



Newsletter



OIC RESEARCH CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC HISTORY, ART AND CULTURE

The Thirty-fifth session of the Council of Foreign Ministers
of the OIC Member States held in Kampala, Uganda

Tourism Ministers of OIC Member States met on their sixth
session, in Damascus, Syria

On the occasion of the visit of the President of Turkey,
H.E. Dr. Abdullah Gül, to Japan: IRCICA's exhibition
of historical photographs from the Yıldız Palace Albums

"Al-Quds 2015" Architectural Program:
academic workshop

IRCICA congresses to be held in 2008 and 2009

Book Survey

IRCICA Publications

Newsletter



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Art and Culture (IRCICA)

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Editorial

The last issue of the Newsletter included a summary of the proceedings of the OIC's Eleventh Islamic Summit Conference held in Dakar in March 2008. The conference was a milestone towards realising the goals of the OIC's Ten-Year Programme of Action, a landmark document which was adopted by the Third Extraordinary Summit held in Makkah al-Mukarramah in December 2005. The Dakar Summit issued decisions of historic importance such as the adoption of the OIC's amended Charter, furthering of the reform process in implementation of the Ten-Year Programme, and renewal of the mandate of the Secretary General H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu for another term. In accordance with the new Charter of the OIC, the annual meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the OIC Member States is named "Council of Foreign Ministers" replacing the previous label "Conference of Foreign Ministers". In June 2008, the Foreign Ministers of the OIC Member States held their Thirty-fifth session under this name for the first time. The session was hosted by the Republic of Uganda, in the capital city Kampala, on 18-20 June 2008. A brief on the Council's resolutions is included in the present issue. Another OIC conference outlined in this issue is the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers, held in Damascus, on 29 June-2 July 2008. It was an excellent occasion for IRCICA to brief the participants on its activities that are directly or indirectly related to the tourism sector and highlight their present and potential contributions to tourism development in the areas covered by the Conference's agenda.

Recently I was honoured to be included in the entourage of H.E. Dr. Abdullah Gül, President of Turkey, during the President's state visit to Japan. Within the framework of the visit IRCICA presented an exhibition of historical photographs selected from IRCICA's archives illustrating

Turkish-Japanese friendship with scenes of mutual visits and shared experiences of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The exhibition gave me the opportunity to brief the Japanese cultural circles on the work programs being pursued by IRCICA as the cultural organ of the OIC.

Last June another workshop was held at IRCICA in the context of our long-term program of architectural workshops entitled "Al-Quds 2015", which was very fruitful. It drew guidelines and a work plan for the forthcoming activities. Our report on this workshop contained in this issue is supplemented with general information on the program.

In August I was honoured to meet with Ministers from the African Member States who were participating in the Turkish-Africa Cooperation Summit that was held in Istanbul from 18 to 21 August 2008. Several of them visited our premises which was an excellent opportunity to brief them on our activities.

Preparations are under way for the several congresses to be organised by IRCICA later this year and next year. This issue contains the related calls for papers. Meanwhile, we are finalising the publications containing the proceedings of the congresses held in recent years. One of them, the proceedings of the "Islamic Arts and Crafts" Congress which was held in Isfahan, Islamic Republic of Iran, has come out; information is included under "IRCICA Publications".

We are pleased to see that the demand for IRCICA's publications by libraries, universities and research institutions in all countries is maintaining a steady pace of growth. This is the best reward for us.

Dr. Halit Eren

The Thirty-fifth session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC Member States held in Kampala, Uganda

18-20 June 2008

The Thirty-fifth Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC Member States (Session of Prosperity and Development), was held in Kampala, capital city of the Republic of Uganda, on 18-20 June 2008.

The Session was inaugurated by the President of the Republic of Uganda H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni. The President delivered a comprehensive address, in which He emphasised the need for unity, dialogue and peaceful coexistence. He also noted that the diversities in the Member States if properly harnessed and managed could be source of great strength. He referred to the abundant resources and potentials available in the OIC Member States and stressed the importance to enhance intra-OIC cooperation by facilitating trade and investment. In this regard, the President invited investors from the Member States to take advantage of these natural resources in Uganda and invest in this country. Referring to the problem of terrorism, President Museveni distinguished it from legitimate liberation struggle against foreign occupation. The President reiterated His government's principled support for the just cause of the Palestinian people and appealed for the peaceful resolution of conflicts.

H.E Mr. Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Chairman of the 34th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Islamabad, 15-17 May 2007) delivered a speech in which he highlighted the important activities and developments that took place during the chairmanship of His country. These included the adoption of the new Charter, the revitalisation of the OIC, the convening of the Executive Committee on the situation in Palestine, and the various efforts seeking to achieve conflict resolution. He expressed deep concern at the rising wave of Islamophobia and called for concerted collective action as well as engaging western countries in combating this phenomenon.

In his address at the session, OIC Secretary General Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu underlined the importance of the session as the first to be held under the new OIC Charter that was unanimously adopted by the 11th Islamic Summit held in Dakar last March. The adoption of the Charter marked a new starting point in the joint Islamic action. Prof. İhsanoğlu spoke of the role assumed by the OIC at the international level in various fields, notably on the dialogue among civilisations, defending the image of Islam, and combating the phenomenon of Islamophobia; the OIC has become an

international player in various areas. Professor İhsanoğlu then underscored that there is no better means to strengthen the status of the Muslim world on the international scene than consolidating the various links of unity among them. Underlining the importance of economic ties between the member countries, the Secretary General referred to the two major means of the OIC: the Ten-Year Program of Action, which defines, set the guidelines and draws the framework of cooperation, and the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) which provides the mechanism to operate this cooperation. The Secretary General also referred to the top political issues of the Muslim world: the issues Palestine and Al-Quds, Iraq, Jammu and Kashmir, and problems in other parts of the Muslim world, the problems of the Muslim minorities and communities, that represent one third of the world's Muslim population. Referring to the OIC's action in the field of culture, the Secretary General said that culture is considered "one of the strongest ties that bind the one nation or Ummah with a sense of belonging, in addition to providing the building blocks of shared identity and unity. Muslim culture has withstood the test of time and it stands up today to the serious threats of globalisation... The OIC General Secretariat and other OIC organs are pursuing issues concerning women, youth and children. They also participate actively in various events organised in cooperation with the Member States and concerned subsidiary organs, specialised organisations and affiliated institutions in the cultural domain as well as in the domain of dialogue among civilisations." In this context, the Secretary General paid tribute to IRCICA for its "commendable efforts" in promoting Islamic culture in various fields. The Secretary General pointed out, furthermore, that the sector of science and technology witnessed qualitative development and that the importance of bridging the science and technology gap between the member countries and the industrialised world was underlined by the Dakar Summit. The Final Declaration of the Dakar Summit had focused attention on the most important sectors of higher education, science and technology, health, and the environment. The Summit had also recognised that in the knowledge-based society, Information and Communication Technologies are powerful and indispensable tools for the political, economic, and social advancement of nations and peoples (the complete text of the Secretary General's address is available in the OIC's website www.oic-oci.org).

The Thirty-fifth Session of the Council of Ministers deliberated extensively and adopted Resolutions on the following subjects: the cause of Palestine and the city of Al-Quds Al-Sharif; political affairs; economic affairs; cultural and social affairs; information matters; legal affairs; higher education, science, technology, health and environment; the situation of Muslim communities and minorities in non-member states; Dawa activities and revitalisation of the Committee for the Coordination of Joint Islamic Action; organic matters, administrative and financial affairs, the current status of the OIC Ten-Year Programme of Action.

In its comprehensive Resolution no. 2/35 on General Cultural Matters, the Council of Foreign Ministers reiterated its earlier call on the OIC General Secretariat and the concerned OIC institutions, among them IRCICA, to continue organising symposia on protecting Islamic culture and heritage from the negative impact of globalisation and requested the Member States to submit their observations on the issue. It also called upon them to continue to strengthen inter-cultural and inter-civilisational dialogue through concrete and sustainable initiatives, conferences and symposia.

The Council, in the same resolution, expressed its appreciation of the UN General Assembly Resolution regarding announcement of year 2010 as the Year of the International Rapprochement of Cultures that calls for promotion of the religious and cultural understanding, harmony and cooperation, advocating the respect of the specificities of each culture or religion and stressing the need to respect and protect religious sites in accordance with the relevant international treaties.

Relating to IRCICA and its activities, in its Resolution No. 7/35 on Subsidiary Organs, the Council

1. noted with appreciation the production of a number reference books in the field of culture, history, arts, and crafts of the Muslim world as a result of continuous research efforts and organisation of academic congresses and meetings;
2. took note of the various activities of the Centre aimed to improve the image of Islamic civilisation and culture by raising more awareness and introducing a policy of better understanding among cultures of the world.
3. commended the efforts made by IRCICA for cooperating with the Council of Europe to organise the second symposium on "Image of others and ourselves in the context of globalisation" planned to be held at the Center's premises in Istanbul on 1-3 December 2008;
4. took note of the plan of IRCICA to coordinate a comprehensive publication on the history and civilisation of Islam and the history of Muslim nations;
5. took note of the successful organisation of the International Congress on "The Second Constitution of the Ottoman State on its Centenary" held in Istanbul on 7-10 May 2008;

6. took note of the plan of IRCICA to organise an international congress on "The Maghreb and Western Mediterranean during the Ottoman Period" planned to be held in Rabat, Morocco in cooperation with the Royal Institute for Research and the History of Morocco on 12-14 November 2009;

7. took note of the efforts being made by the Centre towards organising the international congress on "Employment of Traditional Industries within the New Architectural Projects" planned to be held in Tunis between 27 and 31 October 2008 in collaboration with the Ministry of Trade and Handicraft and the Ministry of Culture and Heritage Preservation of the Tunisian Republic;

8. commends the efforts of IRCICA to publish an edition of the one-thousand page Arabic manuscript book on the Islamic history of West Africa "Zuhur el-Basatin" written by the Senegalese scholar El Hadji Musa Kamara;

9. took note of the efforts been made by the Centre to publish an album of historical photographs of Mecca and Medina chosen from its archive collection of the Yıldız Palace albums;

10. noted with appreciation the preparation made by the Centre for publishing a historical album of Al-Quds and Palestine to include annotated reproductions of historical photographs from the late 19th century and to be published in English, Arabic and Turkish;

11. noted with appreciation the preparation made by IRCICA to organise the second conference on the history of Bilad al-Sham during the Ottoman Era with a special focus on al-Quds planned to be held in cooperation with the Syrian Ministry of Culture in Damascus in March 2009;

12. commended the successful organisation of the seminar on the "Role of Cultural Exchanges in Promoting International Relations" which took place at the Centre's premises on 9-10 April 2008;

13. lauded the plan of IRCICA to organise the third international congress on "Islamic Civilisation in Volga-Ural Region" which will be organised under the patronage of H.E. M. G. Rachimov, President of Bashkortostan, in Ufa, on 14-16 October 2008;

14. commended the plan of the Centre to organise the second international symposium on "Islamic Civilisation in West Africa", planned to be held in Mali in 2009;

15. commended the initiative of the Centre to organise the second congress on "Islamic Civilisation in South Asia" planned to be held in Dhaka on 16-18 November 2008 in cooperation with the universities of Bangladesh;

16. commended the initiative of the Centre to organise an international symposium on "Yemen during the Ottoman Era" planned to be held in cooperation with the Yemeni National Center for Archives which will be held in Sana'a on 10-13 February 2009;

17. expressed its thanks and appreciation to all the Member States for the moral and material support they are extending to IRCICA, thus helping it to fulfill its mission in the best way, in particular the host country of IRCICA, the Republic of Turkey, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the host country of the OIC; noted with gratitude the support and patronage extended by the Sovereigns, Heads of State and Government of the Member States, which found eloquent expressions in the visits to IRCICA by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques His Majesty King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, during His official visit to Turkey, accompanied by H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Prime Minister of Turkey on 10 August 2006; in the Prime Minister's graciously accepting the IRCICA Award for Patronage of Inter-Cultural Dialogue, presented to him by H.E. The Secretary General of OIC and the Director General of IRCICA at a ceremony held on 2 February 2007; the visit of H.H. Sheikh Nasser M. A. al-Sabah, Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait to the Centre on 5 April 2007, the visit of H.E. Omar Bashir, President of the Republic of The Sudan, to IRCICA on 23 January 2008; and the visit of H.E. Prof. Abdoulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal, and noted with gratitude the generous donation of H.H. Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and Emir of Dubai for establishing an electronic library at IRCICA, which were sources of encouragement for the Centre.

