

EDITORIAL

This issue begins with an outline of the proceedings of the 27th Session of the Governing Board of IRCICA held last June. The session reviewed the past and ongoing work and made recommendations on those planned for the future. The enlightened observations of the Board members, who are scholars and specialists in fields connected to those of IRCICA, provide valuable guidance to our activities.

It is a pleasure to share with you here in this issue the outcomes of the different activities we have realized since last spring. Among them, the congress organized in Beijing jointly by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) and IRCICA underscored multifarious aspects of the cultural relations that have been maintained between China and the Muslim world from the first century of Islam onwards which built upon and diversified the trade relations that had started much earlier. As was foreseen at the very stage of drafting of its concept and theme, the congress mirrored the significance of the organizational initiative mobilized through the cooperation between the 57-member Organization of Islamic Cooperation on one hand and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China on the other. Our article on this event is as detailed as possible within the volume limitations of this bulletin. Certainly the important role of the congress in throwing light on shared aspects of cultural history between Muslim countries and China and in opening new avenues of cultural exchanges between them for the present and the future cannot be over-emphasized.

Shortly before the Beijing congress we were in Kazan, capital city of Tatarstan, where our fifth congress on "Islamic Civilization in Volga-Ural Region" also evoked a history of inter-cultural interactions, that time in another regional context, that of inter-faith coexistence in Volga-Ural region. We coordinated this congress jointly with the Center of Islamic Studies and Sh. Marjani Institute of History, Tatarstan Academy of Sciences and the Russian Islamic University in Kazan. In addition to successfully building the fifth forum in the series of history congresses about the region, it constituted the academic side of a series of events, which in that period in Kazan, marked the commemoration of the 1123rd anniversary of the adoption of Islam by the State of Bolgar.

Yet another main feature of this issue is on the 2012 Architectural Heritage Summer School titled "Islamic Urban Heritage. Research, Preservation and Management" which IRCICA implemented in June-July. Its proceedings are being collected

for publication. Meantime we published a comprehensive report of the first school which was held in June-July 2011, and also a report of the 2012 Annual Seminar of our long-term program of architectural studies and workshops on the Islamic heritage of Al-Quds/Jerusalem.

On top of the list of heritage cities of the Muslim world are the three holy cities of Islam: Mecca, Medina and Al-Quds. A special event that conveyed artistic expressions of Muslims' attachment and esteem for these three cities was the exhibition of paintings and calligraphies from the personal collection of H.R.H. Prince Faisal bin Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Saud, Minister of National Education, and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Layan Cultural Foundation, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which we were honoured to organize in Istanbul jointly with Layan Foundation during the month of Ramadan 1433H/July-August 2012.

In addition to work related to the other events covered in this issue we are making preparations towards the congress on "Sudan during the Ottoman Era" which was originally scheduled to be held last May as announced in our previous Newsletter but postponed to 26-28 September 2012. It will be followed by the congress on "Oman during the Ottoman Era" to be coordinated jointly with the National Records and Archives Authority of Oman (Istanbul, 6-7 October 2012); the second symposium on "Islamic Civilization in Central Asia" to be organized jointly with Kyrgyzstan-Turkey Manas University (Bishkek, 11-14 October 2012), and the congress on "The Balkan Wars (1912-1913) on their Centenary" to be held in cooperation with İstanbul Sabahattin Zaim University with the contributions of Zeytinburnu Municipality (Istanbul, 19-21 October 2012).

Meanwhile, I should bring it to the attention of our readers interested in the art of calligraphy that the deadline for registration in the 9th International Calligraphy Competition in the name of Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu is 31 October 2012. The competition was launched earlier this year and announced in our previous issue. We have been receiving applications for the competition and are welcoming new ones. The deadline for submitting the entries is 28 February 2013 and the results will be announced in April-May next year.

At the start of the 2012-2013 academic year and activity year I wish all institutions and individuals, colleagues and friends of IRCICA a successful work period. With greetings to all,

Dr. Halit Eren

The 27th Session of the Governing Board of IRCICA held in Istanbul, 3-4 June 2012

The Governing Board of IRCICA met on its 27th Session on 3-4 June 2012, at the Centre's headquarters in Istanbul. The opening ceremony of the session was held in the presence of H.E. Ambassador Bakary Drame, Representative and Adviser to H.E. Professor Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the OIC, the Chairman and members of the Governing Board, IRCICA Director General and the members of the Executive Board of IRCICA.

In his welcoming address the Director General of IRCICA Dr. Halit Eren paid homage to the esteemed memory of the late Prof. Abdul Hafez Helmy Mohamed, an eminent scholar from Egypt who was Vice-Chairman of the Governing Board of IRCICA until his demise in February 2012. Dr. Eren described the newer and wider horizons continuously being opened by the Centre's activities such as its congresses on the history of Islamic civilization in various regions of the world such as Volga-Ural region, the Balkans, Eastern Europe and South Africa. These events pave the way for access to libraries and documentary collections in those regions, to their art and architectural heritage, and develop the outlook of peoples towards each other in a way to include understanding and multiculturalism. Dr. Eren outlined the recent events and activities of the Centre. He expressed his gratitude for the continuous support extended to the Centre by the Member States of the OIC and by H.E. the Secretary General. He also expressed his gratitude to the members of the Governing Board for their support which helps the Centre's success.

H.E. Dr. Abdul Aziz Abdullah Turki al-Subai, Chairman of IRCICA Governing Board delivered an address in which he congratulated Mr. Mohammed Ahmed al-Murr, the member of the Governing Board representing the United Arab Emirates, on his election as Chairman of the National Federal Council of the United Arab

Emirates. Dr. al-Subai paid homage to the memory of the late Prof. Abdul Hafiz Helmy which he said will always be kept alive. He said that the session had a comprehensive agenda to follow and referred to its various items.

H.E. Ambassador Bakary Drame, Advisor to the Secretary General of OIC, read the address of the Secretary General to the session. He also alluded to Secretary General Prof. İhsanoğlu's institutional and personal relationship with the Centre since its establishment in 1980 until it became a faithful guardian of the Islamic heritage in the fields of culture, history and arts. He said that the Centre was successful in fulfilling its tasks; it gained the recognition of scholarly and cultural circles around the world. Ambassador Drame commended the various publications of the Centre, its efforts to preserve the Islamic heritage in Al Quds within the framework of "Al-Quds/Jerusalem 2015" program for architectural studies and workshops, and its contributions in "showing the bright image of Islam and its civilization throughout the world which is considered as the best cultural response to stop the defamation campaigns directed towards Islam, its noble values and principles. The Member States, through their decisions, expressed their appreciation for the coordination the Centre made with international bodies to strengthen awareness about Islam and its civilization and to correct the false ideas on Islam and Muslims that some western institutions promote. As an example of this, the Centre had various activities in cooperation with the Council of Europe to correct the image of Islam in European countries; and with the Alliance of



Opening of the session. L-R: Ambassador Bakary Drame, Advisor to the Secretary General of OIC; Dr. Abdul Aziz Abdullah Turki al-Subai, Chairman of IRCICA Governing Board; Dr. Halit Eren, IRCICA Director General

Civilizations, in addition to holding symposia in many other member and non-member countries which help to reflect the true image of Islam". He also praised the Centre's efforts to revive the art of calligraphy, attract the calligraphy artists from all parts of the world, and organize international competitions once every three years to encourage the artists in this field to ensure the survival of this noble art as an Islamic fine art". He appreciated the efforts of Dr. Halit Eren, IRCICA Director General, and his colleagues which carried the activities to new horizons. Thanks were expressed to the esteemed members of the IRCICA Governing Board for their contributions to fulfillment of the responsibilities assigned to the Centre.

Following the opening, the working sessions were held, with the participation of H.E. Ambassador Bakary Drame, Adviser to and representing the Secretary General of OIC, and the following members of the Board:

Prof. Dr. Abdul Aziz Abdullah Turki al-Subai, State of Qatar (Chairman)

Dr. Saad Bin Abdul Aziz al-Rashid, Saudi Arabia (Vice-Chairman)

Dr. Mutlaq Rashid al-Qarawi, State of Kuwait

Mr. Mohammed Ahmed al-Murr, United Arab Emirates

H.E. Amb. Muhammed Assem Ibrahim, Arab Republic of Egypt

Prof. Amadou Cissé Ndiéguène, Republic of Senegal

Prof. Dr. Mehmet İpşirli, Republic of Turkey

Dato Mohammed Najibuddin Ahmed, Malaysia

Dr. Halit Eren, Director General, IRCICA

The following members of the Executive Committee of the Centre also participated in the meeting: Zeynep Durukal, Dr. Salih Sadawi, Dr. Nazih Marouf, Prof. Amir Pasiç, Faisal Benaissa, Turuncan Kevser.

Dr. Halit Eren presented his report to the 27th session of the Board. The report outlined the activities completed during 2011, those ongoing within the framework of the 2012 work program, the proposed work program for 2013 and the proposed budget for 2013. He referred to the congresses in the fields of Islamic history and civilization that the Centre held in various countries and the Muscat International Festival for Arts, Heritage and Innovation all held in the preceding months. He cited the publications of the Centre and described the progress achieved in the context of some programs. He also reviewed the phases of the architectural program "Al-Quds/

Jerusalem 2015". He said that the Prince Sultan bin Salman Islamic Architectural Heritage Database reached a stage that requires the Member States' contributing information on their archeological sites and monuments. Dr. Eren then presented the proposed work program for 2013.

The Board examined the report of the Director General and expressed its satisfaction of the results obtained by the Centre during the period since the previous session; it praised the report of the Director General which underlines the progress achieved in various fields, including research, publications, undertaking of studies in various areas, holding of seminars, conferences and exhibitions in its fields of competence, at its headquarters or in the Member States. The Board also noted with satisfaction that the Centre completed a number of projects in cooperation with academic and cultural institutions in the Member States and elsewhere. The Board members underlined the importance of the Centre's efforts to define new perspectives for its future activities.

During the working sessions all the members of the Board paid tribute to the respected memory of the late Abdul Hafez Helmy Mohamed who represented Egypt in the Board. All the members congratulated Mr. Mohammed Ahmed al-Murr on his election as Chairman of the National Federal Council of the United Arab Emirates. During discussions on the agenda items, Dr. Saad Bin Abdul Aziz al-Rashid (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) said that culture has proved to be the best way to disseminate enlightened thought and bring people closer to each other. He congratulated Dr. Eren on the conferring upon him, by His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said of the Sultanate of Oman, of the Sultan Qaboos Order for Culture, Science and Art of the First Degree. He referred to the exhibition of "The Ultimate Journey" which was to be organized in cooperation with Layan Cultural Foundation (Saudi Arabia) and gave information on its artifacts; he lauded the encouragement given by H.H. Prince Abdulaziz bin Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud to artists invited the Board members to the exhibition.

Mr. Mohammed Ahmed al-Murr praised the congress that the Centre was going to organize in China. He made recommendations on the activities relating to the art of calligraphy and the symposium that the Centre plans to organize in this field to be accompanied by exhibitions.

Mr. Dato Mohammed Najibuddin Ahmed pointed to the necessity of the Centre's participation in Islamic art exhibitions being held in the OIC member countries. He recommended the linking of IRCICA website with the websites of other cultural



Dr. Saad Bin Abdul Aziz al-Rashid
Saudi Arabia (Vice-Chairman)



Dr. Mutlaq Rashid al-Qarawi
State of Kuwait



Mr. Mohammed Ahmed al-Murr
United Arab Emirates



H.E. Amb. Muhammed Assem
Ibrahim, Arab Republic of Egypt



Prof. Amadou Cissé Ndiéguène
Republic of Senegal



Prof. Dr. Mehmet İpşirli
Republic of Turkey



Dato Mohammed Najibuddin
Ahmed, Malaysia

and educational institutions as well as museums and libraries in the Member States to increase the numbers of visitors to the site.

Prof. Mehmet İpşirli praised the research on the subject of the waqf and underlined the need to hold a general symposium on the Waqf in Islam. He also pointed to the need for IRCICA to publish a scholarly journal.

Dr. Mutlaq Rashid al-Qarawi spoke of the stereotypes conveyed on Islam and Muslims in various parts of the world. He said that a project was initiated in Kuwait recently on this subject and asked the Centre to study it. He made recommendations on educational activities IRCICA could carry on international scale to better introduce the Muslim world culture.

Prof. Amadou Cissé Ndiéguène made recommendations on various activities of the Centre. He expressed the hope that the project for the publication by IRCICA of the large manuscript "Zuhur al-Basatin" on the history of Islam in West Africa will be concretized.

Amb. Muhammed Assem Ibrahim made comments and recommendations on the report of IRCICA. He spoke of the situation and challenges faced in the Muslim world in their general and country-specific aspects and underlined the importance of cooperation.

The Board adopted the report of the Director General on the implementation of the work program for 2011 and the current year 2012 and expressed its appreciation of the publications. The Board also adopted the work program for 2013; it took note of the architectural summer schools and the planned doctoral program on Islamic architecture, the programs concerning traditional handicrafts and the festivals organized in this context. In its decisions and recommendations, the Board members requested the

Centre to continuously organize congresses and festivals in the field of traditional crafts in other regions of the Muslim world, in Southeast Asia in particular. On the publications, it recommended that efforts be continued to ensure that the Centre's publications reach libraries and universities around the world and that they are displayed at book fairs. Another recommendation of the Board was that efforts be continued to project the true image of Islam and cooperate with other organisations in combatting what is generally called Islamophobia today. Closely related to this, the Board lauded the efforts of the Centre in its participation in the sessions of the Alliance of Civilisations and requested it to reinforce its role in the forthcoming events. Concluding its many other recommendations the Board paid tribute to H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of OIC, for the gracious patronage and continuous support extended to the Centre in various fields and at different levels, as well as his scholarly supervision of some of the Centre's long term projects. It lauded the efforts of Dr. Halit Eren, Director General, for the clear progress recorded so far and wished him success in the coming period. The Board also expressed its thanks and appreciation to all the staff of the Centre for the remarkable efforts they have made and continue to make towards realizing the objectives of the Centre, which is one of the most important cultural centers of the Muslim world. The Board members took the opportunity to extend thanks to the host country, the Republic of Turkey, for its commendable efforts to support the Centre.



