



Newsletter



OIC RESEARCH CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC HISTORY, ART AND CULTURE

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Science, Scholarship and Research:

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IRCICA Awards for Excellence in Research 2008
presented to six scholars

International Cultural Cooperation:

The Governor of Istanbul H.E. Mr. Muammer Güler presented with the IRCICA Award for Patronage of International Cultural Cooperation

Architectural Preservation:

Prince Faisal bin Fahd Award Competition for the Preservation of Islamic Architectural Heritage: winners announced

Congresses

"History and cultures of Muslim Nations" research program

"Islamic Civilisation in Volga-Ural Region" congress, Bashkortostan

Symposium on "Baghdad (Madinat al-Salam) in Islamic Civilisation", Istanbul

"Islamic Civilisation in South Asia"
congress held in Bangladesh

"Intercultural relations" research program

Symposium organised jointly by the Council of Europe and IRCICA:
"Globalisation and images of the Other: challenges and new perspectives for history teaching in Europe"

Craft Development Program

Congress on "Employment of Traditional Handicrafts in Architectural Projects", Tunis

Newsletter



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Editorial

I would like to begin my words with congratulations to all Muslims on the advent of the new Hijri Year 1430 and wish all our readers a happy and prosperous Year 2009. In this season the beginning of years in the Hijra and the Gregorian calendars have coincided; may this prove to symbolise an era of rapprochement between peoples adhering to the different faiths and augur the evolution of an understanding of a shared destiny of all humankind on Earth. As always, our efforts are aimed at contributing to dialogue, peace and well-being for peoples of the world and IRCICA in particular shall continue to work in this direction by promoting international cultural relations.

Presently, as we take stock of the progress of our activities during 2008 and embark on our 2009 work program that has been recently approved by the relevant OIC bodies, a quick glimpse at our Centre's network of cooperative relations with governments, universities, international and regional organisations, etc. reveals that over the past year these relations were diversified considerably and new linkages were activated within and outside the OIC member countries. These linkages bore fruit in the holding of congresses, architectural studies and art events, signing of cooperation agreements, joint publications, etc. During 2008, activities were realised in the OIC member countries with the cooperation of government authorities and/or universities in Al-Quds, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, and the United Arab Emirates. The visits to IRCICA, during the same year, of the President of The Sudan H.E. Omar al-Bashir and the President of Senegal H.E. Maître Abdoulaye Wade, and Ministers from various countries, mostly from African Member States, opened new avenues of cooperation. The holding of the Eleventh Islamic Summit Conference in Dakar, Senegal, last March, was an occasion for us to establish new contacts in the region. As to our relations with Governments, cultural authorities and/or academic institutions outside the member countries, new relations were established and existing ones were reinforced, on the occasion of various events held during the year: the exhibition of historical photographs we organised in Tokyo last June on the occasion of the state visit of H.E. Abdullah Gül, President of Turkey, to Japan; the congress we organised in Ufa, Bashkortostan (Russian Federation), on which we report in this issue, and, the symposium organised jointly by the Council of Europe and IRCICA on the latter's premises, also covered in this issue. These new contacts also helped us further diversify our Centre's subjects of focus.

As to what is foreseen in our work program for 2009, in addition to the on-going work, including the publication of the papers of several congresses held recently, we are undertaking new projects. One of them is the preparation of a second book in the line of reprints of historical copies of the Holy Quran: after having published the facsimile edition, accompanied by a comparative technical study, of the Quran copy attributed to the time of Caliph Othman which is preserved in the library of Topkapı Palace Museum in Istanbul, we now undertook a new project

to publish a facsimile edition and study of another Quran copy attributed to the time of Caliph Othman, the Mashhad Imam Hussein copy that is located in Cairo, at the Central Library of Islamic Manuscripts affiliated to the Ministry of Awqaf of Egypt. The study will involve technical comparisons with other copies dating from the same period. Another project to be launched in 2009 is the Eighth International Calligraphy Competition. The competition will be dedicated to the Syrian master calligrapher Badawi al-Dirani (1894-1967), in continuation of our tradition to name each competition after an eminent calligrapher, to encourage younger artists to learn from and follow their example. We are currently drawing up specifications relating to the competition.

Recently we have had the honour and the pleasure of expressing our gratitude to H.E. Mr. Muammer Güler, the Governor of Istanbul, for the patronage and support that have been extended to the many events and activities organised by IRCICA over the years at different venues in Istanbul including those held on its own premises, in particular, the congresses, festivals, the artistic and documentary exhibitions, which have all encouraged encounters and interactions of specialists and artists from all over the world in the historically multicultural environment of Istanbul. Mr. Muammer Güler graciously received the IRCICA Award for Patronage of International Cultural Cooperation, a symbol of our gratitude. Furthermore, during the last four-month period IRCICA completed two separate award programs: the fifth group of IRCICA Award for Excellence in Research was presented to six scholars and researchers in recognition of outstanding achievements in studies related to Islamic civilisation and Muslim cultures. Besides, the competition on the restoration of Islamic architectural monuments – a competition dedicated to the memory of the late Prince Faisal bin Fahd bin Abdulaziz al-Saud for his remarkable endeavours in support of preservation of Islamic cultural heritage – was finalised, and the awards were presented to the winners. We have the pleasure to begin the section devoted to these scholarly and research awards with an article on OIC Secretary General Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu's receiving the Alexander Koyré Medal of the International Academy of the History of Science, a distinction which is considered as the Nobel of history of science. The medal, expressing recognition of Prof. İhsanoğlu's outstanding contributions in the field of history of science and among others, his founding the Turkish Society for History of Science, was presented to Prof. İhsanoğlu at the Academy's headquarters in Paris, on 12 December. On behalf of IRCICA and myself, I would like to renew our heartfelt congratulations to His Excellency on this occasion.

Five congresses/symposiums were co-organised by IRCICA during October-December in different regions of the world jointly with Governments, international organisations and/or universities on a variety of subjects. We are publishing outlines of their proceedings in this issue. We thank you for your interest.

Dr. Halit Eren

AWARDS

Science, Scholarship and Research

OIC SECRETARY GENERAL PROF. EKMELEDDIN İHSANOĞLU, FOUNDER OF THE TURKISH SOCIETY FOR HISTORY OF SCIENCE, HAS BEEN AWARDED THE ALEXANDRE KOYRÉ MEDAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE (PARIS)

The Secretary General of the OIC Professor Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, who is the founding Chairman of the Turkish Society for the History of Science, has been awarded the Alexandre Koyré Medal of the Paris-based International Academy of the History of Science. The Koyré Medal is a distinction award granted once every two years since 1968 for outstanding achievements in history of science studies. It is awarded for pioneering and innovative works contributing to the evolution of studies in history of science. The recipient of the award is elected by vote by the members of the Academy. Professor Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu is the first Turkish scholar to be awarded this medal. Among his achievements cited for the award is his editorship and coordination of a 15-volume work on the history of science during the Ottoman period published by IRCICA.

Professor İhsanoğlu received the medal from the President of the Academy Prof. Eberhard Knobloch, in a ceremony held at the Academy, in Paris, on 12 December 2008. In his address, Prof. Knobloch declared that İhsanoğlu was found worthy of this distinction not for one work only but for all the contributions he made to the history of science from the beginning of his career until the present.