On the sidelines of the Session, OIC Secretary General Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu laid in Kampala the foundation stone for an endowment to expand the Islamic University at Nakawa, Uganda (IUIU). The ceremony took place in the presence of the Vice President of Uganda H.E. Prof. Gilbert Balibaseka Bukenya, and the Rector of IUIU, Dr. Ahmad Sengendo. The expansion project has been made possible thanks to President Yoweri Museveni's donation of a 10-acre piece of land at Nakawa, with funding by the Islamic Development Bank (IDB). The Islamic University in Uganda was established following a decision of the Second Islamic Summit Conference held in 1974 and inaugurated in February 1988. It is based in Mbale, Uganda. It runs a wide range of undergraduate and post-graduate programs.

During the period of the Council's session, the Director General of IRCICA Dr. Halit Eren met with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of many Member States. These were excellent opportunities to review and discuss on IRCICA's activities relating to or carried out in cooperation with their respective countries.

Kampala Declaration

The Council of Foreign Ministers at its 35th session (Session of Prosperity and Development) issued the Kampala Declaration, in which it noted with satisfaction all efforts towards the implementation of the Ten-Year Programme of Action and pledged to intensify efforts towards its speedy and effective implementation.

The Council reaffirmed the centrality of the cause of Palestine and Al-Quds for the Muslim world. It reaffirmed its support for a peaceful resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict based on a two-state solution, the withdrawal by Israel from the occupied Syrian Golan Heights and the remaining occupied Lebanese territories, as envisaged in United Nations Security Council resolutions and General Assembly resolution 194 and other relevant resolutions.

In the economic field, the Council recognised the significant potential for promoting prosperity and development in the Muslim world and declared its resolve to vigorously pursue prosperity and development in all OIC countries. It called for the promotion of intra-OIC trade and investment. It also recognised the critical role of the private sector in providing impetus to intra-OIC economic, commercial and trade relations, and to that effect, invited Member States to encourage representatives of their respective private sector to assume a pro-active and inter-active role. The Council, further, emphasised the central role that Member States can play in improving agricultural practices through mechanisation, food production, agro-processing, storage facilitation and marketing. The Council also recognised the critical role that infrastructure plays in enhancing development especially in the context of inter-state projects such as port development, railways and trans-boundary highways. It welcomed the decision by the Dakar Summit to construct the Dakar-Port Sudan Railway Project, commended The Sudan for introducing the project and for its offer to host the first ministerial meeting of interested states, the creation of the Special Fund for the Development of Africa, the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development and all other established Funds to promote development among the least developed OIC countries.

Regarding the energy crisis, the Council noted with concern the negative impact of rising food and energy prices in some parts of the world and welcomed the praiseworthy initiative of H.H. Sheikh Sabah Al Sabah, the Emir of Kuwait, in setting up the Fund for Dignified Life to help OIC countries respond to this challenge. In the field of communication, the Council called upon the Member States to enhance their communication linkages including consideration for the possible future commissioning an OIC-owned communication satellite to boost intra-OIC communication and for propagating programmes of interest to the Organisation as stipulated in the Ten Year Programme of Action.

The Council reaffirmed the respect for the unity and territorial integrity of Somalia and called upon OIC Member States to support the ongoing reconciliation process in Somalia.

It welcomed the signing of the recent Doha Agreement initiated by H.H. Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, who facilitated a political solution to the Lebanese crisis that crowned the efforts made by the Arab League and the members of the Arab Ministerial Committee.

The Council expressed its support of the continuing efforts for promoting national reconciliation among all the Iraqi people, addressing the causes violence and terrorism, preserving the inviolability of Iraq's sovereignty, territorial integrity and national unity, accelerating the capacity of the Iraqi security forces for the preservation of peace, stability and security.

The Council called for respect of the human rights of the Kashmiri people. On the subject of Afghanistan, the Council urged the international community to enhance its assistance to the Government and people of Afghanistan in their efforts towards peace, security, reconstruction and development.

The declaration reaffirmed the inalienable right of the Member States to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. It supported the stand that Iran's nuclear issue should be settled exclusively by peaceful means.

The declaration reiterated the Member States' support for the process of settlement of the Cyprus problem and appealed to the international community, including the OIC Member States to take concrete steps in order to put an end to the isolation of the Turkish Cypriots.

The Council strongly condemned the aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan and urged immediate complete and unconditional withdrawal of the Armenian occupying forces from all occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

It condemned the aggression of Eritrea against the Republic of Djibouti and reaffirmed its commitment to respect sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of the Republic of Djibouti.

The Council noted with concern and strongly condemned the destructive terrorist aggression carried out by the foreign-backed forces against the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Chad targeting the dismantling of the constitutional Government of Chad.

It also noted with concern and strongly condemned the destructive terrorist aggression carried out by the foreign-backed forces against the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity The Sudan on 10 May 2008, which targeted civilians and their property. Furthermore, it called the OIC Member States to contribute to making UNAMID and other related initiatives more effective in the stabilisation efforts in Darfur, within the framework to the agreement between The Sudan and the United Nations and the African Union.

Noting the declaration of independence by the Assembly of Kosovo on February 17, 2008 the Council recalled the continued interest of the OIC regarding Muslims in the Balkans and expressed its solidarity with the Kosovar people.

On the problem of terrorism, the Council reaffirmed its commitment to strengthen mutual cooperation in the fight against terrorism through inter alia, evolving an appropriate definition of terrorism, exchange of information, capacity building and by addressing the root causes of terrorism such as unresolved conflicts, continued suppression and marginalisation of peoples and denial of the rights of peoples to their self-determination in situations of foreign occupation.

The Council condemned the growing trend of Islamophobia and systematic discrimination against the adherents of Islam. It requested the Secretary General to continue the OIC initiatives to effectively counter Islamophobia through discussion and debates at various international fora. The Council, further, reaffirmed the responsibility of the Islamic world in reviewing the condition of Muslim communities and minorities in non-OIC countries to ensure promotion and protection of their basic rights including cultural and religious freedom.

The Council noted that Uganda's assumption of the Chairmanship of the Council of Foreign Ministers at a time when the Chairmanship of the Summit is held by the Republic of Senegal provides an unprecedented opportunity for strengthening solidarity between Africa and the OIC.

The Council expressed gratitude to the Secretary General, H.E Professor Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu, for promoting and defending the cause of Islam, pioneering international best practices in the organisation's service delivery and in raising the profile of the OIC as a significant player on the global scene.

The full texts of the Kampala Declaration and the Council's resolutions can be found in www.oic-oci.org.

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Tourism Ministers of OIC Member States met on their sixth session, in Damascus, Syria

29 June-2 July 2008

The Sixth Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers was held in Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic, on 29 June – 2 July 2008. The following countries were represented at the conference: Afghanistan, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brunei, Cameroon, Chad, Comoros, Egypt, Gambia, Guinea, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Malaysia, Mauritania, Morocco, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Yemen. The UN World Tourism Organisation and the Arab Tourism Organisation were invited as observers. Following the opening of the conference, a documentary on the touristic capacities of the Syrian Arab Republic was presented to the audience.

H.E. Mr. Aboulfez Garayev, Minister of Culture and Tourism of Azerbaijan, addressed the meeting in his capacity as the Chairman of the Fifth Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, on 9-12 September 2006). The Minister said that in this capacity Azerbaijan had had a unique opportunity to witness tremendous efforts made by the Member States to develop and promote tourism at national, regional and international levels. He presented a documentary film on the activities and developments of the period.

In his address at the conference, Dr. Taleb Rifai, Deputy Secretary General of the World Tourism Organisation, gave the comparative statistics on world tourism activities during the year 2007. He underlined the role of tourism in economic development as well as for the rapprochement of peoples. He said that the OIC countries constitute an important tourism market. He expressed his Organisation's willingness to offer necessary support to the OIC Member States.

H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the OIC, expressed his gratitude to H.E. Dr. Bashar Assad, President of the Syrian Arab Republic, and the Syrian Government, for their generous initiative to host the conference. He said that the development of the tourism sector in the OIC Member States is firmly bound on a direct course towards achieving the objectives of the OIC's Ten-Year Programme of Action. The Secretary General underlined that despite achievements of the OIC Member States, a large part of the tourism potential of the OIC region remained unutilised. He expressed confidence that the conference would provide a significant contribution to strengthen economic and commercial cooperation among the OIC Member States, including the tourism sector.

The Prime Minister of Syria H.E. Mr. Mohammad Naji Ottri, representing H.E. President Bashar Assad, stressed the importance of tourism as a vehicle of rapprochement between peoples and cultures and as a means to convey the message of tolerance and project the authentic and radiant civilisational image of Islam. He said that the tourism sector has become one of the cardinal pillars of the economies of countries worldwide, having achieved a prime position for all states in the diversification of their financial revenues, in feeding their public treasuries, providing job opportunities for their youth and upgrading infrastructures, services and urban development.

The Republic of Indonesia, Malaysia and the Islamic Republic of Iran presented reports on the action they had carried out as focal points, in collaboration with the concerned OIC institutions, for tourism facilitation, tourism marketing, and research and training in tourism, respectively. During the General Debate the delegations raised issues related to the creation of a OIC web site dedicated to tourism in OIC official languages; the framework for facilitation of tourist visa arrangements, including possibility of issuing electronic visa; the protecting of the true image of Islam through tourism activities and developing unified approach among the Member States; the increased role of the private sector in tourism development; the promotion of student exchange programs among the Member States; the using of the OIC permanent missions in Western countries as an effective tool for dissemination of information about the tourist potentials of OIC Member States; the demonstration of solidarity of the OIC Member States against the unilateral sanctions imposed upon some Member States; the development of tourism as an important poverty alleviation tool; the promotion of ecotourism and protection of the environment, and exchange of information among the Member States.

The conference adopted two Resolutions, on the "Coordination and Development of Tourism Activities among the OIC Member States" and "Sustainable Tourism Development in a Cross-border Network and Protected Areas in West Africa". It also examined and adopted the Framework for Development and Cooperation in the Domain of Tourism between OIC Member States (initially titled the Strategic Plan for Development of Tourism in OIC Member States and prepared by the OIC Second Experts Group Meeting on Tourism Development, held in May 2007 in Istanbul). The conference welcomed with appreciation the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the next, seventh session in 2010.

The following OIC organs and institutions participated in the conference: IRCICA, Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRTC, Ankara), Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT, Casablanca), Islamic Development Bank (IDB, Jeddah), Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO, Rabat), Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI, Karachi), Islamic Conference Youth Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation (ICYF-DC, Istanbul). IRCICA was represented at the meeting by Dr. Halit Eren, Director General, Dr. Nazih Maarouf, Director, Craft Development Program, and Arch. Prof. Amir Pašić, Director, Department of Architecture. Dr. Halit Eren gave an address underlining that tourism is one of the most important economic sectors since it is a non-negligible source of revenue in foreign currency and generates employment. The Director General said that the OIC countries possess remarkable capacities for tourism development due to the richness and diversity of their natural, historical and cultural heritage. He said that the Centre's activities relating to this sector focus on cultural tourism and they highlight the cultural and civilisational riches of the member countries. He gave information on the activities of IRCICA, in particular those relevant for tourism among others, such as the "Prince Sultan bin Salman Islamic Architectural Heritage Database", the Prince Faisal bin Fahd Award Competition on Islamic Architectural Heritage, the Craft Development Program involving seminars, festivals and exhibitions in the member countries relating to the economic, cultural and tourism aspects as well as the preservation and development of traditional crafts and the publication of books containing the proceedings of these events, training programs on the preservation of manuscripts, the program on Islamic Archeology, and its activities aiming to promote Islamic arts, notably the art of calligraphy. Prof. Pašić from IRCICA presented a documentary film on the "Prince Sultan bin Salman Islamic Architectural Heritage Database" operated by the Centre.

