support the adaptation efforts of the most vulnerable group of countries, including the Least Developed Countries, the Small Island Developing States, and the low-lying coastal countries.

It encouraged the Member States to consider working together, to the maximum extent possible, in future negotiations on climate change issues, taking into account the special needs of the most vulnerable group of countries. It demanded that combating climate change and adaptation thereto be placed high on the list of priorities of the international community, national authorities, and civil society, and stressed the need to strengthen south-south and north-south cooperation, while facilitating the transfer of information, expertise, and exchanges, and to develop and strengthen mechanisms for more effective cooperation with a view to enhancing the integration of African States and their adaptation to climate changes and to mobilize all the necessary financial resources in order to develop an alleviation and adaptation strategy in parallel with the appropriate working plans.

Within the framework of the cultural and social affairs on its agenda, the Conference expressed its deep concern at the systematically negative stereotyping of Muslims, Islam, and other divine religions and, by denouncing categorically the overall surge in intolerance and discrimination against Muslim minorities in non-Muslim countries, in particular in the West, it affirmed the firm determination of Member States to combat Islamophobia, which constitutes an affront to human dignity and runs counter to international human rights instruments. It stressed the need to prevent the abuse of freedom of expression and the press for insulting Islam and other divine religions, calling upon Member States to take all appropriate measures to consider all acts, whatever they may be, which defame Islam as heinous acts that require punishment. In this regard, the Conference called for enhanced dialogue activities to combat Islamophobia as

already conducted by a number of OIC Member States, such as the initiatives implemented by Indonesia in the annual Inter-media Dialogue, since 2006 in conjunction with the Government of Norway, and the Regional Interfaith Youth Camp for the Asia-Pacific Region in 2008.

The Conference expressed its grave concern and anxiety at the threat to Muslim cultural values and principles and discrimination and stereotyping of Muslims caused by the growing wave of Islamophobia. It noted that as a result, Muslims have become victims of manifestations of prejudice and hatred. The Summit strongly condemned the continuing publication of insulting caricatures and cartoons of Prophet Mohammed and expressed grave concern over the initiatives undertaken by certain radical politicians of European countries against building minarets in mosques and making documentary film defiling the Holy Quran. It also encouraged the OIC Member States to be pro-active in discouraging future activities tarnishing the image of Islam. The Conference commended, with appreciation, the initiative of State of the United Arab Emirates launched by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE, to build a museum of Prophet Mohammed in order to educate the world about his life and lasting achievements, and to disseminate Islam's message of peace, compassion, and tolerance to all peoples of the world.

The Conference, being conscious of the need to build bridges between societies, to promote dialogue and understanding, and to forge the collective political will to combat intolerance and extremism, welcomed the Alliance of Civilizations

The Conference reiterated its firm commitment to the purposes, objectives, and principles of the Charter of the OIC in the service of the causes of Islam and Muslims in a spirit of genuine solidarity. It once again reaffirmed its adherence to the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the OIC Summit and Ministerial Conferences. One of the decisions of historic importance of the Eleventh Islamic Summit Conference was the revision and amendment of the OIC Charter. In its Resolution no. 2/11-ORG (IS), the Conference reiterated its awareness of the importance of the provisions contained in the Ten-Year Programme of Action adopted by the Third Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference (Makkah Al-Mukarramah, 7-8 December 2005), which provided for the "Reform the OIC through restructuring, and the review of its Charter and activities," in such a way as to enable the Muslim world to face the challenges confronting it at the onset of the new millennium. It unanimously decided to adopt the amended Charter of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference.

Furthermore, the Conference renewed the mandate of Secretary General H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu for another term of office. In its Resolution no. 3/11-ORG (IS) on Renewing the Mandate of the Secretary General, the Conference, "Paid tribute to the substantial and far reaching undertakings of the Secretary General as to the OIC reform and the follow-up of the implementation of the provisions of the Ten-Year Programme of Action (TYPOA) issued by the 3rd Extraordinary Islamic Summit held in Makkah Al Mukarramah on 7-8 December 2005; being appreciative of the Secretary General's efforts in the defense of the Islamic Ummah and its sanctities and in availing it of the means to face up to the challenges of the early new Millennium, unanimously decided to renew the mandate of the Secretary General in accordance with Article 16 of the amended OIC Charter. . . ." (www.oic-oci.org, News)

The Member States commended the Secretary General for his performance during the past years. Professor İhsanoğlu expressed his thanks and gratitude to the Member States for their confidence and support for the Organisation and the Secretary General, and reaffirmed his determination to continue playing a positive role in serving the OIC Member States and the Islamic world.

initiative launched by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in 2005 under the co-sponsorship of the Prime Minister of Spain and Turkey. It called on all countries and international organizations to support the initiative by participating in its implementation process in order to encourage greater cross-cultural understanding and to foster a climate of mutual respect. In this context, the Conference welcomed Kazakhstan's initiative to host the Forum of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Muslim and Western Countries under the motto "Common World: Progress Through Diversity" as part of Kazakhstan's National Strategy within the framework of the Alliances of Civilizations and of Kazakhstan's contribution to this global movement and urged the OIC Member States to actively participate in the said process.

The Conference appreciated the UN General Assembly resolution regarding the announcement of year 2010 as the Year of the International Rapprochement of Cultures, which seeks to promote religious and cultural concord, harmony, and cooperation, reinforcing respect for each individual culture or religion, and the need to protect holy places in pursuance of international treaties.

The next, Twelfth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference will be held in the Arab Republic of Egypt in 2011.

In its Resolution no. 6/11-C (IS) on the Subsidiary Organs, the Conference, having taken note of the report submitted by IRCICA, adopted the following operational provisions:

- 1. Commends** the achievements of the Centre through its various projects undertaken in cooperation with cultural and academic institutions in the Member States and worldwide in the fields of research, publications, promotion of international cooperation, organization of scholarly congresses, workshops and lectures in its fields of concern;
- 2. Takes note** of contribution made by the Centre towards encouraging activities of dialogue among civilizations through its research, publications and congresses aiming to improve the image of the Muslim world and Islamic civilization;
- 3. Notes with appreciation** the publishing of a facsimile edition accompanied by a scholarly study of the *Mushaf* (Quran copy) that is attributed to the period of the third Caliph, Othman bin Affan;
- 4. Commends** IRCICA for organizing the Symposium on "Islamic Civilization in Southern Africa" under the patronage of H.E. Thabo Mbeki, President of South Africa on 1-3 September 2006 in Johannesburg and the Symposium on the theme of "Islamic Civilization in the Balkans" under the patronage of H.E Traian Basescu, President of the Republic of Romania, which was held in Bucharest, Romania on 1-5 November 2006 in collaboration with the University of Bucharest;
- 5. Takes note** of the successful organization of the International Congress on: "Tourism and Traditional Handicrafts, the

International Award for the craft innovators in the Muslim World and the variety of exhibitions of artisans at work" which took place in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 7-14 November 2006 under the High Patronage of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz and organised in cooperation with the Supreme Commission for Tourism in Saudi Arabia.

6. Commends the progress in IRCICA's collaboration with the Council of Europe in carrying out the project entitled "The image of the other in history teaching" and its active participation in the ongoing successive stages of the project;

7. Notes with appreciation the progress made within the framework of the long-term Program of studies and architectural workshops entitled "Al-Quds/Jerusalem 2015" undertaken jointly with the University of Al-Quds, in particular the study mission conducted in Al-Quds from 1st to 5th June 2007 and the first architectural scholarly workshop implemented in Al-Quds from 18 to 27 January 2008 with the participation of 34 architects from universities around the world;

8. Takes note of the efforts being made by the Centre towards establishing the Islamic Architectural Heritage Database, a large-scale program sponsored by H.R.H. Prince Sultan bin Salman, Secretary General of the Supreme Commission for Tourism, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, aiming to register the architectural and archeological Islamic sites and monuments in the Member States, and requests the Member States to provide the Centre with the necessary information on their sites and monuments;

9. Commends the successful implementation of the First International Symposium on "Islamic Civilization in Central Asia" which was organized in Astana, Kazakhstan, in cooperation with the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan, on 4-7 September 2007;

10. Lauds the project of the Centre to organize the third international symposium on "Islamic Civilization in Volga-Ural Region" in 2008, jointly with academic institutions of the Republic of Bashkortostan and also takes note with appreciation of the establishment of an academic program for Islamic culture and civilization in collaboration with Kazan University including the allocation of an award for the best research on the theme of the spread of Islam and Islamic civilization in Russia;

11. Notes with appreciation the successful organization of the international congress on "Egypt during the Ottoman Period" held in Cairo on 26-30 November 2007;

12. Takes note of the efforts been made by the Centre towards organising the international Congress on "Employment of Traditional Industries within New Architectural Projects" planned to be held in Tunis between 2 and 7 June 2008 in collaboration with the Ministry of Trade and Handicraft and the Ministry of Culture and Heritage Preservation of the Tunisian Republic;

13. Commends the Centre's efforts towards convening the international scholarly Congress on "The Second Constitutional Period/*Mesrutiyet* on its Centenary" to be held in Istanbul on 7-10 May 2008 with the participation of historians from all over the world and **Welcomes** the ongoing preparations to organise a Congress on the theme "Baghdad in Islamic Civilization" jointly with the University of Marmara in Istanbul, in October 2008;

14. Commends the Agreement of Cooperation signed between the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Turkey, IRCICA and UNESCO for establishing the Suleymaniye Book Hospital Project which comes within the context of the cooperation of IRCICA with UNESCO in its capacity as a focal point for OIC-UN cooperation in the field of arts, crafts and promotion of heritage;

15. Notes the finalization of the seventh international calligraphy competition organized in the name of Iraqi master of calligraphy Hashim al-Baghdadi (1917-1973) marked by a ceremony held at IRCICA premises on 7 April 2007;

16. Expresses its thanks and appreciation to all the Member States for the moral and material support they are extending

to IRCICA, thus helping it to fulfill its mission in the best way, in particular the host country of IRCICA, the Republic of Turkey, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the host country of the OIC; notes with gratitude the support and patronage extended by the Sovereigns, Heads of State and Governments of the Member States, which found eloquent expressions recently in the visits to IRCICA by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques His Majesty King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, during His official visit to Turkey, accompanied by H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Prime Minister of Turkey on 10 August 2006; in the Prime Minister's graciously accepting the IRCICA Award for Patronage of Inter-Cultural Dialogue, presented to him by H.E. the Secretary General of OIC and the Director General of IRCICA at a ceremony held on 2 February 2007; more recently, the visit of H.H. Sheikh Nasser M. A. al-Sabah, Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait to the Centre on 5 April 2007, the visit of H.E. Colonel Omar Bashir, President of the Republic of The Sudan, to IRCICA on 23 January 2008, and the visit of H.E. Prof. Abdoulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal to IRCICA on 20 February 2008, which were sources of encouragement for the Centre....

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On the occasion of the Summit Conference, a large-scale Exhibition titled "The Sacred Book, the Islamic Arts and Manuscripts" was held at the Museum of African Arts of the "Institut Fondamental de l'Afrique Noire" (IFAN), located at Soweto Square, near the National Assembly building. The exhibition was opened by H.E. Maître Abdoulaye Wade, President of Senegal, on Saturday 15 March, after the closing of the Summit Conference. It comprised copies of the Quran, other calligraphic works, archeological objects, costumes, carpets, etc. representing the arts and the cultural heritage of the Muslim world. The exhibits were contributed by various Member States, IRCICA, Institut du Monde Arabe (Paris) and Senegalese institutions and artists. IRCICA's gallery presented award-winner calligraphies of the competitions organised by IRCICA, written by artists from various countries, together with illustrations highlighting some long-term programs of the Centre relating to the artistic and architectural heritage of the Muslim world, in particular the Islamic heritage of Al-Quds. The exhibition drew a large number of visitors and was praised highly by the press.



IRCICA's exhibition at the Museum of African Arts on the occasion of the Summit Conference

Meetings during the conference period

For IRCICA, a most memorable occasion of the period was the audience granted by H.E. Maître Abdoulaye Wade, President of Senegal, to Director General Dr. Halit Eren and the accompanying IRCICA delegation, at the Presidential Palace, before the opening of the Summit Conference. During the meeting, Dr. Eren recalled with gratitude the President's visit to IRCICA some time earlier, on 20 February 2008, within the framework of the State visit to Turkey. He briefed the President on IRCICA's preparations for the Exhibition on "The Sacred Book, the Islamic Arts and Manuscripts" and the materials brought for display.

During the period of the Summit Conference, Dr. Eren was received by the President of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau H.E. Mr. Joao Bernardo Veiera. H.E. Maria da Conceição N. Cabral, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Negotiation and Cooperation of Guinea-Bissau, was present at the meeting. The talks centered on the existing and possible ways of cooperation and international educational assistance and the guidance and coordination IRCICA can provide for graduate studies in fields corresponding to those of the Centre.



The President of Guinea-Bissau H.E. Joao Bernardo Veiera received Dr. Eren in audience

During the Summit period, the delegation of IRCICA was most honoured to meet His Excellency Dr. Hamid Algabid, the Secretary General of the OIC from 1989 to 1996, former ex-Prime Minister of Niger, special envoy of the African Union for Darfour in 2004, and currently deputy in the Nigerian Parliament. Dr. Eren briefed H.E. Dr. Hamid Algabid on the progress of IRCICA's activities, its new programs and projects.



H.E. Dr. Hamid Algabid received information on the Centre's on-going activities

IRCICA Director General also met with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of some Member States; the meetings focused on on-going and planned joint activities.

H.E. Mr. Mame Birame Diouf, Minister of Culture and Classified Historical Heritage, Senegal, received the Director General and delegation of IRCICA in his office at the Ministry. The extensive talks centered on the activities proposed to be undertaken jointly by the Ministry and IRCICA. These include the organisation of a “Senegal Cultural Week” in Istanbul, and the training of Senegalese calligraphers who wish to learn the classical styles widely used in the Middle East and Turkey. Views were exchanged on international cooperation for cultural development and the importance of arts as a channel for building affinities between peoples.