An outline of Prof. İhsanoğlu's career and contributions in the field was given by Prof. Robert Halleux, member and archivist of the Academy, who qualified İhsanoğlu's work as "exemplary" and said "his knowledge of cultures and his deep sense of the human are amazing, and he does not neglect scholarly activity either." Quoting Rabelais in his statement "Science without conscience is the ruin of the soul", Prof. Halleux said that "this is why Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu's scholarly work is valuable to us today, as it never separates sciences from human values. It is because in his thought and his line of action, İhsanoğlu draws from a double tradition. In the great Ottoman tradition, he is aware of the unlimited riches of a respectful multiculturalism. In the great tradition of the Muslim scholars, he knows that science is always enlightened by faith and that science leads one to God."

In his address of thanks Prof. İhsanoğlu recalled the landmark events in his career which had acquainted him with leading scholars and major works in history of science and guided him to engage in highlighting the science of the 600-year

Ottoman period. He explained in particular the aims and methodology of the research program of immense scope that had resulted in the 15-volume work on Ottoman science.

The International Academy of History of Science, founded in 1929, will thus celebrate its 80th anniversary in the coming spring. The Alexandre Koyré medal was granted for the first time to Derek Thomas Whiteside who compiled Isaac Newton's works. Guy Beaujouan was the immediate past awardee before Prof. İhsanoğlu.

Prof. İhsanoğlu, who was the Director General of IRCICA from 1980 until his taking the office at the head of the OIC General Secretariat in January 2005, had served as a faculty member in faculties of science before becoming the first professor and founding Head of the Department of History of Science at Istanbul University. He wrote numerous books, articles and papers in English, Arabic and Turkish on science, history of science, Islamic culture, relations between the Muslim world and the Western world, and Turkish-Arab relations, some of which were translated into Russian, French, Japanese, Malay, Korean and Bosnian. He was conferred medals and orders by Heads of State around the world.



From the left: Prof. Eberhard Knobloch, President of the Academy; Prof. İhsanoğlu; Prof. Robert Halleux, member and archivist of the Academy

IRCICA AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH 2008 PRESENTED TO SIX SCHOLARS

IRCICA Awards for Excellence in Research, acknowledging remarkable achievements in research and scholarship in the study of Islamic civilisation and Muslim cultures, has been presented to six awardees from various fields of specialisation. This was the fifth group of awards after those presented in 1990, 1997, 2000 and 2003 respectively. The award ceremony was held within the framework of the opening session of the Symposium on “Baghdad (Madinat al-Salam) in Islamic Civilisation” organised by IRCICA jointly with Marmara University, Istanbul, on 7 November 2008 which provided a very fitting scholarly environment for the purpose.

The awardees

Abd al-Rahman Ibrahim Abd al-Tawwab (Egypt)

Architect Abd al-Tawwab (b. 1916, Egypt) is a leading specialist of Islamic architecture and archaeology and an authority in the conservation of architectural and archeological heritage. He fulfilled a large number of missions contributing remarkably to the development of field studies, restoration and conservation, and academic research in his fields. As a result of the excavations he undertook in Aswan, 1600 epitaphs (tomb stone) were discovered. The French Scientific Institute is publishing them and until now three volumes have been completed. In the past he also participated in the committee of French scientists to study the houses and palaces of Cairo and the City of Rashid. Furthermore, he received the Agha Khan Award for his services during the restoration of the Prince Methqal Mosque by the German Institute. Until the present he serves as consultant at the Association of Egyptian Monuments.

For many years he taught and supervised graduate studies at the universities of Asyut, Ain Shams, Cairo, Halwan, and Zagazeg. Most well known among his publications are his books titled *Our Water Installations through the Ages*, *Sultan Qaitbay*, and his translation of Dr. Ahmed Fakhri's book *The Beggars*. He also put the plan of the book *Bases of Architectural Design* and he joined in preparing its scientific material.



The award certificate for Prof. al-Tawwab was presented by Professor Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the OIC.

The award was presented in appreciation of Professor al-Tawwab's contributions to the assessment and recording, the study and research of the architectural and archeological heritage of Egypt, particularly the Islamic and Ottoman periods, and his valuable services in promoting teaching in this field and developing the latter within the academic disciplines.

Professor Tawwab was not able to travel to Istanbul due to medical reasons. His spouse, Professor Amal Ahmed Hassan Al-Emari, received the award certificate on his behalf.

Halil Sahillioğlu (Turkey)

Prof. Halil Sahillioğlu (b. 1924, Turkey) is an eminent scholar of economic history of the Muslim world and specialist of the Archives of Ottoman official documents. His research and teaching as a professor of economic history contributed concretely and significantly to the increase of knowledge and interpretation of the sources on economic and social history of the Muslim world, particularly on monetary history during the period of the Ottoman State.

After his PhD thesis on monetary history of the Ottoman Empire from its foundation until the end of 17th century, Sahillioğlu wrote numerous books and articles most of which have uncovered previously unknown aspects of central and provincial financial administration in the Muslim world. In the early 1960s he attended the seminars of Fernand Braudel



The award certificate was presented to Prof. Sahillioğlu by Prof. Necla Pur, President of the University of Marmara.

and Rugiuro Romano which was followed by the publication of his book on the monetary history of the Ottoman period during 18th century. His articles were published by Braudel in academic journals in the Middle East, Europe and USA. Sahillioğlu taught as a professor of Economic History at Uludağ University in Bursa until his retirement in 1990.

He is a honorary member of the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research (Al-Albait Academy), Jordan, and corresponding member of the Turkish Historical Society. Five of his books and collections of articles have been published by IRCICA. These are: *Studies on Ottoman economic and social history*, 1999; *Min tarikh al-aqtar al-Arabiyya fi al-ahd al-Uthmani*, 2000; *Topkapı Sarayı Arşivi H.951-952 tarihli ve E-12321 numaralı mühimme defteri*, 2002; *Koca Sinan Paşa'nın telhisleri*, 2004; *Al-Bunya al-iqtisadiyya wa al-idjtimaiyya li-madina Dimashq fi al-qarn al-sabi' ashar =Şam şehrinin XVII. asırda sosyal ve ekonomik yapısı*, 2005. The award was presented in gratitude for his outstanding contributions to studies on monetary history of the Muslim world, his extensive use of the first-hand official archival sources, being one of the pioneer researchers in this regard following the opening of the Archives to researchers. IRCICA also holds Professor Sahillioğlu in great esteem for his unsparingly and generously sharing his knowledge with fellows and students and offering his assistance to researchers on all occasions.