In the sections concerning IRCICA of its Resolution on the "Coordination and Development of Tourism Activities among the OIC Member States", the conference took note of the various activities of IRCICA aimed to widely project the image of Islamic cultural heritage by raising awareness and encouraging tourism developing activities; it thanked the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for hosting and organising the International Conference on Tourism and Traditional Crafts in Islamic Countries and associated activities, held in Riyadh, in 2006 in collaboration with IRCICA. It noted with appreciation the successful development of the "Al-Quds/Jerusalem 2015 Program", the "Prince Sultan bin Salman Islamic Architectural Heritage Database" on Islamic monuments and sites which was launched under the generous initiative of HRH Prince Sultan bin Salman, Secretary General of the Supreme Commission for Tourism, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, aiming to register the Islamic architectural heritage. It called on the Member States to contribute all relevant data

to IRCICA to feed the Database Project. The conference, further, commended the Agreement of Cooperation signed between the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Turkey, IRCICA and UNESCO for establishing the Süleymaniye Book Hospital Project which comes within the context of the cooperation of IRCICA with UNESCO in its capacity as a focal point for OIC-UN cooperation in the field of arts, crafts and promotion of heritage. The conference also took note of the preparations towards organising the international congress on Employment of Traditional Industries within the New Architectural Projects planned to be held in Tunis on 27-31 October 2008 in collaboration with the Ministry of Trade and Handicraft and the Ministry of Culture and Heritage Preservation of the Tunisian Republic; the efforts been made by the IRCICA to publish an album of historical photographs of Makkah and Madinah chosen from its archive collection; the preparations made by the IRCICA for publishing a historical album of Al-Quds and Palestine to include annotated reproductions of historical photographs, the preparations to organise the second conference on Al-Quds during the Ottoman Era planned to be held in cooperation with the Syrian Ministry of Culture in Damascus in March 2009. The conference noted with gratitude the generous donation of H.H. Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and Emir of Dubai for establishing an electronic library at IRCICA. Besides, the conference requested IRCICA to continue to support the projects relating to cultural tourism and the preservation of the cultural and architectural heritage in Al-Quds and other cities in Palestine, and to offer additional support and assistance in this matter in cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities in Palestine as well as the specialised scientific institutes.

During the period of the conference, IRCICA Director General met with the representatives of several participating countries. The talks centered around the projects that have been undertaken in cooperation with some of these countries, such as Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Chad, Egypt, Iraq, Malaysia, Palestine, Qatar, Senegal, Syria, Turkey, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. The delegation was received by H.E. Dr. Najah al-Attar, Vice-President of the Syrian Arab Republic. The existing cooperation between the Government of Syria and IRCICA and possibilities for future joint activities were considered. The important role played by IRCICA in making known the Islamic culture and civilisation was highlighted. Another meeting was with the Minister of Culture of Syria H.E. Dr. Riad Nassan Agha. Prospects of future cooperation and proposals for joint projects were discussed. An agreement was signed on the subject of the congress on "Al-Quds during the Ottoman Era" planned to be organised jointly in March 2009 in Damascus. H.E. Dr. Khouloud Daibes, Minister of Tourism and Antiquities of Palestine and the accompanying delegation, as well as Mr. Ali al-Qayyim, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Culture of Syria, were present at this meeting.

“One Century Old Turkish-Japanese Friendship” photograph exhibition on the occasion of the visit of H.E. Dr. Abdullah Gül, President of the Republic of Turkey, to Japan

Tokyo, 5-8 June 2008

IRCICA was most honoured to participate in the cultural activities organised on the occasion of the state visit of H.E. Dr. Abdullah Gül, President of Turkey, to Japan on 5-8 June 2008 as the guest of H.M. Emperor Akihito. IRCICA's exhibition of historical photographs titled “One Century Old Turkish-Japanese Friendship” was opened by President Gül in Tokyo on 5 June. The President granted a Foreword to the catalogue of the exhibition published by IRCICA.

The exhibition was put up at Roppongi Hills, one of the important buildings of Tokyo. Addressing the invitees at the opening, President Gül pointed out that the photographs on display were taken by Turks and brought to Japan for the first time to be presented to the Japanese people.

IRCICA's archive contains 595 photographs concerning Japan, of which 60 were specially selected for the purposes of the Tokyo exhibition and its catalogue bearing the same title. The themes of the selected photographs are classified in the following manner:

Turkish-Japanese Common History: The visit by the Japanese Prince Komatsu and his spouse to Istanbul (1887); Ertuğrul Frigate's journey to Japan and the fateful accident (1889-1890); the return of the survivors to Istanbul in two Japanese warships called Kongo and Hiyei (1891); the visit of the Japanese Military Delegation to Istanbul (1924).

Photographs taken with the objective of familiarising the Ottoman Palace with different aspects of Japan: Photographs depicting the Japanese army (1904-1905); photographs of common Japanese citizens, places and sites (at the end of the 19th century).

The first group of photographs placed under the title of “Common History” included photographs of the visit paid by the Japanese Prince and Princess to Istanbul. The history of the relations is outlined in the Preface of Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, to the catalogue of the exhibition. It is recounted there that Prince Akihito Komatsu and his spouse Princess Yoriko Komatsu went on a tour of the European capitals in the year 1887 and came to Istanbul in September. The ship “Sakarya” was put into their service for their return journey. This visit by Prince Komatsu had a positive impact on the efforts to develop relations between the two countries.¹ Then, with the same aim and also to present the greatest Medal of Honor of the Ottoman State



H.E. President Gül opened the exhibition. Then, the President and the accompanying governmental delegation – here with State Ministers Kürşat Tüzmen and Mehmet Şimşek - visited the exhibition together with the Japanese hosts and guests

to the Japanese Emperor, Sultan Abdulhamid II sent the Ertuğrul Frigate to Japan. Eleven months later, the Frigate carrying 600 sailors reached its last port in Yokohama on 7 June 1890. The Commander Osman Pasha (1835-1890) presented the Emperor the Sultan's letter, the Medal and various gifts. Having completing its mission, on its return journey from Yokohama to Kobe, the Ertuğrul Frigate went into rocks while sailing past the Kashinosaki lighthouse and sunk. Only 69 of the 600 sailors were saved from this unfortunate accident. The Japanese Emperor and people mobilised all possible means to save and hospitalize the survivors and recover the bodies of those who lost their lives

1. F. Şayan Uluşan Şahin, *Turkish-Japanese Relations (1876-1908)*, *Türk-Japon İlişkileri (1876-1908)*, T.C.Kültür Bakanlığı, Ankara, 2001, p. 21-23

to arrange their burial.² The friendship reinforced by this disaster was further intensified by the arrival of the Japanese warships Kongo and Hiyei carrying the survivors to İstanbul (1891). Sultan Abdulhamid II rewarded the members of the crew on both ships with various degrees of Medals, and also gave a banquet in their honor. The *Serfotografi-i Hazret-i Şehriyari* (Chief Photographer of the Sultan) Abdullah Biraderler (Abdullah Frères) was ordered by the Sultan to take the pictures of the Japanese cruisers, their crew and the banquet. The Sultan, who wished to further friendly and cordial relations with Japan, made strong efforts to familiarise himself with the Japanese army, people and places by means of the photograph albums that were presented or sent to him.

Among the second group of photographs, priority was given to the photographs depicting the Japanese army (in the years 1904-1905), followed by photographs of the people and places (at the end of the 19th century). Photographs depicting Japanese places and sites were hand-painted at a later date. Photographs of the visit of the Japanese Military Delegation during the period of the Turkish Republic were also displayed. The Japanese delegation headed by General K. Vada traveled across Europe and other countries to inspect the results of the First World War and observe the progress made by nations. They arrived in İstanbul on 12 May 1924 by train and were received with an official ceremony. Following the study visit the Delegation departed from İstanbul on 15 May 1924 by boat and went to pay a visit to Romania, followed by visits to Austria, Germany and France.

IRCICA's archive of historical photographs:

The nucleus of this archive is a collection of approximately 36,000 photographs (covering the period between circa 1850 and 1916) contained in the Yıldız Photograph Albums also known as Sultan Abdulhamid Albums. It includes photographs primarily from the Ottoman geography as well as other parts of the world. Foundations of this unit were laid during the initial years of the Centre by receiving donations of personal collections and collecting individual photographs by various means. Afterwards, in collaboration with the Rectorate of İstanbul University, the original prints of historical photographs preserved at the University and known as Sultan Abdulhamid Albums or Yıldız Photograph Collection were copied for IRCICA archives, thus upgrading its holdings with the addition of a major collection. Numerous donations were added to this valuable archive over the years and the collected items were put to the service of researchers. As for today, the number of photographs included in this archive, counting the duplicates, has reached seventy thousand. The collection was classified by an expert committee at IRCICA - chaired by the late Ret. Col. Edip Özkale, specialist of photographs relating to the Ottoman State – then stored on

computer and put to the service of researchers. In fact it has been made known to an audience wider than the researchers concerned, with the publication of various albums: *İstanbul: A Glimpse into the Past – İstanbul: Geçmişe bir Bakış*, 1st edition 1987, 2nd edition 1992; *Erzurum in Gravures and Old Photographs- Gravür ve Eski Fotoğraflarla Erzurum* (jointly with Erzurum Atatürk University), 1998; *Egypt as viewed in the 19th Century*, 2001 and *Photographs of İstanbul from the Archives of Sultan Abdulhamid-Sultan II Abdulhamid Arşivi İstanbul Fotoğrafları* (jointly with Kültür A.Ş. affiliated to the Municipality of Greater İstanbul), prestige publication, March 2007.

The catalogue of the Tokyo exhibition has the following sections: Common History (Prince Akihito Komatsu and Princess Yoriko Komatsu's visit to İstanbul- 1887, Ertuğrul Disaster-1890, Japanese cruisers Hiyei and Kongo bringing the survivors of the Ertuğrul disaster to İstanbul- 1891, Japanese military delegation headed by General K. Vada visits İstanbul-1924); Japanese People (end of 19th century), with scenes of social and daily life; Japanese sites and places (c. 1900)



Cotton production, end of 19th century



Silk weavers, end of 19th century

2. *Ibid.*, p. 29-94; Arif Hikmet Fevzi Ilgaz-Hasene Ilgaz, *Ertuğrul Fırkateyni (Ertuğrul Frigate) (Yüzüncü Yıl Armağanı)*, İstanbul, 1990; Erdoğan Şimşek, *Dünden Bugüne Ertuğrul Fırkateyni (Ertuğrul Frigate from Past to Present)*, İstanbul, 2006; Çetinkaya Apatay, *Ertuğrul Fırkateyni'nin Öyküsü (Story of Ertuğrul frigate)*, İstanbul, 1998

"Al-Quds 2015" Architectural Program: academic workshop

Within the framework of IRCICA's architectural program entitled "Al-Quds 2015", an academic workshop was chaired by Director General Dr. Halit Eren at IRCICA, on 12-13 June 2008. The meeting coincided with a visit of H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the OIC, to Istanbul, which was an excellent opportunity to brief the Secretary General on the progress of the working sessions. The following scholars and specialists of Islamic architecture participated in the meeting: Prof. Attilio Petruccioli from Politecnico di Bari, Prof. Munther S. Dajani from Al-Quds University, Prof. Rassem Khamaisi from the International Peace and Cooperation Centre (IPCC), Palestine; Prof. Zeynep Ahunbay from Istanbul Technical University, Assoc. Prof. Can Binan and Assist. Prof. Z. Gül Ünal from Yıldız Technical University. From IRCICA, Prof. Amir Pašić, Dr. Cengiz Tomar, Arch. İrem Yaylalı, Arch. Işıl Çokuğraş, Arch. Yasemin Hacıkura and Arch. Aykut Pakdemir participated in the meeting.

Three sessions were held, discussing the experiences recorded since the launching of the program following its adoption by the 34th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Baku, June 2006) as contained in IRCICA's work plans. Subsequently, the Eleventh Summit Conference (Dakar, March 2008) had taken note of the progress made since the inception of the program.

The participants were informed by Dr. Halit Eren about IRCICA's activities in general and the objectives of the Al-Quds architectural program in particular. It was noted among others that IRCICA was preparing for publication an album of historical photographs of Al-Quds and Palestine selected from its archives.

The meeting reviewed the activities in execution and formulated a set of guidelines for the future. The participants discussed at length the proposed idea of extending the Museum of Al-Aqsa Mosque. It was pointed out that the museum development must be launched as an intergovernmental undertaking involving the Palestine National Authority and all concerned governments. It was decided that a proposal will be drawn up defining the concept of Al-Aqsa Mosque Museum extension. The virtual museum component will be developed at IRCICA in cooperation with the Museum authorities.

Another theme of the meeting was related to the historical documents related to Al-Quds that are contained in the Ottoman archives. IRCICA staff briefed the participants on

the available collections of documents and this presentation generated a fruitful discussion about which groups of documents were examined until now and which others should have priority in future research.