Mr. Mame Birame Diouf, Minister of Culture and Classified Historical Heritage, Republic of Senegal, received Dr. Eren at the Ministry



Meeting with Mr. Moctar Ouane, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Mali. On the right, Ambassador Nabik Diallo, Advisor to the Secretary General of the OIC.

Dr. Eren also met with H.E. Mr. Moctar Ouane, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Mali. The talks focused on the idea of holding a congress on “Islamic Civilisation in West Africa” in the Republic of Mali, taking into consideration that the long and exceptionally rich history of Islamic culture in Mali and its region as reflected in the preserved heritage would constitute a most suitable framework and background for studies on this culture.

During the period of the Conference, the Centre’s delegation also had the honour and pleasure of meeting Cheikh Dr. Amadou Cissé Ndiégoué, the distinguished member of IRCICA Governing Board representing Senegal. This was an occasion for consultations on various aspects of IRCICA’s cooperation with academic institutions in Senegal and West Africa at large, and specifically, on the project to decipher, type and prepare for publication the work titled «Zuhur al-Basatin» of the Senegalese scholar Musa Kamara, a project which was included in IRCICA’s work plans years ago and which aims to make this major book on the history of Islam in West Africa accessible to the interested scholarship.



Meetings were held with Dr. Amadou Cissé Ndiégoué and his colleagues

H.E. Maître Abdoulaye Wade, President of Senegal, visited IRCICA

20 February 2008

It was a great honour for IRCICA to receive at its headquarters the President of Senegal H.E. Maître Abdoulaye Wade, during the Istanbul part of the President's official visit to Turkey. The President and His entourage were guided to the Centre's library and conference hall at Çit Qasr, where an exhibition of books on the history and culture of Senegal selected from IRCICA library was presented to them. A ceremony was held on the occasion of the President's visit. After the presentation of a short film on IRCICA's activities, IRCICA Director General Dr. Eren took the floor and said that this visit to IRCICA on the eve of the Eleventh Islamic Summit Conference to be held in Dakar was of immense importance for the Centre. He reiterated his gratitude for the support and close interest the President has been extending to the OIC and IRCICA, and in particular, His support of the cultural issues of the Muslim world, the promotion of scholarship and international cultural cooperation which, in the OIC framework, are tasks entrusted to IRCICA. He expressed the happiness that the Republic of Senegal is currently represented in the Governing Board of IRCICA by an esteemed scholar, Dr. Amadou Cissé Ndiéguéne, and that this had opened new avenues of cooperation between the Government and cultural institutions of Senegal on one hand and IRCICA on the other. Dr. Eren also recalled that IRCICA had held a symposium on Islamic Civilisation in West Africa, in Dakar, in 1996, with the cooperation of the "Institut Fondamental d'Afrique Noire" (IFAN). Among other examples of the cooperation, he recalled that Senegalese archivists had participated in the training course organised by IRCICA on the restoration of archive documents. At the end of his speech, the Director General presented H.E. Maître Abdoulaye Wade with a sample of IRCICA's recent publication, the facsimile edition of the copy of the Holy



The President saw samples of rare books on Islamic culture preserved in IRCICA's library

Quran which is attributed to the time of Caliph Othman, and kept at Topkapı Palace Museum.

President Wade addressed the audience, expressing his pleasure to visit the Centre which he knew before through the relations it held with Senegal since long ago. The President said that visiting this research centre gave Him happiness since as a professor and former Dean, He is closely interested in research, and presently He is in the process of creating a large regional centre for scientific research in Dakar. The President pointed out that each of the West African countries does have a scientific research centre but this centre He wants to set up will have an international character, serve researchers from all countries of the region, especially from Africa and from all countries of the world. President Wade said that He was impressed by what He saw at IRCICA, that here it was possible, for example, to review the history of calligraphy since the time of the Prophet. The President said that He was interested in this centre also for its studies on the history of copies of the Holy Quran.

President Wade recorded His impressions in the Centre's Book, as follows (original in French): "I am filled with emotion as I visit this famous Islamic research centre directed until recently by the Secretary General of the OIC, Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu. The Centre maintains close relations with Senegal, of which one of the sons has a seat on the Governing Board. Also, the Centre will make an exhibition in Dakar during the OIC Summit on 13-14 March 2008. I wish to develop the relations of the University of Dakar and especially the Regional Centre for Scientific Research that I am in the process of setting up in Dakar, with the Centre. I thank the Head of the Centre and warmly congratulate the researchers."



A facsimile edition of the Quran copy dating from the period of Caliph Othman was offered to President Wade

Visit of H.E. President Omar al-Bashir, President of the Republic of The Sudan, to IRCICA

23 January 2008

IRCICA was most honoured to receive at its headquarters H.E. Omar Hassan Ahmed al-Bashir, President of the Republic of The Sudan, and the accompanying governmental delegation, during the period of the President's State visit to Turkey as the guest of H.E. Dr. Abdullah Gül, President of Turkey. This was the first Presidential visit to IRCICA from The Sudan. His Excellency Al-Bashir was already acquainted with IRCICA's activities through the reports and documents submitted by IRCICA to the Summit Conferences, but this was an excellent opportunity to give the President first-hand information on IRCICA's researches and present its publications. The President and His entourage were accompanied by Mr. Mehdi Eker, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of Turkey.

The President and his entourage saw a display of books about The Sudan selected from the Centre's library. A welcoming ceremony was held in the Centre's conference hall. A brief documentary film on IRCICA's activities since its establishment in 1980 was shown. In his welcoming address, Director General Dr. Halit Eren said that President al-Bashir's visit was another momentous occasion in the history of the Centre and that it will mark a new development and expansion phase in IRCICA's cooperation with the Government and the cultural and academic institutions of The Sudan. Dr. Eren recalled that for many decades The Sudan had participated actively in the programs and events held by the OIC and IRCICA. A most important manifestation of this relationship was The Sudan's participation in the Islamic Countries Cultural Week which was organised on the occasion of IRCICA's 25th anniversary, on 22-28 November



An exhibition of books relating to The Sudan selected from IRCICA Library and books published by IRCICA was prepared on the occasion of the President's visit

2005, with the contributions of the Municipality of Greater Istanbul. The program of the Week included concerts, folklore performances, painting exhibitions, presentations of the various traditional and contemporary arts, films and lectures. The Sudan had contributed to these events with the following activities: Exhibition of Plastic Arts by Mr. Husain Jumaan, Exhibition of Cultural Heritage by Ms. Bakhita Musa Bekar, Photography Exhibition by Mr. Mohammad Ali Haroun. On other occasions, cultural authorities, institutions, scholars, artists, etc. from The Sudan participated in IRCICA's activities. The Director General mentioned also that a book which was prepared by the Turkish Prime Ministry's Department of Ottoman Archives about the official Ottoman documents reflecting the history of The Sudan was translated into Arabic and published by IRCICA in 2007.



The facsimile edition of the Quran copy attributed to the time of Caliph Othman and kept at Topkapı Palace Museum was offered to President Al-Bashir. On the left, Turkish Minister Mr. Mehdi Eker.

At the end of the ceremony, Dr. Eren presented President Omar al-Bashir with a publication of the Centre, as a souvenir of this visit. It was the facsimile edition, published by IRCICA, of the copy of the Holy Quran that is attributed to Caliph Othman, and preserved at Topkapı Palace Museum.

H.E. Omar al-Bashir recorded His impressions on IRCICA in the Visitors' Book, as follows (original in Arabic): "The Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture represents, in our minds, a monument of history. I and the delegates accompanying me are very happy to visit this Centre that links the past, the present and the future. We give importance to the cooperation between our country and this Centre. We pray to God that He may lead their efforts to success."

"The Second Constitutional Period/*Meşrutiyet* of the Ottoman State on its Centenary" Congress held in Istanbul

7-10 May 2008

The International Congress on The Second Constitutional Period/*Meşrutiyet* of the Ottoman State on its Centenary was held in Istanbul, on 7-10 May 2008, with the participation of 97 scholars and researchers. It was the fifty-seventh history congress to be organised by IRCICA and fourth among them to be devoted to the period of the Ottoman State.

The Congress was co-sponsored by the Metropolitan Municipality of Istanbul and the Municipality of Bayrampaşa, the Municipality of Esenler, the Municipality of Pendik, the Municipality of Zeytinburnu (districts of Istanbul), and Turkish Airlines.

The process involving the proclamation of the Ottoman Constitution of 1876 for the second time in 1908 and restitution of the Parliament - together with the events that prepared this process, its consequences throughout the Ottoman territory and its echoes and effects in other regions of the world - was a turning point in the history of the Ottoman State and influenced the subsequent developments that shaped the present geo-political picture of the Middle East and the Balkans. The congress succeeded in covering numerous pertinent topics and in achieving a high rate of participation and a diversity of focuses which altogether gave it a content commensurate with the immense scope of the theme.

The congress was held at Grand Cevahir Hotel in Istanbul, in three parallel sessions over three days. The languages of the congress were English, Arabic, French and Turkish.

The opening ceremony of the Congress was held in the presence of H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the OIC and H.E. Prof. Mehmet Aydin, Minister of State of the Republic of Turkey. There were also guest speakers at the ceremony: H.E. Mr. Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, Advisor to H.E. the President of Yemen Arab Republic and former Prime Minister, and H.E. Mr. Riad Nassan Agha, Minister of Culture of the Syrian Arab Republic. The Heads of the Consular Missions of the OIC Member States in Istanbul and faculty members from various universities attended the ceremony.

In his welcoming address, the Director General of IRCICA Dr. Halit Eren expressed his pleasure to see that the Congress had drawn a high rate of participation and high level of academic quality. He outlined the main aims and features of IRCICA's studies in history. He cited the congresses held by IRCICA focusing on the history of Islamic civilization in various regions: the Malay world, South Asia, the Middle East, Caucasia, Volga-Ural, Central Asia, the Balkans, Southeast Europe, North Africa, East Africa, West Africa, South Africa, and the congresses devoted to the history of the Ottoman period. Dr. Eren said that the present congress was



The opening ceremony of the congress

focusing on the Second Constitutional Period from various angles, with regard to the factors that prepared the restitution of the Ottoman Constitution in 1908, its consequences in the capital and in the provinces, bringing up some aspects and some sources unexplored before. Dr. Eren expressed his gratitude to the Metropolitan Municipality of Istanbul and the Municipality of Bayrampaşa, the Municipality of Esenler, the Municipality of Pendik, the Municipality of Zeytinburnu, and Turkish Airlines.

In his address, the Secretary General of the OIC Professor Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu underlined the importance of studies on history as one of the ways for promoting understanding among peoples, provided that the exercise be based on objective facts and documents and motivated by commitment to truth and fairness. In the present world of growing interdependencies, perceptions of intersecting histories are increasingly influential in shaping peoples' approaches to each other. In this regard, the later part of Ottoman history of the end of 19th and early 20th century is part of the past of many nations which adhered to or neighboured the Ottoman State or maintained relations with it. This history involves the effects of composite trends in world politics and regional political movements within the Ottoman realm, which resulted in the dissolution of the last Caliphate of the Muslim world and the end of the longest-lived empires of history. It also involves those processes which laid the basis of major transformations in the political geography of the Middle East, North Africa, Caucasia and the Balkans leading to the establishment of nation-states in the 20th century after varying transition processes each went through. The Secretary General pointed to the importance of studying this period for understanding the history of the modern world. The Secretary General thanked the scholars and researchers who came from all around the world to participate in the congress. He expressed His appreciation to IRCICA for organising this important congress for the study of an important period of the history of the Muslim world.

H.E. Prof. Mehmet Aydin, Minister of State of the Republic of Turkey, delivered an address in which he qualified the period of history to be reviewed in the Congress as part of our "effective history" in the sense of philosopher Gadamer, since it is a period of history which deeply influenced the common history of peoples of the region until our time. Prof. Aydin said that by effective history He means the last two hundred years, because in order to understand the Second Constitutional period and its aftermath one must go further back at least to the beginning of 19th century, to the Sened-i İttifak (Deed of agreement) signed by Sultan Mahmud II in 1808, and move forward to the 1839 Tanzimat reforms and then the proclamation of the Constitution in 1876. The Second Constitutional Period constitutes one of the peak points of this two centuries-long history. It was followed by the foundation of the Republic and establishment of the multiparty system. If we do not understand the Second Constitutional Period well, we may meet difficulties in understanding what we did and why and what we did not and

why during our eventful history since the 1920s. In the same way, understanding our common history is also important in order to understand the history of Egypt or the history of the Balkans. State Minister Prof. Mehmet Aydin said that a major goal of the peoples concerned for the coming decades is to prepare this common history, with all its successes, all its frustrations, its positive and negative aspects, as the framework for building a common future world; let this world be our joint success and let this built and experienced common history be understood and lived in a way to lead us all towards the better.

The Minister of Culture of Syria Dr. Riad Nassan Agha said that this Congress was re-assembling all peoples concerned with its theme in Istanbul centuries later. He recalled that 1908 represented an era of turmoil and rebellions against the Empire. These peoples were under the effect of major events. The Minister then referred to the various ideological currents of the time, such as Islamism, Turkism, etc. He said that debates and contradictions still exist; but religion continues to be an important factor in the formation of the identity of Muslim peoples. Referring to the reign and the policies of Sultan Abdulhamid, the Minister said "We did wrong to Sultan Abdulhamid", that the Sultan was not fully and correctly understood. He underlined the importance of understanding the constitutional process which led to the formation of the modern state and democratic values. The Minister then referred to the establishment of the OIC, which brought together the Muslim nations under its umbrella: Turks, Arabs, Iranians and all other Muslim nations came together to study this history, to build a future and also to cooperate with other nations.