Souvenir photo of the 27th session of the Board

“China and the Muslim World: Cultural Encounters” congress organized by IRCICA and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing

28-29 June 2012

The international congress on “China and the Muslim World: Cultural Encounters” took place in Beijing, China, on 28-29 June 2012. The congress was organized by IRCICA and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS). Over two full days at the CASS Conference Hall, the sessions addressed a vast spectrum of areas and cases of cultural contacts between China and the Muslim world in history and at present.

In many respects the congress marked significant milestones. First, in international relations, since for the first time it concretized inter-governmental level multilateral cultural partnership between, on one hand, the OIC Member States, designated in cultural context as the “Muslim World”, and on the other, China. This partnership materialized through the medium of the OIC, the intergovernmental organization of the states of the Muslim world, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China respectively. Secondly, in the academic area of studies on intercultural relations, for its theme and objectives as well as for the peoples and regions it covered. At the level of operational cultural and academic cooperation it engaged on one hand IRCICA, the OIC’s subsidiary which has the mission of a common research academy of the Muslim world, and on the other the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) through its Presidency, its Bureau of International Cooperation, and its Institute of World Religions (IWR), with the participation of its various departments.

The concept of the congress theme evolved along the following approach and understanding: China and the Muslim world, two major civilizations with distinct collective identities, have each for their part played active roles in the progressive history of universal civilization. The governance of life and social administration, the sciences, arts and techniques and economic activities acquired peculiar characters in their realms under the influence of their respective mainstream faiths and philosophies. Meanwhile over history these two worlds cultivated communications and interactions with each other via varying channels of cultural exchanges and trade of commodities and know-how. Recent evolutions in studies on history of civilizations, history of culture, science and technology offers a wealth of facts and resources that waits to be discovered within the proposed thematic framework “China and the Muslim World”. The theme promises to open multifold avenues for research on the history of each of these two civilizations, the relations having taken place between them, and their relations with the rest of the world. These studies will be relevant not only for academic purposes but also for rapprochement between the OIC countries and China as a

vector of cooperation in facing the global challenges at present and in future. It is seen indeed that modern times have generated greater dependencies between countries and communities in consequence of the globalization of all activity thereby promoting an emphasis on increased international cooperation within the world community. In this environment, the Muslim world composed of the OIC countries on one hand and China on the other, representing two large demographic entities with immensely varied resources, capacities and complementarities and endowed with a common heritage of positive cultural interactions, can develop greater awareness, affinity and cooperation with each other.

In this light, the congress deployed both historical and contemporary perspectives with a view to increasing the knowledge about shared aspects of history and prospects of deeper cultural interactions and international cooperation in a shared future.

The congress, as was foreseen in its guiding concept, was conducted in a way to evoke samples from among the countless cultural contacts and exchanges marking the relations between China and the Muslim world, from trade and travelers having circulated between China and the Muslim countries to the arts and architectural influences, from translations of Islamic and Chinese philosophical and scientific works into each other’s languages to language studies and cultural relations as they exist mutually at present. Furthermore, because scholars from Asia (Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Turkey), Arab countries (Algeria, Egypt, Qatar, Saudi Arabia), Europe and the USA participated in it together with their counterparts from Chinese academies and universities, the congress included some regional approaches to the subjects at hand and at the same



time it reflected the state of research and teaching on the theme as it evolves around the world. It is important that besides research papers on a varied range of topics in cultural history, the congress heard studies on subjects of current relevance for relations between China and the Muslim countries with regard to present and future international relations.

The opening session at the CASS Conference Hall on 28 June was chaired by Prof. Zhang Youyun, Deputy Director General of the Bureau of International Cooperation, CASS. The first address was given by Prof. Wang Weiguang, Executive Vice-President of the CASS. Prof. Weiguang expressed his pleasure that the congress had materialized, after one year of preparations that were promoted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China and the OIC: He said that China and the Muslim world as two ancient and vigilant civilizations have a long history of exchanges and interactions, mutually respecting and enhancing each other. Increasingly and since 19th century they have been communicating more deeply, exchanging scholars, participating in each other's activities. Prof. Weiguang pointed out that exploring historical exchanges would be beneficial for further communication and dialogue; it would not only be of practical significance but would also benefit peace and development. Prof. Weiguang affirmed the CASS' readiness to cooperate in this direction.

In his address, the Secretary General of OIC Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu said that holding such an academic event in China had been a personal dream of his for almost two decades, during which he had coordinated many seminars and symposia related to aspects and relations of Islamic civilization in specific geographic and cultural regions of the world, but that it had been very much his hope to hold such a meeting to focus on the Muslim world's relations with China. The Secretary General recalled that the recognition of China in the Muslim world had occurred from the earliest days of Islam and throughout history, relations between China and the Muslim world never faced substantial problems. Trade routes were fostered through the development of peaceful relations and various arts and techniques were exchanged. In this regard Prof. İhsanoğlu said that "the art of paper making which has been discovered in China as early as 105, was transmitted to the Muslims – first to Samarkand in 704 – and then to Baghdad by 794 from where it spread to the rest of the

world. ... The entrance of paper into the Muslim world was a turning point in the advancement of Islamic knowledge and the development of the scientific tradition and the means by which knowledge was disseminated to Europe. In reality, this discovery is comparable to the printing press (1440 AD) or the electronic media today.... It was in the famous Maragha Observatory near Tabriz that was established in 1259 under the patronage of the Ilkhanid Sultan that great astronomical advances were made by the collaborative efforts of Chinese and Muslim scientists in one of the most illustrative examples of inter-cultural cooperation in one of the most prestigious observatories in the world." Prof. İhsanoğlu cited and quoted from sources of Islamic literature and travelogues containing rich accounts of interactions with China. He also referred to economic relations and trade ties where China and the Muslim world also enjoyed close, productive relations over a long period. OIC Secretary General concluded that "the history of the relations between the Muslim world and China, as well as the history of Islam in China, proves that good relations have existed between them. ... It is important for these relations to be developed for the interest of stability in the world."

Mr. Zhai Jun, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of China, delivered a comprehensive address. Referring to the history of relations between China and the Muslim world as one of reciprocal learning and shared development, Mr. Jun said that both civilizations had left splendid chapters in the history of world civilization. "First, exchanges between the two civilizations enjoy a time-honored history. Two thousand years ago, our ancestors overcame numerous hardships along the Silk Road to meet each other, leaving behind memorable stories and touching episodes. Second, the two civilizations have developed side by side through mutual learning. China's porcelain, silk, tea and paper-making technique were introduced into Islamic countries, while the latter's advanced knowledge in math, astronomy, calendrical calculation, navigation and geography broadened the horizon of the Chinese people. Islamic music, dance, costume and architecture have also had a profound influence on the Chinese society. ... Third, both civilizations have treated each other with equality and respect and have coexisted in peace. ... Despite our different cultural backgrounds and social conditions, both sides have respected each other in their choice of development path,

culture, history, religion and social convention, and always treated each other in a peaceful and amicable way. For thousands of years, there have been no historical grievances between the Chinese and Islamic civilizations. Rather, we have maintained a friendly and harmonious relationship, setting a fine example of harmonious coexistence between different civilizations

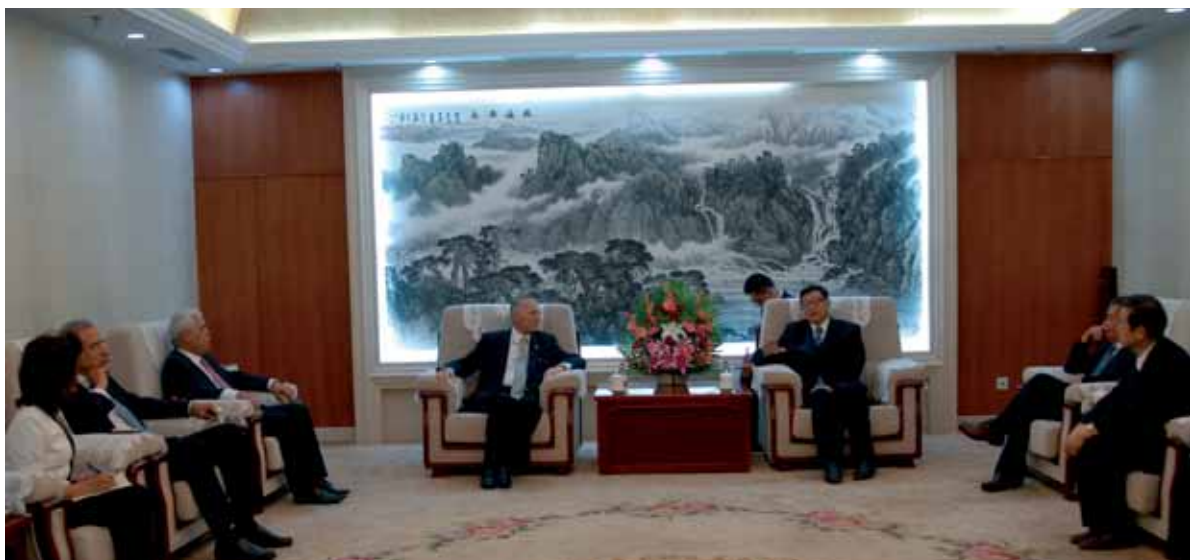


The opening session of the congress

for the world.” Mr. Jun then referred to the faith and cultural composition of Chinese population and the related state policies: “Since Islam was introduced to China in 7th century A.D., its followers have lived in harmony and pursue common development with believers of Taoism, China’s indigenous religion, and other foreign religions such as Buddhism and Christianity, as well as the secular community. In China, more than twenty million people from ten ethnic groups believe in Islam. They are all important members of the big family of the Chinese nation, and their religious beliefs, cultural traditions and customs are fully respected. The Chinese government is firmly committed to the policy of freedom of religious belief and the system of regional ethnic autonomy, and encourages the positive role of religious personages and believers in promoting economic and social development. Muslims in China are both patriots and devoted believers. Through their hard work and wisdom, they have made important contribution to the harmony, development and prosperity of the Chinese nation.” The Vice- Minister also pointed to the importance of the congress not only looking back at history but also forward into the future. In this regard he made a series of suggestions: First, exchanges between the Chinese and Islamic civilizations should be rooted in the people; China and the Muslim world should encourage more frequent mutual visits and more exchanges in the daily life and work among the ordinary people. Research on exchanges between the two civilizations should be more relevant to people’s lives, and can draw inspirations and wisdom from the people. Second, exchanges between the Chinese and Islamic civilizations should be oriented towards the reality and the future: they should not only cherish their historical bond, but also think about ways to deepen their cooperation in culture, science and technology, adapt to the information trend in the globalized world and strive for fresh progress. Third, they should continue to promote cooperation in economy, trade, energy, investment, science and technology. Fourth, China and the Islamic world should strengthen solidarity and cooperation, and jointly promote dialogue among civilizations and respect for diversity

of civilizations by all parties. They should play a positive and constructive role in addressing various regional and global challenges, jointly safeguard the purposes of the UN Charter and norms governing international relations, and promote the building of a harmonious world of enduring peace and common prosperity.

Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, stated in his address that China and the Muslim world represent two of the world’s main civilizations culturally distinct from each other as well as from the rest of the world. He explained the concept and background of the congress theme, recalling that “each of these civilizations contributed to world civilization in various ways. They interacted through trade, finance and travels with each other as well as with the rest of the world. Each implemented characteristic patterns of administration, industry, urbanization and commerce. But at the same time these two worlds showed comparable dynamics when it comes to matters such as the governance of faith and philosophy in life, society’s and individual’s statuses, ethics, social values and moral correctness, among other aspects. Similarities as well as diversities can be drawn from these comparable dynamics.” Dr. Eren said that IRCICA had observed in its various research projects on the history of intercultural relations that as is the case for studies on relations between the Muslim world and Europe, there is a need to develop the study of relations between the Muslim world and China and disseminate these studies to world academic circles. “There is a need to analyze and record the interactions between them across history and at present; their borrowings from each other and mutual influences also in fields less known than trade and economy, that is, in the fields of cultural encounters. In view of all these objectives, this first congress on the theme launches a significant joint effort on the part of China and the Muslim world in contribution to scholarship, and at the same time, to present-time international cultural encounters.” Dr. Eren also outlined the process of preparation of the congress, recalling that the idea of this congress was first formulated by H.E. the Secretary General of the OIC Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu



Meeting of OIC Secretary General Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu with Prof. Wang Weiguang, Executive Vice-President of CASS. The members of the OIC General Secretariat and the IRCICA delegation chaired by Dr. Halit Eren were present together with the heads and members of the Bureau of International Cooperation and the Institute of World Religions of the Academy

during his official visit to China in 2010 and that the project was developed afterwards during Dr. Eren's meetings with the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of China Mr. Zhai Jun, the visit of the Ambassador of China in Turkey Mr. Gong Xiaosheng to IRCICA headquarters, and Dr. Eren's visit to CASS, Beijing in 2011. Following these series of contacts the project was put to implementation by IRCICA as the OIC's scholarly and cultural centre with the cooperation of the OIC General Secretariat's Department of Muslim Minorities and Communities.

The opening session then heard Prof. Zhuo Xinping, Director General of the Institute of World Religions, CASS. Prof. Zhuo referred to the active interactions recorded between China and the Muslim world since the 7th century. He said accurate and precise descriptions of these relations are found in early Chinese records. He spoke of these sources and the various forms and ways in which the interactions took place including translations of the religious and philosophical sources and classics of each other. Prof. Zhuo mentioned some common features existing between China and the Muslim world as regards science and learning such as the emphasis that both civilizations put on knowledge. Pointing to the importance of the congress in bringing new evidence on the state of academic research in China and in the Muslim world about each other's history and culture and the relations between them, he said that archaeology and anthropology can undertake further systematic and comprehensive studies and recalled the monographs and other publications produced at CASS about the arts and sciences, mysticism and other philosophical and cultural subjects concerning the Muslim world. Prof. Zhuo said it is important that research done in the two worlds' academic circles about each other looks deep into the relations between the two but this must at the same time take into consideration what was happening inside each world.