The meeting also discussed at length the preparation of reports and recommendations on the preservation of buildings in the Old City. The participants mentioned the difficulty of obtaining permission to work on the buildings. Related to this item, the participants reviewed the conditions of historical buildings and the consequences of later additions made according to the City Engineering Law in Jerusalem. In this context it was also mentioned that the role of the Welfare Association in restoring the buildings was limited by restraints imposed by the Israeli government. Also in this context, the ways and means of enlisting UNESCO's collaboration were discussed.

Related to the program implementation strategy, it was pointed out that there are important buildings in the Old City which have political or historical importance as regards Arab and Islamic identity and the character in the Old City and which are not necessary listed among monuments. It was suggested that if 10-15 key buildings were restored, it would be an important step for improving the residents' life.

Also, the conditions of public spaces and infrastructure were discussed. The Garden of Burj Al-Laqlaq, if improved, could be a public space. Thus, not only would public life improve, but more visitors would come to the city, thus generating economic development. Furthermore, it was agreed that the conditions of utilities such as pools, fountains etc. could be improved. A hierarchy of priorities, considering sustainability and continuity, will be defined.

Professor Rassem Khamaisi from IPCC gave a lecture entitled "Challenges Facing Jerusalem - A Focus on the Old City" in which he emphasised that the Old City should become a religious, commercial and services center. He proposed for consideration some needs, aims and measures: ensuring the contiguity between the Old City and East Jerusalem; strengthening the Old City's functional relationship with the surrounding neighborhoods; renovation, rehabilitation and preservation of the city image and architecture; engagement of the Arab and Islamic institutions to establish cooperation with the European and Christian ones in order to balance the Jewish domination in Jerusalem; preservation of Arab and Islamic identity and character in the Old City



and promoting Jerusalem as the center of the Palestinian Arab and Islamic identity of the city; establishment of a network with international experts to work on renovation and rehabilitation of the Old City's sites; strengthening collaboration with the local organisations and civil society in Al-Quds; granting access to holy places to all residents and foreigners and improving transport systems and roads in the Old City. The meeting decided that research will be undertaken in major archives, including the Ottoman archives, with regard to property ownerships in the city of Jerusalem; this is a core aspect to be taken into consideration in restoration activities.

The participants recommended that studies be made on urban structure and architecture and that possibilities of conducting restorations on selected historical monuments be sought. A list of buildings potentially relevant for restoration projects will be prepared till end of September 2008. In this regard, several buildings were suggested: Al-Quds University building in the Old City, Ashrafiyya Madrasa, Haseki Sultan Imaret, and several fountains built during the reign of Sultan Suleyman the Magnificent. The workshop participants also agreed that future enlargement of the international academic network involved in the project is very important.

The meeting re-affirmed the objectives of the program as:

- Highlighting the noble values and outstanding features of Haram al-Sharif: Preparation of a catalogue, virtual representation of the Islamic Museum, establishing an Al-Aqsa Mosque e-library and extensions for Al-Aqsa Mosque Museum.
- Research on Al-Quds in major archives, particularly the Ottoman Archives in Istanbul, on five centuries of Al-Quds history
- Architectural projects: Studies on urban structure and architecture, restoration of selected historical monuments, and a program for the revival and development of the arts and handicrafts
- Upgrading the Muslim Quarter: Proposing guidelines and formulating suggestions relating to communal infrastructure, public facilities and housing.

An outline of the program

"Al-Quds/Jerusalem 2015" is an international collaborative and long-term program devoted to the study and preservation of the architectural heritage of Al-Quds and Palestine. The program involves research, seminars and



The Secretary General of OIC H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu received information on the progress of activities. From the right: Prof. Attilio Petruccioli, Dr. Halit Eren, Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Dr. Cengiz Tomar, Prof. Rassem Khamaisi, Prof. Amir Pašić.

workshops being conducted jointly with institutions and organisations concerned from around the world. It brings together architects, urban planners, conservators and social scientists in a joint reflection concerned with the vitality of the walled city and cultural and social welfare of its residents. The program will contribute in putting forward suggestions and devising guidelines towards preserving the historical and cultural heritage of Al-Quds, aiding its positive urban development, and at the same time, demonstrating the potential for cooperation among concerned professionals and education of multi-cultural audiences for raising awareness on the Islamic architectural heritage of Al-Quds.

In taking this initiative, IRCICA fulfilled the requirements of its own mandate and responded to requests received for the transfer of the successes and the experience gained from the "Mostar 2004" program (Istanbul and Bosnia and Herzegovina, 1994-2004) to the case of Al-Quds. IRCICA's work plans put emphasis on the theme of the Islamic heritage of Al-Quds and Palestine within the framework of various projects and with respect to the Islamic architectural, artistic and written heritage of the region. In other terms, the theme constitutes a permanent program title in the Centre's mandate in a way to accommodate various types of activities, and increasingly so in accordance with the OIC's Ten-Year Programme of Action being implemented since 2006. "Al-Quds/Jerusalem 2015" represents a major effort in this regard, aiming to contribute in assessing, studying and preserving the architectural and urban heritage of the city. The University of Al-Quds, and a team of architects from around the world, are collaborating with the Centre.



Background

The idea of the project was developed and underlined during the visit of the Director General of IRCICA to Palestine accompanying the Secretary General of OIC on his official visit to Palestine on 23-24 May 2005. Contacts were held with the authorities and specialists concerned, in the light of which the project guidelines were elaborated. The Centre elaborated upon the idea, concept, scope and objectives of the program, which were approved by the Governing Board of IRCICA and included in the Centre's annual work plans submitted to the Islamic Conferences of Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the OIC. The program was met with appreciation by the Islamic Conferences, most recently the 34th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Islamabad, Pakistan, 15-17 May 2007) which, in its Resolution nr. 7/34-C on the OIC's Subsidiary Organs, section A concerning IRCICA, the Conference praised the efforts made by IRCICA in implementing this project. The calendar and contents of the program and its objectives and guidelines were drawn up by an advisory committee of experts which met on 20-22 February 2006 at IRCICA under the chairmanship of Director General Dr. Halit Eren. Subsequently, a first seminar was held at IRCICA's headquarters in Yıldız Palace, Istanbul, on 25 November 2006, with the participation of experts from Al-Quds itself, Europe and Turkey. During the seminar, an architectural exhibition on the medersas of Al-Quds was opened. The exhibition was prepared by Politecnico di Bari (Italy) graduation students.

Study mission

A study mission was implemented to the region on 1-5 June 2007, whereby a team of twelve researchers, academics and professional experts visited the historic city. The purpose of this trip was to explore the prospects for collaborative, long-term architectural conservation projects in the walled city, including the feasibility of working partnerships with experts in the city and the eventual implementation of physical restoration works. The mission included extensive field-based exploration and documentation in the city, consultations with prospective partners and experts working in Al-Quds, collection of documents from local sources, and discussions regarding high-priority issues and concerns about the built environment of the city. A comprehensive report was issued at the end of the visit, detailing the conditions of the city and the buildings, and proposing architectural and academic activities specially designed to meet the needs and help preservation efforts. The study mission committee in charge was coordinated by Prof. Arch. Amir Pašić, Head of the Department of Architecture at IRCICA, and composed of professors of architecture and urban planning and other faculty from Departments of Architecture and Divisions of Architectural Restoration of Istanbul Technical University, Yıldız Technical University, Politecnico di Bari (Italy), and experts of restoration project design. The committee focused on identifying a scope for long-term academic research in the field of architectural restoration; it returned with a priorities list of issues, opportunities, needs, and local actors suitable for partnership. The study mission team

recommended that the "Al-Quds/Jerusalem 2015" program be energetically expanded and refined. The needs in the walled city were observed to be significant, the potential for positive contributions from foreign experts was expected to be high, and the feasibility of long-term results was considered to be promising despite the obstacles standing in the conduct of professional collaboration. The team found that the physical conditions within the walled city are mixed; the overall levels of structural integrity, infrastructure and maintenance appeared low in the Muslim quarters, while in other quarters generally high levels were observed in the same categories. There is a great need for improved identification, coordination, and implementation of physical revitalisation works, with all the technical and institutional investments that are implied for a city-wide effort.

Academic workshop

An initial academic workshop was held in Al-Quds from 19 to 29 January 2008 with the participation of 34 architects and their assistants from Istanbul Technical University; Yıldız Technical University; Politecnico di Bari, Temple University of Philadelphia, the University of Sarajevo, under the coordination of IRCICA. The participants were divided into six groups. Each group focused on separate projects, thus taking up the following sites and monuments: Haseki Sultan Imaret; Turkan Hatun mausoleum; Bab al-Silsila Street; Tower Pool; City Walls; Al-Mansuri Ribat; Alaa al-Din Ribat and Al-Shifa Hammam. The groups later continued to work on these projects during the rest of the academic year. For three days within the workshop period, lectures were given by prominent local experts, and a site seeing tour was made around the Old City. The team visited the Welfare Association, the Directorate of Awqaf, the Library and Museum at Haram al-Sharif and several other authorities and institutions. Meetings were held with professors at Al-Quds University.

The activities will continue with international lectures, publication of reports and studies on the written heritage (archives), the architectural monuments and the urban settlements of Al-Quds and Palestine.

The cause of Al-Quds and Palestine is a central cause of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference as underscored by the "Ten-Year Plan of Action to Face the Challenges of 21st Century" which was adopted by the Third Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference (Makkah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 6-8 December 2005) and reaffirmed by the Eleventh Islamic Summit Conference (Dakar, Republic of Senegal, 13-14 March 2008). The Summit and Ministerial Conferences of the OIC have reiterated the importance of implementing the Resolutions on the preservation of the Islamic character and heritage of Al-Quds. Preservation of the Islamic character of Al-Quds is of common concern to the OIC Member States. For the Muslim world, the Islamic heritage of Al-Quds is a shared concept. IRCICA devised "Al-Quds/Jerusalem 2015" as an international collaborative program that welcomes technical cooperation and professional participation from the Member States and disseminate its results worldwide through the medium of educational activities.

Participation in the General Meeting on Cooperation between the United Nations and the OIC (Geneva, 8-10 July 2008)

The Director General of IRCICA Dr. Halit Eren participated in the biennial General Meeting on Cooperation between the Secretariats of the United Nations and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference and their specialised agencies which was held at UN headquarters in Geneva on 8-10 July 2008. The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Sergei Ordzhonikidze, Under-Secretary-General and Director General of the United Nations Office in Geneva and H.E. Ambassador Ali Akbar Salehi, OIC Assistant Secretary-General for Science and Technology. The following UN departments and agencies were represented: The Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Food Programme (WFP), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the World Bank, the World Health Organisation (WHO), the UN World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR), the Alliance of Civilisations, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). The following departments, subsidiary organs and specialised institutions of the OIC participated in the meeting: the OIC General Secretariat, the OIC Permanent Observer Mission in Geneva, the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA), the Islamic Centre for the Development of Trade (ICDT), the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRI), the Islamic University of Technology (IUT), the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO), the Islamic Solidarity Fund (ISF), the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), the Islamic Committee of International Crescent (ICIC), the Islamic Conference Youth Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation (ICYF-DC).

In its general observations and recommendations, the meeting expressed satisfaction over the development of relations between the UN and OIC systems and contacts between the Secretaries General. It stated that the regular meetings between the Secretaries General constitute a political umbrella for the cooperation and provide guidance for the continued

collaboration and the implementation of joint projects. It was expressed that both organisations strive to enhance cooperation and build on their comparative advantages in different fields. The OIC expressed its appreciation of the holding of consultations on issues of mutual concern. It called for enlarging the scope and frequency of these consultations. The meeting took note with appreciation of the Follow-up Report on Cooperation between the OIC and the UN presented by the OIC General Secretariat and of the existing areas of cooperation reconfirmed and the new ones agreed upon between the institutions of the two organisations during their bilateral meetings. Exchanges of views, appraisal of existing relations, and mutual consultations to explore potential areas of cooperation took place in relation with the main themes: political issues, economic and human development issues, cultural and social issues, human rights, refugees and migration, energy security, water.

The meeting took note with appreciation of IRCICA's proposal made on behalf of the OIC to host the 2010 UN-OIC general cooperation meeting in Istanbul.

On political matters, and regarding cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security, the representatives of the UN and the OIC exchanged views on the developments in the Middle East and Palestine, Iraq, Sudan (Comprehensive Peace Agreement and Darfur), Chad, Afghanistan and Somalia. They reviewed their respective activities in the areas of conflict prevention and resolution, peace-making, peace-building, combating terrorism, promotion of human rights, disarmament and dialogue among civilisations.