H.E. Mr. Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, Advisor to H.E. the President of Yemen Arab Republic, expressed his pleasure to be attending the Congress and referred to shared aspects of history that are reflected in the social culture and everyday life still today. He said that good relations were established in Ottoman times between the capital, Istanbul, and Yemen, especially through trade relations, especially the trade of coffee, and that this continues to be reflected in the relations maintained today. The reinstatement of the Constitution and the Parliament in 1908 was a major event; the deputies from Yemen were well-received in Istanbul. Mr. al-Iryani spoke of the echoes and influences of this Constitution in other regions and said that it inspired the constitutions of the many nations that were founded after the dissolution of the Ottoman State.

The ceremony was closely followed by the press and broadcasting agencies. The Congress aroused interest in university circles and also in the media, especially for the remarkable diversity of the participants' countries of work and areas of interest within the framework of late Ottoman history. Interviews with some of the participants were published in the cultural and educational sections of journals and newspapers. The papers of the congress will be published in the form of a book.

The titles of the working sessions and the papers presented were as follows:

The Constitutional environment

Session I

Chair: Halil Cin

Nihat Bulut

“Türkiye’de Temel Hak ve Özgürlüklerin Gelişimi Açısından 1908 Anayasasının Önemi” (*The importance of the 1908 Constitution from the viewpoint of the development of basic rights and liberties in Turkey*)

Osman Köksal

“Meşruti Yönetimin Uygulanmasında Önemli Bir İç Engel: Örfi İdare Rejimleri ve Yansımaları” (*An important internal obstacle in the application of constitutional regimes: martial laws and their reflections*)

Selami Kılıç

“II. Meşrutiyet’in Birikimi: Dönemin Osmanlı Aydinları ve Türk İnkılabi” (*The experience of the 2nd Constitutional Period: the Ottoman intellectuals of the period and the Turkish Reforms*)

Aliyar Demirci

“II. Meşrutiyet Anayasal Rejimi ve Siyasal Kültür Açısından Padişahın Meclisi Açış Konuşmalarına Mebusan Meclisi’nin Verdiği Cevaplar (Arıza-i Cevabıyeler)” (*The 2nd Constitutional Regime and answers of the Council of Ministers to the Sultan’s opening speeches at the Council viewed from the angle of political culture*)

Session 2

Chair: Leila Fawaz

Eyüp Baş

“Son Vakanüs Abdurrahman Şeref Efendi’nin II. Meşrutiyet’i Hazırlayan Sebepleri Tahlili” (*The last chronicler Abdurrahman Şeref Efendi's analysis of the factors leading to the 2nd Constitutional Period*)

Mustafa Lütfi Bilge

“Arap ülkelerinde basın yayın ve II. Meşrutiyet’in ortaya çıkışmasında etkisi” (*The press in Arab countries and its effect leading to the 2nd Constitutional Period*)

Rajab Abdul Munsef Abdul Fettah

التطورات التي أدت إلى إعلان الدستور الثاني التغريب في المنطقة العربية
(*Developments leading to the proclamation of the Constitution [for the second time], Westernisation in the Arab provinces*)

Ayhan Ceylan

“Tunuslu Islahatçılar ve Yeni Osmanlılar Hareketinde Anayasacılık” (*The Tunisian reformers, and constitutionalism in the New Ottomanist movement*)



**The Second Constitutional Period
in the Press and Publications**

Session 3

Chair: Yusuf Sarinay

Önder Bayır

“Osmanlı Arşiv Belgelerinde II. Meşrutiyet” (*The 2nd Constitutional Period in the Ottoman Archive documents*)

Erkan Tural

“II. Meşrutiyet Döneminde Bürokratik Reform ve Hariciye Nezareti” (*Bureaucratic reform during the 2nd Constitutional Period and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs*)

Cevat Kara

“Unutulmuş Muzaffer Bir Komutan ve Fedakar Ordusu: II. Meşrutiyet Devrinde Sati Bey ve Darülmüallimin” (*A forgotten victorious commander and his sacrificing army: Sati Bey and the Darülmüallimin during the 2nd Constitutional Period*)

Adem Ölmez

“Meşrutiyet Döneminde Askeri Yenilikler ve Meclis-i Mehmm-i Harbiye” (*Military innovations during the Constitutional Period and the Meclis-i Mehmm-i Harbiye*)



Session 1

Chair: Klauss Kreiser

Abdullah Şengül

“Meşrutiyet Sonrası Türk Tiyatro Edebiyatında Ulus Bilinci” (*National consciousness in post-constitutional Turkish theater literature*)

Ömer Çakır

“Devrin Edebiyatçlarının II. Meşrutiyet'in İlanı Hakkındaki Duygu ve Düşünceleri” (*Opinions and impressions of authors of the period on the proclamation of the Second Constitutional period*)

Handan İnci

“Türk Romanında II. Meşrutiyet'e Bakışlar” (*Views on the Second Constitution in the Turkish novel*)

Session 2

Chair: Abdel-Raouf Sinno

Muammer Göçmen

“II. Meşrutiyet'in Ruh İkliminde Jön Türk Basımı” (*The Young Turk press in the spiritual climate of the Second Constitutional Period*)

Ahmet Halaçoğlu

“II. Meşrutiyet'in İlanının İç ve Dış Basındakı Yankılarının Bir Tahlili” (*An analysis of the echoes of the proclamation of the Second Constitution in the domestic and foreign press*)

Mefail Hızlı

“II. Meşrutiyet Sürecinin Bursa Medreselerine Yansımı” (*Reflection of the Second Constitutional process in the medersas of Bursa*)

Reflections in society

Session 1

Chair: Zekeriya Kurşun

Serhat Aslaner

“II. Meşrutiyetin Taşraya Yansımı: Konya Örneği”
(*Reflections of the Second Constitutional Period in provinces: the example of Konya*)

Ahmet Gökböl

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Serkan Ünal, Cemal Baltacı

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“Jöntürk Hareketi ve 2. Meşrutiyet'in Orta Asya ve Kafkasya'daki Yankıları, Milliyetçilik ve Bağımsızlık Hareketlerine Etkileri” (The Young Turk movement and the echoes of the Second Constitutional Period in Central Asia and Caucasia, its impact on movements of nationalism and independence)

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“Büyük Turan'a Karşı Yeni Turan: Halide Edip'in II. Meşrutiyet Dönemi Türkçülük Tartışmaları İçindeki Yeri” (The New Turan versus the Great Turan: the place of Halide Edip in the Turkism debates of the Second Constitutional Period)

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“Yusuf Akçura'nın II. Meşrutiyet Hatıraları” (Yusuf Akçura's memories of the Second Constitutional Period)

Abdullah İslamoğlu

“1909 Değişiklikleri Bağlamında Parlamentarizme Geçiş Çabaları” (Attempts of passage to Parliamentarianism in the Context of the 1909 Transformations)

Hasan Babacan, Uğur Üçüncü

“Cumhuriyet'in İlk Yıllarında Meşrutiyet Kutlamaları” (Commemorations of the Constitution during the early years of the Republic)



Symposium on “The Role of Cultural Exchanges in Promoting Cultural Relations” held at IRCICA

9-10 April 2008

A Symposium on “The Role of Cultural Exchanges in Promoting International Relations” was held at IRCICA’s headquarters on 9-10 April 2008. The symposium heard six papers by scholars from Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and United Arab Emirates and from Turkey. The Symposium was jointly organised by the Gulf Cooperation Council and IRCICA.

The Opening Ceremony of the Symposium was held in the presence of H.E. Dr. Abdurrahman Attiya, Secretary General of the Council; Dr. Izzet Mufti, Assistant Secretary General of the OIC representing H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the OIC; H.E. Mr. Muammer Güler, Governor of Istanbul; H.E. Mr. Mustafa Büyükk, Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey, representing H.E. Mr. Ertuğrul Günay, Minister of Culture and Tourism, who was on a mission abroad that day. The Heads of the Consular Missions of the OIC Member States in Istanbul as well as personalities from academic and cultural circles were present at the opening.

In his welcoming address, the Director General of IRCICA Dr. Halit Eren pointed to the importance of the Symposium theme toward ameliorating international relations. He said that in the present process of growing exchanges and interdependencies among peoples, it has become even more important for nations and communities to preserve, make known, and be known with their respective cultural identities. The main channels by which cultural identities are expressed are cultural relations. Highlighting the past and present

cultural relations between peoples and promoting these relations are therefore essential in building a constructive attitude in international relations.

H.E. Mr. Muammer Güler, Governor of Istanbul, delivered an address in which He first praised IRCICA’s efforts to convene forums such as this one to bring together intellectuals from countries that share a common history and a common culture for a joint reflection on this history and this culture. He said that in this way IRCICA fulfils a task of historical importance. Mr. Muammer Güler said that culture constitutes the dimension of international relations that most permanently and most effectively permeates the other aspects of those relations.

H.E. Dr. Abdurrahman Attiya, Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, delivered an address in which He pointed out and analysed the importance of culture for both the development of social life and the promotion of international relations. Its contribution in this latter dimension draws basically from two elements: the positive diversities of cultures and the notion of multiculturalism. The presence of these two elements can make inter-cultural dialogue and cultural exchanges possible. The Secretary General referred to the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity [adopted by the 31st Session of the General Conference of UNESCO in 2001], which refers to cultural diversity as a source of exchange, innovation and creativity. He pointed out that this role of cultural diversity enriches humanity and its recognition can help in devising policies that would bring



The opening ceremony at Çit Qasr, Yıldız Palace

different cultural groups together to establish a positive and democratic multicultural environment.

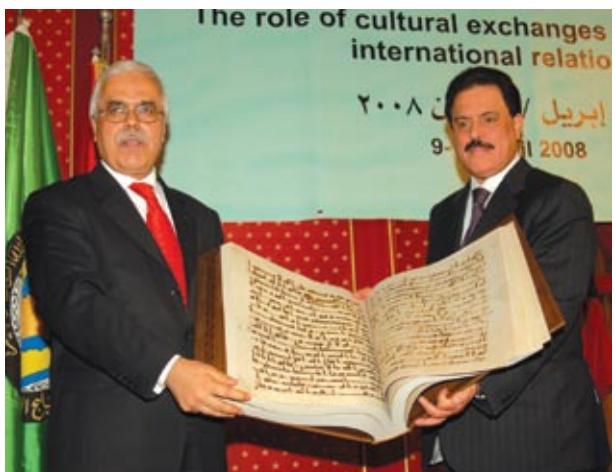
H.E. Dr. Izzet Mufti, Assistant Secretary General of the OIC, referred to the many international challenges facing the Muslim countries in the era of globalization. He said that in the present environment, protection of each nation's cultural identity and cultural heritage has become more important than before. Dr. Mufti expressed his appreciation that IRCICA and the Cooperation Council had taken the initiative of organizing a seminar to study this important subject from all angles.

H.E. Mr. Ertuğrul Günay, Minister of Culture and Tourism of Turkey, in his address that was read by Mr. Mustafa Büyükk, Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry, said that cultural features and developments are not temporary events subject to change such as those belonging to political history, but acquire permanence. Therefore, among the various levels of international relations, those that leave the most continuing traces are cultural relations. Universal civilization has evolved thanks to exchanges between cultures and civilizations. The Minister said that Turkey gives importance to developing cultural as well as economic and commercial relations with Muslim countries, and that relations with countries of the region, including Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, had grown continuously in all spheres, and that they wished to achieve further development in these relations, in various areas such as education and tourism.

At the end of the opening ceremony, the Director General of IRCICA Dr. Halit Eren offered to H.E. Dr. Abdurrahman Attiya a copy of a publication by IRCICA, as a souvenir of this joint Symposium. It was the facsimile, published by IRCICA in 2007, of the copy of the Holy Quran that is attributed to Caliph Othman, and preserved at Topkapi Palace Museum.

The Symposium was organized in two sessions. The first session was chaired by Mr. Mohammed Ahmed al-Murr, Vice-Chairman of the Authority for Culture and Arts, Dubai, and the second session, by Dr. Saad Abdulaziz al-Rashid, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education, Antiquities and Museums, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, both members of IRCICA Governing Board. Below is a summary of the papers presented.

* Dr. Mouza Abdullah al-Maliki (Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, Faculty of Letters, University of Qatar, Doha): "The horizons of cultural relations". In her lecture, Dr. Mouza outlined the principal factors that contribute to cultural communication which involves exchanges and dialogue: first, translations, as a major means of communication in the transfer of meaning and culture; secondly, congresses, conferences and symposia, which contribute to dialogue between various cultures and religions; third, satellite channels, as their emissions help in introducing peoples to each other; fourth, the Internet; fifth, cultural trips, which acquaint visitors with the historical and cultural heritage of a country; sixth, communication among children of the world, towards building a peaceful future world.



The facsimile edition of the Quran copy attributed to Caliph Othman and published by IRCICA was offered to Ambassador Dr. Attiya

* Dr. Saad Abdulaziz al-Rashid (former Deputy Minister for Antiquities and Museums, Ministry of Education, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia): "Communication between the Arab States of the Gulf Cooperation Council and Islamic States: A Glimpse of the Future". In his lecture, Dr. al-Rashid first gave brief information about the Gulf Cooperation Council, its establishment, its primary objectives. He said that a cultural development plan was adopted for the Member States of the Cooperation Council in 1987. He summarized the main objectives and conditions of the plan as follows: 1) The cultural framework is drawn in line with the social, economic, and cultural background of Arab culture. 2) Culture is the main dimension of development that covers all layers of society. 3) Cultural partnership in production, benefiting from production and establishing dialogue is the right of every citizen. 4) Cultural heritage should be seen as a source of inspiration and the essence of civilization rather than as an unchanging entity. 5) Classical Arabic is the indispensable means of cultural transmission and communication. 6) It is necessary to follow the cultural, scientific and technological developments of the age. 7) The establishment of dialogue and the observation of human rights is urgently necessary. According to this plan, the principal channels of realizing cooperation among the member states in the cultural field are the following: 1) Institutions and human beings, 2) Establishments (Customs, airports, ports, etc.), 3) Cultural and artistic means, 4) Research and studies. At the end of his talk, he pointed out that the Cooperation Council cooperates with international institutions such as ALECSO, IRCICA and ISESCO. He suggested ways to enhance these relations.