The paper presentations were grouped under the following session themes: "Historical Processes of Relations between China and the Muslim World", "Communication and Interactions on Art", "Cultural Interactions through Literature and Language", "Cultural Encounters in Science, Religion and

Thought", "Relations between Modern China and the Muslim World", "China and the Muslim World in Global Context", and were finalized with the Closing Session. Most of the papers presented were specialized and had specific thematic focuses. Nonetheless each was representative of the various channels and cases of the interactions and the political and social environments surrounding them; the majority provided sample cases reflecting the varied aspects of the interactions that could be taken as marking features of the relations. One of these features is the tolerance and acknowledgement that was manifested by the rulers of the two worlds towards each other's faith and culture; another one is that with the encouragement of the rulers their scientists and scholars took active interest in each other's works and there were several instances where their scientists cooperated and worked together. Examples of the congress papers with inputs in this direction are "Islamic Astronomy in the Service of Chinese Monarchs" by Prof. Shi Yunli, "Culture Exchange between China and the Islamic World from the Perspective of Mosque" by Dr. Li Weijian, "Contemporary Salafism and its Influence on Chinese Muslims" by Prof. Yang Guiping, "Diplomatic Thoughts of Salafi Parties and its Potential Influence on Sino-Egyptian Relations" by Dr. Wang Suolao and "The Communication between Chinese Muslims and the Ottoman Empire: A Case Study of Wang Kuan's Visit to Turkey" by Dr. Ma Jing, among others. The interactions and mutual influences in arts that were analyzed by Prof. Em. Toh Sugimura ("Chinese Motifs in the Istanbul Album Paintings") and Prof. John Carswell ("A Reciprocity of Interests: Blue and White Porcelain, China and the Islamic World") reached beyond the realm of arts retracing the channels of transmission. Many of the paper presentations generated questions and discussions such as the papers on "The Translation of Sufism Classics and its Significance in China" by Prof. Wang Junrong, "A Tale of Two Cities: the Fall of Baghdad and Hangzhou to the Tolid Khans" by George Lane, among others. The outlines and conclusions made by the commentators at the end of each session and in some paper presentations gave observations beneficial for deeper understanding of the theme, precision and clarification of the concepts and terms,

and accuracy of the analyses. Dr. Li Lin, during his presentation titled "An Introduction to the Academic History of Chinese Islamic Studies" where he gave a periodization of the history of academic research in China about Islam and the Muslim world specified that



The first session: "Historical Processes of Relations between China and the Muslim World"

the research area titled “Chinese Islamic studies” does not mean research on Chinese Islamic religion but refers to the studies on the Muslim world and its relations and dialogue with China. Dr. Rosey Wang Ma commenting at the end of the session on “Cultural Interactions through Literature and Language” observed that “Chinese Islamic studies” had become a full academic discipline for its own sake. She also gave examples from daily cultural life representing “Chinese Islamic culture” and “Chinese Islamic language”.

The Closing Session heard the remarks of the representatives of the OIC General Secretariat, CASS, IRCICA and the Institute of World Religions. The chair of the session, Ms. Zeynep Durukal Abuhusayn (IRCICA) said the congress had reflected that broadly, the cultural crossings between China and the Muslim world have had two dimensions: first, interactions between China on one hand and the Muslim countries on the other, and second, interactions as embodied and evolving in the context of the Chinese Islamic culture. Furthermore, the exchanges could be broadly grouped as historical and cultural, whereby in the avenues opened by historical contacts – in the diplomatic, economic, scientific and other areas – cultural exchanges had taken place touching philosophy, astronomy and other sciences, technology, architecture, arts, languages, translations and other areas. In his concluding remarks, Dr. Halit Eren expressed his pleasure that the theme had been given a profound and multidisciplinary treatment and thus a set of studies carrying new information and new perspectives were contributed to the field. He mentioned some of the many observations that can be gathered from these. He said that in the context of the theme convergences are seen between China and the Muslim world from various viewpoints. Referring to the Muslim world with its 57 countries displaying a large diversity of languages, arts and traditions coupled with a mainstream spiritual and philosophical unity and to China with its vast economic and cultural structures and its unique experience of spiritual and philosophical unity, he said that the two worlds converge in their basic philosophical principles and unifying concepts, in particular, as regards the rules of peace, harmony and ethics among others. He stressed the contribution of the congress in providing an outlook into the future from the viewpoint of cultural relations. “In our era it is more important than before that peoples of all cultures understand other cultures as well as their own. Thus the academic motive contributes at the same time in deepening the understanding between the two worlds towards expanded cultural cooperation and constructive

coexistence in the global future.” However, he said, cross-cultural and inter-faith focuses in research and education are still in the process of establishment in the larger part of the world; it is necessary to promote these, to strengthen language institutes, cultural and art centers to enhance acquaintances between China and the Muslim countries.

Prof. Jin Ze, Deputy Director General of IWR, CASS, gave his concluding remarks pointing to the varied range of approaches and ideas displayed during the congress which encourage, complement and stimulate each other. The academic exchanges, just as the cultural encounters, are conducive to peace since they reveal further evidence of the latter and further enrich them. The studies have shown for example how peoples have borrowed language from each other; Chinese has always been an evolving and growing language due to the inputs of vocabulary from the different faiths and cultures it has touched. Prof. Ze recalled the criteria to judge the success of an academic conference which necessitate among others consciousness of the social and cultural as well as the scientific responsibilities, duties and obligations. He said as the organizers and the scholars all felt this responsibility and that CASS hopes this congress will become a regular platform whereby it will have another window to overseas scholars.

Then Dr. Talal Daous, Director of the Department of Muslim Minorities and Communities, OIC General Secretariat, gave his evaluations and concluding remarks. On behalf of H.E. the Secretary General and the General Secretariat delegation, Dr. Daous expressed his appreciation of the congress, first of its kind on its theme, and of the cooperation that was established through it between the OIC Member States through their intergovernmental organization, the OIC and the Government of the People’s Republic of China through its Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He thanked the Government of China and the CASS for the hospitality and excellent arrangements extended for the congress. He praised the efforts of CASS and IRCICA in making of this congress one of high academic quality. Dr. Daous said that abundant amounts of evidence were presented by the participants on the long history of relations between the Muslim countries and China and that numerous outcomes and conclusions could be drawn from their studies. He wished a successful continuation to the platform of exchange and cooperation that had thus been established.

Prof. Zhang Youyun, Deputy Director General of the Bureau of International Cooperation, CASS, qualified the congress as



The second session: “Communication and Interactions on Art”



The third session: “Cultural Interactions Through Literature and Language”

a very successful one with effective and efficient proceedings. He expressed his satisfaction that the congress had received participants from all continents. With regard to the overall cooperation in the framework of which the congress was placed, Prof. Youyun recapitulated the high-level contacts and meetings having taken place between the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Government of the People's Republic of China, in particular, the visit of Chinese Premier H.E. Mr. Wen Jiabao to Saudi Arabia in January 2011 where the Premier met with OIC Secretary General Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, in continuation of the Secretary General's visit to China in June 2010. Prof. Youyun said that a number of high-level official meetings held during the congress period had carried this process further. He also recalled the visit to IRCICA in June 2010 of the CASS delegation under the chairmanship of Prof. Wang Weiguang, Vice-President of CASS.

The chair invited concluding remarks by the participants; Prof. John Carswell (UK), Ambassador Mohamed Numan Galal (Egypt) and Prof. Ma Ping (China) shared with the audience their impressions, views and suggestions, expressing appreciation of the congress and the in-depth treatment given to its theme. .

At the end of the session, the announcement of the decision to institute this congress as a periodical scholarly event and to hold the second congress in two years' time was received with appreciation by all.

The papers presented during the congress will be collected in a book.

The sessions and the papers

Opening Session

Chair:

Prof. Zhang Youyun, Deputy Director General, Bureau of international Cooperation, CASS

Speakers:

- Prof. Wang Weiguang, Executive Vice-President, CASS
- Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General, OIC
- Mr. Zhai Jun, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of China
- Dr. Halit Eren, Director General, IRCICA
- Prof. Zhuo Xinping, Director General of the Institute of World Religions, CASS

Session One: Historical Processes of Relations between China and the Muslim World

Chair:

Dr. Adilhan Haj Kerim (Vice Chairman, Islamic Association of China)

Speakers:

- Prof. Gao Zhanfu (Vice-Dean/Professor, Islamic Association of China, National Islamic College of China)
From Sojourn, Believer to Citizen: The Progress of Islam's Localization in China
- Prof. Li Jinxiu (Institute of History, CASS)
The Relationship between Tang and Dashi
- Prof. George Lane (School of Oriental & African Studies - SOAS, University of London)



The fourth session: "Cultural Encounters in Science, Religion and Thought"



The fifth session: "Relations between Modern China and the Muslim World"



The sixth session: "China and the Muslim World in Global Context"

A Tale of Two Cities: the Fall of Baghdad and Hangzhou to the Tolid Khans

- Prof. Sha Zongping (Department of Philosophy, Peking University)
Historical Communication between China and Muslim World- Exemplified by Record of Travels and Sketches of China and India

- Dr. Ma Jing (IWR, CASS)
The Communication between Chinese Muslim and Ottoman Empire: A Case Study on Wang Kuan's Visit to Turkey

Commentator:

Prof. Wang Yujie (IWR, CASS)

Session Two: Communication and Interactions on Art

Chair:

Dr. Anwar Majed Eshki (President, Middle East Center for Strategic & Legal Studies, Jeddah)

Speakers:

- Prof. Bülent Okay (Head, Department of Chinese Language and Literature, Faculty of Letters, History and Geography, Ankara University)
Interactions in Arts: the Example of Ottoman Porcelains

- Prof. John Carswell (SOAS, Department of Art and Archeology, University of London)
A Reciprocity of Interests: Blue and White Porcelain, China and the Islamic World

- Dr. Li Weijian (IWR, CASS)
Culture Exchange between China and Islamic World from the perspective of Mosque

- Prof. Mu Hongyan (Institute of Foreign Literature, CASS)
A Brief History for the Secularization and the Religionization of the Rolling Dance in Sogdi Area

- Prof. Toh Sugimura (National Museum of Ethnology, The Graduate University for Advanced Studies, Osaka)
Chinese Motifs in the Istanbul Album Paintings

Commentator:

Prof. Ma Wenkuan (Institute of Archaeology, CASS)

Session Three: Cultural Interactions Through Literature and Language

Chair:

Prof. Feng Jinyuan (Department of Contemporary Religion Studies, IWR, CASS)

Speakers:

- Prof. Wang Junrong (Department of Islamic Studies, IWR, CASS)

The Translation of Sufism Literature and Its Significance in China

- Dr. İnci İnce Erdoğan (Department of Chinese Language and Literature, Ankara University)

Islamic Cultural Influences Traceable in Chinese Language

- Mr. Yun Cunping (PhD Candidate in Arabic Language and Literature, Shanghai International Studies University)

A Study of the Science of God in Maturidi School

[The scheduled presenter, Dr. Wang Xi (Department of Islamic Studies, IWR, CASS) apologized for not been able, for health reasons, to present his paper titled "On Ma Fuchu's Translation and Commentary of Root Classic Five Chapters"]

- Dr. Li Lin (IWR, CASS)

An Introduction to the Academic History of Chinese Islamic Studies

Commentator:

Dr. Rosey Wang Ma (Department of Islamic History and Civilization, Academy of Islamic Studies, University of Malaya)

Session Four: Cultural Encounters in Science, Religion and Thought

Chair:

Dr. Fazal ur Rahman (Director, China Study Centre/East Asia, The Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad)

Speakers:

- Prof. Shi Yunli (University of Science and Technology of China)

Islamic Astronomy in the Service of Chinese Monarchs

- Dr. Tee Boon Chuan (Institute of Chinese Studies, Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman, Kuala Lumpur)

The Islamic Understanding of Confucian Religion in Malaysia

- Prof. Zhou Xiefan (Department of Islamic Studies, IWR, CASS)

Sufi Orders and Chinese Sufism

- Ambassador Mohamed Numan Galal (Former Ambassador of Egypt in China, Political Advisor in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bahrain)

The Concepts of Harmony in Chinese and Muslim Cultures

Commentator:

Prof. Wu Yungui (Department of Islamic Studies, IWR, CASS)



The closing session of the congress

Session Five: Relations between Modern China and the Muslim World

Chair:

Ambassador Hua Liming (Former Ambassador of China in Iran)

Speakers:

- Dr. Fazal-ur-Rahman (Director, China Study Centre/East Asia, The Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad)
Pakistan-China Relations: A Model for Contemporary State to State Relations
- Dr. Yan Qiongying (Department of Islamic Studies, IWR, CASS)
Muslim Modernism in Subcontinent and China
- Dr. Rosey Wang Ma (Department of Islamic History and Civilization, Academy of Islamic Studies, University of Malaya)
The Chinese Muslims Cultural, Educational, and Social Linkage with Malaysia
- Prof. Yang Guiping (Minzu University of China)
Contemporary Salafism and its Influence on Chinese Muslims

Commentator:

Assoc. Prof., Dr. Jacqueline Armijo (Department of International Affairs, Qatar University)

Session Six: China and the Muslim World in Global Context

Chair:

Prof. Zhao Shuqing (Director General, Institute for Ethnic Group Development, Development Research Center of the State Council of China)

Speakers:

- Prof. Ma Ping (Institute of Islam and Hui, Ningxia Academy of Social Sciences)
Economic and trade relations between China and Muslim Countries
- Dr. Jacqueline Armijo (Department of International Affairs, Qatar University)
The Revival of the Silk Road: China and the Gulf in the 21st Century
- Assoc. Prof., Dr. Wang Suolao (Director of the Center for Middle East Studies, Peking University)
Diplomatic Thoughts of Salafi Parties and Its Potential Influence on Sino-Egyptian Relations
- Dr. Faiza Kab (Editor, People's Daily Online, China)
The Common Challenge to Chinese and Islamic Civilization
- Prof. Ding Kejia (Director of Hui and Islam Institute, Ningxia Academy of Social Sciences)
Cultural Exchange of Contemporary China and Arab World
- Prof. Ma Lirong (Institute of Middle East Studies, Shanghai International Studies University)
The Construction of Platforms for Humanistic Communications between China and Arab-Islamic International Organizations

- Dr. Anwar Majid Eshki (President, Middle East Center for Strategic & Legal Studies, Jeddah)
The Chinese-Islamic Relations: An Outlook

Commentator:

Prof. Yang Guang (Director General, Institute of West-Asian and African Studies – IWAAS, CASS)

Closing Session

Chair:

Zeynep Durukal Abuhusayn (IRCICA)

Speakers:

- Dr. Halit Eren, Director General, IRCICA
- Prof. Jin Ze, Deputy Director, IWR
- Dr. Talal Daous, Director, Department of Muslim Minorities and Communities, OIC General Secretariat
- Prof. Zhang Youyun, Deputy Director General of the Bureau of International Cooperation, CASS

During the period of the congress, the Secretary General of OIC Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu held meetings with high-level state officials of the People's Republic of China. IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren accompanied the Secretary General during these meetings. On 28 June, Mr. Jia Qinglin, the Head of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), received the Secretary General at the People's Hall in Beijing. During the meeting Mr. Qinglin underlined that the OIC plays a significant role in boosting relations between the OIC and the People's Republic of China. Among many subjects of common interest, Mr. Qinglin presented the stages of a cooperation plan covering the economic, political and cultural areas, to be implemented by addressing development issues, through political cooperation such as to benefit regional peace and stability, all in addition to steady cooperation in terms of human resources and cultural exchanges.