Among the large number of decisions and recommendations for action proposed to be taken jointly by institutions of the OIC and the UN, those involving IRCICA were:

- relating to the situation in Iraq and in the context of the preservation of its historical heritage, the meeting called on UNESCO, ISESCO and IRCICA to contribute to the preservation of the historical heritage of Iraq in accordance with relevant decisions of the Expanded Meetings of the Neighbouring Countries of Iraq.

- within the framework of the bilateral meetings between the UN agencies and OIC institutions, new areas of cooperation were defined, to be undertaken by IRCICA and UNESCO. The two institutions decided, in line with the OIC plan of action to encourage activities on dialogue among civilisation based on mutual respect and understanding, to cooperate together to organise seminars and meetings that could contribute towards more understanding among world

cultures; explore cooperation to launch a joint initiative to assess and review history text books with a view to ensure a teaching of history that presents better understanding which promotes peaceful co-existence and respect for each others history, culture and traditions.

- as reviewed during the meeting, contacts of cooperation between UNESCO and IRCICA had continued in various relevant fields and were enlarged to cover the expanding range of cooperation through the amended Memorandum of Understanding signed on 18 March 2005. A major project in this context is related to the establishment of a Book Hospital - a Training and Restoration Unit of Old Manuscripts – jointly by the Republic of Turkey, UNESCO and IRCICA. During the Geneva meeting the latter agreed to undertake the necessary contacts with relevant bodies to ensure the availability of funds required, based on the report of the UNESCO experts who were assigned on this specific subject.

- on the development of arts and crafts and promotion of heritage, a field in which IRCICA is the focal point of the OIC, UNIDO and IRCICA will cooperate towards

developing the crafts sector, and agreed to further cooperate in designing a project format of future collaboration aiming to advance the quality standards of artisans; both sides also agreed in principle to organise a symposium on crafts and entrepreneurial development.

- during their meeting, UNDP and IRCICA decided to explore the possibilities of cooperation within the framework of IRCICA's Al-Quds/Jerusalem 2015 program towards funding the work of 5 to 10 post-graduate students in studying historical sites and buildings and designing the restoration plans to be transferred into software for use in the restoration work. IRCICA and UNDP will also explore the possibilities of obtaining information on Southern providers of software for use in identifying and recording information on the archaeological and urban historical sites for the preparation of a comprehensive compendium on such sites in OIC Member States. They will also explore the possibility of cooperation in identifying and mobilising resources for obtaining the software for the implementation of IRCICA's programs aiming to record the Islamic architectural heritage.

IRCICA Director General's participation in the International Conference on "Russia and the Muslim World" held in Moscow

Dr. Halit Eren was invited to deliver an address at the international conference on "Russia and the Muslim World" in Moscow, on 23-24 June 2008. Several countries, institutions, politicians and religious authorities – more than one hundred delegates - actively participated in this large-scale conference which was held under the auspices of the Center for Arab and Islamic Studies (CAIS, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow) under the General Directorship of Professor Vitaly Naumkin, with the collaboration of the Foundation for Support of Islamic Culture, Science and Education (Moscow), in coordination with the Civilisations' Partnership Center of Moscow State Institute of International Relations, the Islamic Culture and Communication Organisation of the Islamic Republic of Iran (Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance), the World Assembly for Proximity of Islamic Schools of Thought (Iran), the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO), and a number of other organisations.

The Foreign Minister of Russia H.E. Mr. Sergei Lavrov, in his message of greetings which was read by Ambassador Robert V. Markaryan, pointed to the similarities of stances of Russia and the Muslim countries in the face of global issues. The Foreign Minister underlined the importance of such meetings in promoting mutual understanding between the two sides.

The President of the Russian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Academician Mr. Yevgeny Primakov gave the first address at the opening, underlining the significance of the meeting in the present period of growing relations between Russia and the Muslim world following Russia's acquiring the observer status with the OIC. Ambassador Dr. Veniamin Popov, Chairman of the Board of the Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies, referred to the progress achieved in the relations and the development of ties with the Islamic world in recent years. He mentioned several measures that were taken to strengthen these ties, referring among others, to the setting up of the Fund of Support for the Islamic Culture, Science and Education, the new Arabic-language TV channel from Russia Today, and the intensive economic and trade relations that are developing.

Bilateral economic relations are on the growth in various fields between Russia and various Muslim countries. Addressing the conference, Ayatollah Mohammed Ali Taskhiri, Head of the World Assembly for Proximity of Islamic Schools of Thought (Iran), appraised Russia's cooperation with Iran and with the Islamic world as a whole. The opening session also heard the addresses of Dr. Mohsen Qumi, Deputy Head of Administration of the Spiritual Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran for Foreign Affairs; Dr. Abdulaziz Altawajiri,

Director-General, ISESCO; Mufti Sheikh Umar Idrisov, Chairman, Spiritual Directorate of Muslims of Nizhny-Novgorod Province, Russian Federation.

In his address at the conference, the Director General of IRCICA Dr. Halit Eren said that the relationship between Russia and the Muslim countries has a long, multidimensional history. Focusing on the cultural spheres of this history, he said that “their respective cultural histories followed varying paths in sciences, technology, humanities as well as in religion and philosophy: the Muslim world was the leader of scientific and technological progress from the 8th century throughout the medieval ages until Europe’s taking the lead with the Industrial Revolution. Thus since 19th century until our time the Muslim countries became part of the technologically dependent developing world, with varying stages of economic development each, while Russia assumed its place among the industrial powers. Meanwhile, starting from 19th century, both worlds saw the emergence of currents of thought and trends of reforms expressed mostly in the sense of modernisation/westernisation: in the Ottoman Empire, in Turkestan, Crimea, Tatarstan, Caucasia, as in the Hejaz, India, among others. “Jadidism movement, an authentic experience of cultural and educational reformation in the late 19th century, developed concomitantly with currents such as Pan-Turkism and Pan-Islamism that emerged in Ottoman politico-philosophical thought during the same era. It promoted important Muslim scholars, theologians and authors, new systems of schooling and new literature. The Muslim intellectuals leading the Jadidism movement attempted to revitalize their societies by reviving and modernising their culture as much as it was socially acceptable. The understanding and applications of Islamic thought among Muslims in Russia is one of the main components of their cultural heritage.” Dr. Eren then alluded to Russia’s and Russian Muslims’ experience of multi-faith and multi-cultural coexistence. “In a considerably long part of this history Muslim populations have been present in the lands of Russia and the neighbouring areas together with peoples of all other faiths. This aspect became all the more crucial in the present time. Muslims in the republics of the Russian Federation and Muslims in Russia form, in a way, an organic cultural bridge between Russia and the Muslim world, a bridge that transmits the shared and the divergent elements of cultural experiences from past to present.” Dr. Eren said that the Russian Federation’s receiving the status of Observer in the OIC in 2005 was a landmark development. “Given the respective experiences of Russia and the Muslim world as multifaith and multicultural communities this cooperation can contribute towards civilisational dialogue between the Muslim world and the Christian world. It can open new avenues in addition to complementing the existing efforts of inter-cultural dialogue.” The Director General then outlined the cooperation and joint activities which were activated for many years by IRCICA on one hand and the

cultural institutions of the Russian Federation on the other. Since the 1990s IRCICA as the cultural organ of the OIC has implemented, jointly with the governments of the republics in the Russian Federation, collaborative projects highlighting the interactions between Islam, Christianity and other faith traditions in the various regions of the Russian geography. Some publications by IRCICA were translated and published in Russian in cooperation with Russian universities such as the books entitled History of Ottoman State and Civilisation, and Islam and the West, Towards a Dialogue. Another example is the Russian edition of Ibn Hisham’s book on the life of Prophet Mohammed titled al-Sirah al-Nabawiyah coordinated by IRCICA, to be published in Moscow. He also alluded to the congresses on “Islamic Civilisation in Volga-Ural Region” that were held in Tatarstan in 2001 and 2005, the third to take place in Bashkortostan. He said “these activities can now contribute in meeting the exigencies of the global cultural environment of the 21st century, especially with regard to international efforts towards inter-cultural dialogue.”

The themes of the sessions were: Russia and Muslim states: strategic partnership; Russia’s Muslims and ties with the Muslim world: history, modernity and prospects; Russia and the Muslim world: common threats and challenges; Russia and the Muslim world: common strategic aims; Cooperation in the resolution of international problems; Cooperation in the reduction of the arms race and weapons of mass destruction; Alternatives to economic neo-liberalism and consumer society; the Islamic social and economic experience; Cooperation in the prevention and settlement of ethnic and confessional conflicts; Cooperation in the resolution of social problems, reduction of poverty, education and health; The expansion of cultural ties; Cooperation in the settlement of global and national environmental problems; Globalisation and the Muslim world; Religious tolerance: Tolerance as one of the aspects of the Islamic doctrine; Convergence of mazhabs – a path towards peace; Muslim coexistence with non-Muslim societies – problems and opportunities; Confrontation between the Islamic and Christian civilisations: myth or reality? Dialogue between Islam and Christianity; Islamophobia – causes and ways to eliminate it; Islamic moderation as a method of struggle against extremism; The role of injustice in the spread of terror and extremism in the Muslim world; Islam – a victim of terrorism?

Representatives of media and research institutions and faculty from around the world presented papers, followed by discussions.

IRCICA CONGRESSES TO BE HELD IN 2008 AND 2009

»»»» Craft Development Program

International Congress on “Employment of Traditional Handicrafts in Architectural Projects: Characteristics, Advantages and Economic contributions” to be held in Tunis (27-31 October 2008)

IRCICA, the Handicraft National Agency of Tunisia - the Ministry of Trade and Traditional Industries are jointly organizing the International Congress on “Employment of Traditional Handicrafts in Architectural Projects: Characteristics, Advantages and Economic Contributions”, in cooperation with the Tunisian Ministry of Culture and Heritage Preservation. The congress will be held in Tunis on 27-31 October 2008.

The congress activities include exhibitions of traditional handicrafts masterpieces from the OIC countries, in addition to a variety of other activities. The congress will also be accompanied by several activities involving innovators in this field, exhibition halls for the Member States where artisans-at-work will exhibit their works, tools and techniques. In this regard, each country shall appoint two distinguished artisans reflecting the best of the country in the field of traditional industries employed in the architectural projects and in home furnishings. Besides, the congress will comprise the following:

- * An exhibition of traditional industries products that can be used in the architectural projects of the Member States;
- * Exhibitions of artisans-at-work;
- * Exhibition of albums, catalogs and books published in the field of traditional industries, which are being used or could be incorporated into architectural installations in the Member States.

The congress is the first of its kind; it addresses themes relating to economy, culture, heritage and tourism, and gathers experts and specialists in the field of traditional industries in addition to artisans, architects and designers to study the issue of employing the traditional industries in architectural projects in the OIC countries, the characteristics, advantages and economic contributions that these industries may bring if they are properly exploited in modern architectural projects, as well as to study the programs being developed as regards city and municipality planning in OIC countries, and to deal with some successful experiments in this respect through the observation of traditional building arts, gypsum and engraving, traditional wood industries, stucco glass, home furnishings and decoration, and other traditional industries relating to internal-decoration like textiles, etc. The congress will also address issues regarding employment, training, marketing and coordination that should be available between the designer, the architect and the traditional manufacturer; it will also study the available traditional styles, the relationship between traditional industries and architecture, the reality,

prospects and obstacles that hinder development in this sector. The congress will also cover aspects relating to tourism, culture and heritage, and study the methods that ensure a good use of traditional handicrafts sector in architectural projects, the numerous returns that can be obtained through the revival and development of this sector, the preservation of its traditional originality, and promoting and making it known within the available channels. The theme will thus deal with all aspects of the traditional industries within the framework of architecture in the OIC countries, the various schools and the multiple types of designs used, raw materials, applied techniques, their current situation and the mutual influences with Western enterprises.

The Congress seeks to provide an opportunity for policy makers, planners and administrators engaged in the field of traditional industries, municipalities and architectural installations to meet, to consult together, to exchange experiences and views on the means ensuring the good use of the sector and to take advantage of the possibilities offered in the architectural field, in order to establish a permanent and practical policy to revive it, given its different factors relating to culture, economy, tourism and heritage in the Member States.