* Prof. Dr. Zekeriya Kurşun (Professor, Department of History, University of Marmara, Istanbul, Turkey): "The Role of Social Sciences in the Relations between Islamic Countries and their Fields of Application". In his lecture, Prof. Dr. Kurşun first summarized the development and classification of social sciences throughout history. At first, sciences were classified as practical and theoretical ones. It was from the 16th century onwards that this classification was made according to the characteristics of sciences. Thus,

chemistry, physics, biology, etc. were classified as natural sciences while sociology, economics, anthropology and the like were classified as social sciences. Throughout 500 years, the theory of social sciences was developed in the West. Indeed, westerners began to inquire about the characteristics that distinguished the social sciences from natural sciences. Professor Kurşun pointed out that western philosophers such as J. Stuart Mill, August Comte, Karl Marx, Emil Durkheim and Max Weber developed theories to answer such questions. He then briefly explained three theories which were developed by August Comte, Max Weber, and Karl Marx, respectively.

Professor Kurşun then enumerated the weaknesses and advantages of the social sciences in Muslim countries. In the final part of his lecture, he proposed solutions in order to establish cooperation among Muslim countries in the field of social sciences. He stated that a high commission should be formed with the objectives of introducing Islamic scholars to one another, translating the present works, deciding on a common language among Muslim scholars, using common terms, and the establishment of work teams. One of the main duties of this commission should be to encourage the usage of Arabic, Turkish and Persian as the common language of the intellectuals of Muslim countries. Professor Kurşun also pointed out that it is necessary to form work groups under this commission, which will function under the following headings: History, anthropology, sociology, social policy and economics, international relations, human rights, poverty studies. These work groups should produce projects in which experts will be employed. He further underlined the fact that social sciences constitute the means by which communication and dialogue can be established among Muslim states. This will in turn contribute to the solution of the problems in the world and to preventing the clash of civilizations.

* Dr. Said Abdullah Harib (Counselor of the President of United Arab Emirates University, Al-Ain, U.A.E.): "Cultural Communication: Its Objectives and Means". In his lecture, Dr. Harib underlined the importance of culture in understanding "the other". He stated that cultural communication can even bring hostile people together. Recently, cooperation among different peoples has grown, in political, economic and social fields. The development in electronic means of communication greatly contributed to this fact.

Dr. Harib then focused on the various objectives of cultural communication which are the following: 1) Getting to know one another, 2) Peaceful coexistence, 3) Understanding one another, 4) Information, 5) Tolerance, 6) Peace. He also enumerated the principal means of cultural communication: 1) Education, 2) Translation activities, 3) Means of communication, 4) Cultural programs, 5) Tourism, 6) Cultural institutions, 7) Cultural agreements.

* Dr. Munira Khalifa al-Fadil (Associate Professor, Department of English Language and Literature, University of Bahrain, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain): "Cultural Communication in the States of the Gulf". Dr. Munira al-Fadil first focused on the term of "cultural communication". She stated that communication in the field of culture cannot be bound by any regulations or conditions. Cultural development must be thought of separately from economic and political development. A "Cultural development plan of the Gulf countries" was put to effect among agreements concerning other fields. It includes the following topics: "The role of Arab-Islamic culture on cultural planning in the Gulf States", "Development as a dimension of Culture", "The importance of common cultural values", "Adoption of cultural heritage as a source of inspiration rather than remaining as abstract texts". The plan also dealt with some



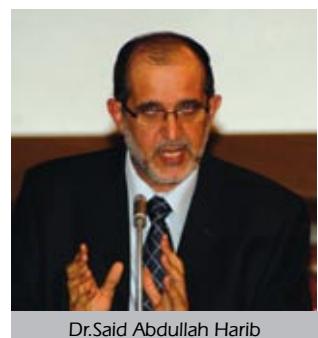
Dr. Zekeriya Kurşun



Dr. Isam b. Ali al-Rawas



Prof. Dr. M. al-Rumayhi



Dr. Said Abdullah Harib



Mr. Mohammed al-Murr



Dr. Munira al-Fadil



Prof. Dr. Mehmet İbşirli



Dr. Mouza Abdullah al-Maliki

other subjects such as the importance of reading and writing Arabic eloquently, keeping pace with the developments of the age and establishing dialogue with other cultures.

* Prof. Dr. Muhammed Ghanim al-Rumayhi (Professor of sociology, University of Kuwait, Kuwait): "Culture and Cultural Communication". In his lecture, Dr. al-Rumayhi underlined the need to define culture. Most of the time, it is misunderstood among the Arabs. He stated that it is necessary to differentiate between "Arab culture", "Arab thought" and "Arab civilization" just as it is necessary to make a clear distinction between "identity", "culture" and "spiritual knowledge". He then focused on different attempts to define culture and the attempts to underline the difference between culture and civilization by referring to the views of the Egyptian author Mahmud Emin al-Alim. The author made a distinction as to how a westerner and an Arab perceive culture and civilization and the difference between them. According to Mahmud Emin al-Alim, when Westerners compare the concepts of culture and civilization they talk about culture which emerges from and is influenced by western civilization. In the opinion of a westerner civilization includes all kinds of arts realized by a human being. As for a contemporary Arab, when he talks about culture he does not mean Arab civilization as an accumulation which is put forward by the Arab world. Rather, he means Arab culture based on something less concrete such as a word, a tradition or a thought.

Then the lecturer made a practical definition of culture himself, saying: "According to me, culture resembles a transparent and shining glass of a shop where nice things are sold. Anyone who watches this glass hits it without knowing. The glass symbolizes the obstacle among human beings. They are bound to hit it as individuals or as nations if they cannot remove it." At the end of his lecture, he also stated that especially in today's world globalisation has made it a necessity for different cultures to come together and to establish dialogue and communication among them.

* Dr. Isam b. Ali al-Rawas (Faculty of Letters and Social Sciences, Doha, Sultanate of Oman): "Cultural Communication and its Role in Solving Contemporary Problems: The West and the Arabs". Dr. Isam b. Ali al-Rawas pointed out that when the channels of communication and dialogue between nations and civilizations are blocked it becomes impossible to establish peace. In that case, individuals can impose their views on others by force. The lecturer underlined the necessity to bridge the gap between the Muslims and the West. He stated that Islam is neither a threat to the west nor should be conceived so. Dialogue based on equality and goodwill should be established between the two sides. Both sides should act in line with their common interest and refrain from building new walls between them. He said that the objective of the present Symposium was the initiation of cultural communication and dialogue; it could mark a new beginning in this regard.

* Dr. Önder Bayır (Director, Prime Ministry's Ottoman Archives Department, Istanbul, Turkey): "The Role of Ottoman Archival Documents in the Study of the History of the Gulf States". In his lecture, Dr. Önder Bayır pointed out that nearly one century ago Arabs and Turks shared the same state and the same history. Now, they have separate states and separate histories. However, the history that he is going to tell is the history of both nations. Dr. Bayır stated that they are presently working on the classification of the documents in the Prime Ministry's Ottoman Archives. There are about 100 million documents and 365,000 defters in the archives. Almost all of the Ottoman archival documents consist of bureaucratic correspondence. Dr. Bayır then gave the following information about the classification of the archival documents. There are mainly two kinds of classifications: The classification of defters and the classification of documents. The main defters are the following: 1. Mühimme defters contain the registers of the imperial council. There is a total of 419 mühimme defters and all of them were recorded digitally. 2. Tapu tahrir defters contain information about the population and the sources of revenue of the conquered lands. Their number is about 2,000. They were updated every five years. 3. Şikâyet defters include the complaints of the subjects on various matters. 4. Nâme-i Hümâyûn defters were related to the correspondence of the Ottoman sultans with foreign rulers. 5. Ahkâm defters contain the decisions of the imperial council particularly concerning the individuals. 6. Kilise defters contain matters related to non-Muslims. Dr. Önder Bayır also gave information about other defters such as ayniyat defteri, vilâyet gelen giden defteri, Haremeyn Muhabesesi Kalemi defteri, Surre defteri, Salyane Kalemi defteri, Meclis-i Vâlâ Riyaseti defteri, Sihhiye Nezareti defteri, irade defteri and Yıldız Evrakı (documents related to the period of Abdülhamid II). The lecturer pointed out that research in Ottoman archives is indispensable in order to write the history of Arabs objectively.

Director General Dr. Halit Eren informed the audience that IRCICA is preparing a comprehensive guide on Prime Ministry's Ottoman Archives. Dr. Fazıl Bayat is in charge of this project. As it is known, there are innumerable documents in the Ottoman Archives on the history of Arab countries. Dr. Bayat is translating the contents of selected sets of these documents into Arabic to make them known to Arab scholars. The contents are also written on computer so that researchers with knowledge of Ottoman Turkish can read them easily. The Guide will include a glossary in which the related historical terms will be explained. This project starts from 1516s when the Ottomans conquered Syria and will cover the period till the end of the Empire.



Donation by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Dubai, to digitize the IRCICA Library at Yıldız Palace

IRCICA has undertaken a project with the aim of developing an Electronic Library for Research on Islamic Civilisation to serve the needs of research world-wide.

The Centre would like to gratefully record that a generous funding for this project has been extended by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and Emir of Dubai. The international announcement of the donation was made on 9 April 2008, from IRCICA, Istanbul, and in the United Arab Emirates.

As is known, IRCICA has the aim of undertaking and promoting research on Islamic civilisation and Muslim cultures. With these objectives IRCICA carries out a number of activity programs, which are grouped under the following main program titles: the history of Muslim nations, inter-cultural relations, studies on Quran translations and copies of the Quran, history of science and culture, Islamic architecture, urbanism and archeology, traditional handicrafts, the state and promotion of Islamic studies. In these fields IRCICA publishes books and bibliographies, organises congresses, holds artistic and architectural competitions. Moreover, IRCICA also has the task of serving as a center of reference and documentation in relation with each of these fields. Thus IRCICA functions as a repository of data and references as regards research on Islamic civilisation. Towards this objective, as soon as it was established, IRCICA set up a library specialised on Islamic civilisation and the history and culture of Muslim nations. An Information System geared specially to this library's needs was established as early as in 1983.

Since 2007 IRCICA has launched a project to set up an e-library, that is, a digital, or numerical library. Presently it is in the process of developing a library endowed with the latest techniques, that offers possibilities of conversion and storage of texts in digital form but also of conservation and restoration of traditional library materials by modern methods. The nucleus of this e-library is certainly the existing library with its 60000 volumes of books, 1500 periodical titles, hundreds of microfilms, maps, collections of rare books and incunabula, but with the enlargement of these materials and their conversion into digital form, it will be possible to acquire and to provide library services in Islamic studies over a global network of interactive connections.

The digital sector of this library will consist of mainly three parts. The first one is the Electronic Database on Islamic Civilisation. The materials to be selected from our own library and from other sources will be scanned and stored in conformity with the Dublin main standards. The foremost objective is to digitalise the existing written, printed, audio and visual materials in our library, in a readable, usable and correctible form. This will be followed by conversion of materials to be obtained from external sources. The second part will consist of the scanned and digitalised versions of IRCICA's publications numbering about 200 editions. A third portion will be the database whereby subscriptions to selected digital sources and databases will allow us to render them accessible to our library's users.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and Emir of Dubai, has donated one million four hundred thousand

dollars for the Electronic Library for Research on Islamic Civilisation. The announcement of news about the donation coincided with the Symposium on "The Role of Cultural Exchanges in Promoting International Relations" which was held at IRCICA on 9-10 April 2008. Thus the donation was also announced during the opening of the Symposium, at in a second, special section of the ceremony, where the Director General of IRCICA took the floor to brief the audience on the project and express his gratitude to His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum for the donation. He also thanked and expressed his appreciation to Mr. Jamal bin Houaireb Al-Muhairy, Cultural Advisor at the Executive Office, Dubai Government, for his assistance and coordination on this matter. Following Dr. Eren's address, Mr. Mohammed Ahmed al-Murr, Vice-Chairman of the Authority for Culture and Arts, Dubai, and member of IRCICA Governing Board took the floor, pointing out that completion of the re-equipment of IRCICA's library located in its premises in the historical Yıldız Palace and the establishment of its valuable collection in the form of an e-library constitute a landmark development in the Centre's history. With foresight and in cognizance of the contributions of the important mission fulfilled by this Centre in the field of Islamic civilization, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum has extended the necessary support to it; this is another example of the great contributions He has made to cultural undertakings in the Muslim world. Dr. al-Murr said that His Highness' deeds of support and patronage continue through the channel of the Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum Foundation and His other charitable foundations.

The international Press Release explains that the donation will be used to fully modernize the library at IRCICA, that the library's contents will be digitalized and converted into a multilingual portal for easy access to materials by researchers worldwide. It explains that the project will also aim to preserve the archives of IRCICA which include the Yıldız Palace Albums of photographs dating from the end of 19th and beginning of 20th century.

H.E. Mr. Mohammed al-Gergawi, Chairman of the Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum Foundation, said: "The announcement illustrates the keenness of His Highness Sheikh Mohammad to support key cultural initiatives, while preserving rare scriptures, historic artifacts and manuscripts for the benefit of future generations." The Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum Foundation aims to help to create a knowledge-based society through key components of intellectual capital, culture, entrepreneurship and philanthropy.