On 27 June, on the eve of the congress opening, the Secretary General met with Mr. Zhai Jun, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of China. During the meeting, the Vice-Minister affirmed his country's keenness to achieve distinct economic and cultural relations with the states of the Muslim world. He noted that Muslim countries are among the key world trade-partners of China, and indicated that the volume of trade between the two parties had reached half a trillion dollars in the year 2011, thus rating second only to China's trade with the European Union. Prof. İhsanoğlu for his part underlined the need to boost economic and cultural relations between the OIC Member States on one hand and China on the other. He laid stress on the need to set a target for the aspired level of trade exchanges so as to endeavor to reach it. The Secretary General expressed the OIC's wish to work out joint programs to be pursued together with the Chinese Government, in line with the programs the OIC shares with other major states.

Another meeting was held with Mr. Muratbek Imanaliyev, Secretary General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization at the Organization's headquarters in Beijing. Ways and means to enhance cooperation between the two organizations were discussed.

"Islamic Civilization in Volga-Ural Region": Fifth Congress Held in Kazan, Tatarstan (Russian Federation)

11-12 June 2012

The Center of Islamic Studies and Sh. Marjani Institute of History of the Tatarstan Academy of Sciences and the Russian Islamic University (Kazan) cooperated with IRCICA in organizing the fifth congress on "Islamic Civilization in Volga-Ural Region". The congress took place under the patronage of President of Tatarstan H.E. Rustam Minnikhanov, in Kazan, capital of Tatarstan Republic (Russian Federation). It represented the academic side of a series of events commemorating the 1123rd anniversary of the official adoption of Islam by Volga Bulgaria. The anniversary was celebrated on 10 June 2012, on the eve of the congress, at Ancient Bolgar, with the opening of the newly restored White Mosque Complex and performance of the traditional festival Izge Bolgar Zhyeny.

Prior to the congress and the opening ceremony at Bolgar, on 8 June 2012, the Secretary General of OIC Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu was received by President Rustam Minnikhanov in Kazan. The Secretary General was accompanied by Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA. The excellent and fruitful relations between the OIC and Tatarstan conducted under the broad framework of cooperation between the OIC and the Russian Federation were appraised. Strengthening further the cooperation in economic, cultural and social fields between Tatarstan and the OIC member States was also discussed. The Secretary General lauded the efforts made by the Government of Tatarstan to restore the historical and heritage sites bearing

testimony of Muslim culture and civilization in the region. He thanked the President for his patronage of such commendable initiatives.

The congress was opened on 11 June with the welcoming address of the President of the Russian Islamic University Prof. Rafiq Mukhametshin. Then the audience heard the addresses of: the President of Tatarstan Academy of Sciences Prof. Dr. Akhmed M. Mazgarov, IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren, the member of the Governmental Council of Tatarstan Republic Mr. Razil Valeev, and the Director of the History Institute of the Tatarstan Academy of Sciences Prof. Rafael Khakimov. The address of Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of OIC, was read to the audience by Dr. Halit Eren.

The audience was briefed by Dr. Halit Eren on the varied activities that have been carried out by IRCICA jointly with the Republics of the Russian Federation for many years, particularly with those in Volga-Ural region. The first two congresses in this series were held in Kazan, in 2001 and 2005, both under the patronage of State advisor and former President H.E. Mintimer Shaimiev. The third one took place in 2008 in Ufa, Bashkortostan under the patronage of former President of Bashkortostan H.E. Murtaza Rakhimov. As to the fourth congress, it was also held in Ufa, under the patronage of H.E. President Rustem Zakievitch Khamitov, in October 2010.

This fifth congress marked an advanced stage in studies on the myriad aspects of the civilization, the heritage and the present development of Islamic culture in Volga-Ural region. This stage has been reached through constant development of the proceedings jointly by IRCICA and the partner academic institutions in the host countries with the contributions of the participating institutions, scholars and researchers in these congresses throughout the 2000s. IRCICA's cooperation with countries of the region gave many other outcomes outside of these congresses' context as well. Dr. Eren outlined in this regard the following activities: the Kazan



The premises of the Tatarstan Academy of Sciences

Mushaf, which is the earliest printed copy of the Holy Quran (1803), was reprinted by IRCICA in 2005 on the occasion of the millennium of Kazan city; the comprehensive book titled Tatar History and Civilization (2010), the first reference on this subject to be published in English, resulted from the joint work of Tatar scholars and IRCICA, and another book on the history of the region, on Bashkir History and Civilization, is under preparation jointly with Bashkir academic circles; a conference was organized at IRCICA, Istanbul jointly by the Ministry of Culture of Tatarstan in November 2011 to commemorate the illustrious Tatar scholar and poet Abdullah Tukay on the 125th anniversary of his birth. Dr. Eren also referred to high-level working visits between the Government of Tatarstan and IRCICA and the various projects undertaken in cooperation with Tatar universities have marked this cooperation. A Cultural Cooperation Agreement was signed between the Ministry of Culture of Tatarstan and IRCICA in 2007.

Thirty-eight scholars and researchers from the following countries participated in the congress: Bashkortostan, India, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Russian Federation, Tatarstan, Turkey and the USA. Papers were presented on a wide range of specialized subjects under the general themes of regional cultural relations and inter-cultural exchanges, religious schools and studies, Sufism, reform and renewal, language and literature, architecture, arts, press and publications, travels.

Dr. Ayna Askeroğlu (IRCICA), coordinator of the congress from IRCICA's side, observes that as is generally the case in all congresses dealing with Tatar history and Islamic culture, one of the important topics of this congress was related to the discourse referring to the Jadidist (reformist) and Qadimist (conservative) movements that marked the end of 19th and early 20th century. During the discussions on the subject, Prof. Rafael Khakimov pointed out that the historical archives of Tatarstan hold a large number of documents on the subject yet untouched. Some participating scholars questioned the pertinence of the discourse itself on the grounds that dividing



Dr. Eren with Prof. Akhmed M. Mazgarov, President of the Tatarstan Academy of Sciences

the pre-1917 Tatar intellectuals into two distinct groups does not represent an objective approach. There were in-depth and fruitful discussions on other themes as well including the history and the importance of the Orenburg Muslim Spiritual Assembly (an official religious administration of Imperial Russia established in 1788), Muslim intellectual thought, the influence of Islamic thought and education on Tatar culture, relations between Tatars and other Muslim nations, relations between the Ottoman Empire and the Golden Horde, among many others. One of the points that drew attention was Prof. Nesimi Yazıcı's (Ankara University, Faculty of Theology) observing that Bolgar State was the first Turkish state to adopt Islam as its official religion.

The proceedings of the congress will be published by IRCICA, as were those of the earlier congresses.

The 1123rd anniversary of official adoption of Islam by Volga Bulgars was celebrated with the international Festival "Izge Bolgar Zhyeny". The event was organized with the contributions of the Tatarstan Ministry of Culture, Religious Board of Muslims of Russia, Tatar Muslims Religious Organization, Tatar

Fund for the Protection of Tatarstan Culture and Historical Heritage and other institutions. The ceremony was opened in the presence of the President of Tatarstan H.E. Rustam Minnikhanov; former President of Tatarstan and Advisor to the Presidency H.E. Mr. Mintimer Shaimiev; Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Ildar Khalikov; OIC Secretary General H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu; Grand Mufti of Russia Sheikh Ravil Gaynutdinov; the Chairman of the Central Religious Board of Muslims of Russia Sheikh Talgat Tadzutdin; the Head of Religious Affairs of Turkey Prof. Dr. Mehmet Görmez; the Chairman of the Caucasian Muslims Office (Azerbaijan) Sheikh Allahşükür Pashazade; the Grand Mufti of



Tatarstan President Minnikhanov and first President Shaimiev handed a plaque of gratitude to Dr. Halit Eren, IRCICA Director General

Kazakhstan Sheikh Absattar Derbisali, the Director General of IRCICA Dr. Halit Eren, and Turkey's Consul General in Kazan Mr. Ahmet Akıntı.

President Minnikhanov, in his opening address stressed that the conservation of Islamic heritage on ancient Bolgar lands and the reopening of the White Mosque and its complex are significant events with regard to Islam in Tatarstan also indicating the importance given by Tatars to their historical and cultural heritage. Then, OIC Secretary General Prof. İhsanoğlu greeted the audience on behalf of the 57-member OIC. He underlined that the conservation of ancient Bolgar heritage and opening of the White Mosque Complex highlight the multi-faith coexistence that has been a proud feature of Tatar history and culture. In his address, Mr. Shaimiev, Former President of Tatarstan and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Tatar Fund for the Protection of Tatarstan Culture and Historical Heritage said that this was an important moment in the history of Islam and the history of Volga-Ural region, and that they were “not reading about this event in Tatar people's history in any book, but actually living it”. He noted that Muslims from Tatarstan, Russia and abroad had extended support for the revival of Bolgar. Mr. Shaimiev pointed out that the White Mosque Complex will not only be used for prayers but training programs can be organized in its medersa. Sheikh

Tadzutdin, the Chairman of the Central Religious Board of Muslims of Russia and Prof. Görmez, Head of Religious Affairs of Turkey also gave addresses.

Letters of gratitude were presented by President Minnikhanov and Former President Shaimiev to the builders, architects, investors and other individuals and institutions having contributed to the events in the various ways. A letter of gratitude signed by Former President of Tatarstan and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Tatar Fund for the Protection of Tatarstan Culture and Historical Heritage was presented to Dr. Halit Eren, IRCICA Director General, for “his important contributions to the revival and protection of Tatar people's historical and cultural heritage. ... Your positive image in the Muslim world contributes greatly to the development of Tatarstan's scholarly, cultural and economic relations with other Muslim countries. In each project we conduct jointly we observe your professionalism as an administrator and that the institution you chair carries out productive works. We thank you again very much for allowing us to benefit from your experience in the preservation of the historical and cultural heritage of the Islamic world.”

Then the first prayer at the White Mosque was performed. The museum of Bolgar was visited.



"Iraq in Ottoman Documents" **joint seminar with Bait al-Hikmah (Iraq) held at IRCICA**

6 June 2012

A seminar on "Iraq in Ottoman Documents" brought together scholars from Iraq and Turkey an entire day on 6 June. The seminar was organized jointly with Bait al-Hikmah, Iraq. It was opened in the presence of Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, OIC Secretary General; Mr. Erşat Hürmüzlü, Chief Advisor to the President of Turkey; Prof. Shimran al-Ijly, Chairman of the Bait al-Hikmah Board of Trustees; Ambassador Ahmed al-Kamaly, Consul General of Iraq in Istanbul, Ambassador Asim Mukhtar İbrahim, Consul General of The Sudan in Istanbul, and Mr. Mohamed Affan al-Hamdani, Cultural Counselor at the Embassy of Iraq in Ankara. An exhibition titled "Bagdad in Ottoman documents" accompanied the seminar, displaying the reproductions of official documents on social and cultural aspects of the city of Bagdad at different times during the Ottoman rule.

In his welcoming address, Dr. Halit Eren underlined the indispensable role of the Ottoman official documents as references in the study of the history of Iraq in recent centuries. He then outlined the activities conducted by IRCICA in relation with the Ottoman archives: those in the context of its research projects and those aimed at making known these documents and facilitating researchers' access to them through catalogues, translations, among others. Concerning the seminar, he said it represented an important step forward in scholarly cooperation between IRCICA and Iraqi institutions and expressed his pleasure to see these institutions' revived active participation in Islamic cultural and scholarly cooperation.

Prof. Shimran al-Ijly, Chairman of the Bait al-Hikmah Board of Trustees, gave information on the history of development of his institution and the activities it carries out in order to foster the scholarly, scientific and cultural environment in Iraq and its region. He said Bait al-Hikmah attaches great importance to cooperation with OIC member countries' cultural institutions.

Mr. Mohamed Affan al-Hamdani, Iraqi Cultural Counselor, addressed the audience underlining the need to benefit from the information contained in the numerous Ottoman documents, which reflect the common heritage of Arabs and Turks and are evidence to their shared history. He called for efforts to verify or to correct peoples' acquired conceptions and convictions on the basis of the facts that abound in the contents of these documents.

Mr. Erşat Hürmüzlü, Chief Advisor to the President of Turkey, praised the role assumed by Bait al-Hikmah in promoting scholarship. He expressed the wish that discrepancies between



Mr. Erşat Hürmüzlü,
Chief Advisor to the President of Turkey,
addressed the opening session

ideas and conceptions on one hand and the common culture of the peoples who were hitherto part of the Ottoman State on the other be eliminated. He called for further development of international relations in the fields of culture, history studies and the requirements of the present time.

Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the OIC, gave a scholarly address in which he stressed that reference

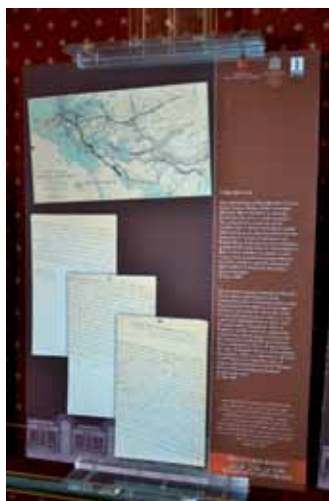


The audience at the opening

to the Ottoman documents is a sine qua non in the study of the history of the states founded after dissolution of the Ottoman State. He emphasized the role of IRCICA in reinforcing the links among scholars and researchers of the Muslim world and producing reference books. Prof. İhsanoğlu proposed that a certain number of graduates of history and other social sciences from Iraq to Turkey in order to study the history of their country on the basis of the Ottoman archives. He also proposed that a comprehensive reference book on the history of Iraq during the Ottoman period be prepared by Iraqi scholar and researchers.

The working sessions of the seminar heard scholars from Iraq and Turkey deliver comprehensive papers. In the first session, chaired by Dr. Halit Eren, the following papers were presented: "Historical geography of Arab provinces during Ottoman rule" (Prof. Dr. Mahmoud Ali Daoud, Department of Juridical Studies, Bait al-Hikmah); "The importance of the Ottoman Archives for research on the history of Iraq" (Dr. Önder Bayır, Head of the Department of Ottoman Archives, Turkish Prime Ministry's State Archives); "The social and economic situation of Iraq according to al-Zawra newspaper (1869-1917)" (Mr. Mohamed Jaber al-Jamal, Department of History Studies, Bait al-Hikmah). As to the second session, it was chaired by Prof. Shimran al-Ijly, and heard papers titled: "Baghdad in the documents of the late Ottoman period" (Dr. Ebubekir Ceylan, Fatih University, Istanbul); "The history of Iraq in the light of Ottoman documents: present state, views and suggestions" (Dr. Jamil Moussa al-Najar, Al-Mustansiriya University, Baghdad), and "The importance of the documents of the Ministry of Education from the viewpoint of the history of education in Iraq" (Prof. Dr. Fazıl Bayat, IRCICA).

The seminar, coordinated by Prof. Fazıl Bayat, is part of a series of research and publication projects and meetings organized by IRCICA on the subject of the history of Arab countries during the Ottoman period, i.e. from the beginning of the 14th century until the early 20th. In the context of this work, the pertinent documents collected mainly from the Ottoman official documents contained in the Department of Ottoman Archives, Turkish Prime Ministry's State Archives but also from other Ottoman documentary collections such as those of Topkapı Palace Museum, are translated into



Arabic and published in a series of systematically arranged volumes titled "The Arab provinces in Ottoman documents". Two volumes, containing documents from 16th-century Muhimme registers and from other collections respectively, were published in 2011. These publications are highly useful for researchers of the history of Arab countries whose main working language is

Arabic. The documents are related to varied subjects ranging from the Ottoman administrative, financial, etc. policies applied in Arab lands, waqfs, and regulation of the pilgrimage to uprisings, complaints by the people to the state, security measures protecting foreign tradesmen, among many others. In the context of the same project, seminars such as the above one are convened or presentations are made to larger meetings with regard to other Arab countries as well. An example is the forthcoming congresses on "Sudan during the Ottoman Era" to be organized jointly with the National Record Office of The Sudan on 26-28 September 2012 in Khartoum, and "Oman during the Ottoman Era" which will be organized jointly with the National Records and Archives Authority of the Sultanate of Oman, on 6-7 October 2012 in Istanbul.



OIC Secretary General Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu gave an address



Prof. Shimran al-Ijly, Chairman of the Bait al-Hikmah Board of Trustees, addressed the opening



Studies on the waqf institution: IRCICA's participation in the international symposium on "Ottoman Waqfs and Heritage in the Balkans"

The Turkish Prime Ministry's Directorate General of Waqfs and the Prime Ministry's Presidency for Turks Abroad and Relative Communities jointly organized an international symposium on "Ottoman Waqfs and Heritage in the Balkans" on 9-11 May 2012 in Istanbul, with the contributions of Ankara University's Southeast Europe Studies and Research Center (GAMER). Experts in history, sociology, law and art history and waqf authorities from Turkey and from Balkan countries participated in the symposium. Addressing the opening, the Director General of Waqfs Dr. Adnan Ertem said that for the last one and half years his Directorate General had been conducting research and contacts on the waqfs located in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo and Macedonia and remaining from Ottoman times and that they had also started studies for an assessment of those in Bulgaria and Greece. Dr. Ertem said that the Ottoman State had set up a system whereby almost all public services were extended through the waqf, which was a social and economic institution, and that by establishing waqfs in the Balkans the state was also strengthening its presence and its services there. Then, Mr. Kemal Yurtnaç, Head of the Presidency for Turks Abroad and Relative Communities, recalled the crucial functions that were assigned to waqfs in the past and expressed his regret that a "waqf culture" was since then forgotten or neglected. He informed the audience that the Presidency had undertaken socio-economic and scholarly studies in order to revive the history and civilization Turkey shares with peoples it coexisted with in the past. Were also present Prof. Dr. Ahmet Akgündüz, Rector, Islamic University of Rotterdam, The Netherlands, and Chairman of the Waqf for Ottoman Studies, and Prof. Dr. Halil İnalçık, Head of the Department of History, Bilkent University, Ankara (Honorary President of the symposium).

The first of the working sessions was the "Opening Session", which heard papers by: Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, on "Turkish waqfs in Western Thrace: historical process and present state", Prof. Dr. Heath W. Lowry, on "The other side of the medallion, the tombs of Ottoman mosques in Greece: the demolished, the neglected, the transformed, the re-transformed and the restored"; Mr. Pandeli Laki Vingas, on "Community waqfs, the role and future prospects of waqfs in the new approaches in community administration". The subsequent working sessions were as follows:

I. Ottoman Waqfs in the Balkans: Historical processes

Behija Zlatar, "Sarajevo waqfs in the 15th and 16th centuries"

Dino Mujadžević, "The general development process of waqf institutions in Bosnia"

Hatice Oruç, "Sarajevo waqfs during the 16th-19th centuries"

Andras Riedlmayer, "The Islamic Ottoman waqfs during the Balkan wars of the 1990s"

II. Ottoman Waqfs in the Balkans: description, present state

Machiel Kiel, "A glimpse at the waqfs in western Bulgaria"

Mehmet Zeki İbrahimgil, "The waqf properties of Mustafa Pasha in Macedonia"

Geza David, "Some waqfs in Ottoman Hungary"

Kezban Hatemi, "Minority waqfs in Greece and in Turkey"

III. Ottoman cultural waqf properties in the Balkans

Hakkı Acun, "Sultan Mehmet (Taş) Bridge in Skopja, Macedonia and its prayer room"

Aleksandar Kadijević, "The architecture of major Ottoman buildings in Raška (the sandzak of Novibazar)"

Grigor Boykov, "Şihabeddin Pasha Complex in Plovdiv and its waqf"

Athina Christiana Loupou, "The development of the Ottoman cultural heritage in Midilli/Lesvos and its preservation"

Eleni Kanetaki, "The formation of the historical and cultural legacy of the Ottoman period in Greece"

IV. Legislation and practices relating to Ottoman waqfs in Balkan countries, suggestions of solutions

Gjejlane Hoxha, "Legislation for the protection of cultural heritage in Kosovo: past, present and future"

Turgay Cin, "Applications of the Greek Waqfs Law no. 3647 dated 2008"

Harun Karčić, "International regulation of waqf properties in the western Balkans"

Hasan Dzilo, "Waqfs in Macedonia: in the vacuum between the legal framework and realities"

Ayşegül Kılıç, "An example of the Guzât (ghazis) waqfs: Gazi Evrenos Bey Waqf in Komotini"

Rahman Ademi, "Waqfs of Montenegro: a legal perspective"

V. Waqf documents as legal evidence of Ottoman waqfs: waqf archives, exchange of documents

Ramë Manaj - Refike Sulçevsi, "Waqf deeds found in Kosovo State Archives"

Orlin Sabev, "Ottoman waqf libraries in Bulgaria"

Adnan Torun, "The role and importance of the Kuyud-i Kadime Archive in studies on waqfs of the Ottoman period"

Cuma Atabay, "Waqfs of Balkan countries (the Bosnian example)"

Önder Bayır, "The waqf documents fund in the Ottoman Archives and the waqfs established in the Balkans"

Vladimir Božinović - Victor Popović, "Documentary analysis on Ottoman cultural heritage in Belgrade based on digital restoration of Sokullu Mehmet Pasha Kervansaray"

VI. Present social, cultural and economic functions of Ottoman waqfs in the Balkans

Ali Pajaziti, "Socio-cultural impacts of Ottoman waqfs in the Balkans today"

Numan Aruç, "A waqf for learning, science and education: İsa Bey Medrese"

Cazim Hadzimejlić, "Ottoman influence on culture, science and education in Bosnia and Herzegovina: present situation"

Aladin Husić, "The role of waqfs in the development of Visoko town"

The presentation by Dr. Halit Eren in its major part was a technical overview of the legal status of Ottoman waqfs in the Balkans in the light of the international law and treaties pertaining to their cases. In the subsequent part of his paper, Dr. Eren outlined IRCICA's research project on the theme of

the waqf institution in Islam. He said that the Islamic cultural, educational, social and administrative history and heritage of the Balkans and Southeast Europe as embodied in the waqf are part of and linked to the same processes as regards the whole Muslim world; this history and heritage altogether constitute a typical aspect of Islamic civilization that is very much revealing to the researcher. Taking these facts into consideration, IRCICA carries out its research project on the basis of regions, in order to be able to properly cover the waqf experience and its legacy in as many regions of the Muslim world as the availability of sources and documents would allow. He also spoke of IRCICA's other activities concerning the Balkans, an important aspect of which is the series of congresses titled "Islamic Civilization in the Balkans": four congresses were organized until now on this theme, in Bulgaria (2000), Albania (2003), Romania (2006) and Macedonia (2010) respectively, each in cooperation with the governments of the host countries.

Meeting on Katib Chelebi's book *Sullam al-wusul ila tabakat al-fuhul* and launching of its edition by IRCICA

Sullam al-wusul ila tabakat al-fuhul (The ladder of elevation to the lives of the great and famous by generation) is one of the most important works of the 17th century scholar Katib Chelebi (Mustafa bin Abdallah Katib Chelebi, 1609, Istanbul – 1658, Istanbul). An edition of this book was published by IRCICA in 2010, under the editorship of Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu (Secretary General of the OIC).

Katib Chelebi's most well-known works are:

- *Kashf al-Zunnun 'an asami al-kutub wa al-funun* (The removal of doubt from the names of books and the sciences), a bibliographic encyclopedia, written in Arabic, which lists more than 14,500 books in alphabetic order; this work served as basis for *Bibliothèque Orientale ou dictionnaire universel contenant tout ce qui regarde la connoissance des peuples de l'Orient* of the French orientalist Barthélemy d'Herbelot de Molainville (1625-1695), completed in 1697 by Antoine Galland, which contains a variety of information on Eastern peoples
- *Sullam al-wusul* (biographical)
- *Fezleke el-tavarih* (1639), a general Islamic history and dynastic chronology up to 1639, in Turkish, and
- *Cihannuma*, world geography in Turkish.

The first cited, an outstanding bibliography in history of science, and the last cited, were published many times. *Sullam al-wusul* was not published until the IRCICA edition and *Fezleke* is not published either. Katib Chelebi is the first Ottoman scholar to study European books and compare them with Eastern ones. He translated some important European works of 16th century from Latin texts in cooperation with a French convert to Islam known as Sheikh Mehmed İhlasi: *Rawnak al-sultana*, *Tarih-i Firengi*, among others and his study and partial translation of the *Atlas Minor* by Gerardus Mercator and Jodocus Hondius. Another characteristic of Katib Chelebi is that he was one of the pioneers of the objective approach in scholarship and set

an example with his care in indicating his documentary sources.

The edition of *Sullam al-wusul* is arranged in two editions of 6 volumes each. The main body is in Arabic in both editions, whereby the introductory parts (comprehensive Introduction by Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu and Preface by Dr. Halit Eren) are provided also in English in one of the editions and also in Turkish in the other edition. The sixth volume altogether is the Index. Work towards this publication was conducted at the initiative and under the editorship and coordination of Prof. İhsanoğlu, its period coinciding with the 400th birth anniversary of Katib Chelebi which UNESCO had included in its list of the anniversaries to be celebrated in 2009.

Sullam al-wusul is the most voluminous work written in the Ottoman period on the subject of general Islamic biography. It records the lives and works of important statesmen and scholars in Islamic history and also of renowned personalities from the pre-Islamic period who held a place in Islamic literature. The entries are arranged in alphabetic order. In the subsequent part of the book, Katib Chelebi gives information about the personalities' names derived from their places of origin/genealogy, their identities, pennames, geographical regions and religious orders. In the prologue, the author explains the method he followed in writing the book, comments on the science of history and adds information on names derived from places of origin/genealogy. Supplementary information about the contents of the book is given in the epilogue. In this regard, this work is not only a book of biography but also a book of genealogy.

In the Introduction of the edition İhsanoğlu explores some features of Islamic literature in the area of biography as



observed over the centuries. Historians of the Muslim world wrote hundreds of books in every branch of biography: "While some of these contained the biographies of scholars belonging to specific branches of science or to certain sects, others dealt with the life stories of statesmen, scholars and religious authorities who lived in specific places or specific periods of time. These kinds of biographies were usually arranged by category and by date. ... Another type of biographies contained information on important statesmen, scholars, religious figures, authors, artists, etc. having lived in history. ... This type of general biography was usually arranged alphabetically. ... Katib Chelebi is the leading, or one of the leading scholars who produced general biographies." In preparing the edition, Katib Chelebi's draft copy in the Süleymaniye Library and the copy of the first volume made by the author himself preserved at the Dar ul-kutub, Cairo (the national library of Egypt) were obtained. A well-known specialist of the field, researcher Mr. Mahmud Arnaut, started working on the project in 1998. By comparing the manuscripts and establishing the differences, he produced the basic text of the book. The latter reached its final form after a laborious collaborative work that involved comparisons, filling of gaps by referring to other sources, Fezleke in the first place, and addition of bibliographic notes. At this stage IRCICA staff members Dr. Salih Sadawi and Mr. Selahaddin Uygur exerted themselves in fulfilling these required steps and the Index was prepared by Mr. Uygur.