Mirkasim A. Usmanov (Tatarstan)

Professor Mirkasim Abdulakhatovich Usmanov (b. 1934, Xianjiang province, China) is an eminent historian from Tatarstan, Russian Federation. He is Professor at Kazan State University, and Research Consultant for Turkic-Tatar and Oriental Manuscripts at the National Library of Tatarstan. He was one of the founders, and Vice-President of the Academy of Sciences of Tatarstan and earlier, he was the First Vice-Rector and acting Rector of Kazan State University. His work enriched significantly both the source base and the study of the history, literature and culture of the Tatar people over the period between 13th to early 20th centuries. He



Professor Mirkasim Usmanov received the award certificate from Prof. Raşit Küçük, Dean of the Faculty of Theology, Marmara University.

is the supervisor and the chief editor of the seven-volume fundamental edition *History of Tatars Since Ancient Times*, and co-editor of IRCICA's joint project with academics of Tatarstan relating to the comprehensive publication on the *History and Civilisation of Tatars*. He continues to work on locating documentary sources on Islamic culture in various archives of Russia and other countries. For example, in Iran he found and introduced to scholarly use the single written pharmacological work of the doctor of the pre-Mongol, Volga Bulgars' times Tadjutdin Bulgari. He conducts research on scholars and enlighteners representing Turkic peoples in Russia such as Shihabuddin Marjani, Husain Faizkhanov, Rizaaddin Fakhruddin, Ismail Gasprali, Aziz Gubaidullin, Hadi Atlasi, Jamal Validi and others, on whom 15 books are already published.

The award was presented to Professor Usmanov in recognition of his contributions to the increase of knowledge on the Turkic cultures and languages and the remarkable services he rendered to the preservation of the Muslim written heritage in countries of the Near and Middle East by collecting the products of these cultures and establishing programs of studies on these sources. With this award IRCICA also expressed its appreciation of Prof. Usmanov's contributions to the development of contacts and cooperation between scholars and specialists in Tatarstan with their counterparts in other countries, and in particular, his role in promoting a fruitful cooperation between IRCICA and academic circles in Tatarstan.

M. Adnan al-Bakhit (Jordan)

Prof. al-Bakhit (b. 1941, Jordan) is a specialist of Mamluk and Ottoman history, and Chair of the Bilad al-Sham History Committee of the University of Jordan. He established and directed the Centre for Archives and Manuscripts at the University of Jordan. From 1993 to August 2001 he was the President of Al-Albait University, Jordan and during 1991-1993, President of Mutah University, Jordan. For decades he served as a member of various Jordanian and international cultural committees. In the 1980s he was a member of the International Commission for a new edition of the *History of Scientific and Cultural Development of Mankind* published by



The award certificate of Professor Bakhit was presented by Mr. Hasan Can, the Mayor of Umraniye in İstanbul, representing Umraniye Municipality, co-sponsor of the symposium.

UNESCO. He served and is serving as chief editor or member of the editorial board of more than ten academic journals in Jordan and various countries. Prof. Bakhit also serves as a member of the advisory boards of world congresses such as the Congress for Middle Eastern Studies (WOCMES), Mainz University, Germany; the International Congress for Asian and Northern African Studies (ICANAS). He is a member of the Board of Experts of Al-Furqan Islamic Heritage Foundation, London. He is the Chairman of the Committee Entrusted with the Study of the Contents and Significance of the Dead Sea Scrolls and Qumran Scrolls and Editor-in-Chief of the Jordanian Journal for History and Archaeology, both attached to the Jordanian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research; he is also member of the Royal Al Albait Institute for Islamic Thought and member of the Board of Trustees of the Royal Jordanian Hashemite Documentation Center, Jordan, among others.

Professor Adnan al-Bakhit has published extensively and coordinated projects particularly on the history of Bilad al-Sham region. He holds the following medals and decorations: Al-Quds (Jerusalem) Decoration for Arts and Culture presented by the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the University of Jordan Silver Medal, the Arab Historian Decoration of the Union of Arab Historians, the Jordan Independence Medal, First Grade; the Jordan State Prize for Social Sciences.

The award was presented to Professor Bakhit in gratitude for his contributions to studies in history, particularly the history of Bilad al-Sham, institutionalising these studies and promoting international cooperation in the area.

Machiel Kiel (The Netherlands)

Prof. Machiel Kiel (b. 1938, Netherlands) is a specialist in Islamic architecture and an authority particularly in studies on Ottoman architectural heritage in the Balkans. From the early 1990s Prof. Kiel taught Islamic architecture in the University of Utrecht, the University of Durham, Harvard-USA and Moscow State University. He is a contributor to the *Encyclopaedia of Islam* published in Turkish since 1991. In 1998 he was appointed to Advisor to UNESCO for the reconstruction of the historical monuments of Bosnia-Herzegovina. His services to the field include the following: since 2003 he is the Vice-President of the Committee for International Congresses of Turkish Arts. From December 2003 to February 2007 he was the Director of the Netherlands Historical-Archaeological Institute, Istanbul. He has a Honorary Doctorate from Ege University, İzmir, and since 1997 is a scholarly advisor to the periodicals *Muqarnas*, and *EJOS*.

The work of Prof. Kiel is based on extensive field surveys including his research travels to North Africa, Turkey and Iran from 1959 onwards and his traveling to the Balkans every year during 1969-1990 to document Ottoman architecture in the region. He published 12 books and more than 220 articles and encyclopaedia entries on the Ottoman architecture and urban history of the Balkans. He is the author of the book *Islamic Architecture in Albania* published by IRCICA. In addition to



The award certificate was presented to Professor. M. Kiel by Mr. Mehmet Ali Yıldırım, the District Governor of Umraniye, Istanbul.

his research, teaching and authorship, he intervened by way of collaborative international actions in the restoration of Ottoman buildings in the Balkans including the mausoleum of Sarı Saltuk Dede in Babadag (Romania), the Ghazi Evrenos Imaret in Komotini (Greece), the Tomb of Mustafa Dolma Baba and adjacent historical Bektashi cemetery in Kruja (Albania), the Mosque of Fatih Sultan Mehmed in Kostendil (West Bulgaria) and the 14th century Eski Cami of Yambol (Bulgaria), saving them from destruction.

The award was presented to Professor Kiel in appreciation of his contributions to the recording of Islamic architectural monuments and settlements in the Balkans and Southeast Europe and collection of information on this heritage, including a considerable amount of non-extant buildings, and his initiatives and contributions to the restoration and conservation of Islamic architectural monuments in the Balkans region.

Gholam Ali Haddad Adel (Iran)

Dr. Gholam Ali Haddad Adel (b. 1945, Iran), educated in physics and philosophy, is the President of the Iranian Academy of the Persian Language and Literature; Chairman of the Cultural Committee of the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Iranian Parliament); Managing Director of Encyclopedia Islamica Foundation in Iran under the patronage of Ayatollah Khamenei, the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran; and, Professor of Philosophy at Tehran University. Dr. Haddad Adel was the Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly from 2004 to 2008. President of the Academy of Persian Language and Literature (1995-2005); Deputy Minister of Education (1982-1993); Deputy Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance (1978-79). Dr. Haddad Adel is the Editor of *The Encyclopedia of the World of Islam* of which 12 volumes have been published until now. Having been educated in both physics and philosophy, he authored books on education, philosophy, religion some of which were translated into Arabic and Turkish including the following titles: *Pathology of Religious Education* (2005); *Lessons from Quran* (2005); *Hajj, the Grand Prayer* (2003, 2007) which was also translated into Arabic and Turkish and

published in Beirut and Istanbul; *Culture of Nakedness, Nakedness of Culture* (1980) translated into several languages and also in Arabic and published in Beirut. He wrote sixteen different school textbooks in various social sciences, on Persian language and literature, and history, and more than 200 articles on philosophy, literature, social and political subjects. His translation of the Holy Quran into Persian and a collection of scholarly articles titled With Compliments and dedicated to various professors are forthcoming. His translation of Kant's *Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics* (1988) won the Book of the Year Award of the Islamic Republic of Iran in 1989. He also translated Justus Hartnack's Kant's *Theory of Knowledge* (1999, 2001). Dr. Haddad Adel has Honorary Doctorates from Aligarh Muslim University, India and Baku State University, Azerbaijan. He was awarded the Second Grade Medal of Honour in Education, Iran.