Among its objectives are, to issue the following operational recommendations:

- * Creating a new data-base on the current situation of the traditional industries field and employing it in the Member States' architectural projects, through the research papers to be presented by the experts of the Member States, which will address topics relating to design, marketing, the volume of the tourist market, exchange of technology, training education opportunities and the availability of raw materials and other important elements in this regard;
- * Establishing a specialized library of all the publications issued in this domain, representing the contents of book-fairs and the substance of this library;
- * Activating the field of competition and creativity among young artisans, in order to push them into innovating in the development of traditional industries, and providing high incentives to push them into participating and presenting distinctive and constantly renewed products in this field;
- * Developing a strategy for an international cooperation within the framework of developing the traditional industries and using them in the architectural projects.

The Congress will deal with the following aspects relating to the traditional industries sector: Decoration and miniatures; Gypsum and sculpture; Ceramics and porcelain; Wood crafts; Metal crafts; Furniture and internal decoration; Weaving and embroidery; The relationship between traditional industries and architecture; The traditional architecture and the available skills and patterns; The situation of the traditional industries in urban planning projects; Employment of traditional industries in architecture; Coordination between the designer, architect, and the traditional manufacturer.

These themes will be discussed through studies of the following aspects: social aspect; economic aspect; tourism; marketing; heritage and efforts to preserve the originality and traditions; civilisational dialogue and mutual influence; education; training; the role of the government and private sector efforts; media, and raising awareness on the importance of the sector and its constructive contributions for the society.

Participation in the congress will be from: the OIC Member States; organisations and international institutions working in this field; experts of traditional industries, policy makers, planners, scholars, administrators engaged in the traditional industries sector, architects, designers and traditional manufacturers.

Activities accompanying the congress:

1. An exhibition of traditional industries products which can be used in the architectural projects of the Member States: each country is requested to send some pieces of traditional

industries products which can be used in architectural projects to be presented within the exhibition-halls, with adequate explanations about the characteristics of each of these pieces, the techniques used and details on raw materials, colors, designs and other important information in this regard.

2. Exhibitions of artisans-at-work: each participating country will appoint two artisans selected among innovators in the traditional industries field, provided with their tools, in order to participate in special exhibition-halls in which artisans-at-work of the member states will exhibit their skills and techniques. In this regard, the opportunity is given for the participants and visitors of the exhibition and the artisans of the participating states to find out the available techniques and to try to create a sort of exchange between in the field of experience, design, raw material, the use of color...etc.
3. An exhibition of albums, catalogs and books published in the field of traditional industries, which are being used or could be incorporated into architectural installations in the Member States: inviting each participating state to contribute with some of its albums, catalogs, books and documentary films issued in the field of traditional industries and which are being used in or can be incorporated into the architectural projects in addition to slides, posters, photographs and brochures. These publications will represent the substance to establish a specialized library in all what has been issued as regards the traditional industries and architectural projects.



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

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

The Ufa congress will cover the theme of the history of Islamic civilisation in the Volga-Ural region under its diverse

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

International Symposium on "Islamic Civilisation in South Asia": in Dhaka, People's Republic of Bangladesh

An important academic meeting to be organised this year is the International Symposium on "Islamic Civilisation in South Asia". It is being organised by IRCICA and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, with the contribution of universities of Bangladesh, in Dhaka, on 16-18 November 2008. The Symposium is placed under the patronage of Dr. Fakhruddin Ahmed, the Hon'ble Chief Adviser of the Government of Bangladesh.

The Symposium aims to promote the studies and research focusing on the Islamic history and Islamic civilisation of the region of South Asia. It plans to cover the theme most comprehensively, to generate a forum of study and academic discussions on a variety of subjects, including the role and place of Islam in South Asia, its interactions with other civilisations in and around the region, the main stages and trends of the development of Muslim cultures in South Asia, the history of culture, learning and science, cultural and educational institutions, architecture, archeology, arts, traditional handicrafts and other sectors of intellectual, scientific and artistic activities, the formation and present state of the Islamic cultural heritage in terms of the material

culture (written, architectural and other tangible assets) and the spiritual culture (beliefs, oral traditions, performing arts and other intangible expressions of culture). The Symposium will bring together scholars and specialists concerned from around the world to present their research findings, exchange ideas and formulate recommendations. The working language will be English.

The Symposium theme will be covered under the following broad subject titles:

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

International congress on «Yemen during the Ottoman Period» to take place in Sana'a, Yemen Republic

The National Centre for Archives of Yemen Republic will cooperate with IRCICA to organise this congress in Sana'a, on 10-13 February 2009. H.E. President Ali Abdullah Saleh, President of Yemen Republic, is extending His patronage to the event.

The main purpose of the congress is to bring together and make known existing studies on the Ottoman period in Yemen and further promote research on the subject, in

order to highlight the realities and events of the period. The congress will deal essentially with the following topics: 1) General view of Yemen during the Ottoman period 2) Ottoman administration in Yemen and mutual influences 3) Architectural projects 4) Intellectual life: educational system and institutions; publications, documents and registers 5) Social life: legal system, social relations 6) Economic life: trade, transport, etc.

Cultural activities to be held simultaneously with the congress include: an exhibition of firmans and historical documents concerning Yemen that are part of the collections of official documents contained in the Ottoman archives; an exhibition of historical photographs concerning Yemen to be selected from the Yıldız Albums dating from the reign of Sultan

Abdulhamid II and preserved in the archives of IRCICA, and depicting, among others, monuments dating from the Ottoman period. The congress' working languages will be Arabic and English. A book to contain the papers presented at the congress will be published by IRCICA.

International congress on «Al-Quds during the Ottoman period» in Damascus, in March 2009

The Ministry of Culture of the Syrian Arab Republic and IRCICA are jointly organising a congress relating to «Al-Quds during the Ottoman period», to be held in Damascus during the last week of March 2009. The event will be placed under the patronage of H.E. Dr. Bashar Assad, President of the Syrian Arab Republic. It will be the second history congress organised in cooperation with the Ministry after the one on «Bilad al-Sham during the Ottoman Era» (Damascus, 2005).

The themes to be covered are: 1) Al-Quds city during the Ottoman period 2) The attitude of Sultan Abdulhamid II regarding the issue of Palestine 3) Ottoman administration in Bilad al-Sham, particularly in Al-Quds 4) Institutions and architectural infrastructure: hospitals, institutions for professional and teacher training, gardens, roads and bridges, railways and principal train stations, power and tramway networks, cable and telephone installation projects; water distribution systems, buildings, palaces, walls, etc. 5) Intellectual life: system of education and educational

establishments in Bilad al-Sham; attempts to modernise education: regulations, directives and decrees concerning education; science, learning and translation activity; press and publications; libraries 6) Social life: legal system; social relations 7) Economic life: agriculture; industry; trade and seaports; pilgrimage from Bilad al-Sham and its share in economic activity; budget and finance.

Cultural activities are planned in parallel to the working sessions, mainly exhibitions. One of them will display selected firmans and official documents dating from the reign of Sultan Abdulhamid II and preserved in the Ottoman Archives in Istanbul attached to the Turkish Prime Ministry. Furthermore, there will be an exhibition of historical photographs of the city of Al-Quds selected from the archives of IRCICA and dating from the period of the same Sultan, depicting the architectural sites, schools, public fountains, hospitals, and other buildings.

The languages of the congress will be Arabic and English. The papers will later be published by IRCICA.

International Congress on «The Maghreb and Western Mediterranean during the Ottoman Period» to be held in Rabat, in November 2009

IRCICA and the Royal Institute for the History of Morocco (IRRHM, Rabat), will jointly implement an International Seminar on «The Maghreb and Western Mediterranean during the Ottoman Period», to be held in Rabat, Morocco on 12-14 November 2009.

The congress aims to promote research on the history of the Maghreb and the Western Mediterranean region during the period of the Ottoman State by exploring the existing and new directions of research and offering scholars and specialists an opportunity to present their findings and share information. The period will be covered comprehensively, to generate a forum of study and academic discussion on its various aspects. The Ottoman presence in part of the region under study had varying degrees and spheres of impacts on all of the region. Thus the theme will cover the relations between the Ottoman State and the Maghreb and Western Mediterranean region with regard to the effects of developments relating to the central state, the provinces, and the neighbouring countries, reciprocally; economic, social, cultural and educational developments, press and publications. An important aspect of the congress is that it will also address issues relating to historiography and the state of research on the history of the region during the Ottoman period.

The languages of the congress will be Arabic, Turkish, English and French. Simultaneous translation will be provided.

The proposed themes are as follows:

- I. The state of scholarship and methodological questions relating to the congress theme.
- II. Crossed glances: Ottoman, Maghrebian and European sources (historiography, chronicles, travel accounts, the press, etc.)
- III. Dimensions of the Ottoman presence in the Western Mediterranean:
 - Socio-economic aspects (trade and navigation; urban and rural life, etc.)
 - Administrative and institutional aspects
 - Cultural aspects (education, transmission of knowledge, architecture, etc.)
 - Political and relational aspects (a triangular relationship: Morocco - the Ottoman Maghreb - Europe).

Interested scholars and specialists are invited to send the abstracts of their proposed paper by 30 November 2008 to IRCICA or to the Institute at:

IRCICA, Maghreb Congress, POB 24 Beşiktaş, Istanbul, Turkey
congress@ircica.org, Fax: 90 212 2584365

Institut Royal pour la Recherche sur l'Histoire du Maroc
B.P. 6840 Madinat al-Irfane, Rabat, Morocco
ottomanmaghrebcongress@yahoo.fr, Fax: 037633670

VISITS, MEETINGS

Mr. Rifat Hisarcıklioğlu, Chairman of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB), visited IRCICA

Mr. Rifat Hisarcıklioğlu, Chairman of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges and of the Foreign Economic Relations Board of Turkey, visited IRCICA at its headquarters in Yıldız Palace on 31st July. The Director General of IRCICA Dr. Halit Eren gave an outline of the Centre's activities to Mr. Hisarcıklioğlu: the series of congresses on history and culture focusing on specific regions of the world, the publications, the archives, and especially the activities undertaken in implementation of the Ten-Year Program of Action of the OIC and the long-term programs



Meeting with Dr. Eren



Mr. Hisarcıklioğlu received information from Prof. Pasic on the architectural programs

launched recently such as the program of architectural studies and workshops "Al-Quds 2015". Mr. Hisarcıklioğlu expressed his appreciation of these various activities directed to cultural development and architectural conservation and affirmed the Union's readiness to cooperate with the Centre in projects of common interest.

Mr. Rifat Hisarcıklioğlu also visited the library of the Centre where he saw the ongoing activities of expansion, modernisation and development of a digital library to serve the needs of research on Islamic civilisation world-wide.

Mr. Duysen Kasseinov, General Director of Türksoy, visited IRCICA

On 13 August the Centre was honoured to receive Mr. Duysen Kasseinov, the General Director of Türksoy – the cultural and art organisation of Turkic countries. Mr. Kasseinov was acquainted with the Centre for many years, especially since his first visit on 13 November 2001 as Vice-Minister of Culture, Information and Public Accord of Kazakhstan and later during his functions as the Minister of Culture of Kazakhstan. The distinguished guest received information on the activities and future plans of the Centre.

Türksoy was established in 1992 by the Ministries of Culture of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkey and Turkmenistan, as a forum of cooperation in the areas of culture and arts. Later, Altai Republic, Bashkortostan Republic, Khakassia Republic, Tatarstan Republic, Tuva Republic, Yakutia Republic, and the Gagaus region in Moldova from the Russian Federation and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus joined the organisation as observers. It is based in Ankara, Turkey. Mr. Kasseinov was elected General Director of Türksoy by unanimous vote at the 24th session of the Permanent Council held on 27 May 2008. Besides being a statesman, he is a violin virtuoso and academician – he was the Rector of the Kazakhstan National Conservatory.



Mr. Duysen Kasseinov met with Dr. Eren

**H.E. Ms. Maria da Conceição Cabral,
Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Communities,
Guinea-Bissau, at IRCICA**

The Centre was honoured to receive H.E. Ms. Maria da Conceição Cabral, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Communities of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, on 19 August 2008. The Minister was accompanied by Ambassador Alfredo Lopes Cabral, Ambassador of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau to the UN, and by the Head of the Minister's Cabinet. The distinguished guests were guided by Director General Dr. Halit Eren to the various departments of the Centre where she was briefed by the staff in charge on the various programs of activity.