H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the OIC, described the donation as a source of pride. He pointed out that the gesture by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum was not surprising from someone who generously extended a helping hand to humanitarian, cultural and charitable endeavours around the globe. Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, expressed his gratitude for the donation and said that with the electronic library IRCICA will continue to contribute to promoting studies on Islamic civilisation and inter-cultural relations.

Visit of H.E. Mr. Ertuğrul Günay, Minister of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Turkey, to IRCICA

4 February 2008

IRCICA was honoured to receive at its headquarters H.E. Mr. Ertuğrul Günay, Minister of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Turkey, on 4 February 2008. H.E. the Minister has always shown close interest in IRCICA and its activities. This visit was an excellent opportunity for Director General Dr. Halit Eren to brief the Minister on the main activity programs of the Centre: the "Al-Quds 2015" program of architectural studies and workshops, the "Prince Sultan bin Salman Islamic Architectural Heritage Data Base", and the schedule of scholarly congresses for 2008 and 2009, were underlined. The Director General expressed his gratitude to Minister Günay for the cooperation and assistance extended by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism to the Centre in performance of its tasks and activities.

H.E. Mr. Ertuğrul Günay expressed his appreciation of the variety of important projects undertaken by the Centre. He reaffirmed the continuous support of the Government of Turkey to IRCICA.



The Minister saw the album of historical photographs of Istanbul published recently



On this first visit to IRCICA, the Minister was briefed on the activities of the Centre

IRCICA Activities

Academic workshop held within the framework of the "Al-Quds 2015" Architectural Program

Within the framework of IRCICA's "Al-Quds 2015" program of architectural studies and workshops, an initial academic workshop has been held in Al-Quds, from 19 to 29 January 2008. 34 architects and their assistants from Istanbul Technical University; Yildiz Technical University; Politecnico di Bari, Temple University of Philadelphia, and the University of Sarajevo participated in the workshop, under the coordination of IRCICA. The participants were divided into six groups. Each group focused on separate projects, thus taking up the following sites and monuments: Haseki Sultan Imaret; Turkan Hatun mausoleum; Bab al-Silsila Street; Tower Pool; City Walls; Al-Mansuri Ribat; Alaa al-Din Ribat and Al-Shifa Hammam. The projects consist of examining the sites from the viewpoint of architecture and urban planning and suggesting ways of improving their conditions and preserving them. The groups continue to work on these projects during the spring semester 2008; the results of the exercise will be published by IRCICA.

For three days within the workshop period, lectures were given by prominent local experts, and a site seeing tour was made around the Old City. The team visited the Welfare Association, the Directorate of Awqaf, the Library and Museum at Haram al-Sharif and several other authorities and institutions. Meetings were held with professors at Al-Quds University. The activities will continue with international lectures, publication of reports and studies on the written heritage (the archives), the architectural monuments and the urban settlements of Al-Quds.

Third Congress on "Islamic Civilisation in Volga-Ural Region" in Ufa, Bashkortostan this year

IRCICA is pleased to announce that the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Bashkortostan (Ufa) is cooperating with IRCICA to hold the Third International Congress on "Islamic Civilisation in the Volga-Ural Region", in Ufa, capital city of Bashkortostan, on 14-16 October 2008. The congress will be placed under the high patronage of H.E. M.G. Rachimov, President of the Republic of Bashkortostan. It will be the first international event to be co-organised by IRCICA and the OIC in the Republic of Bashkortostan. The congress aims to keep alive and further expand the forum of scholarly exchange among specialists and researchers of the subject that was established through the first two congresses, which had taken place in Kazan, Tatarstan, in 2000 and 2005 respectively, under the patronage of H.E. Mintimer Shaimiev, President of the Republic of Tatarstan, Russian Federation.

The Ufa congress will cover the theme of the history of Islamic civilization in the Volga-Ural region under its diverse aspects: developments in the fields of science, philosophy,

Participation in the inauguration of "Damascus Arab Capital of Culture 2008" and meetings with Ministers from the OIC Member States

19 January 2008

The city of Damascus was proclaimed by the League of Arab States as the "Arab Capital of Culture 2008". The related programs were officially inaugurated with a ceremony held under the high patronage of H.E. Bashar al-Assad, President of the Syrian Arab Republic, on 19 January 2008, with the participation of Ministers from various Arab countries. Following the addresses of H.E. Dr. Amr Moussa, Secretary General of the League of Arab States, Dr. Munji Bousnina, Secretary General of ALECSO, Dr. Hanan Kassab-Hassan, Secretary General of Damascus Arab Capital of Culture 2008, the inauguration continued with concerts of Syrian music, European symphony music and opera, and recitals of literary texts. The following days, the guests at the inauguration were led to some historical sites and monuments dating from different periods and handicraft centers.

Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, was invited to the inauguration ceremony. His visit to Damascus, accompanied by Mr. Mohammed Qudaimi, Advisor, IRCICA, was also an excellent opportunity for meetings with Ministers from the Government of Syria and other countries. Existing cooperation was appraised and new joint projects were defined. Thus meetings were held with H.E. Dr. Riyad Nassan Agha, Minister of Culture of Syria, H.E. Mr. Ali Saad, Minister of Education, H.E. Mr. M. Ziyad al-Ayoubi, Minister of Awqaf; H.E. Mr. Mohammad Abu Bakr al-Muflahi, Minister of Culture of Yemen.

technology, arts, language, literature and other fields of intellectual activity; interactions with other cultures within and around the region; the legacy of Islamic civilization, in terms of both material culture (architectural heritage, written heritage and other tangible assets) and intangible and spiritual culture (oral, ritual and other intangible aspects of culture), as well as the stages and trends observable in the process of cultural development. The congress is expected to highlight the role and place of Islamic civilisation in the region and its past and prospective contributions to cultural dialogue among the peoples of the region. At the same time, it will be an occasion to appraise the state of research and the problems and prospects of studies on the theme of Islamic civilisation in the Volga-Ural region. The languages of the congress are the Bashkir language, Russian and English.

Applications and abstracts are being received, by 15 July 2008, at IRCICA, at the following e-mail address: ufa@ircica.org.

International Congress on “Islamic Civilisation in South Asia” to be held in Dhaka, People’s Republic of Bangladesh

One of the major academic meetings to be organised this year is the International Congress on “Islamic Civilisation in South Asia”. IRCICA and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh are organising, with the contribution of universities of Bangladesh, an International Congress on “Islamic Civilisation in South Asia” to take place in Dhaka, on 16-18 November 2008. The Congress is placed under the patronage of Dr. Fakhruddin Ahmed, the Hon’ble Chief Adviser of the Government of Bangladesh.

The Congress aims to promote the studies and research focusing on the Islamic history and Islamic civilisation of the region of South Asia. It plans to cover the theme most comprehensively, to generate a forum of study and academic discussions on a variety of subjects, including the role and place of Islam in South Asia, its interactions with other civilisations in and around the region, the main stages and trends of the development of Muslim cultures in South Asia, the history of culture, learning and science, cultural and educational institutions, architecture, archeology, arts, traditional handicrafts and other sectors of intellectual, scientific and artistic activities, the formation and present state of the Islamic cultural heritage in terms of the material culture (written, architectural and other tangible assets) and the spiritual culture (beliefs, oral traditions, performing arts and other intangible expressions of culture). The Congress will bring together scholars and specialists concerned from around the world to present their research findings, exchange ideas and formulate recommendations. The working language will be English.

The Congress theme can be covered under the following broad subject titles:

- Islam in South Asia: history of development
- Muslim cultures of South Asia: common, diverse and integrating tendencies
- Interactions of Islamic civilization in South Asia with other cultures within and outside the region
- Intellectual life, sciences, cultural and educational institutions
- Islamic architecture and urban development in South Asia
- The various arts and traditional crafts
- Sources and references of studies on Islamic civilization in South Asia.

Interested scholars and specialists are invited to send their paper titles and abstracts by the end of July 2008 to IRCICA and/or to the Ministry at the addresses below:

*International Organisations Wing
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Government of the People’s
Republic of Bangladesh
Segunbaghicha, Dhaka 1000,
Bangladesh*

*IRCICA
Dhaka Congress
POB 24 Beşiktaş
Istanbul, Turkey*

International Congress on “The Maghreb and Western Mediterranean during the Ottoman Period” to be held in Rabat

12-14 November 2009

IRCICA and the Royal Institute for Research on the History of Morocco, Rabat, will jointly implement an International Congress on “The Maghreb and Western Mediterranean during the Ottoman Period”, to be held in Rabat, Morocco on 12-14 November 2009.

The Congress aims to promote research and studies on the history of the countries of North Africa during the Ottoman era.

The main themes proposed are:

- I. The Ottoman State and the Maghreb region
 - political aspects
 - economic aspects (trade, urban-rural life, etc.)
 - administrative and institutional aspects
 - cultural and social aspects (education, architecture, etc.)
- II. Ottoman and Maghrebian views and sources (historiography, chronicles and travelogues, press)
- III. The state of research, publications and sources, and methodological and other problems of studies on the subject.

Mutual visits and development of cooperation with various countries

H.E. Mr. Ebrahim Rasool, Premier of Cape Town, South Africa, visited IRCICA

IRCICA was most honoured to receive at its headquarters H.E. Mr. Ebrahim Rasool, Premier of Cape Town province in South Africa, on 21 March 2008, during the period of the Premier's visit to Turkey within the framework of economic and commercial cooperation. H.E. the Premier had visited IRCICA previously on 20 November 2006. The Premier, and most of the high officials in his entourage, were already acquainted with IRCICA's activities, particularly through the Symposium on "Islamic Civilisation in Southern Africa" which was organised jointly by National Awqaf Foundation of South Africa, the University of Johannesburg and IRCICA on 1-3 September 2006 (Newsletter nr. 71, December 2006). During this most recent visit on 21 March IRCICA staff also had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Zeinoul Abedien Cajee, member of the Management Board of Awqaf SA, who was the Coordinator of the symposium. Dr. Halit Eren briefed H.E. Premier Rasool on the recent progress of activities, new projects, and developments concerning the library.



Meeting in the office of the Director General

An academic delegation from the National University of Malaysia visited IRCICA

IRCICA had the pleasure of receiving an academic delegation from the National University of Malaysia (Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia) on 4 February 2008. The delegation was headed by Prof. Zakaria Stapa, Dean of the Faculty of Islamic Studies, and comprised Assoc. Prof. Siti Rugayah Hj. Tibek, Director, Institute of West Asian Studies, and Dr. Wan Kamal

Mujani, Head of Quality Management, Faculty of Islamic Studies. Extensive talks were held on the areas in which the University and IRCICA can collaborate, to organise symposiums, provide facilities for studies and training to students, among other activities. The two parties agreed to keep in contact continuously.



Souvenir photo in front of Çit Qasr, Yıldız Palace

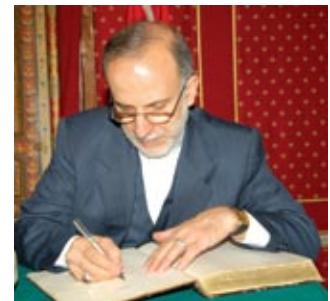
The National University of Malaysia was established in 1970. The Faculty of Islamic Studies has the following Departments: Syariah [the history of the time of Prophet Mohammed], Usul al-din [principles of the faith] and Philosophy, Arabic Studies and Islamic Civilisation, Dawah Studies and Leadership, Quranic Studies and Al-Sunnah [the traditions of the Prophet]. The Institute of West Asian Studies, also represented in the delegation, was set up in October 2007 within the Faculty of Islamic Studies. Its main fields of interest are: Islamic history and civilisation, politics, education and international relations, economy and international trade, science and technology.

The visit of Dr. Mehdi Mostafavi, Advisor to the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Chairman of the Islamic Culture and Relations Organisation, and cooperation between the Organisation and IRCICA

IRCICA was honoured to receive H.E. Dr. Mehdi Mostafavi, Advisor to the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Chairman of the Islamic Culture and Relations Organisation, on 20 February 2008. During the visit, Dr. Halit Eren briefed the distinguished guest on recent progress in the Centre's activities. He recalled the various cultural activities that were organized jointly by Iranian authorities and institutions and IRCICA, in particular, the Congress on "Islamic Arts and Crafts" which was organised in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Culture and Islamic Relations Organisation, in Isfahan, in 2002.



Samples of books on Iran chosen from IRCICA Library



Dr. Mehdi Mostafavi expressed his appreciation of the studies done and services rendered by the Centre in the field of Islamic civilization. He also expressed his appreciation of the activities of IRCICA's library. During the talks, proposals were formulated on projects on which the Organisation and the Centre could work together.

The visit of Mr. Ali Akbar Ashari, Advisor to the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran for Culture and Director General of the National Library and Archive Organisation

IRCICA was honoured to receive on its premises H.E. Mr. Ali Akbar Ashari, Advisor to the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran for Culture and Director General of the National Library and Archive Organisation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and his colleagues, on 22 February 2008. The distinguished guests were briefed by Dr. Halit Eren on the activities and particularly the on-going expansion project of the Centre's library. Mr. Ashari recorded his impressions on the Centre's activities, as follows (original in Persian):

"We had the opportunity of visiting IRCICA and the affiliated library on 22 February 2008, together with some colleagues. This centre offers very important and appropriate opportunities of cultural exchanges among Islamic countries. One of the meritorious services it renders is its efforts to collect references on Islamic culture and civilization from various corners of the Muslim world. During this visit I also became acquainted with its other activities of the Centre such as the preparation of a bibliography of Quran translations, the collection of Islamic sources, the convening and dissemination of the results of conferences on Quran translations and on calligraphy."