This eminent cultural personality of the Islamic Republic of Iran has supported and assisted the development of cooperation between the governmental, academic and cultural institutions of Iran and IRCICA.

The award was presented to Dr. Gholam Ali Haddad-Adel for his outstanding contributions to learning in Islamic civilisation through his directorship of The Encyclopedia of the World of Islam and his scholarly endeavours in various fields of culture that contributed remarkably in increasing the knowledge and promoting the awareness on the cultural, scientific and intellectual riches of Islam.

IRCICA Awards presented in the past years:

1. IRCICA Award for Excellence in Research was presented precedently in 1990, 1997, 2000, and 2003, respectively, to Annemarie Schimmel (Germany), Stanford Shaw (USA, Turkey), Oktay Aslanapa (Turkey), Roshdi Rashed (France), İzzet Hasan (Morocco), Muhammed Hamidullah (India, France), Hakim Muhammed Said (Pakistan) (1990), Leila Sabbagh (Syria), Geza Fehervari (Hungary), Kemal Karpat (USA), M. Taib Osman (Malaysia), Abdurrahman Badawi (Egypt) (1997), S. Naquib al-Attas (Malaysia), Iraj Afshar (Iran), Yusuf İbîsh (Lebanon), William Graham (USA) (2000); Ahmad Hasan Dani (Pakistan), Andreas Tietze (Austria), André Raymond (France), Mahmoud Zouber (Mali), Anas Baqi Khalidov (Tatarstan) (2003).
2. IRCICA Award for Patronage in the Preservation of Cultural Heritage and Promotion of Scholarship, aiming to honour persons and institutions for their patronage and support extended to cultural and scholarly activities and preservation of cultural heritage, was presented in 2000 and 2003, respectively, to: Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohamed al-Qassimi (Emir of Sharjah), Sheikh A. Zaki Yamani (Chairman, al-Furqan Islamic Heritage Foundation), Sheikh Hussa al-



The award certificate was presented to Dr. Haddad-Adel by Professor Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Conference.

Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah (Kuwait), Hakim Abdul Hamid (India) (2000); Qadi İsmail Aqwa (Yemen), El Legado Andalusi Museum (Spain), Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia, Sadberk Hanım Museum, Sakıp Sabancı Museum (2003).

3. IRCICA Award for Patronage of Inter-Cultural Dialogue was instituted in 2007 and presented to H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey, in gratitude for his endeavours contributing to cultural affinities among nations within and outside the Muslim world; his support of studies on Islamic civilisation and institutional endeavours in this regard in national, regional and international levels, and particularly his support of the activities of the OIC and IRCICA in their building inter-cultural dialogues on world scale.

Each group of awards in the first two categories were presented to their recipients in international ceremonies held within the framework of either meetings and anniversary commemorations organised by IRCICA (its tenth anniversary in 1990 and its twentieth anniversary in 2000) or ministerial meetings of the Member States of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (sessions of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation which operates under the chairmanship of the President of the Republic of Turkey).

On the occasion of the award presented to the Prime Minister of Turkey, a special ceremony was held on 2 February 2007 with an audience including the President of Tatarstan, Russian Federation, who had visited IRCICA the same day, and the participants in two scholarly meetings involving the Islamic countries being held in Istanbul, namely the meeting on "Islamophobia" convened under the chairmanship of the Secretary General of OIC and the Third Meeting of the Group of Strategic Vision for Russia and the Islamic World.

The awards draw interest in academic circles concerned, press and public for their significant contribution in making known exemplary figures and highlighting their services in Islamic studies and towards promoting a better understanding of Islam and its civilisation in the world.

THE GOVERNOR OF ISTANBUL H.E. MR. MUAMMER GÜLER HAS BEEN PRESENTED WITH THE IRCICA AWARD FOR PATRONAGE OF INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL COOPERATION

For nearly thirty years now IRCICA has been organising international events including congresses, art festivals and exhibitions where researchers, artists, collectors of the written and artistic heritage and other professionals from all around the world come together to present their works, perform or display their arts. These events and activities provide the grounds for encounters and exchanges between peoples from different fields, different countries and cultures.

Some of these events are held in Istanbul, the seat of IRCICA, and others in the OIC-IRCICA member countries and elsewhere around the world. Several academic congresses, lectures and exhibitions on various themes, as well as events relating to IRCICA Awards, architectural and art competitions, are organised by IRCICA each year and held in different halls and galleries of Istanbul. A representative example of such events is the international “Islamic Countries Cultural Week”, which was held in November 2005 in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of IRCICA. It was a large-scale festival held with the contributions of the Municipality of Greater Istanbul. It included musical concerts, folkloric shows, painting exhibitions, films, and round-tables on architecture and urbanism. The Governor of Istanbul H.E. Mr. Muammer Güler has extended his support and encouragement to all these events and officiated a large number of them, expressing, on each occasion, his firm belief in the key role played by cultural cooperation in promoting international relations.

Lastly, H.E. the Governor graciously accepted the invitation to attend the opening of the symposium organised jointly by the Council of Europe and IRCICA on “Globalisation and images of the Other: challenges and new perspectives for history teaching in Europe”, on 30 November 2008, at IRCICA's conference hall. The symposium, which alluded to peoples' images of each other, offered a matching occasion for IRCICA to pay a warm tribute and express its gratitude to H.E. the Governor by presenting him with the IRCICA Award for Patronage of International Cultural Cooperation. The opening ceremony was held in the presence of the nearly one hundred participants from the Council of Europe member countries .



Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, presented the award certificate to H.E. Mr. Muammer Güler, expressing his gratitude for “his support of rapprochement and cooperation among the Muslim countries and with peoples of other cultures through his patronage of international events that display the arts and sciences of Muslim countries, highlight their share in universal civilisation, and at the same time, underscore the importance of Istanbul at the crossroads of world's cultures and in the history of Islamic civilisation, and in this context, for his patronage and interest extended to scholarly congresses and culture festivals IRCICA holds in Istanbul”. The Director General gave the information that this award corresponds to one of the three categories of awards IRCICA has been presenting since 1990 together with the Award for Excellence in Research and the Award for Patronage of Preservation of Cultural Heritage.



H.E. Mr. Muammer Güler was presented a certificate of gratitude

PRINCE FAISAL BIN FAHD AWARD COMPETITION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF ISLAMIC ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE: WINNERS ANNOUNCED

A competition for the “Prince Faisal bin Fahd Award for the Preservation for Islamic Architectural Heritage” has been organised by IRCICA and dedicated to the memory of the late Prince Faisal bin Fahd Abdulaziz al-Saud, who was the Chairman of the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage (ICPICH), a subsidiary of the OIC which operated from 1983 until 2000 with IRCICA as its Executive Secretariat. Following the demise of its Chairman in 1999, the Commission was merged with IRCICA by decision of the 27th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held in Putrajaya, Malaysia, and its activity programs were integrated into the work plans of IRCICA.