The Minister was briefed on the activities concerning the architectural heritage database



The Minister examined the Centre's publications and also saw the library, which is in the course of expansion. She received information on the aims and prospective services of the e-library being developed by IRCICA. Ms. Cabral expressed her appreciation of IRCICA's activities and congratulated the Director General for the achievements.

**The visit of H.E. Mr. Farba Senghor,
Minister of Handicrafts and Air Transport of Senegal to IRCICA**

H.E. Mr. Farba Senghor, Minister of Handicrafts and Air Transport of the Republic of Senegal, visited IRCICA on 20 August 2008. The Minister and his colleague saw the various departments, met the staff and were briefed on the projects, with emphasis on those subjects closely related to his Ministry's such as the Craft Development Project with its various components - the specialised seminars, exhibitions of handicrafts, and the resulting publications. The Minister received information on the other programs, such as the congresses focusing on the history and heritage of Islam in various regions of the world and those that aim to highlight the Islamic contributions to world civilisation in such fields as science, philosophy and arts. Expressing his appreciation of these activities, H.E. the Minister stressed the importance of knowing the essence of intellectual and scientific development enshrined in the Quran and reflected in the civilisational achievements of Islam, and disseminating the results of these studies world-wide to reflect the true image of Islam.



H.E. Mr. Farba Senghor and his colleagues were met by Dr. Eren at the entrance of Yıldız Palace

H.E. Dr. Omar A. Touray, Minister of Foreign Affairs of The Gambia, visited IRCICA

During the period of the Turkey-Africa Cooperation Summit held in Istanbul, H.E. Dr. Omar A. Touray, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of The Gambia, was received by OIC Secretary General H.E. Prof. E. İhsanoğlu at IRCICA. Following the meeting, the Minister met with IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren. Talks were held on the existing relations between the Government and the cultural institutions of The Gambia and IRCICA and possibilities of expanding this cooperation. The



OIC Secretary General Prof. İhsanoğlu received Dr. Omar Touray



The Minister recorded his impressions in the Visitors Book

talks were followed by a tour to the various departments of IRCICA, where the Minister was briefed on the activities, the researches and publications. H.E. the Minister recorded his impressions in the Centre's Book, as follows: "I feel honoured to have visited this prestigious centre. It is indeed a centre of excellence in Islamic studies and research. I wish the Director, the staff and sponsors Allah's Blessings and Guidance."

H.E. Mr. Mamadou Diop, Minister of Trade of the Republic of Senegal, visited IRCICA

On 21 August 2008 the Centre was honoured to receive H.E. Mr. Mamadou Diop, Minister of Trade of the Republic of Senegal, and the accompanying delegation. The Minister was guided by Dr. Halit Eren to some of the departments of the Centre where he received information on the main programs of the Centre, including the research, publications and congresses on the history of Islamic civilisation, the Database on Islamic architectural heritage, the competitions of art and architecture, the Craft Development Program, the archive of historical photographs and the library and documentation department. The Minister recorded his impressions in the Centre's book (original in French):

"A very short but very instructive visit; I would like to have some more time to quench my thirst in this temple of Islamic learning. I congratulate the Director General, Dr. Eren for his commitment and for the excellent work he performs in this Centre towards strengthening the glory of Islam in the world".



Dr. Eren offered to H.E. the Minister the study on the Quran copy dating from the time of Caliph Othman published by IRCICA

**H.E. Mr. Amadou Lamarana Bah,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Guinea, visited the Centre**

IRCICA was honoured to receive at its headquarters H.E. Mr. Amadou Lamarana Bah, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Guinea, on 21 August 2008. H.E. the Minister was in Istanbul as part of the Guinean Governmental delegation participating in the Turkish-Africa Cooperation Summit. A documentary film outlining the activities of the Centre was presented to the Minister. He was briefed on the main long-term programs including the congresses on the history of Islamic civilisation in various regions of the world.



Dr. Eren receives H.E. Mr. Bah, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guinea, and the Honorary Consul of Guinea in Istanbul Mr. Orhan Argun



The distinguished guest visited the library and received information on the ongoing library expansion plan. He also saw samples of the Centre's publications. Recording his impressions in the Visitors' Book, the Minister expressed his appreciation of the Centre's activities contributing to the development of Islamic culture.

**Tunisian Minister of Culture and Heritage Preservation
H.E. Dr. M. A. al-Ashur visited IRCICA**

The Centre was honoured to receive at its headquarters H.E. Dr. Mohammed Aziz al-Ashur, Minister of Culture and Heritage Preservation of the Republic of Tunisia, on 28 August 2008. The talks with Director General Dr. Halit Eren centered around the various areas of cooperation between the Government and the cultural institutions of Tunisia on one hand and IRCICA on the other, especially the forthcoming congress on "Employment of Traditional Handicrafts in Architectural Projects: Characteristics, Advantages and Economic Contributions" which will



Dr. al-Ashur received information on the Centre's activities relating to the preservation of the architectural heritage of Al-Quds



be organised by the Ministry of Culture and Heritage Preservation, the National Handicraft Agency of Tunisia attached to the Ministry of Trade and Traditional Industries, and IRCICA, to be held in Tunis, on 27-31 October 2008. The Minister also received information on the Centre's various ongoing projects. Recording his impressions in the Centre's Visitors Book, the Minister wrote: "This Centre is an excellent symbol of the brotherly relations existing between Turkey and all the Muslim countries and a source of pride for researchers and all those who are interested in Islamic culture."

Russia's Permanent Observer to the OIC Mr. Kamil Ishakov received by OIC Secretary General in Istanbul, at IRCICA

Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the OIC, received Mr. Kamil Ishakov, former Mayor of Kazan (Tatarstan), whom Russian President Dmitri Medvedev appointed as Russia's Permanent Observer to the OIC in order to further and strengthen its ties with the OIC and the Muslim world. The meeting took place at IRCICA, Istanbul, on 2 August 2008. Ambassador Ishakov visited the General Secretariat of the OIC in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the next day.

Following the meeting of H.E. Prof. İhsanoğlu and Ambassador Ishakov at IRCICA, the Director General of IRCICA Dr. Halit Eren expressed his pleasure to welcome Mr. Ishakov once again at IRCICA on this occasion after many years of fruitful cooperation and several large-scale scholarly activities conducted jointly by the Government of Tatarstan and the City of Kazan on one hand and IRCICA on the other. These activities included the two congresses on "Islamic Civilisation in Volga-Ural" that were organised in Kazan in 2000 and 2005 respectively, and various research and publication projects some of which are ongoing.



Mr. Kamil Ishakov, Russia's Permanent Observer to the OIC, was received by the Secretary General of OIC Prof. E. İhsanoğlu at IRCICA, Istanbul

OIC Secretary General's meeting with Ambassador Sada Cumber, United States Special Envoy to the OIC, and Mr. Cumber's visit to IRCICA

The Secretary General of the OIC Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu had a meeting with Ambassador Sada Cumber, United States Special Envoy to the OIC, on 22 August 2008, in Istanbul, Turkey. The meeting took place at IRCICA, the OIC's subsidiary centre based in Istanbul. During the meeting, the Secretary General exchanged views with the Special Envoy on the progress in relationship between the OIC and the USA since the Ambassador's appointment by the US President as Special Envoy to the OIC.



OIC Secretary General Prof. İhsanoğlu's meeting with Ambassador Sada Cumber



Dr. Eren offered to Mr. Sada Cumber a copy of the album of historical photographs of Istanbul

After this meeting, IRCICA's Director General Dr. Halit Eren guided Ambassador Cumber to IRCICA's various departments and its library and briefed him on the activities of the Centre. At the end of his visit, Ambassador Cumber recorded his impressions in the Visitors' Book, as follows:

"It is my personal privilege to visit the OIC Office in İstanbul and specially the library with so many great collections. This is a historic preservation project and I look forward to U.S.-OIC partnership in this arena."

Book Survey

»»»» Selections from IRCICA Library

History of culture

- Dr. Mohd. Sanaullah, **The Arab Legacy in Latin Europe**, Samia Publications, Aligarh, 2007 (2nd ed.), xii+253 pp.

This book by Dr. Sanaullah from Aligarh Muslim University, India, a scholar of Muslim Spanish cultural and art history, offers new perspectives on various aspects of the transmission of science and philosophy from the Arab-Islamic world to Latin Europe, embellished with the author's literary style and creative sequence of the themes. The book begins with a political history of the gradual dissolution of the Muslim Spanish state, thus describing the environment in which transmissions of knowledge took place: this first chapter is entitled "Between Guadelete, El Salado and the Last Sigh of the Moor (24th July 711, 29th October 1340 and 2nd July 1492)". Chapter two is a very useful, compact but comprehensive reference in itself in which the author, taking into account all the known authoritative sources, has compiled a list of the translators of the Islamic intellectual heritage. He gave information on each translator and cited the works they translated classifying them by field of science and learning. He listed fifty translators who translated from Arabic into Latin, thirty-five who translated from Arabic into Hebrew, and seven who translated from Arabic into Spanish, Catalan, French and Portuguese. The next three chapters review the developments achieved in philosophical reflection and teaching: Latin Avicennism, Latin Averroism, and the Sufi influence. The last chapter on "Arab-Islamic Reflections in the Romance literature" with abstracts from poetry is a most tasteful conclusion for the chain of themes.

- Orlin Sabev, **First Ottoman Trip in the World of Printed Books (1726-1746): A Reassessment/Matbu Kitap Dünyasına İlk Osmanlı Seyahati (1726-1746) Yeniden Değerlendirme**, Avangard Prima, Sofia 2004, 405 pp. (in Russian, summary in English and Turkish)

The study begins with the introduction of the printing press to the Ottoman world in 1726-27 by Ibrahim Müteferrika, and covers the period till the date when it ceased to be active upon the death of its founder. The author points out that there are two main questions with which the research on this subject is concerned: 1) Why were the Ottomans acquainted with the printed technology almost three centuries later than the rest of Europe? 2) Why did not the first Ottoman press turn out to be successful? He then summarizes the theories that deal with the first question as follows: the conservative attitude of the Ottoman ulama towards non-Muslim innovations, including the printing press, the attitude of the guild of copyists who felt that their source of livelihood

was threatened, the lack of need for and interest in printed books. The author notes that regarding the second point there are only narratives stating that the Ottoman printing press was unsuccessful because specifically, a lot of printed copies remained unsold. He points out that the purpose of this study is to introduce an objective approach to the subject in the light of Ottoman archival documents. The author mainly uses the related probate inventories (tereke or muhalledat defterleri) located in the Archives of the Mufti of Istanbul. The inventory of İbrahim Müteferrika is the most important source of the current study. The collection of this inventory provides answers to the hitherto unknown aspects of İbrahim Müteferrika's life. These aspects concern the members of his family, the kind of books that he possessed, the material conditions of his life, the amount of his wealth before his death, the exact location of his house and printing press in Istanbul, the number of workers that he employed in his printing house, the number of unsold copies of printed books that he left upon his demise, the date of his death.

Sabev's work becomes all the more significant due to the Appendices that contain the probate inventory of İbrahim Müteferrika. The inventory is presented in facsimile along with two tables of the books contained in it (in Arabic and Latin), their evaluation in akçe and the subject matter which they deal with.

- **The Contributions of the Arab and Islamic Civilisations to Astronomy (2): Holdings of Al-Azhar Library**, Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Alexandria, 2006, 139 pp.

The holdings of Al-Azhar Al-Sharif Library in Egypt include a total of 436 astronomy manuscripts, including theses. They are attributed to 136 authors, interpreters and collectors. Most manuscripts are in Arabic except for two in Turkish and one in Persian. The book begins with an introduction titled "Astronomy and its applications in the Arab Culture" by Prof. Ahmad Fouad Basha from the Faculty of Science of Cairo University, who undertook the scientific supervision of the book. This book includes a special selection of 31 manuscripts from the astronomy collection of Al-Azhar Al-Sharif Library. A photographic presentation of each selection is also included. The selected manuscripts are organised according to their subjects. The manuscripts are examined under the following subject groups: astronomical instruments; almanacs and calendars; the Sun, the Moon, the Zodiac and the Planets; working with the Sines; astronomical tables; spherical shape of the Earth. The following information is given for each manuscript: bibliographical data (including the title, the name of the author, the transcriber, transcription date, identification

numbers of the manuscript in the library collection, etc.), biographical notes about the author, and his most important related works; a summary of the contents of the manuscript; selected pictures of the original manuscript with the accompanying commentary on its contents. The book contains a Glossary of Astronomical Terms, a Bibliographical List of Manuscripts Collection at Al-Azhar Library, and References for further reading. The publication of the book was made possible with the contributions of UNESCO's Cairo Office, CULTNAT (Center for Documentation of Cultural and Natural Heritage), Bibliotheca Alexandrina, and Al-Azhar Library.