A meeting and book launch was organized about *Sullam al-wusul* jointly by IRCICA and the Center for Research on the Alliance of Civilizations (MEDIT) of Fatih Sultan Mehmet Waqf University in Istanbul, on 17 May 2012. The speakers at the meeting were Prof. Dr. Musa Duman, Rector of the University; Prof. Dr. Bekir Karlığa, Member of the University's Board of Trustees and Chairman of the Turkish National Coordination Committee for the Alliance of Civilizations; Dr. Halit Eren, IRCICA Director General; Prof. Dr. Ramazan Şeşen, Professor of Islamic history and Head of the Department of Bibliographies and Manuscripts; Prof. Ayman Fuad Sayyid, expert and consultant for manuscripts, Al-Azhar University, Cairo, and Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the OIC and supervisor of the edition published by IRCICA.

The speeches highlighted the distinguishing features of Katib Chelebi and his works from various viewpoints. Prof. Musa Duman underlined the importance of scholarly efforts such as that embodied in this edition. He expressed his pleasure that Fatih Sultan Mehmet Waqf University was hosting this meeting highlighting the work of the illustrious figure of Islamic history of science Katib Chelebi. He also gave information on the University, which although is only two years old, has taken its place among the foyers of higher learning in Turkey.

Prof. Bekir Karlığa underlined the special place of Katib Chelebi in intellectual history. He briefed the audience on several other attempts and projects aiming to publish editions of other works of Katib Chelebi.

Dr. Eren briefed the audience on IRCICA's research and publication projects in the field of history of science. He outlined the process of preparation of the edition of *Sullam al-wusul* and thanked those who contributed in its different stages: Dr. Mahmoud Arnaut from Damascus, and members of IRCICA staff.

Prof. Ramazan Şeşen briefed the audience on each and every work of Katib Chelebi also indicating their locations and those of their copies if any. "In his short life of 49 years Katib Chelebi produced a number of works in the fields of bibliographic studies, history, geography, politics and accounting, among others. He knew Turkish, Arabic and Persian; he authored in the first two. He also had a reading knowledge of Latin and Greek. ... He took interest in the scientific achievements of Europe, especially those in the field of geography, and tried to bring them to the attention of intellectuals and statesmen." Prof. Şeşen described in detail the work *Sullam al-wusul* and the methodology followed by IRCICA in preparing the edition. As to Prof. Ayman Fuad Sayyid, he analyzed the particular features of *Sullam al-wusul* from the viewpoint of the author's approach, research and editorial methodology, pointing to authentic aspects of the work.

A comprehensive presentation was made by the supervisor of the edition, Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, tracing the process of Katib Chelebi's preparing this voluminous work, the methods he followed in indicating his sources, referring the reader to another book of his or others, leaving blanks where he was planning to fill in further information, and many other cases in all of which his systematically adopted practices indicate his precision and punctiliousness. Prof. İhsanoğlu also explained the system and methodology adopted in preparing the edition by showing slide projections of various pages from the manuscript. In an especially important part of his presentation he communicated some observations resulting from a comparison of the author's draft located at Süleymaniye Library in Istanbul and the incomplete copy located at Dar ul-Kutub in Cairo: this comparison gives clues with regard to the stages and processes of production of the work by Katib Chelebi.



Presentation of copies of the book

The Second Architectural Heritage Summer School on “Islamic Urban Heritage. Research, Preservation and Management” (20 June-17 July 2012)

IRCICA and Al-Turath Islamic Heritage Foundation (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) have held the 2012 Summer School in the context of the program titled “Islamic Urban Heritage. Research, Preservation and Management”. The school was conducted through 20 June to 17 July 2012 involving two weeks of studio work in Istanbul followed by two weeks of training in field trips to significant heritage cities and sites. 33 students from the OIC member countries and Europe participated in the school.

The program was launched last year with the first school organized in June-July 2011 jointly with Al-Turath Islamic Heritage Foundation, chaired by H.R.H. Prince Sultan bin Salman, who is also the Chairman of the Saudi Commission for Tourism and Antiquities. The 2012 school likewise benefited from international academic collaboration, which constitutes a crucial feature of the whole program. The collaborating institutions included Yıldız Technical University, Istanbul; King Saud University, Riyadh; Politecnico di Bari, Bari; Prince's School of Traditional Arts, London; University of Ferrara, Ferrara; University of Sarajevo, Sarajevo; Istanbul University, Istanbul; Marmara University, Istanbul; Istanbul Technical University, Istanbul; Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, Istanbul; Kadir Has University, Istanbul; Istanbul Kültür University, Istanbul; Bahçeşehir University, Istanbul; İstanbul Şehir University, Istanbul; Bilecik University, Bilecik; Mardin Artuklu University, Mardin; Onsekiz Mart University, Çanakkale; Uludağ University, Bursa. The municipalities of the cities visited for field studies extended their valuable collaboration and facilities.

The successful outcomes of the schools especially from the viewpoint of their observable benefits in responding to a need and filling a gap in the field of training for heritage management has led the organizers to institute it as a bi-annual activity instead of annual as envisaged before. Thus, a Winter School will take place in Saudi Arabia from 24 December 2012 to 7 January 2013 as the second part and mid-year component of the 2012 program.

The Islamic Urban Heritage – Research, Preservation and Management School focused on:

- Technical practice on site, design of preservation and urban development projects;
- Management, planning and evaluation of the economic and social impact of urban heritage and its conservation, and provision of appropriate financial solutions;
- Research, analysis and documentation of urban heritage sites and buildings as a basis for the development of the “IRCICA-Prince Sultan bin Salman Architectural Heritage Database”.

Participants in the program were holders of a Bachelor degree or above in architecture, urban planning, archaeology, art history, history, civil engineering or project management. Certificates were delivered on successful completion of the program, issued by IRCICA, Al-Turath Foundation, and Yıldız Technical University as the host institution.

The two main sections of the program can be detailed as:

1. Practical issues on historical preservation – The section involved lectures given on site or at the school by professors and leading experts of the field in Turkey focusing on architectural restoration and urban conservation practices. The lectures on “Practice and Theory of Historic Preservation” aimed to introduce international and national approaches to the research, preservation and management of Islamic urban heritage by presenting local, national and international cases and discussion of experiences. This part of the program was divided into two sections: The initial section included lectures focusing on the fields of history, urban planning, historic preservation and the management of cultural heritage. The second section involved the presentation of architectural restoration, integrated planning and management practices by national experts, along with visits to restoration sites in Istanbul such as Büyük Mabeyn in Yıldız Palace, Hüseyin Ağa Mosque in Taksim, Süleymaniye Complex. The topics treated included: traditional construction techniques, architectural restoration, conservation of traditional materials (stone, adobe, brick, timber, ceramics), integrated planning, heritage site management, history, urban planning, historic preservation, management of cultural heritage.

2. Practical case studies field trips – The case study field trips included visits to important urban heritage sites in Turkey where seminars took place along with site visits. The seminars concerned with the sharing of local preservation practice and experiences, which complemented with case studies on site. The following heritage sites were visited: Trabzon, Giresun, Ordu, Niksar, Tokat, Amasya, Taşköprü, Safranbolu, Edirne. Among these are two World Heritage Sites (Edirne Selimiye Mosque Complex and the City of Safranbolu) inscribed in the List of UNESCO. In those heritage sites, the main features were visited and seminars organized with the participation of national and international experts and the representatives of local authorities. These seminars focused on the safeguarding and management of the sites and the promotion of sustainable development.

The last two days of the program were devoted to panels for recapitulation and evaluation.

Some of the lectures are summarized below, in alphabetical order of lecturers' names.

Nur Akin, Professor of Architecture, Kültür University, Istanbul, and former President of ICOMOS Turkey

“Urban and architectural heritage of two Anatolian towns: Safranbolu and Antalya”

“Safranbolu was included in UNESCO’s World Heritage List in 1994 for its traditional-typical Ottoman houses dating from 19th century. Since proclamation of the Urban Conservation Law in 1973 Safranbolu has been preserved. Restoration and rehabilitation planning is continuing. As a historic town, in Antalya too conservation and preservation projects were started around the same time, in 1974, but Antalya lost its authenticity due to its being a major tourism center. Construction of the yacht marina and conversion of carpet shops and gardens into restaurants and of the cotton store into a hotel. These are examples of the transformations the city underwent.”

Nihad Babović, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Architecture, University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

“Sinan’s Mosque or universal temple”

“Mimar Sinan belonged to the construction tradition reflecting a humble architect. In his works, exterior areas are the outside world and interior is the inside of the body. For example; the four minarets of Selimiye symbolize forces of nature or the four angels in Islam, eight columns symbolize human heart and the dome covers the people inside. Most of Sinan’s works are in Istanbul.”

Önder Bayır, Dr., Head of the Ottoman Archives Department, Turkish Prime Ministry’s State Archives, Istanbul

“The importance of the Ottoman Archive for the study of history”

“The Ottoman archives contain most valuable archival materials. Architects need to collaborate with historians to read and understand the archival sources. The documents contained in many of the different categories of registers such as Ruznamçe, Muhimme, Name-i Humayun, Mukavelename are of crucial importance as original first-hand sources for studies in history of urban development, policies and practices and individual buildings.”

Demet Binan, Professor, Faculty of Architecture, Mimar Sinan University of Fine Arts, Istanbul

“Defining, preserving and sustaining traces of Mimar Sinan within the framework of Turkish-Islamic and world heritage

Mimar Sinan served for fifty years as the head of the Corps of Court Architects (Hassa Mimarlar Ocağı) of the Ottoman Palace. He represents the classical Ottoman architect and is a symbol of Ottoman architectural production. Concrete traces of Sinan’s architectural work are his “monumental structures” while his other works were limited and built for his own use. Another group of concrete traces of his works that reached our time are the handworks and the dedication inscriptions (“vakfiye”) which were written by Sinan’s friend the muralist and poet Mustafa Said Çelebi and told the stories of his works.

Avni Çebi, President of Architects & Engineers Group, Istanbul

“Urbanization, Urban Regeneration and a City for Everyone”

“Cities are where people come together, fulfill their needs, live in a society and Istanbul is huge and crowded city. If people can move as they wish, they can feel themselves secure, strong and comfortable. Public lands within the city should be protected as “golden areas”. We need urban transformation and new architectural approaches which will combine modern perceptions and traditional materials. People need to live in an unobstructed, reachable, livable, sustainable, united and merciful city for everybody from every social group.”

Yüksel Demir, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Architecture, Istanbul Technical University, Istanbul

“Nature&Culture&Architecture@Mardin”

“Nature and culture have a significant role on architecture. In the case of Mardin, the originality of the city could not be preserved. Mardin hosted one of the first universities of the world. Its citizens are demanding the establishment of a higher education institute. This institute would provide guidance and consultancy to the administrators and citizens towards solving the city’s problems. There is a need for an interdisciplinary research center, an international platform for intellectual activities to be conducted in collaboration with some local actors. We need development with preservation of cultural and social values. We also need to combine global resources with local initiatives.”

Yonca Kösebay Erkan, Assistant Professor, Kadir Has University, Istanbul

“The 40th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention: overview of the 36th World Heritage Committee meeting”

“Local communities have a very important role for sustainable development. At its 36th Session in St. Petersburg, the World Heritage Committee reviewed 141 reports concerning 144 properties, including the 35 properties described on the list of World Heritage in Danger. Natural and human made disasters should be dealt with separately from each other in preparing management reports. For example, the natural and cultural sites in Palestine are discussed as separate items in the WHC meetings. But periodic and special reports are needed for protection of Palestinian cultural and natural heritage.”



Assist. Prof. Yüksel Demir’s presentation, IRCICA

Ali Reyhan Esen, General Manager at Reyhan Mimarlık, Istanbul

"The District Preservation Boards and their approach to conservation"

"The main aim of conservation approach for natural and cultural properties is identification and protection. Conservation areas are necessary for the protection of historical sites. Historical sites can be divided into categories such as archeological, natural, urban archeological, cultural."

Robert Di Giulio, Professor of Architecture, Dean of Faculty of Architecture, University of Ferrara, Italy

"High technologies for cultural heritage: technologies for the survey and monitoring of cultural heritage"

"High technology for surveys and design with 3D and Laser Scanner are very crucial to solve the problems like problems related to access the sites, speed of procedures, cost of survey... For example in the case studies like Perugia, Pompeii, Firenze and Salerno, using this technology was needed. With this technology research projects can be developed and archeological heritage can be preserved. TekneHub is one of the four laboratories of the Technopole of Ferrara."

Murat Güvenç, Professor, Department of Sociology, Şehir University, Istanbul

"A methodological framework for Istanbul's 20th-century urban historiography"

"Istanbul is taken up as one of the three major gateways to Europe. The period from 1945-1975 which encouraged urban sprawl and suburbanization in most of the western countries had totally different impacts in Turkey's metropolitan centers. Political, economic and socio-cultural changes reflect the map of lifestyles within the city's confines. The Bosphorus and the Golden Horn generate non-negligible deterrence effects upon intra-urban mobility."

Ahmet Hadrović, Professor of Architecture, University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

"Public faucets in Bosnia and Herzegovina"

"Public faucets are very important in Bosnia Herzegovina. A man named Ajvaz Dedo prayed to God that He may give people water. A huge rock cracked and water started running. Ajvatovica is an Islamic tradition and cultural commemoration accompanied by prayers, dedicated to Ajvaz Dedo. Water is benediction. This is one example of traditional stories that are told in relation with various architectural structures that are esteemed by the people."

Aida İdrizbegović-Zgonic, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Architecture, Sarajevo University, Bosnia and Herzegovina

"Restoration of Sevre Hadji Hasan Mosque in Mostar (2002-2003)"

"Sevre Hadji Hasan Mosque in Mostar was built in 1603, heavily damaged in 1993 and restored in 2002. Its minaret collapsed on the cubic structure in 1993 and the mihrab wall was also heavily damaged. A small portion of the roof and wooden dome survived.

Its minaret was brought to its original portion according to the restoration project. All the stones were identified, minaret stones were marked. On the structure, the stones which separate old and new can be visually identified. Students should learn vernacular, traditional elements, images and building techniques instead of general images."