Mr. Ashari received information on the Centre's recent activities

A delegation of the Council of Representatives of the Kingdom of Bahrain visited IRCICA

The Centre was honoured to receive on its premises a delegation of the Council of Representatives of the Kingdom of Bahrain, on 12 March 2008, within the framework of an official visit to Turkey. The delegation, chaired by Dr. Salah Ali Abdulrahman, Second Vice Chairman of the Council of Representatives, visited the different departments and the library of the Centre, saw samples of the publications. Dr. Abdulrahman recorded his impressions in the Visitors' Book, expressing his appreciation of the services of IRCICA in contribution to studies on Islamic history and culture.

IRCICA received the Republic of Guinea-Bissau's Minister of Commerce, Industry and Handicrafts

H.E. Mr. Herry Mané, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Handicrafts of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, visited IRCICA Director General on 14 May 2008. The distinguished guest was briefed by Dr. Halit Eren on the Centre's activities and the growing and promising cooperation between the Government and the cultural institutions of Guinea-Bissau on one hand and IRCICA on the other. The Minister recorded his impressions in the Visitors' Book (original in Portuguese): "I am signing this Book with pleasure and esteem on behalf of the Government of Guinea-Bissau and my own to thank the officials of this Centre for what they are doing for our country. Our country is fraternal to Turkey and always appreciates Turkey's assistance for its development. I would like to sincerely thank all those concerned for their cooperation."



Minister Mr. Herry Mané saw the publications

Lectures

"Inter-religious dialogue", a lecture by Dr. Adnan Arslan

A group of eighteen students from various departments of Syracuse University in Madrid, headed by Prof. Alfonso Egea de Haro (Political Science) and Prof. Charis Edenhofer (Management) visited IRCICA on 19 April to attend a lecture on "Inter-religious dialogue" which was delivered by Assoc. Prof. Adnan Arslan, a scholar of the politics of religion at ISAM, Istanbul. The lecture was accompanied by a presentation of IRCICA's activities with a special focus on its research and publications relating to "Inter-cultural dialogue", by Ms. Zeynep Durukal (IRCICA). The first lecture highlighted the principles of Islamic faith, the common principles shared by all major religions and exchanges between the peoples of different faiths. Assoc. Prof. Adnan Arslan began his lecture by explaining the approach of Islam toward other religions, its principle of tolerance. He underlined the principle of Universality as well as Diversity of the Revelation which marks the Islamic approach to other faith systems. The lecturer then illustrated the application of Islam's principle of multiculturalism in real life by recalling the Medina Convention (the Constitution proclaimed by Prophet Mohammed when he established the first Islamic State in Medina) and other significant cases of the officially recognized and guaranteed coexistence of peoples of different faiths in the history of Islam.



IRCICA hosted a lecture by Dr. Adnan Arslan (left)

The second lecture dealt with the cultural aspects of international relations. It was an outline of IRCICA's activities promoting academic studies, education and lay knowledge relating to the civilization born from Islam, its authentic contributions to sciences, philosophy, arts, architecture, etc., and its encounters and exchanges with other civilizations from the advent of Islam to our time. IRCICA's activities in this field including research, publications and convening of congresses were outlined.

Cultural Events

IRCICA's partnership and participation in international artistic events held in the Member States

»»» Participation in the Third Kuwait Islamic International Islamic Arts Convention (30 December 2007 - 12 January 2008)

H.E. Dr. Abdullah al-Mohaylabi, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs of Kuwait, inaugurated the Third Kuwait Islamic International Islamic Arts Convention on 30 December 2007 with a ceremony held in the presence of numerous guests in a hall at the complex of the Grand Mosque. Artists working in various branches of Islamic arts, including applications on wood, metal, mother-of-pearl, participated in this Convention; workshops on calligraphy and engravings applied on various materials (directed by Mr. Salih Balakbabalar) and on marbled paper (Mr. Hikmet Barutçugil) were conducted. Separate workshops were held for school children. Mr. Waleed Fadel al-Fadel, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and member of IRCICA Governing Board, declared that the rate of participation in this session of the Convention was remarkably high, with 75 artists from 23 countries and 150 primary schools.

IRCICA participated in the Convention by coordinating two workshops and with an exhibition of 50 works of marbled paper and calligraphy by eight artists from Turkey and by displaying the calligraphies which won awards in its 7th calligraphy competition (2007). A number of institutions from various countries participated in this Convention including Tareq al-Sayyid Rajab (Kuwait), Beit al-Hikma (Tunisia), Jamiyat Maknaz al-Islami (Egypt), Al-Balqa Applied University (Jordan), Bait ul-Quran (Bahrain). Furthermore, Mr. Abdullah bin Jassim al-Mutairi from Dubai displayed old Islamic coins from his important personal collection.



Opening of the Convention by the Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs of Kuwait Dr. al-Mohaylabi

»»» Participation in the Islamic Art Heritage and Culture Exhibition, Doha, Qatar (13-31 January, 5-7 February 2008)

IRCICA participated in the official opening of the Qatar Islamic Cultural Centre FANAR affiliated with the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, by coordinating an exhibition of calligraphy, illumination and marbled paper and two workshops. The exhibition comprised 35 illuminated works of calligraphy in the well-known styles, by 12 artists from Turkey. The first workshop, on calligraphy, was directed by Mr. Mümtaz Seçkin Durdu, and the second one, on marbled paper, was directed by consecutively Mr. Fuat Başar and Mr. Ahmet Çoktan. IRCICA's publications were also displayed, including the facsimile edition of the Quran copy attributed to Caliph Othman bin Affan. Sample pages were also displayed from the "Mushaf (Quran copy) of Qatar" calligraphed by Mr. Ubayda al-Banki, who ranked first in the competition that was organized to this aim at the instructions of H.H. Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and IRCICA (finalized in 2007).

FANAR Centre was inaugurated by H.H. Sheikh Hamad bin Jasim bin Jaber al-Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs; H.E. Faisal bin Abdullah al-Mahmoud, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs was also present, together with members of the Government and Heads of diplomatic missions. FANAR Centre presented art works selected from its own collections. During the event, IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren was received by H.E. Faisal bin Abdullah al-Mahmoud, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs of Qatar, for an appraisal of the cooperation between the Ministry and IRCICA and an exchange of views on the printing of the "Mushaf (Quran copy) of Qatar" with most modern techniques.

The exhibition was extended over the period of 5-7 February, on the occasion of the State visit of H.E. Dr. Abdullah Gül, President of the Republic of Turkey, to Qatar. President Gül and the accompanying delegation visited the exhibition. The President received information from Dr. Halit Eren on the exhibition. A work of art by master calligrapher Hasan Çelebi, who was present together with a group of calligraphers and gilders, was offered to President Abdullah Gül as a souvenir of His visit.



President Gül received information from Dr. Eren on the works and the artists
(on the right, Turkish calligrapher Hasan Çelebi)

»»» Co-organisation of the Dubai Fifth International Exhibition of the Arabic Calligraphic Art (13-20 February 2008)

Under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum, Crown Prince and member of the Executive Council of Dubai, the Dubai Department of Tourism and Commercial Marketing and IRCICA have jointly organised this Festival. The event was held on the premises of the Cultural and Scientific Association, which was one of the sponsors of the event together with the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Community Development and Emirates Bank. Forty-seven calligraphers from ten countries (Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Irak, Iran, Palestine, Sudan, Syria, Turkey and United Arab Emirates) participated in this year's Festival. A total of 165 works were displayed, under three sections: the classical calligraphy section, the modern calligraphy section, and a special section for Iraqi calligraphers. Within the framework of the event, workshops were conducted – a workshop on the art of marbled paper taught by Mr. Ahmet Çoktan (Turkey), and three calligraphy workshops, by Savaş Çevik, Ali Shirazi and Mehmed Özçay. The following lectures also took place: "A tribute to the calligrapher and illuminator Mohammed Zakariya" by Dr. Nabil F. Safwat, "Square Kufi combinations" by Dr. Rodhan Bhaya, "Calligraphy between text and representation" by Dr. Irwin Schick, "The applications of Arabic calligraphy in architecture" by Eng. Basim Zabeb. During the exhibition period, awards of appreciation were given to Dr. Mohammed Ahmed al-Murr, Vice-Chairman of the Authority for Culture and Arts, Dubai, and member of IRCICA Governing Board, and Calligrapher Mr. Mohammed Mandi from the United Arab Emirates, for their contributions to the exhibition. Then H.E. Mr. Khaled bin Sleim, Chairman of the Dubai Department of Tourism and Commercial Marketing, gave certificates of appreciation to the participating artists. H.E. Mr. Abdulrahman al-Uways, Minister of Culture, Youth and Community Development was present at these exhibitions. During the period of the exhibition, IRCICA Director General was received by H.E. Mr. Khaled bin Sleim, Chairman of the Dubai Department of Tourism and Commercial Marketing, whereby talks were held on the possibility of enlarging the areas of cooperation between IRCICA and the Department.



From the right: Mr. Khaled bin Sleim, Dr. Eren, Mr. al-Murr, Turkish calligrapher Mr. Ferhat Korlu

»»» The Third Session of the Sharjah Calligraphy Biennial (2 April - 2 June 2008)

The Third Session of the Sharjah Calligraphy Biennial was inaugurated by H.H. Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohammed al-Qassimi, Member of the Supreme Council of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Sharjah. The opening was attended by H.H. Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed bin Sultan al-Qassimi, Crown Prince and Deputy Ruler of Sharjah, and H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the OIC as the invitee and guest of honour of His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohammed al-Qassimi. The biennial was organized by the Arts Division of the Sharjah Culture and Information Department. The biennial events were held at the Sharjah Calligraphy Area.

The exhibition which opened that day comprised 1200 works by 200 artists from 30 countries. Mr. Abdullah al-Uways, Director of the Sharjah Culture and Information Department, said that due to the high rate of participation in this session, the exhibition was arranged in three sections, to display, respectively, the traditional works, modern compositions, and contemporary applications.

At the inaugural ceremony, H.H. Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohammed al-Qassimi, Member of the Supreme Council of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Sharjah, honoured H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the OIC, in recognition of his outstanding contributions deployed over the past three decades for the promotion and dissemination of the art of calligraphy and for establishing the international calligraphy competition that is implemented by IRCICA.

Then, Prof. İhsanoğlu presented H.H. Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohammed al-Qassimi with a Token of Gratitude for His patronage and support of the art of calligraphy and the calligraphers. In an interview granted on that day, H.E. the Secretary General of OIC said that "This biennial is a new great achievement for the art of calligraphy. It shows the progress made in this art since the 1980s. The large scale achieved by the Sharjah Biennial owes much to His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohammed al-Qassimi who, as a patron and promoter of the noble art of calligraphy, opened new horizons for it. This biennial has become an important periodical event and meeting point for both calligraphers and the lovers of this art."

Sharjah biennial has a distinctive feature as compared to other international art events in that it is devoted exclusively to the art of calligraphy.



H.H. Sheikh Dr. al-Qassimi honoured Prof. İhsanoğlu for his outstanding contributions towards promoting the art of calligraphy



H.H. Sheikh Dr. al-Qassimi and OIC Secretary General Prof. İhsanoğlu visited the exhibition

Pakistani Calligrapher Syed Nafees ul Hussaini passed away

Syed Nafees ul Hussaini, an eminent calligrapher from Pakistan, passed away on 5 February 2008 in Lahore, Pakistan. He was a member of the Jury of the Calligraphy Competition which was organised by IRCICA in 1989 and attended the Jury meeting which was held at IRCICA from 18 to 25 December 1989. Typing fonts in styles such as naskh and nestaliq were developed on the basis of his calligraphy. His contributions to this art through his own calligraphic writings, research, and teaching, will always be remembered with gratitude and appreciation. May God bless his soul.

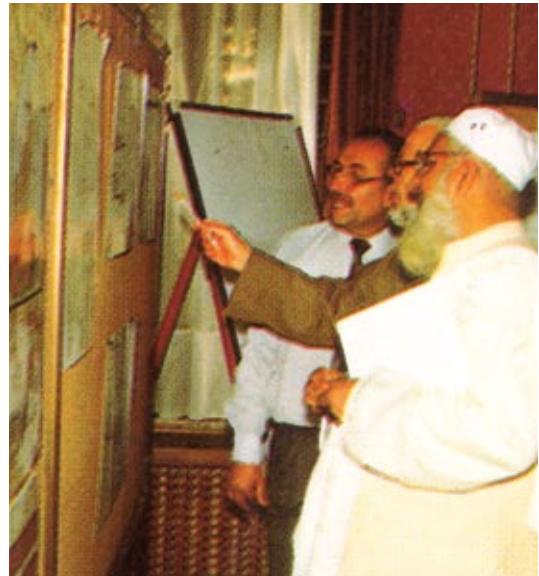
Pakistani scholar, author and specialist of arts Dr. Muhammad Rashid Shaikh has kindly sent the below article on the life and the works of the late Syed Nafees ul Hussaini. Dr. Rashid Shaikh is the compiler of the book Maqalat e Khattati Syed Nafees ul Hussaini (Articles on calligraphy by Syed Nafees ul Hussaini), Khawaran Publishers, Lahore, 2006, which is presented in the Book Survey section of this issue of the Newsletter. He also wrote a chapter on the life and works of Nafees ul Hussaini in his book Tazkira e Khattateen ("Record of calligraphers") published in 1999. Presently he is engaged in publishing a book to contain reproductions of the masterpieces of Syed Nafees ul Hussaini under the title of Armaghan e Nafees.