The competition was organised at the request of the Islamic Summit and Foreign Ministers Conferences asking that IRCICA dedicates a special activity to the memory of Prince Faisal bin Fahd in recognition of his support of the preservation of cultural heritage.

Its purpose is to support the revival of Islamic heritage monuments in order to give them vital functions, either historical or contemporary. It is an innovative competition that recognises completed projects which restored and are re-using heritage sites and monuments for the benefit, at least partially, of Muslim communities.

The competition was launched in 2005. It was open to projects completed during the last five years. Governmental and non-governmental organisations and individuals were invited to apply to the competition. The seven-member international jury of the competition was composed of: Professor Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General, OIC (President); Dr. Saad Abdulaziz Al Rashid; Prof. Arch. Gulzar Haider; Prof. Arch. Zeynep Ahunbay; Prof. Arch. Attilio Petruccioli; Prof. Saleh Lamei; Halit Eren, Director General, IRCICA.

The winners of the competition were selected in two categories, namely the Site Conservation Category and the Single Building Conservation Category. They were announced within the framework of an OIC ceremony which was held in Istanbul on 23 October 2008 under the chairmanship of the President of the Republic of Turkey and in the presence of the Secretary General of the OIC and ministerial delegations of OIC Member States. It was the opening ceremony of the 24th Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation, an ad-hoc ministerial body of the OIC chaired by H.E. Dr. Abdullah Gül, President of the Republic of Turkey. The opening ceremony heard the addresses of the President of Turkey, the Secretary General of the OIC, the addresses by Member States’ ministers on behalf of the three regions of the Muslim world (Africa, Arab world, Asia), the addresses

of Dr. Ahmad Muhammad Ali, President of the Islamic Development Bank (Jeddah) and Sheikh Saleh Kamil, the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Karachi) (the report of the session is available at www.comcec.org). An award ceremony was held at the end of the opening session, during which two awards were declared and presented to the awardees: the Islamic Solidarity Prize for the enhancement of trade among OIC member countries presented by the Islamic Development Bank to MATRADE, Malaysia, and the Prince Faisal bin Fahd Award for the Preservation of Islamic Architectural Heritage presented by IRCICA.

IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren took the floor to brief the audience on the Award and announce the winners: the owner, the contractor and the architect of each winning project.

In the Site Conservation Category, the winning project is the Revitalisation Strategy for the Old City of Muharrak by Shaikh Ebrahim bin Mohammed al-Khalifa Center for Culture and Research, in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The owner of the project is Shaikha Mai bint Mohammed al-Khalifa. The architect is Ahmed Busheery and the contractor company is Chapos Contractors.

In the Single Building Conservation Category, the winning project is the Great Mabeyn Kiosk restoration at Yıldız Palace, Istanbul. The owner of the project is the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey. The architect is Ahmet Selbesoğlu and the contractor company is Alba Construction, Industry and Trade Incorporated.

Then Dr. Eren invited the representatives of the winning projects to receive their certificates. For the Great Mabeyn Kiosk Restoration project, Mr. Orhan Düzgün, Director General for Cultural Heritage and Museums, representing the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey, and for its contractor, Alba Construction, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees Mr. Azmi Delibalta; for the Old City of Muharrak project, Her Highness Shaikha Mai bint Mohammed Al-Khalifa.

H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, presented the certificate to H.H. Shaikha Mai bint Mohammed Al-Khalifa, owner of the Old City of Muharrak project.

Mr. Orhan Düzgün, representing the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey, owner of the Great Mabeyn project, received the certificate from Mr. Ahmet Tıktık, Undersecretary of the State Planning Organisation. Mr. Nazım Ekren, State Minister and Deputy Prime Minister of Turkey, presented the award certificate to Mr. Delibalta, representing the contracting company of the project.

The Award Winners:

Site Conservation Category:

Shaikh Ibrahim Center and Branches,

Revitalisation Strategy for the Old City of Muharraq,
Kingdom of Bahrain

Owner: May bint Mohammad Al-Khalifa

Architect: Ahmed Busheery

Building Contractors: Chapos Contractors

In this project, the aim is to revitalise the old residential structures in the historical Muharraq city and re-program them in the view of current social needs. This initiative started in 2002 is still ongoing. Until now, seven buildings were renovated including the Shaikh Ibrahim Center and Branches, which is associated with the name of the founder of the first cultural council in Muharraq Island. In search for maintaining a valuable portion of the Muharraq heritage, Shaikh Ibrahim Council was revitalised as a center for cultural activities and historical studies. It acts as a link between the past and present, providing cultural continuity that would contribute in shaping a better future.



Shaikha May bint Mohammad Al-Khalifa received the award from
OIC Secretary General Prof. İhsanoğlu

Single Building Conservation Category:

Great Mabeyn Kiosk (Daire-i Mabeyn-i Humayun), Istanbul, Turkey

Owner: Ministry of Tourism and Culture

Architect: Ahmet Selbesoğlu

Building Contractors: Alba Construction, Industry and Trade Inc.

Great Mabeyn Kiosk was constructed in the eclectic style in 1866 by Balyan brothers at the order of Sultan Abdulaziz. The Kiosk was used until the last years of the Ottoman Empire as a place where foreign officials were received, state and inter-state matters were discussed. The Kiosk consists of two regular floors, one basement floor and a half basement floor with a classical symmetric plan scheme formed around a central hall (sofa) and iwan. The dimensions of the building are 28.4 m by 43.6 m. Exterior walls are double layered with brick masonry inside and stone masonry outside; interior walls are brick masonry covered with stucco plastering. The ceiling of the ground floor is covered with vaults, while the other floors are covered with timber construction. All interior elements are richly decorated. Also, there are decorations on the ceilings painted on canvas, as well as some decorations in oil-paint.

In 1977, the ceiling, the floor and the walls of five different sections of the kiosk were destroyed by a fire; therefore restoration work was necessary. The repair work was carried out in several phases. Before starting the repairs, restoration and conservation techniques and the materials were tested by specialists for about one year. Also, all restoration activities were conducted by leading specialists.



Mr. Nazım Ekren, State Minister and Deputy
Prime Minister of Turkey, presented the
award certificate to Mr. Delibalta, representing
the contracting company of the project



Mr. Ahmet Tiktik, Undersecretary of State
Planning Organization, presented the
award certificate to Mr. Orhan Düzgün,
the Culture and Tourism Ministry's Cultural
Assets and Museums general manager,

CONGRESSES

"History and cultures of Muslim Nations" research program

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON ISLAMIC CIVILISATION IN VOLGA-URAL REGION

Ufa, 14-16 October 2008

An international congress on Islamic Civilisation in Volga-Ural Region was held under the patronage of H.E. Murtaza Rakhimov, President of the Republic of Bashkortostan. It was jointly organised by IRCICA, Bashkortostan Academy of Sciences, the Institute of Language, History and Literature attached to the Ufa Science Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Bashkortostan State University, and State Foundation of Culture and Arts. The opening ceremony took place at Bashkortostan Art Gallery and the working sessions were held at Ufa Science Center of the Bashkortostan Republic's Academy of Sciences.