Nevzat İlhan, Professor of Architecture, Edirne World Heritage Site Manager, Edirne, Turkey

"Historical/urban evolution and UNESCO WHS Edirne Selimiye Mosque Complex"

"Edirne (Hadrianopolis) was a multicultural walled medieval Byzantine city when it became the capital of the Ottoman Empire. The city was then planned to expand eastwards. The new palace was placed out of the old town. But after the Russian invasion many historical buildings were destroyed. Non-Muslims were living inside the walls and Muslims were living outside. The Macedonian Tower was a clock tower from Abdulhamid II's era. Like all Islamic cities the growth of the city is mainly around the religious and commercial buildings in the center. There are three important mosques named Three Balconies Mosque, Old Mosque and Selimiye Mosque, respectively. Also to be mentioned are caravanserais like Rustempaşa Kervansaray, public kitchens, public baths, and the mental hospital in Bayezid II Complex. Selimiye Mosque is inscribed on the World Heritage List."

Mustafa Kaçar, Professor of History of Science, Faculty of Letters, Istanbul University

"Water supply systems in Ottoman cities"

"Windmills started to be built in the Ottoman lands after the 16th century. Mills are the ancestors of modern water tribunes. Niksar has one of them. Niksar hosted many different civilizations. It is at the point where North Anatolia-South Anatolia and East Anatolia-West Anatolia meet. It has 66 monuments consisting of one castle, six inns, medersas, mosques and baths. Vast majority of these monuments from Seljukid, Ilkhanid, Danishment and Ottoman periods are around the castle."

Eleni Kanetaki, Assistant Professor, Department of Architecture, Democritus University of Thrace, Greece

"Ottoman Heritage in the Greek Lands: An overview of its past, its present and its future"



“There are some differences between religious buildings (mosques, tekkes) and secular buildings (baths, markets, khans, libraries, imarets) and works of military architecture (like castles, fortresses) dating from the Ottoman period. There are many Ottoman styled mosques in Rhodes, Crete, Ioannina, Larissa, Nafplio, Chania, Trikala and Athens in Greece. Some minarets in Greece are renovated but some of them have to be removed due to structural problems. Part of the Ottoman architectural heritage in Greece is in use as galleries, auditoriums or museums today. About preservation of this heritage: young people need to be educated.”

Heath W. Lowry, Professor, Faculty of Arts & Sciences, Bahçeşehir University, Istanbul

“From Pythion to Dimetoka, Edirne & Beyond: the Ottoman conquest of the Meriç (Evros) River Valley”

“The fortress of Phytion, strategically located site near by the city Dimetoka is the oldest Ottoman fortification. The gateway and the tower of the fortress were added later. Once Ottomans controlled the fortress they controlled the river. Ottomans conquered Dimetoka -the double walled city- peacefully because people of Dimetoka forced the rulers to surrender. There were non-Muslim houses inside the walls but outside the walls a new Muslim city was built. In 1878-79 two Ottoman palaces that were destroyed during the second Balkan War were built in Edirne. Unlike Mongols, Ottomans used peaceful policies to non-Muslims.”

Randall Mason, Associate Professor and Chair, Graduate Program in Historic Preservation, School of Design, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, USA

“Will there be a heritage conservation field in 50 years?”

“There is a crisis of legitimacy and profession about the field. A modern city should be created with cultural and historic values. It can be said that there is no authentic architecture in the USA. We do not have models on how it actually works in contemporary society. We need historic preservation and heritage conservation as a new tradition. We also need systematic thinking and public-private partnership. We should think about multiple modernities.”

Aylin Orbaşlı, Reader in Architectural Regeneration, Department of Architecture, Oxford Brookes University, United Kingdom

“Managing tourism in historic towns”

“For urban conservation, we should know the identity of a city and its links to the past. With physical, social and economic objectives, tourism plays an important role in historic town conservation. It is also a potential source of finance for conservation. Since the 1980s tourism has been a significant economic sector for many small historic towns across Europe. The recognition of this financial benefit is spreading globally. If we compare conservation and tourism; conservation has authenticity, integrity, and remains an integral part of the city whereas tourism carries a cluster of activities and appeals to a wide range of visitors.”

Aysun Özkose, Professor, Head of the Restoration Department, Fethi Toker Faculty of Fine Arts and Design, Karabük University, Turkey

“Sustainability in the process of becoming World Heritage Sites”

“In Safranbolu civilization dates back to the Hittites and the Byzantines. During the Ottoman period which featured the waqf institution and the Ahi tradition [guild system aligned around a spiritual leadership peculiar to Asia Minor], Muslims and non-Muslims in the same village started to work, look after and respect each other. Mosques (Köprülü Camii), Arasta (commercial centre - Cinci Khan), public baths and bazaars still have an important role in social life. Ornamentals, ceilings, doors and cupboards, pools in courtyards show us the richness of Safranbolu. All windows have a view and never block each other.”

Attilio Petruccioli, Professor of Architecture, Director of ICAR, Faculty of Architecture, Bari Polytechnic, Italy

“Heritage and local development: the dead cities in Syria”

“In Syria there are 700 historical villages and some of them are very well preserved. The agriculture is very limited today and still there are local people living in these villages in well preserved Roman houses. The name of one of these villages is Deir Simon and has a few new houses in the old village. Private and public sphere in the village are separated and there is a link between revitalization and local development. There are some small and cheap hotels for tourists near the village. Political and economic problems are very important. The projects for the villages should be minimalist, local people should be encouraged and local governments should support the projects.”

Daniele Pini, Architect, Professor of Urban Planning, Faculty of Architecture, University of Ferrara, Italy and UNESCO Expert

“The historic urban landscapes: a comprehensive approach to conservation”

“There is a need for new approaches to conservation. A heritage is not only a historical monument. Historical, cultural and traditional values belong to history and we should preserve these values and enhance the quality of the human environment. Conservation is a process of management of change and future. Economic, social and cultural urbanization, social and human development,



Prof. Demet Binan's presentation, Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, Istanbul

concern for the environment are needed... Tourism is a part of urban development.”

Mohsin al-Qarni, Executive Director, Urban Heritage Center, Saudi Commission for Tourism and Antiquities, Riyadh

“The accomplishments of the Saudi Commission for Tourism and Antiquities in the field of urban heritage”

“Mud buildings are very common in the central area of Riyadh. In the North and the West of Riyadh stone buildings such as castles represent the earlier Islamic periods. Urban heritage is related to environment, culture and tradition. During the last ten years, the urban heritage has been rehabilitated in conjunction with the local municipalities. Studies were made about urban heritage problems and a road map, strategy and action plan were prepared for the next five years. Laws and regulations have been prepared to protect and develop national urban heritage sites. The new antiquities law will be next. Subvillages, souqs, old historical buildings, some museums in Jeddah, Riyadh, Taif, Ghatt, Rijal-Almaa, Jubbah, al-Ula and Hofuf among others, were rehabilitated. But for all these rehabilitation projects, working with the local people and agencies and training local people were very important.”

Suphi Saatçi, Professor, Faculty of Architecture, Mimar Sinan University of Fine Arts, Istanbul

“The classical age of Ottoman architecture and Sinan”

“Istanbul has been a stage for large scale public works since it came under Ottoman reign in 1453. Maturation process of the classical style lasted until the mid-16th century. Edirnekapi Mihrimah Sultan Complex is one of the most imitated works of Mimar Sinan. Süleymaniye Complex was constructed for Kanuni Sultan Süleyman. The Sokullu Complex is an example of organic architecture decorated with tile panels. The circularity of Selimiye’s dome and unity of space inside the mosque are unique. Sinan also restored Hagia Sofia and added two minarets. Büyükçekmece Bridge has also the signature of Sinan. He had his tomb constructed in the most humble corner of Süleymaniye.”

Livio Sacchi, Professor, University Chieti, Pescara, Italy

“A critical survey and a design proposal for al-Balad, the historic district in Jeddah, KSA”

“In al-Balad as a gateway to the pilgrimage to Mecca, the historic district had been left unattended in the past decades; so were many other cities in the middle of the desert. The district has been renovated in accordance with local people’s own social, cultural needs and values. Old buildings can coexist with the climate and environment. Traditional buildings can coexist with a modern and digitalized world. For example in al-Balad Historical District Survey, 3D modeling and laser scanner were used. With this modeling Nasef House was renovated and reopened to the public. Public presentations are very important to make

local people understand how important their heritage is.”

Mehmet Şimşek Deniz, Conservation and Implementation Control and Education Bureau, Municipality of Istanbul

“The role of KUDEB in Conservation of Heritage”

“In Süleymaniye and Zeyrek districts of Istanbul, social status and religion used to define the form of the houses. A typical old house has haremlik (private) and selamlık (public) parts. There is only a small window called hacet (need) on ground floor. The school and the mosque mark the center of the neighborhood.”

Zeynep Gül Ünal, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Architecture, Yıldız Technical University, Istanbul

“Remarks about disaster risk management of cultural heritage in Islamic countries”

“Fire in India and Bhutan, earthquake in Italy, armed conflict in Mali and Syria are disasters that happened in the course one month. Disaster is related to risk, hazard and vulnerability and these concepts need identification. You have to know how vulnerable you are for the disaster and accept your weak point. Monitoring the situation you can estimate the problem and reduce the risk. Management of disaster needs clear statement of policy, supporting legislation, focal agency, national framework plan, integrated plans, training, practice, public awareness and finance.”



Field studies to heritage sites and visits to institutions dealing with urban heritage preservation

“The Ultimate Journey”:

Exhibition of paintings and calligraphies on the Holy Ka’ba, Prophet Mohammed’s Mosque and al-Aqsa Mosque

July-August 2012 in Istanbul

An exhibition of oil paintings, miniature paintings and calligraphic works depicting the Holy Ka’ba in Mecca, Masjid al-Nabawi (the Mosque of the Prophet) in Medina, and Masjid al-Aqsa in Al-Quds selected from the personal collection of H.R.H. Prince Faisal bin Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Saud, Minister of National Education, and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Layan Cultural Foundation, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, drew the interest of cultural and artistic circles in Istanbul. The exhibition was on display from 13 July to 16 August 2012 coinciding in its largest part with Ramadan 1433.

Under the patronage of the President of the Republic of Turkey H.E. Abdullah Gül, it was arranged by IRCICA and Layan Cultural Foundation at Dolmabahçe Art Gallery in Beşiktaş, Istanbul. It was titled “The Ultimate Journey” drawing inspiration from the Hadith (saying of Prophet Mohammed pbuh) “Do not set out on a journey except for three Mosques, i.e. al-Masjid al-Haram, this mosque of mine (Masjid al-Nabawi) and al-Masjid al-Aqsa”.

A high-profile ceremony marked the opening of the exhibition on 13 July with a large number of artists and art lovers attending. Following the welcoming words of IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren, addresses were delivered by

- Mr. Erşat Hürmüzlü, Chief Advisor to the President of Turkey representing H.E. President Abdullah Gül;
- H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the OIC;
- Mr. Ömer Dinçer, Minister of National Education of Turkey, and
- H.R.H. Prince Faisal bin Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Saud, Minister of National Education of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

This was the fourth exhibition of samples from the collection after those held in Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Morocco respectively. In total there were 31 works by 26 artists from 17 countries. The works displayed



Ribbon cutting on the opening of the exhibition

belonged to the following artists: Abdallah Hamas (Saudi Arabia), Abdullah Al-Shelti (Saudi Arabia), Adel Al-Sewi (Egypt), Adem Sakal (Turkey), Adeyemi Abdulfattah Adeyemi (Nigeria), Ahmad Mustafa (Egypt), Arafat Al-Naim (Jordan), Bill West (UK), Davut Bektaş (Turkey), Dia Aziz Dia (Saudi Arabia), Erina Conda (Guinea), Ferhat Kurlu (Turkey), Jamil Ahmed Balouch (Pakistan), Khosrow Hassanzadeh (Iran), Masrul Hendrik (Indonesia), Mohamed Al-Shammery (Iraq), Mohamed Korish (Morocco), Mohammed Ais Bin Abdul Aziz (Malaysia), Muhammed Saleh Bushnaq (Palestine), Nassar Mansoor (Jordan), Nawal Mussali (Saudi Arabia), Nusret Çolpan (Turkey), Peter Gould (Australia), Raeda Ashour (Saudi Arabia), Ranya Sarakbi (Lebanon), Shahnoza Muminova (Uzbekistan). Visitors had the opportunity to hear interviews with the artists about their work environments, artistic perspectives and works presented.

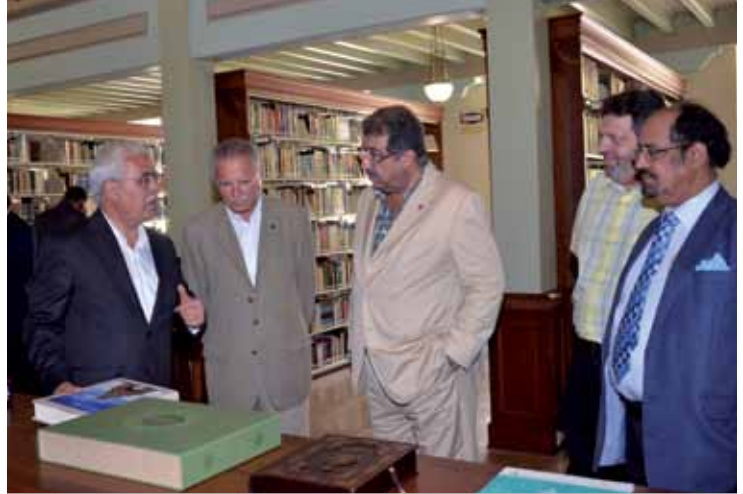


MEETINGS, COOPERATION

H.R.H. Prince Faisal bin Abdullah bin Mohammed Al-Saud, Minister of National Education, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at IRCICA

H.R.H. Prince Faisal bin Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Saud, Minister of National Education of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, visited IRCICA on 10 July 2012 prior to the opening of the “The Ultimate Journey” exhibition, which from 13 July onwards at Dolmabahçe Art Gallery in Istanbul, displayed samples from the Minister’s personal collection of paintings and calligraphies related to the three places that are considered as sacred in Islam: The Holy Ka’ba in Mecca, The Mosque of the Prophet in Medina, and al-Aqsa Mosque in Al-Quds.