- **Mitteliranische Handschriften. I - Berliner Turfanfragmente Manichäischen Inhalts in Soghdischer Schrift**, described by Christiane Reck, VOHD XVIII, 1, Franz Steiner Verlag, Stuttgart, 2006, 363 pp.

The present book was prepared within the framework of the "Project on the Catalogues of Oriental Manuscripts located in Germany" briefly known as VOHD. Berlin Turfan Collection consists of about one thousand fragments written in the Middle Iranian language of Sogdian. The city of Turfan, presently located in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China, is the source of numerous historical fragments. These were written in the Middle Iranian languages (Middle Persian, Parthian, Sogdian, Sakan and Bactrian) which are related to the Iranian religion of Manichaeism. The catalogue consists of three volumes. The first volume comprises Manichaean fragments. The second and the third volumes will include Buddhist and Christian fragments, respectively.

Following the four ethnographical and archeological explorations of the Germans to Eastern Turkistan at the turn of the 20th century, the fragments of the Turfan collection were brought to Berlin and submitted to the Prussian Royal Academy of Sciences. Fragments with high artistic value were given to the Ethnography Museum (presently Museum of Indian Art). The fragments were scattered in different places during the Second World War. Today they belong to Berlin Academy of Sciences and are kept at the Oriental Department of Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin (Berlin State Library). The fragments which are written in Sogdean language date from the 8th-11th centuries. The book explains the classification system of the documents, and contains a bibliography. (*Outline by Mihin Lugal*)

Urban development

- **Karachi. Site Town and the Orangi Nalla**, Michiel Dehaene and Anojie Amerasinghe (eds.), published by the European Union, 2007, 183 pp.

This is an informative report on a city reclamation project of exemplary importance with regard to urban design and social development in industrialising zones of our time. Site Town is a small, densely populated town, situated on the northern bank of the Lyari River, in the northwestern part of Karachi, Pakistan. It is named after the Sindh Industrial Training Estate that forms the heart of the town. It is considered the largest squatter settlement of Asia and reflects all the economic and social imbalances and contradictions brought by rapid industrialisation in developing countries. The Orangi Nalla is a natural drain that stretches across the area. Its river bed, which was the backbone of early settlement in the area, turned into an urban backwater, open sewage drain and garbage dump over the decades. SITE Limited, which is the administrative governing body of the industrial area, and SITE Town, the city administration, are planning and undertaking the establishment of water supply, waste processing and other systems to improve the environmental conditions.

This report was published by the European Union on behalf of Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Belgium), Technische Universiteit Eindhoven (The Netherlands), Matara Municipal Council (Sri Lanka), Municipal Administration SITE Town, Karachi; University of Moratuwa (Sri Lanka), NED University of Engineering and Technology (Pakistan). The publication comes under the Asia Urbs Capacity Building Project in urban design and sustainable city development. The region reflects the rapid expansion of Karachi as an industrial zone during the last fifty years, after the partition from India in 1947, from a city of less than half a million inhabitants at the time to a mega city of 13-15 million today. The authors indicate, quoting from A. Hasan, *Understanding Karachi. Planning and reform for the future*, Karachi: City Press, 2002 that before partition 51 % of its population was Hindu, and 42 %, Muslim; four years later, 92 % of population was Muslim and only 2 % Hindu; this transformation in population composition is also reflected in the fact that within the same time frame Urdu, which was the language of a minority, became the native tongue of half of the population.

The authors indicate that today, the many ethnic groups such as the Urdu-speaking Punjabis, Kashmiris, Sindhis, Seraikis, Pakhtuns, Balochis, Mamons, Bohras and Ismailis with Pathans and Pakhtuns form the bulk of the population (pp. 27-28). The various communities live in separate colonies. The industrial zone attracted large numbers of immigrant workers. The communities living in the low-lying areas of the Orangi Nalla suffer from industrial and household waste, as well as seasonal flooding. Life in the river bed brings numerous sanitary problems. There are also problems of water and solid waste management which are under debate. The report documents the questions that emerge from this debate. On basis of extensive mapping and studies within the framework of the discipline of urban design, it presents the problems and needs and also formulates proposals.

- **Anadolu Selçuklu Eserleri Fotoğraf Albümü.**
Photograph Album of Anatolian Seljuk Works, 2 vols.,
Selçuklu Municipality Cultural Publications no. 28,
İstanbul, June 2008, vol. 1: 494 pp., vol. 2: 496 pp. (in
Turkish and English)

This magnificent publication of extreme scholarly and documentary value resulted from a long-term cultural project of the Municipality of Selçuklu, a town of the province of Konya named after the Seljukid empire, aiming to document the architectural heritage of the Seljuks in Turkey. Following the publication of this book, the project will continue with the holding of a symposium to cover all aspects of the Seljukid cities in history such as administration, urban structure, architecture, science and scholarship, social life, economy, and the arts, and deal with issues relating to the preservation of Seljukid cities. Other publications are also planned.

The book has an Introduction by H.E. Dr. Abdullah Gül, President of the Republic of Turkey, in which the President stresses the importance of the period as one of prosperity and advancements in economic, scientific and cultural activities. The territory was filled with architectural structures of varying public functions such as caravanserais, hospitals, medersas, mosques and palaces.

Selçuklu Municipality has assumed it as a responsibility to restore and preserve the Seljukid sites and monuments to transfer them to the coming generations, and gives equal priority to facilitating researchers' access to information about the artistic and architectural history of these sites and monuments.

Though comprehensive the book does not claim to be exhaustive as to the information it contains: it is often difficult to define the complete shapes and the functions of the buildings and structures since most of them were damaged during urbanisation processes such as road constructions, their decorations were destroyed, and sometimes even their characteristics were transformed by inappropriate restorations.

The scholarly editing of the book was done by Prof. Haşim Karpuz. The excellent photographs of the sites and monuments were taken by expert photographers Ahmet Kuş, İbrahim Dıvarcı and Feyzi Şimşek, who traveled throughout Turkey with love and perseverance, to capture the history and the beauty of the structures, a large number of which are now in sites outside towns presently inhabited.

The photographs are arranged according to the cities of their location: Seljukid monuments located in 48 cities have been photographed. The list of photographs at the end of the book facilitates the reader's task immensely.

IRCICA would like to congratulate the Municipality of Selçuklu and the editors for their important contribution to the knowledge and documentation about Seljukid civilisation.



ISAR Publication

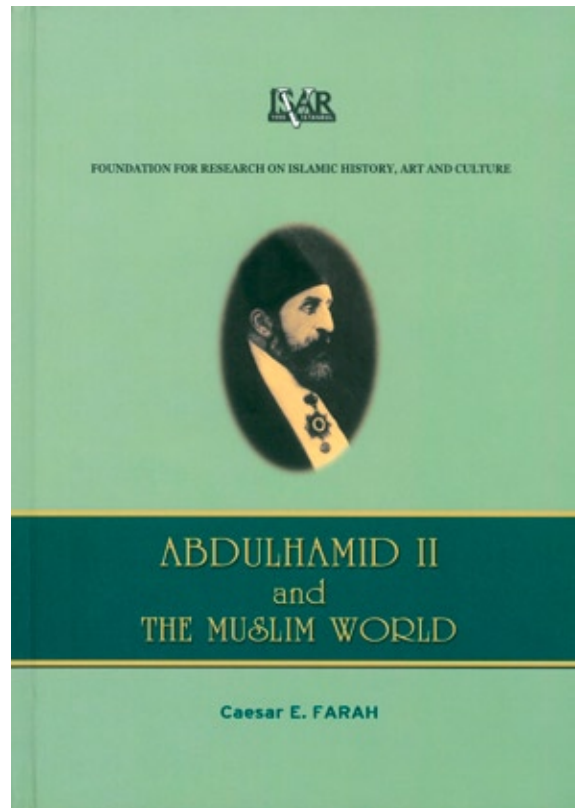
■ Caesar E. Farah, **Abdulhamid II and the Muslim World**, ISAR, Istanbul, 2008

This book by Professor Caesar E. Farah (University of Minnesota, USA) attempts to analyse the relationship between the Ottoman Empire on one hand, and the Muslim world at large, on the other, during the reign of Sultan Abdulhamid II (1876-1909). It contributes to the knowledge and treatment of the sources and the evaluation of the historical facts belonging to the period.

In addition to publishing its own researches and congress proceedings, IRCICA occasionally publishes books written by specialists from around the world on subjects related to its fields of interest. Ottoman history is one of the main subjects covered by IRCICA under its activity programs titled "The History of Muslim Nations". The period of the reign of Sultan Abdulhamid II (1876-1909) is especially relevant for studies relating to the historical background of present-day geopolitics in the Middle East and Eastern Europe. The causes of various problems facing the Muslim world today are rooted back at least in the 19th century. Sultan Abdulhamid II left his mark on this controversial period by pursuing a systematic policy to maintain the unity and cohesion of the Muslim world. This policy, frequently named "pan-Islamism" in the literature, represents the most important aspect of the long and eventful reign Sultan Abdulhamid II led under extremely difficult internal and international conditions. Because of his determined efforts to pursue a pan-Islamist global strategy, Abdulhamid II emerged as one of the most controversial Ottoman Sultans in history about whom a massive literature continued to flourish sometimes from negative angles.

The book provides a well-documented and realistic portrait of Sultan Abdulhamid by using both eastern and western sources and a rich base of archival materials. It addresses the various aspects of the development of the policy of pan-Islamism and the domestic and foreign oppositions to it. It also deals with the role of intellectual movements in the evolution of the idea of Islamic unity, the struggle between imperialist powers and Islamist movements and a number of other parallel processes.

The chapter titles are, following the Introduction, Chapter 1: Highlights of the Reign of Sultan Abdülhamid II; Chapter 2: Misconceptions Concerning his Rule; Chapter 3: Views of



the Press on Abdülhamid's Policy of Pan-Islamism; Chapter 4: The Ottoman Caliphate: Justification and Challenges; Chapter 5: The Role of Islam in Hamidian and Post-Hamidian Politics; Chapter 6: Pan-Islamism: an Ideology of Solidarity and Controversy; Chapter 7: Pan-Islamism and the Colonial Powers; Chapter 8: Perceptions of Islamic Reform and Unity; Chapter 9: Impact of Israeli and Masonic Opposition; Chapter 10: The Young Turks and the Fate of Pan-Islamism; Chapter 11: European Imperialism and Pan-Islamism in World War I. At the end of the book, the reader finds a rich Bibliography, and a list of the sources in Arabic, English and Turkish.

The book has been published by ISAR, the Foundation for Research on Islamic History, Art and Culture (Istanbul).

Publication by IRCICA

Arts and Crafts in the Muslim World, Proceedings of the International Congress on Islamic Arts and Crafts, Isfahan, 4-9 October 2002,

Preface by Halit Eren, prepared for publication by Nazeih Taleb Maarouf and Semiramis Çavuşoğlu, Istanbul, 2008, 580 pp.

IRCICA is pleased to publish the papers that were presented at the Isfahan International Congress on Islamic Arts and Crafts. The papers are on various subjects including Islamic architecture, the art of calligraphy, arts and cultural dialogue, Islamic paintings and miniature, the influence of Islamic arts and crafts on European art, traditional textiles, embroidery and costumes, revival of Islamic arts and crafts, Islamic tiles and ceramics, city life, jewelry, Islamic bazaars, papermaking, gilding, binding, and marbling (ebru), wooden arts and crafts, Islamic patterns and metal crafts. The reader will find in them points of view relating to various aspects of arts and crafts such as the designs and methods used, technical cooperation and skill upgrading, exchange of techniques, improvement of product quality, education and training of artisans, finance, economy, marketing and the obstacles encountered, patronage and national policies. Some of the papers reflect new approaches and possible solutions to major problems facing the future of Islamic arts and crafts development.

This is a documentary and reference book which aims at the same time to promote awareness of Islamic arts and

crafts in the world. It also provides a first preliminary assessment of the prospects of economic, social and cultural development of Islamic arts and crafts in various regions of the world. It contains 55 articles enriched with colour illustrations showing the richness of Islamic arts and crafts through their various applications in architecture, calligraphy, ebru, glass, wood, silver jewelry, miniatures, ceramics, embroidery, paintings, textiles, etc...