The congress drew nearly seventy specialists and researchers from Bashkortostan, China, France, India, Kazakhstan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Tatarstan and Turkey. The papers presented and discussions held underscored the role and place of Islam in the history of the region, especially its cultural history in all areas including language, philosophy and sciences, and its contribution in developing multicultural coexistence. The congress was an occasion to appraise the state of research on the theme and related subjects.

This was the third congress on the theme of Islamic Civilisation in Volga-Ural Region after the first two congresses which were held in Kazan, Tatarstan Republic, under the patronage of the President of Tatarstan H.E. Mintimer Shaimiev, in 2001 and 2005 respectively. The Volga-Ural region historically includes the territories of modern Republic of Tatarstan, Republic of Bashkortostan, Republic of Chuvashia, Republic of Mari El, Republic of Udmurtia, Republic of Mordovia, the areas situated on Volga and in Ural. At the same time, a number of important historical cities of Islamic culture and learning, such as Ufa, Kazan, Astrakhan, Orenburg and Trotsk are located in this region. Islam started to spread in the region in the middle of 9th century.

In his comprehensive address at the opening ceremony, President of Bashkortostan H.E. Murtaza Rakhimov underlined the main traits of Bashkortostan Republic's state policy directed to strengthening international and inter-religious mutual understanding and agreement, friendship and cooperation between different nations and religions. He said that the 450th anniversary of Bashkiria's voluntary joining the Russian state was celebrated in 2007 and that for

many centuries friendship between all nations and religions was preserved and was still being strengthened. Bashkortostan lies at the very center of the Eurasian continent where flows of Turkic, Slavic and Finno-Ugric nations are inseparably interlaced. For many years religious leaders were influential in shaping spiritual life and providing moral support for the society. Many Muslim scholars took part in Bashkir intellectual movements; they were teachers and enlighteners, such as Miftahetdin Akmullakh, Muhammad Umetbaev, Zia Kamali, Zainulla Rasulev and others, who became integral parts of Bashkir culture and history. The President said that Bashkortostan and Ufa are important as one of the leading Eurasian spiritual-cultural centers of the Russian Federation. Alluding to the Central Islamic Department which ensures coordination of the Muslim communities, he said that its

importance in defining the position of Russian Muslims and activating dialogue between the state and regional Muslim communities cannot be overestimated. Of the 927 mosques operational in Bashkortostan today, 527 are under the jurisdiction of the Central Islamic Department. The President concluded his words by stressing that the presence of Muslims, Christians and people of other religions will further contribute to strengthening peace, friendship and agreement between nations for the good of Bashkortostan and the whole of Russia.

Director General of IRCICA Dr. Halit Eren, in his address, expressed his gratitude to President Rakhimov for

graciously extending his patronage to the event and for addressing the ceremony. He also expressed his appreciation of the collaboration extended by Bashkortostan Academy of Sciences, Bashkortostan State University, and the Institute of Language, History and Literature attached to the Russian Academy of Sciences. He reviewed the program of history congresses organised by IRCICA. IRCICA's cooperation with Volga-Ural region had proved to be one of the fastest-developing and most fruitful geographical orientations of its activities. The relations dated long back; mutual visits were taking place during the 1990s between universities and cultural institutions of the region, especially Bashkortostan and Tatarstan, and IRCICA, but the main drive had started with the launching of the congress on Islamic Civilisation in Volga-Ural Region, in 2001, under the patronage of H.E. President Shaimiev, followed by the second congress, held in



2005. He said that realisation of this third congress in the series within the span of seven years was a success. It was a consequence of the interest shown to the theme by academic circles concerned and also an indication of the governments, universities and cultural institutions' support of research on the history and heritage of the region, highlighting, in the present context, the Islamic component of this heritage.

Dr. Eren then read the message of H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General, Organisation of the Islamic Conference, in which the Secretary General paid a warm tribute to President Rakhimov for extending his patronage to the event which was a gracious expression of the President's support of academic cooperation in general and promotion of cultural relations between the OIC Member States and Bashkortostan in particular. The Secretary General said that the congress had special significance being the first academic meeting to be co-organised by the OIC and IRCICA in Bashkortostan Republic jointly with the academic and cultural institutions of Bashkortostan. Prof. İhsanoğlu said that in Volga-Ural region and Bashkortostan a historical experience of multi-faith coexistence had nurtured a fertile intellectual environment which offers a wide spectrum of subjects of study. He expressed appreciation of the fact that research interest in the history and culture of the region is heightened, literature is growing, research methodology is systematised and the body of references is being consolidated.

Mufti Talgat Tadjuddin, the Supreme Mufti of Russia and Chairman of the Central Islamic Department, in his speech, referred to the process of the spread of Islam in Volga-Ural region. Islam appeared in these lands more than 14 centuries ago. 450 years ago Bashkortostan joined the Russian state. Thus, then two civilisations and two religions met each other on Bashkir land.

Following the opening speeches, the plenary working session was held where H.E. Mr. Ildus Ilishev, Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Bashkortostan and Minister of Culture and National Policy, gave an address focusing on the state policy of the Republic of Bashkortostan in the sphere of religion. He said the leadership of the Republic addresses issues running from the rights of citizens to satisfaction of their religious needs. The latter is catered to in many ways - hundreds of worshipping places were erected for the adherents of various religions in the Republic and local religious communities were actively working there; the state maintains equal relations with all religious organisations and communities. A council for issues of religion works under the Government to build efficient state-religions relations. The holidays of all religions are recognised by the state and declared days off. At the same time, the state never finances and does not interfere in the activities of religious organisations.

The next speaker at the plenary was Professor Stanislav Prozorov from Russian Academy of Sciences, Research Institute of Oriental manuscripts, in Saint Petersburg, who spoke of "Sufism as a Form



H.E. Murtaza Rakhimov,
President of the Republic of Bashkortostan

of Interpretation and Existence of Islam". Prof. Prozorov said that Sufism is known to be a particular trend in the religion of Islam that began with the 8th century. Sufism possesses many facets and is not uniform much as Islam itself. Nevertheless three subtrends are common in this doctrine – the teaching about a mystical way of acquiring the Holy truth, belief and hope in God, and the doctrine on "sanctity" which promoted the formation and general spread of 'saints' cult'. Prophet Muhammed himself has been a cult as a perfect human being. He said that the followers of Sufist trends and practices were adepts of Islam's different schools, among them the Sunnites and Shiites, as well as representatives of both privileged and lower strata in Muslim society. By way of conclusion Prof. Prozorov said that Sufism can be described as a more profound comprehension of Islam as the purport and meaning of one's life. Sufism occupies an important place in the ideological system of Islam.