The demise of Pakistani master calligrapher

Syed Nafees ul Hussaini

Dr. Muhammad Rashid Shaikh

The sad demise of Syed Nafees ul Hussaini on 5 February 2008 grieved not only the calligraphers of Pakistan but his admirers and students all over the world. He was not only a calligrapher but above all a Sufi scholar, and author. Syed Nafees ul Hussaini was born in 1933 in a small village called Ghoriala in Sialkot, Pakistan. His father Syed Muhammad Ahsraf Ali was a calligrapher, and copied the Quran. Syed Nafees was trained by his father and then by studying the works of master calligraphers, in the various styles. From 1951 to 1957 he worked as Chief Calligrapher of some major newspapers of Lahore. In 1956, at the age of 23, he was elected President of Pakistan Calligraphers' Association's Lahore branch. From 1956 onwards he worked privately, taught thousands of students. In 1976 he was elected President of Pakistan Calligraphers' Association. Nafees ul Hussaini wrote the titles of countless books; complete books in his beautiful calligraphy deserve praise. He wrote the complete poetry in Urdu of the famous poet Mirza Ghalib as Deewan e Ghalib which was published by the University of Punjab, Lahore. Other books which he wrote are Seerat e Syed Ahmad Shaheed, Kaleem e Bulay Shah, Sher e Naab, etc. He used to write over stone with ease. He was invited as a Jury member of the Baghdad Calligraphy Competition (1988) and the Calligraphy Competition organised by IRCICA (as the Executive Secretariat of the OIC International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage - ICPICH) in 1989 in the name of master Yaqt al-Mustasimi. In 1980 the Government of Pakistan awarded him the Pride of Performance Medal, which is the highest civil award by the Government of Pakistan presented to Pakistanis who did any respectable jobs in their fields. Syed Nafees ul Hussaini was kind-hearted, soft-spoken, hospitable and modest living. He was respected by all.



Syed Nafees ul Hussaini (right) was a member of the calligraphy competition jury at IRCICA

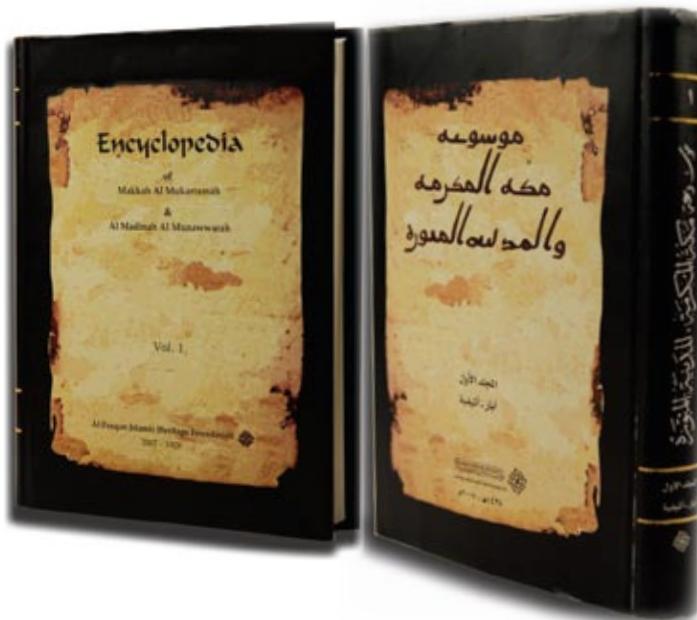
Book Survey

»»» A selection of books received by IRCICA Library

Cities, sites and monuments

- **Mawsû'at Makkah al-Mukarramah wa'al-Madinah al-Munawwarah / Encyclopedia of Makkah Al Mukarramah & Al Madinah Al Munawwarah**, Vol. I, Chairman and General Editor: Ahmad Zaki Yamani, Head of the editorial board: Abbas Salih Tashkendi, Al Furqan Islamic Heritage Foundation; Cairo, 2007, 5+17+655 p. (in Arabic)

for some years, of publishing a Makkah and Madinah Encyclopedia. Following consultations with the scholars in the Board of Directors and the International Advisory Council for the planning of this immense undertaking, Shaikh Yamani appointed the leading Saudi scholar Abbas Salih Tashkendi as the Head of the editorial board. The first volume came out in 2007. It begins with the entry on Abar (آبار المدينة), the wells of Makkah and Madinah and



The Makkah and Madinah Encyclopaedia is the product of another major initiative by H.E. Sheikh Zaki Yamani, a leading Muslim intellectual of our time, a patron of cultural and scholarly activities. The work resulted from many years of research and editing in the context of a large-scale project undertaken by Al-Furqan Islamic Heritage Foundation, London. The Foundation was established in 1988 by the Yamani Cultural and Charitable Foundation. It is chaired by Shaikh Zaki Yamani. It fulfils an important mission: publishing rare Islamic manuscripts, locating, helping to preserve and cataloguing the collections of manuscripts that are kept and sometimes neglected, in various parts of the world, organizing symposiums relating to these collections, codicology and other studies on these collections and publishing their proceedings. The Foundation also organised training courses on the preservation and cataloguing of manuscripts. It established a valuable library. Shaikh Zaki Yamani, the Chairman of the Foundation, had been thinking,

ends with the entry on Usayfiya (عسفية). It has a Foreword by Shaikh Zaki Yamani. This is followed by an Introduction by Tashkendi explaining the aims, methods and contents of the encyclopedia. It is a high-quality edition that includes photographs, maps and diagrams. It contains entries on the tribes and family lines having lived in Makkah and Madinah such as the Abu Numeyy (pp. 109-118) Ahl Bait (pp. 119-129), Jemmag (pp. 134-136), Saud (pp. 139-156), Katada (pp. 164-167), Hashim (pp. 171-172), Ibn Zahira (pp. 375-386), Ibn Fahd (pp. 484-486), among others. It also has entries on the monuments, the holy relics of the Prophet (such as His sword, His footprint, His banner, His stamp, His headgear, His shirt, His shoes, pp. 19-76), the sacred places in Makkah and Madinah, masjids, their gates (pp. 580-624), the bastions (pp. 193-194), the rectangular structures similar to bastions or citadels that the tribes of the city used for defense purposes and called atam (sing. utum) (pp. 83-108). There are also entries on elements of the geography and topography of

Makkah and Madinah such as hills, roads, gardens, rocks, villages and rivers, on cemeteries, fountains and other public structures, as well as musical instruments used in Makkah and Madinah (pp. 176-185), the medreses (pp. 242, 259, 267, 272), the libraries (pp. 173-174, 205, 207, 208, 209, 213, 219, 220, 224, 245-247, 253, 257, 272, 280, 292, 300, 367, 386, 391, 416, 418, 419, 460, 468, 469, 476, 482, 499, 540, 573), the kuttab - primary schools (pp. 82, 185, 207, 208, 209, 220, 264, 352, 545, 547), the objects and clothes used by the people of Makkah and Madinah, the means of communication (pp. 636-640), the treaties concluded in these two cities (pp. 640-645). The entries also give detailed information on numerous personalities who lived in these cities, particularly, on Prophet Ibrahim and Caliph Abu Bakr (pp. 194-204, 484-486) whose names are included in this volume due to the Arabic alphabetic order.

It is clear from the contents of this volume that the entire Encyclopedia will be a very rich source of information and fill a gap. For example, the abundance of books written on important houses in Makkah and Madinah, of books and travelogues written about the cities of Makkah and Madinah is surprising. The entries prepared on the basis of these sources are arranged separately for each place and each house.

This important reference is now available thanks to the important initiative of Shaikh Zaki Yamani, who established Al-Furqan Islamic Heritage Foundation and spared no effort to enable it to fulfill its noble objectives. On this occasion we would like to congratulate H.E. Shaikh Zaki Yamani and also congratulate Prof. Abbas Salih Tashkendi and his colleagues who worked meticulously to prepare this encyclopedia in an excellent manner. We look forward to the publication of the subsequent volumes.

(Prof. Ramazan Şesen, Head of the Department of Bibliographies and Manuscripts, IRCICA)

■ **Yesterday and Today the Holy Land** by David Roberts, Lithographs by David Roberts, Text by Fabio Bourbon, Photographs by Antonio Attini, White Star Publishers, 2004, 270 p.

David Roberts (1796-1864) is a Scottish painter especially known for a series of detailed prints of Egypt and the Near East. He produced them during the 1840s from sketches that he made during his long tours in the region (1838-1840). These works contributed to his renown as a prominent Orientalist painter. He set sail for Egypt on 31 August 1838 with the aim of producing drawings which he could later use as the basis for his paintings and lithographs. He made a long tour in Egypt, Nubia, the Sinai, the Holy Land, Jordan and Lebanon. In the meantime, he produced a vast collection of drawings and watercolor sketches.

This book contains the one hundred twenty-three lithographs made from the sketches produced by Roberts during his voyage in the Sinai Peninsula to Jerusalem and, finally to the city of Baalbek. The illustrations in this volume were reproduced from the first edition published in three volumes (1842-1849) with the title of "The Holy Land, Syria, Idumea,

Egypt, Nubia". The lithographs appear for the first time in chronological order. They start with the arrival of Roberts in Suez on February 10, 1839 and continue till his departure from Baalbek on May 8, 1839.

Each plate is accompanied by a commentary by Italian journalist Fabio Bourbon, a brief excerpt from Roberts's travel journals and a contemporary photograph of the site taken by photojournalist Attini. These photographs depict the same composition and setting, almost 150 years later; bridging the past and the present in one of the world's most historic regions. Following the "Introduction" by Bourbon, this volume also includes a biography of David Roberts. The album consists of the following three sections: "From Suez to Jerusalem", "Jerusalem and the Pilgrimage to the Jordan River", and "From Jerusalem to Baalbek." This album takes one to a journey in one of the most fascinating regions on earth.

■ Ghazala Misbah, **The Wazir Khan Mosque, its Aesthetic Beauty**, Lahore, Ferozsons Ltd. 1999, 130 p., 92 + 47 plates + 63 figures

The Wazir Khan Mosque is a major architectural monument of Lahore and a masterpiece of Mughal architecture. It is located near the Delhi gate of Lahore. The access to the mosque is provided through a gate leading into a forecourt that functions as a bazaar. It was built in seven years, starting around 1634-35 A.D., during the reign of Shah Jahan, the Mughal Emperor. It was founded by Shaikh Iilm ud-Din Ansari, who became court physician to Shah Jahan and later, the Governor of Lahore, with the title of Wazir Khan. He commissioned buildings in Lahore.

The author of this book is a scientist, a practicing artist, and an archaeologist at the same time. Her research works are related to Pakistani art, Islamic buildings, calligraphy, miniature paintings and comparative study of Asian art. The author has done a careful study to explain the hidden splendor of this magnificent building in depth. The mosque is built in the brick and tile construction typical of the area. Its colorful ornament in paint and kashi work (glazed tile mosaic) is remarkable. The designs include calligraphy and floral motifs. The surface decoration is in tile-mosaic and fresco.

The chapters of the book are related to the building's plan, decoration, aesthetic aspects, architectural composition. While discussing the plan of the mosque, the author examines the vestibule complex, minarets, iwans and side entrances, and the prayer chamber. In the next chapter she discusses the decoration of the main components of the building. Aesthetic aspects of the mosque are dealt with in terms of such elements as colour, various patterns and calligraphy, and architectural decorations. The last chapter concerns the architectural composition of the mosque. This subject is examined in terms of the following aspects: Stability and balance, contrast and rhythm, field of force, harmony and unity, and movement.

Islamic studies from Pakistan and India

- Muhammad Rashid Shaikh, **Dr. Muhammad Hamidullah**, Idara e Ilm o Funn, Karachi, 2005, 496 p. (in Urdu)

This book is a comprehensive source material and reference about Dr. Muhammad Hamidullah, one of the towering personalities of Islamic scholarship. He was born in 1908 in Hyderabad, India, and died in 2001 at Jacksonville, USA. He was well-versed in Urdu, English, Turkish, Arabic, Persian, French, German, Russian and Italian. The total number of books he wrote was above 175. More than 1000 articles he wrote in the above languages were published. The book contains biographical and bibliographical information about the late scholar, together with some rare articles written by Dr. Hamidullah about his life from his own pen. One section contains detailed information on his books and articles in Urdu, English, Arabic and Persian. Another section contains articles written about him by various scholars within his lifetime and posthumously. The same section also contains articles written by his students and colleagues upon the request of the author and compiler, Dr. Muhammad Rashid Shaikh. Among them are two informative articles by Dr. N.A. Asrar about his personal association with Dr. Hamidullah and the latter's relations with academic circles in Turkey. The last section of the book contains hundreds of letters in Urdu written by the late scholar to his students and fellows. IRCICA is thankful to Dr. Muhammad Rashid Shaikh for gifting this and other important publications to its library.

- Muhammad Rashid Shaikh, **Dr. Nabi Bakhsh Baloch - Shakhiyat aur Funn** (Dr. Nabi Bakhsh Baloch-Personality and Services), Academy of Letters Islamabad, 2007, 160 p. (in Urdu)

Dr. Nabi Bakhsh Baloch is a leading scholar from Pakistan who has devoted more than six decades to research and still today continues to do so. He is the former Vice Chancellor of Sindh University, Jamshoro and founding Vice Chancellor of the International Islamic University Islamabad. He wrote books and articles in Islamic studies in English, Urdu, Sindhi, Arabic and Persian. Dr. Baloch had learnt the tools of high quality research from his teacher at Aligarh Muslim University, the famous scholar of Arabic, Allama Abdul Aziz Al-Memon (1888-1978). The present book is the first comprehensive reference in Urdu language about his life, his works and his contributions to research and learning. It was written at the request of the Academy of Letters, Islamabad. It deals with Dr. Baloch's literary and research activities and his published and unpublished books. His services in the fields of lexicography, history, Arabic, Persian English and Urdu languages are reviewed in detail. The author, Dr. Muhammad Rashid Shaikh, is well-versed in English, Urdu, Arabic and Sindhi and has used published and unpublished materials in all these languages in preparing this book. The author also recorded interviews with Dr. Baloch. This is an extensive record of Dr. Baloch's book and therefore a valuable record of one significant section of literary studies in Pakistan and India.