During the visit at IRCICA the Minister received information on the work programs and activities of the Centre, the library and archive departments and the expansion and modernization projects conducted in these departments in recent years. At the end of his visit the Minister signed the Visitors’ Book, recording his impressions: “I am happy to visit this center which preserves and promotes the language of the Holy Quran. During this visit I had the opportunity of observing the development of the collections and modernization of the techniques which refresh the souls and augur well for the Centre.”



H.R.H. Prince Faisal bin Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Saud, Minister of National Education of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Dr. Saad Abdul Aziz al-Rashid (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) Vice-Chairman of IRCICA Governing Board, Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the OIC and Dr. Halit Eren, IRCICA Director General at IRCICA Library

Visit of Dr. Abdul Salam Al-Abbadi, Minister of Awqaf, Islamic Affairs and Holy Places, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

On 28 July 2012, Dr. Abdul Salam Al-Abbadi, Minister of Awqaf, Islamic Affairs and Holy Places of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan visited IRCICA. Dr. Halit Eren briefed the Minister about the various departments of the Centre and their activities. Cultural events and projects conducted jointly by IRCICA and Jordanian institutions were evoked. The Minister signed the Visitors’ Book:

«I had the opportunity of visiting this august center and learning about its achievements in multiple fields of Islamic culture and the noble works it accomplished successfully, all in the service of the Holy Book of Allah Almighty. I pray to God that He may help all those who endeavoured to serve this center and particularly my brother Dr. Halit Eren who took care to enrich the progress of the center, thus completing the efforts of his predecessor Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu. This is in fact a process of doing good and of achievements. ...»

S.E. Dr. Abdul Salam Al-Abbadi

(Minister of Awqaf, Islamic Affairs and Holy Places)



Meeting at the Directorate General

Mr. Hadi Nezir, Minister of State of Macedonia, visited IRCICA

Mr. Hadi Nezir, Minister of State, had represented the Republic of Macedonia in the International Inaugural Conference of the “1400th Year of the Revelation of the Holy Quran” which was organized by IRCICA on 5 September 2010. During a more recent visit to Istanbul, on 11 May 2012 the Minister visited IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren. Talks were held on various cultural development issues. Dr. Eren informed Mr. Nezir of recent developments in the Centre’s activities and showed samples of the publications. The cultural relations between IRCICA and the academic and cultural institutions of Macedonia were evoked; in particular, the Fourth International Congress on “Islamic Civilization in the Balkans” which was

organized jointly by the Macedonian Academy of Science and Art and IRCICA in Skopje, on 14-16 October 2010, was recalled. The congress was a high-profile and large-scale event, where H.E. President Gjorge Ivanov delivered a scholarly address in his capacity as the President of Macedonia as well as an established academician.



Visit of Dr. Hamed bin Mohamed al-Dhawyani, Chairman of the National Records and Archives Authority, Sultanate of Oman

The visit of Dr. Hamed bin Mohamed Dhawyani, Chairman of the National Records and Archives Authority of the Sultanate of Oman, and a group of his colleagues, to IRCICA on 17 July 2012 was an opportunity for preparatory discussions on the congress on “Oman during the Ottoman Era” scheduled to take place in Istanbul on 5-6 October 2012. Dr. Eren gave information to Dr. Dhawyani on the activities of IRCICA showing samples of the publications. Dr. Dhawyani recorded his impressions on the Visitors’ Book: “It is an honour for me and the delegation accompanying me to visit this Centre which works on history and civilization studies and Islamic arts. In this visit I have gotten acquainted with the intellectual contribution of this Centre, the support it provides to scholarly research and intellectual activity, and its efforts aiming to highlight the Islamic cultural role fulfilled by the Muslim community in building human civilization and for the benefit of whole humankind. The untiring efforts deployed by this Centre to promote the fields of specialization it is in charge with are an evident proof of the good performance and the good management of Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of the Centre to whom I wish all the possible success. The cooperation that has materialized in

various fields and with many institutions of Oman is also worth mentioning among them the National Records and Archives Authority. We aim further cooperation between the Centre and the Authority. We renew our appreciation and esteem for these efforts and praise the effective collaboration and the performance of all brothers and sisters at the Centre.”



Prof. M. A. Imtiaz Hossein, Vice-Chancellor of the Islamic University of Technology, Dhaka, visited IRCICA

Prof. M. A. Imtiaz Hossein, Vice-Chancellor of the Islamic University of Technology (IUT), Dhaka, Bangladesh, visited IRCICA on 7 May 2012. The meeting at the Director General’s office was a good opportunity for the heads of the two OIC subsidiaries, IUT and IRCICA, to exchange views on possible ways of further expanding cultural and scientific cooperation among the OIC member countries as well as

intensifying communication and collaboration between the two institutions.

At its establishment by decision of the Ninth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Dakar, 1978) today’s IUT was initially named the “Islamic Centre for Technical and Vocational Training and Research” (ICTVTR) and later it was renamed

the “Islamic Institute of Technology”. Its present name as the “Islamic University of Technology” was adopted by decision of the Twenty-eighth Foreign Ministers Conference (Bamako, 2001). By virtue of IUT’s statute the Secretary General of OIC is the Chancellor of IUT. The main objective of the University is to help the human resources development of the OIC Member States in engineering, technology, technical and vocational education. It conducts programs to promote and guide

research in industrial and technological fields, to enhance technical cooperation, to exchange technical know-how, and to disseminate basic information in the field of human resource development through courses, seminars, workshops and publications. The Institute also gives due consideration to ensuring coordination between the objectives of the University and other national and regional institutions of the Member States, as well as relevant international institutions.

Visit of Prof. Widi A. Pratikto, Secretary General of D-8 (Developing 8) Organization

The Secretary General of the D-8 Prof. Widi Agoes Pratikto visited IRCICA on 27 August 2012. The Secretary General was already acquainted with the Centre’s activities since his first visit on 7 September 2010. It was a pleasure for Dr. Eren to brief Prof. Pratikto on the progress recorded since then. Talks were held on possible cooperation between D-8 Organization and IRCICA in common and complementary areas. On a more specific level, possible fields of cooperation between Indonesia, Mr. Pratikto’s country of origin and a D-8 country, and IRCICA was also discussed.

D-8 is an economic cooperation organization of a group of Muslim majority countries, established in 1997. The D-8 countries are Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Turkey, all of which are also members of the OIC and IRCICA. (www.developing.org)



Young diplomats from the Azerbaijan Diplomacy Academy (ADA) at IRCICA

A group of trainee young diplomats from the Azerbaijan Diplomacy Academy (ADA, www.ada.edu.az) visited IRCICA on 16 May 2012, during the period of a working visit to Turkey. The delegation was welcomed in the conference hall of the Centre where Dr. Halit Eren outlined the activities of IRCICA in various fields, among them the congresses, the competitions and the art and documentary exhibitions as examples of international collaborative cultural events. He recalled activities relating to Azerbaijan, including the congress on “Islamic Civilization in Caucasasia” which was organized jointly with the government and the academic institutions of Azerbaijan and held in Baku in 1998. He described and explained the relevance of IRCICA’s cultural activities for the promotion of international relations whereby IRCICA as an international organization fulfills an authentic mission in cultural diplomacy.



Visit of a delegation from the Diplomatic Institute, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar

The Diplomatic Institute, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar prepares and trains the Ministry's diplomatic staff and undertakes various other connected activities such as studies on international relations, regional, diplomatic, political and economic affairs, advisory services, cooperation and coordination with universities and similar institutes, organizing conferences, symposia, scientific gatherings and study circles, among many others. The Institute's Director is Dr. Hassam Ibrahim Khamees al-Muhanadi. IRCICA received a delegation of thirty members of the Institute on its premises on 25 May 2012. The

conference hall of the Centre was organized as a meeting place for the occasion where Director General Dr. Eren gave a comprehensive talk on the objectives and activities of the Centre, its outlook and scope of work that are revised constantly in the light of developments taking place in the global cultural arena. The role of international organizations in cultural diplomacy as exemplified by the Centre was duly highlighted.



Visit of a delegation from the Institute of Spiritual and Cultural Heritage of the Albanians, Skopje

A delegation of twenty-two guests from the Institute of Spiritual and Cultural Heritage of the Albanians in Skopje, Macedonia, chaired by Mr. Adnan İsmaili, visited IRCICA on 22 May 2012. A meeting was held on the occasion in the conference hall of the Centre. Dr. Halit Eren gave a talk on international cultural developments of the present century in general and IRCICA's mission in the area of promotion of the culture and the heritage of the Muslim world in particular. He outlined the Centre's activities and gave detailed information to the visitors on the various programs and projects related to the preservation of cultural heritage. Discussions were held, the Centre's publications were shown.



The President and delegation of the Japanese Muslims Association visited IRCICA

The President of the Japanese Muslims Association (Tokyo) Mr. Amin Tokumasu and the accompanying delegation visited IRCICA on 31 August 2012. The delegation was making visits in Istanbul after having completed a round of meetings at the Presidency of Religious Affairs and its affiliated institutions in the capital Ankara. The guests were met by Dr. Halit Eren; during the meeting they were informed of the Centre's scholarly activities which help to revive and build linkages between the OIC member countries' cultural circles and the Muslim communities and minorities around the world. The Association's President Mr. Tokumasu spoke of the Muslim community in Japan. He said that the number of this community is estimated at 100,000, of which around 10,000 are Japanese living in Japan. Mr. Tokumasu said they were aiming to establish an Islamic cultural centre in Tokyo in order to diffuse correct information about Islam among the Japanese people.



Visit of professors and students in history of science, from Iran

Prof. Mohammad Bagheri, Chief Editor, *Tārikh-e 'Elm* - Iranian Journal for the History of Science, and Dr. Asghar Qaedan, Director of the Institute for History of Science, University of Tehran together with a group of ten graduate students in history of science visited IRCICA on 3 August 2012. The visit was coordinated by the History of Science Museum in Gülhane, Istanbul,

where the group was attending a Summer School. Dr. Halit Eren guided Prof. Bagheri and his colleagues and students the research departments and the library and archives of the Centre where the staff concerned informed them on the ongoing activities and the publications, particularly those relating to the history of science in the Muslim world.

The Iranian Journal for the History of Science is published by the Institute for the History of Science, University of Tehran, since 2003. It is an internationally recognized reference for the history of science in Islam with articles on arithmetic, geometry, astronomy, physics, medicine, alchemy, etc. in Persian, Arabic, English and French, with English summaries in cases where the main text is in another language.



Dr. Eren informed Prof. Bagheri and his colleagues on IRCICA's studies on collections of Islamic works of science

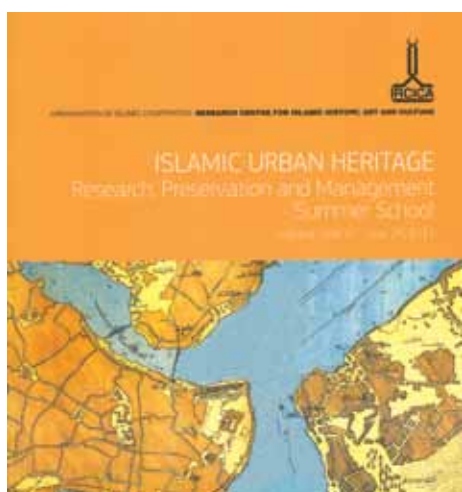
Islamic Urban Heritage. Research, Preservation and Management Summer School, Istanbul, June 27-July 29, 2011

Program Coordinator: Prof. Amir Pašić, IRCICA, Istanbul, 2012, xxiv+222 pp., maps and drawings

This book contains the texts and proceedings of the first Summer School on Research, Preservation and Management of Islamic Urban Heritage which was organized in 2011 jointly by IRCICA and Al-Turath Foundation, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The school, designed with authentic curricula for theoretical and practical training and education in architectural and urban heritage preservation, included field studies in addition to lectures. It offered 47 lectures including 8 panels, and studio work involving the development of selected projects. It was attended by 45 educators and 120 students of architecture from various countries. The studio works and projects presented by the students showed that the lectures and practical applications had been beneficial and left traces in students' minds.

The book begins with the organizers' opening addresses highlighting institutional experiences in the field including those of Al-Turath Foundation, IRCICA and UNESCO's World Heritage Committee. A report and evaluation of the 2011 studio works, which focused on Süleymaniye area in Istanbul is followed by an outline of the closing session and the program's concluding remarks. The main body of the book contains 15 articles resulting from the lectures delivered during the program. Some of them refer to examples from or case studies for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Baku (Azerbaijan), Cumalıkazık, Istanbul, Mardin, Safranbolu (Turkey), Samarkand (Uzbekistan).

It will be useful as a collection of references for research and teaching.



Muscat International Festival for Arts, Heritage and Creativity 2011, Muscat International Award for Innovation and Creativity in Crafts, Album of the Winning Entries

prepared for publication by Nazeih Taleb Maarouf, Foreword by Halit Eren, IRCICA, 2012, illustrated

IRCICA is pleased to publish this album of the winning entries of the Muscat International Award for Innovation and Creativity in Crafts. This award was conducted during the Muscat International Festival for Arts, Heritage and Creativity 2011 organized jointly by Muscat Municipality and IRCICA in January-February 2011. The award totaling US\$ 100.000.- was distributed as US\$ 10.000.- to each of ten handicraft themes, each receiving a 1st award of US\$ 5.000.-, a 2nd award of US\$ 3.000.- and a 3rd award of US\$ 2.000.-. More than 212 artisans participated in the award from various countries including the host country the Sultanate of Oman, Algeria, Burkina Faso, Egypt, India, Iran, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Macedonia, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan, Qatar, Palestine, Russia, Senegal, South Africa, Syria, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkey, Uzbekistan. During the evaluation process the Jury took into account the characteristics and the technical features of each product with special attention to the following assessment criteria: excellence, creative concept design, and invention in traditional technique. It is noteworthy that one million visitors were received at the stands and various activities of the Muscat International Festival, which lasted from 27 January to 24 February 2011.

The album gives comprehensive information on the objectives, the principles and modalities of the award and the Festival activities at large. Each award-winner artisan is devoted one page featuring samples of his/her works.