At the end of the opening session, the Russian edition of the book titled History of Ottoman State and Civilisation was introduced to the audience. This book was originally published by IRCICA in Turkish, English and Arabic during the 1990-2000s; a Bosnian edition had appeared in 2005. It was translated into Russian and edited by scholars from Moscow State University, and printed for IRCICA by Vostochnaya Literatura, the publishing house of the Russian Academy of Sciences. The two-volume edition, a complete translation of the original book, was launched with a ceremony held at



Mufti Talgat Tadjuddin addressed the meeting



H.E. President Rakhimov
received Dr. Halit Eren at the Presidential Office

Moscow State University on 5 June 2006 in the presence of the Secretary General of OIC Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, the editor of the original edition, Prof. Michael Meyer, Director of the Institute of Asian and African Studies, Moscow State University, Editor of the Russian edition, and officiated by Mr. Aslambek Aslan Khanov, Advisor to the then President of Russia Mr. Vladimir Putin and Mr. Timour Akoulov, State Advisor for International Affairs to H.E. Mintimer Shaimiev, President of Tatarstan. During the opening ceremony of the Ufa congress, the Russian edition was presented to the participants.

Following the opening ceremony, a special exhibition opened on the occasion of the congress was visited by the participants with great interest. It was the exhibition of the archive of the first Religious Administration of Muslims in Russia which was established in 1788 at the order of Tsaritsa Katherina II. On display were the official records of the Administration, copies of the Shura journal which was one of its publications, and various books and documents in Russian, Turkish, Persian and Arabic. The exhibition was opened by Dr. Firdous G. Khisamitdinova, Director of the Institute of History, Language and Literature.

The working sessions started with the plenary, with lectures by Prof. I.G. Khusainov from the Bashkortostan Academy of Sciences, who spoke of the "Influence of Islam on Bashkir Culture", and Prof. G.B. Davletshin from Kazan State University, on "Science in Boljskaya Bulgharia".



Mr. Ildus Ilishev, Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister of Culture and National Policy,
Bashkortostan Republic

Following the plenary, the participants were guided to a visit to the Research Institute of History, Language and Literature, Academic G. Husainov Manuscripts Fund.

The secretarial coordination was done by Ms. Ayna Askarova (IRCICA) and Mr. Narkas Khubitdinova (IIRL).

The working sessions heard the papers listed below, followed by discussions.

Session 1

Nadir Devlet

Islamic Institutions and Activities in the Volga-Ural Region during the 1917 Revolution Period

Kazi Sufiurrahman

Niches in the Muslim Organizations, Religious Leaders and Intellectuals of the Volga-Ural Regions (1861-1925)

Abuzar Khairi

Civilizational Ties Between Volga-Ural Region and Central Asia

Aina Askarova

Islamic Press in the Volga-Ural Region between 1905-1917

Session 2

M. Gabdulgafarova

Islam among Tatars

Ramil Istamgalin

Islamic Communities and their Cultural Principles in the Volga-Ural Region

Salavat Khussainov

Islamic Reform in the Volga-Ural Region during the 18th Century: Its Characteristics and Historical Meaning

Gulnara Gabdrahmanova

The Development of Islamic Economy in Russia

Session 3

Musa Yıldız

A Linguistic and Literary Analysis of Musa Jarullah Bigiev's Adabiyat Arabiyya

Firdous Khisamitdinova

Islamic and Bashkort Mythology

Robert Bayimov

Naqshi Shaykh and Islam

Giniyat Kunafin

Art in Bashkortostan, 12th-16th Centuries

Session 4

Svetlana Iskandarova

Poems in Islam and Diyanat Journals

Guzel Sitdikova

Madonna in Islam

Narkas Khubbittinova

Islamic Traditions in T. Balyaev's Kuz-Kurpyac Story

Ainur Khujakhmetov

Islamic Motifs in Gaysa Husainov's Novels

Session 5

Aisulu Yunusova

Bashkir Moslem Leader Mukhamed-Gabdulkhai
Kurbangalyev as the «The Great Imam» of the Far East

Teyfur Erdoğdu

The Impact of Zeki Velidi Togan on Turkism

Ilyas Kamalov

The Influence of the Golden Horde on Russia

Marat Davletshin

Islamic Civilisation in the Golden Horde According to
G.A. Fedorov-Davidov's Works

Session 6

Salavat Taimasov

The Religious Cooperation of Bashkorts and Kazakhs in
the 18th Century

Dilara Akbasheva

Humanistic Principles of Islam and Their Effects on
Bashkort Society

Narkas Akhmadieva

Religious Life of Bashkortostan Muslims

Gennadii Garustovich

The Beginning of Invitation to Islam in Bashkortostan

Session 7

Özkul Çobanoğlu

An Analysis of the Origin Myth of Bashkorts and its
Variants in the Actual and Historical Contexts of the
Turkic World

Abdüreşit Celil Qarluq

The Effect of Jadid Movement on Uyghurs

İsmail Türkoğlu

The Relations between Russian Muslims and Ottomans
(1876-1917)

İbrahim Maraş

An Analysis of a Survey on the Past after the Bolshevik
Revolution

P. Shablei

Orenburg Muslim Religious Board and Kazakhstan as
regards State and Society

Session 8

Ali Arslan

A Comparison of the Development of the Volga-Ural and
Ottoman Madrasas

M. Farkhshatov

Ahuns in the Official Hierarchy of the Volga Ural Ulama
(18-19th Centuries)

A. Akhatov

Islam in the Volga Ural Region and the Education of
Muslims in the Second Half of 19th Century

G. Sultangalieva

Actions of the First Mufti of Orenburg Muslim Religious
Board in Kazakhstan Steppes

Session 9

Mohd Sanaullah

The Timurid Lyceum: Kaleidoscopes of Historicism and
Hagiography on the Timurid Legacy in Oriental and
Occidental Sources

Abdullah Gündoğdu

Pilgrim and Traveler: Hajnamas from Volga-Ural Region

Mustafa Güler

The Fact of Pilgrimage in the Volga-Ural Region and the
Approach of the Ottoman State towards the Pilgrims
from Volga-Ural

Mehmet Tezcan

About the Volga-Region and its Muslim People at the
Beginning of the 18th Century According to the Journeys
of John Bell of Antermony, a Scottish Physician under the
Service of Russia

Rima Suleimanova

The Problem of Women's Rights in the Works of Muslim
Intellectuals

Session 10

Mustafa Eravcı

The Image of Nogais in the Steppes of the Caspian Sea in
the 19th Century According to English Travels

Hasan Kara, Alper Başer

Astrakhan in the View of English and French Travelers in
the First Quarter of 19th Century

A. Sibgatullina

Pilgrimage in the Volga Ural Region at the Beginning of
19th Century

R. Bulgakov

Rızaaddin b. Fakhraddin's Turkish Manuscripts in the
Archive of the Ufa Branch of the Russian Academy of
Sciences and Its Effects on Islamic Studies in the Soviet
Era

Session 11

A. Gazizova

Rasulia Madrasa: A Work of Sufi Shaykh Zainulla Rasulev

B. Akhmetshin

The Highest Level of Perfection: Zainulla Rasulev in the
Memory of Generations

M. Nadergulov

Written Sources on Zaynulla-Ishan

G. Husainova

Sayings of Akkujins about Zainulla Ishan

B. Paluanov

The Historical Origins of Bashkorts and Karakalpaks

Session 12

Z. Minibaeva- Z. Khabibova

Magical Stick of Muslim Saints

Guzel Valeeva-Suleimanova

Transformation of Tatar Art in the Early 20th Century

E. Gibadullina

The Architectural Characteristics of Samara Mosques in the 19th and 20th Centuries