- Nisar Ahmed Asrar, **Turkey ka Islami Shaair Muhammad Akif Ersoy** (The Islamic poet of Turkey, Mehmet Akif Ersoy), Idara e Ilm o Funn, Karachi, 2004, 203 p. (in Urdu)

The author of this book, Dr. N.A. Asrar, lived in Turkey for about forty years until he died in Ankara in 2004. He had an excellent knowledge of Urdu, English, Turkish and German. He authored or translated at least twenty books in these languages. The present book is his last book and was published shortly before his demise. It is the first comprehensive publication about the life and the works of the illustrious poet Mehmet Akif Ersoy in the Urdu language. It begins with a detailed study on the life, the personality and the poetry of Ersoy. Here, the author discovered and established similarities between the poetry of Ersoy and that of Muhammad Iqbal. The subsequent eight chapters contain remarkably successful Urdu translations of selections from Akif's poetry. Thanks to this book, Akif's poetry and the essence of his thought have been made accessible to Urdu readers in the best way.

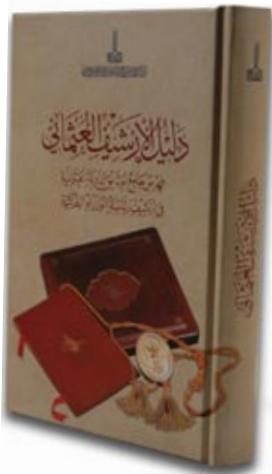
Islamic studies from Pakistan and India

- Muhammad Rashid Shaikh, **Maqalat e Khattati Syed Nafees ul Hussaini** (Articles on calligraphy by Syed Nafees ul Hussaini), Khawaran Publishers, Lahore, 2006, 112 p. (large size) (in Urdu)

Syed Nafees ul Hussaini was an eminent master of calligraphy in Pakistan. He died on 5 February 2008 in Lahore, Pakistan, at the age of 75. He was an expert in writing all major calligraphic styles, including naskhi, thuluth, naskh, kufi, diwani, ijaza, and riqa. He taught this art for more than fifty years without any single earning from this service and rather by helping his students from his own pocket. Syed Nafees ul Hussaini was a member of the Jury of the Second Calligraphy Competition which was organised by IRCICA in 1989; he had attended the Jury meeting at IRCICA from 18 to 25 December 1989. An obituary article is included on p. 39.

The compiler of this book, Dr. Rashid Shaikh, is also the author of *Tazkira e Khattateen* ("Record of calligraphers"), which was published by Idara e Ilm o Funn, Karachi, 1999. It is a biographical and bibliographical work covering twenty master calligraphers of the 20th century from Pakistan, Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Egypt, Lebanon and India, and containing over 250 reproductions of calligraphies by these masters, some of them unpublished before. In *Maqalat e Khattati Syed Nafees ul Hussaini* he points out that Syed Nafees had a multidimensional personality. Besides being a master calligrapher, he was also an author, poet, and historian of the art of calligraphy. He wrote a number of articles on this art, relating to its evolution and the contributions of eminent calligraphers. Dr. Rashid Shaikh compiled these articles in this beautiful book, and wrote a detailed introduction about Syed Nafees' life, services rendered to this art, and also included reproductions of some of Syed Nafees' masterpieces. Dr. Rashid Shaikh is presently engaged in preparing a comprehensive album of calligraphic works by Syed Nafees, to be published under the title *Armaghan e Nafees*.

- **Guidebook to the Prime Ministry's Ottoman Archives**, translated into Arabic by Salih Sadawi, Preface by Halit Eren, IRCICA, 2008, xliii+619 (in Arabic)



The immense collections of archival materials inherited from the Ottoman State constitute a unique fund of references as regards the history of not only Turkey but also that of the national histories and the common histories of all the nation states which were once part of the Ottoman world. These archives are indispensable for studies on the history of the Arab countries, the Balkans, the Mediterranean, and North Africa, and also for the development of the national archives of countries of those regions. The collections of documents preserved at the Department of Ottoman Archives attached to the Directorate General of State Archives, Prime Ministry of the Republic of Turkey, are the State archives of the Ottoman Empire. Apart from these archives, other archive collections of different content are kept in museums, such as the Archive of the Topkapı Palace, the archives of the waqfs containing the waqf deeds and documents, the Archives of Sharia Registers, and the Archives of the land registry. The Turkish Prime Ministry's Ottoman Archives contain the documents of the central State administration.

The present book is the Arabic edition of the fourth guidebook to the Ottoman Archives published until now and second to be published by IRCICA. Archive experts Dr. Necati Aktaş and İsmet Binark had prepared the earlier guidebook, which was translated into Arabic and published by IRCICA in 1986. The present one is the Arabic translation of the guidebook that was published by the Prime Ministry's Directorate General of State Archives in 2000. The Introduction gives information on the Ottoman state archive system, the historical evolution of the archive, the existing classifications of the collections. The first and second sections of the book give detailed information on the contents of the collections which belonged to the Imperial Council, the Imperial Registry, the Sublime Porte, Yıldız Palace, the different departments of the State, the provincial archives;

the third section describes the collections of maps, albums and photographs, collections transferred from personal archives and catalogues of documents contained in archives within and outside Turkey. The fourth section describes the administrative structure of the Directorate General of State Archives, the laws relating to the State's archival services, rules to be followed while doing research in the archives. The analytical index added to the guidebook facilitates its usage by listing the series of registers and documents.

- **Takvim-i Vekayi**, the Official Gazette of the Ottoman Empire (published from 1831 to 1923), on DVD/CD

Takvim-i Vekayi, the Official Gazette of the Ottoman Empire, was published from 1831 to 1923. IRCICA made its reproductions available in the form of 11 DVDs and one CD. It is a valuable source of information for researchers in history whose subjects of interest relate to the second half of the 19th century. The gazette was issued with intervals, over three periods: 1 November 1831 – 8-9 April 1880, 2139 numbers; 26 March 1891-14 May 1892, 283 numbers; 28 September 1908 – 4 November 1922, 4608 numbers. Thus 7030 numbers were published in total. The gazette not only announced the decisions of the State, but was also a medium of information on actual facts and events. One finds in it official news concerning the State, military news, and also internal news, external news, orders and decisions of the Sultan; laws, regulations, declarations; budgetary and financial news; graduations, medals; economic and health news; scientific news; commercial and industrial news; strange events; public notices. It is an important first-hand source on the history of many countries which were part of or maintained relations with the Ottoman State.

It was published in Turkish and sometimes also in the following languages, although for short periods and irregularly: Arabic, Persian, Greek, Armenian and French. Takvim-i Vekayi is an indispensable source for researchers interested in the late periods of Ottoman history.

ISBN 92-9063-162-7 (set)





(Ottoman Administration in The Sudan in the Light of Archival Documents), Prepared by Uğurhan Demirbaş et al., Introduction by Halit Eren and Yusuf Sarınay, translated by Salih Sadawi, IRCICA, 2007, xxxvi+447 p.+ 144 documents and maps (in Arabic)

This collection of the Ottoman archive documents was prepared for publication by archivists at the Department of the Ottoman Archives, Turkish Prime Ministry's General Directorate of the Ottoman Archives, namely Uğurhan Demirbaş, Ali Osman Çınar, Mücahit Demirel, Seher Dilber, Recep Karacakaya, Nurhan Koltuk, Ümmihani Ünemlioğlu, Kemal Gurulkan, Yusuf İhsan Genç. Its contents were translated into Arabic and published by IRCICA.

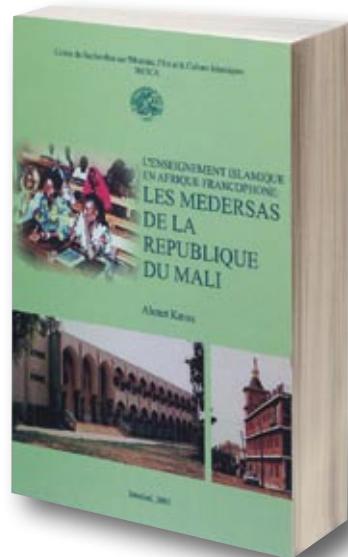
The documents reproduced in this book in their translation from Ottoman Turkish into Arabic are official decrees and registers of the Ottoman State concerning the parts of its territory which are included in modern-day Sudan. For example, a major part of the province of Habeş (Abyssinia) is within The Sudan today; therefore, archive registers concerning this important region are included in the book. The aim of this publication is to render these first-hand sources on the history of The Sudan accessible to readers in Arabic. The book is in two parts. The first part has an Introduction and a section titled "Sudan under Ottoman rule".

The Introduction gives brief information on the documents: Mühimmes (the series of registers for the imperial council), tapu tahrir defters (population and cadastral registers), name-i hümâyun (autographed orders of the Sultan), ruûs, vakfiye and nişan defters, fermans (firmans), hatt-ı hümâyun (imperial decrees), muahedenâmes (treaties), maps. There are also chronicles and memoirs. The documents reproduced in the first part deal mainly with state administration, the Indian Campaign of the Ottomans which took place with the purpose of protecting the rights of the Muslims in South Asia and on the shores of the Indian Ocean against the attacks of the Spanish and the Portuguese. Following this campaign, the Ottomans organized another campaign in middle Nile in order to protect the rights of the Muslims in this area and to secure their boundaries in Africa. Thus, the Ottomans established a sanjak and a short period afterwards an eyalet in part of present-day Sudan. It was called the province of Habeş.

The period from 1555 until the beginning of the 17th century marks the establishment and development stages of this province. A joint Egyptian and British administration was established in The Sudan on January 19, 1899, following the agreement signed between these two states. This agreement marked the end of the Ottoman sovereignty in the Sudan. The second part contains the transcriptions and facsimile reproductions of some important documents. The original Turkish edition will be published by the Department of Ottoman Archives of the Turkish Prime Ministry's General Directorate of State Archives.

- Ahmet Kavas, *L'Enseignement islamique en Afrique francophone: Les Médersas de la République du Mali* (Islamic education in French-speaking Africa: the Medersas of the Republic of Mali), IRCICA, Istanbul, 2003, vii+424 p; ill. (in French)

As early as the 14th century Mali, a great empire of the time, assumed a major role in introducing Islamic education in Africa. Timbuctu flourished in that period as an international centre where students from all corners of the continent were trained in Quranic sciences and the Arabic language. Other cities flourished around it, building a network of centres of learning which left an immense intellectual and written heritage. Later, the 18th and 19th centuries saw successive movements of revival in Islamic education. From the end of 19th century onwards, under the French administration, different types of schools were established: the secular public schools, the Islamic schools or medersas, and the Christian schools. Following the foundation of the Republic of Mali, the modern medersa system assumed a key role in Islamic education. This comprehensive book on the developments of the 20th century resulted from the author's doctorate thesis at the University of Paris-7-Denis Diderot, conducted under the advice of Prof. Jean-Louis Triaud. The research is based on in-depth studies in the archives of Mali and Paris. It covers the processes starting with the evolution of modern Islamic education in French-speaking Africa, especially the Quranic school of the colonial period which already existed before and continued to exist after this period, and deals in great detail with the present state of the medersas and Islamic education, with ample data on their activities, their curricula, their teachers and their students, and their cultural and social influences. The information provided on the medersas is not limited to those of Mali; those of Algeria, Senegal, Mauritania, and the attempts to establish a medersa in Guinea are examined as well. The chapters on the history of development and the present status of the medersas of Mali as a modernised Islamic institution make of this book an essential reference in its field.



Publication by IRCICA

Al-Mushaf Al-Sharif Attributed to ‘Uthman bin ‘Affan

(The copy at the Topkapı Palace Museum)

Prepared for publication by Dr. Tayyar Altıkulaç,

Preface by Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Istanbul 1428 / 2007, Critical editions series; no. 2
(Introduction in Turkish, English and Arabic)

This book contains the critical edition of an original copy of the Holy Quran attributed to the time of Caliph Othman: this is the copy known as the “Othman (R.A.) Mushaf [Quran copy]” located in the Topkapı Palace Museum. The study on this particular copy and its preparation for publication have been done by a leading scholar in Quranic studies, ex-President of Religious Affairs in Turkey, presently Deputy in the Turkish Parliament, Dr. Tayyar Altıkulaç. Earlier, IRCICA had published two other historical copies of the Quran. One was the copy known as Fazil Pasha Mushaf, written in the name of the Seljukid Sultan Tugrul Bey in 582/1186 and kept in Gazi Hüsrev Bey Library in Sarajevo, which was published by IRCICA in a facsimile edition. The second one was the first Quran copy to be printed in the Islamic world which was printed in Kazan, Tatarstan, in 1803; the copy was reprinted in Istanbul in 2005 at the initiative of the Municipality of Kazan, on the occasion of the millennium of Kazan City, following a technical revision by IRCICA in preparation for printing. The “Othman (R.A.) Mushaf” also known as the “Topkapı Mushaf” and kept at nr. H.S. 44/32 in the Museum, is one of the oldest



manuscripts of the Holy Quran that reached to the present day. Dr. Altıkulaç has done a meticulous comparative study and technical analysis of the copy; the Introduction explains the method followed and the findings obtained. Dr. Altıkulaç further enriches this instructive text with information on the history of Quran copies and recitation of the Quran. With only two pages (23 verses)

lacking, “Topkapı Mushaf” is the closest to the complete text of the Quran. As indicated in detail and with examples in the text of Dr. Altıkulaç, certain parts of the manuscript had become unreadable due to the effects of time. With patient and careful research, Dr. Altıkulaç was able to decipher these parts using certain criteria and signs and to reconstitute the original copy.

The funding for the printing of this book was provided by H.H. Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohamed al-Qassimi, Member of the Supreme Council of the U.A.E. and Ruler of Sharjah. Publication of Dr. Tayyar Altıkulaç’s work represents at the same time the concretisation of a goal which was formulated by Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu in the early 1980s, to print an edition of the “Topkapı Mushaf”, given the value and importance of this copy.