A. Shirgazin

An Unknown Work of Islamic Architecture: The Wooden Mosque in Yanbaris Village, Bashkortostan Republic

Session 13

Z. Rakhmatullina

The Effects of Islam on Bashkort Culture

L. Yamaeva

Sufism among Bashkorts

F. Fatikhova

Some Judicial and Traditional Norms in the Domestic and Marital Traditions of Bashkorts

Z. M. Davletshina

The Effects of Islam on Bashkort's Daily Life

Session 14

E. Migranova

The Effects of Islam on the Traditional Bashkort Cuisine

M. Suleimanova

Islam and Traditional Bashkort Believers

Ya. Absalyamova

Awliyas (Muslim Saints): The Status of Muslim Saints in Bashkorts, Examples of South Orenburg

I. Minulin

Sufism in Tatarstan: Problems of Continuity in the Soviet Era

Azalia Ilimbetova

The Tradition of "Iuiz-koyimagi" of Bashkorts

Session 15

I. Sharapova

Islamic Festivals in Bashkort Traditional Culture

E. Kosikh

Domestic and Inheritance Relations of Bashkorts in the Russian Empire

Aibulat Yanguzin

Freedom in the Philosophy of Mysticism

R. Urazmanova

Traditions and Feasts of Tatars of Volga-Ural

The symposium participants formulated concluding remarks, in which they underlined the unifying and constructive impact of Islam as a religion of peace and justice and the established tradition and understanding of Islam in Russia reflecting moderation, support of the peaceful coexistence and

dialogue of peoples of different faiths. These features created favourable grounds for the evolution of a rich and diversified scientific, cultural and artistic production in the Volga and Ural region for a millennium. This accumulated civilisational heritage has not been studied and made known thoroughly yet; therefore researches need to continue on its various aspects. Discussions during the symposium underlined that Muslims in Volga-Ural and all over the Russian Federation are endowed with the means and capacities to study, protect and disseminate information on their Islamic values and heritage. Achievements made and gaps and deficiencies observed in the study and teaching of Islamic history and culture were pointed out including the need for specialists in some areas of history and theology, problems experienced, possibilities of cooperation. These and other remarks of the participants were compiled in the form of a declaration, which called for measures towards expanding and disseminating to wider public the researches on history, sociology, ethnology, theology and language. To this aim, among others, a federal almanac titled "Islamic civilisation in Russia: past, present and future" will be instituted and prepared jointly by the the Institute of Language, History and Literature and the Islamic University of Russia. The declaration also called for the establishment of a museum of Islamic culture and arts in the region. Furthermore, the declaration pointed to the need of giving continuity and periodicity to the symposium and enhancing its international character. In this regard, the participants welcomed the invitation by H.E. President Rakhimov to organise the fourth symposium in Ufa.

Within the framework of the cultural programs of the congress, a visit was organised to the house where the prominent Bashkir orientalist and nationalist activist Ahmet Zeki Velidi (Validov) Togan (1890-1970) was born. The house is now preserved as a museum. Educated in Kazan (Tatarstan), Togan published extensively, mostly in Turkish and German, on the history of the Turkic peoples, including his own memoirs (Hatıralar). During the Soviet period his name was associated with reactionary Bashkir nationalism. In the early 1990s his name was rehabilitated in his homeland, where he is now recognised as the father of today's Republic of Bashkortostan.



Shura journal published by the first Religious Administration of Muslims in Russia

SYMPOSIUM ON BAGHDAD (MADINAT AL-SALAM) IN ISLAMIC CIVILISATION

Istanbul, 7-9 November 2008

Baghdad, founded in the 8th century A.D. as the capital of Abbasids, was populated by different races, colours and creeds. Situated at the crossroad of commercial and cultural activities, it produced countless scientists, philosophers, historians and authors and housed the Bayt al-hikma (house of wisdom); remarkable madrasas, booksellers and libraries. Knowledge in all fields brought from the east and the west were melted in a pot, developed and enriched with new contributions. So the city became a major link in the chain of evolution of world sciences and cultures and contributed to universal civilisation in this way until the Mongol destruction after which this role and status it had assumed gradually weakened. The deep sadness felt for Baghdad by peoples of the world since 2004 is coupled by grief over the loss of a treasure of scientific and philosophical heritage.

The symposium which was jointly organised by The Faculty of Theology of the University of Marmara, Umraniye Municipality of Istanbul and IRCICA proposed a reflection on the memory of Baghdad in the light of historical and present-day experiences subsequent to its glory. The meeting drew papers on politics, economy, science and education, religious trends, social and religious life, the status of non-muslims, architecture, art and literature in the following periods:

- Baghdad from its establishment to the Mongol destruction,
- From Mongol destruction to the Ottoman period,
- Baghdad during the Ottoman period,
- Baghdad after the Ottoman period up to today.

The opening ceremony heard the addresses of Mr. Hasan Can, the Mayor of Umraniye Municipality in Istanbul, co-sponsor of the symposium; Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA; Assist. Prof. Mustafa Budak, Deputy Director General of the State Archives of Turkey; Prof. Raşit Küçük, Dean of the Faculty of Theology, Marmara University; Prof. Necla Pur, President of Marmara University; and, H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the OIC.

Eighty-two social scientists from thirteen countries, including Iraq itself and the host country Turkey itself, participated in the symposium.

Director General of IRCICA Dr. Eren outlined the aim of the symposium: generating new researches and reflections towards a deeper understanding of the role of Baghdad in the shared history of the Muslim world and entire human civilisation. He said that in the present reconstruction process after what befell Baghdad in the global politics of

twenty-first century, such reconsideration of the memory of Baghdad can deepen the knowledge of what a successful application of the principles of pursuit of science and but also of multi-cultural tolerance meant, as was achieved in the history of Baghdad under the Abbasid caliphate. It can show how these principles found one of their best expressions in this city following the examples of the Islamic spiritual and political capitals beginning with Madina, abode of the first Islamic state, Makkah and Al-Quds, the two other holy cities in Islam, and the capitals of the successive Muslim states before and contemporary to Baghdad including Damascus, Cordoba, Cairo, and Istanbul. Under their governance peoples of different faiths and cultures coexisted in the lands of Islam. Translating the precepts of Islam in real life these cities became leaders in intellectual advancement of

humankind and also in achieving a dialogue of cultures much sought in today's world. Baghdad contributed significantly in this historical process.

The Mayor of Umraniye district of Istanbul Mr. Hasan Can expressed the belief that the symposium, which drew participants from around the world, will convey through them a message for awareness of the glorious civilisational history of Baghdad, its course of progress and prosperity which was interrupted by the Moghol invasion, then regained its glory during the Ottoman period, but saw another large-scale destruction at the beginning of 21st century, and for the need to reconstruct the city and and restore its glory.

Then, the Deputy Director General of the State Archives of Turkey Assist. Prof. Mustafa Budak was invited to the floor to give information on the exhibition of selected historical documents on Baghdad and Iraq which was put up on this occasion next to the conference hall. Dr. Budak spoke of the constructive civilisations and destructive civilisations in history, referring to the constructive measures and activities implemented during the Ottoman period. The exhibition comprised mostly documents dating from the reign of Sultan Abdulhamid II and relating to the building of infrastructure such as bridges, school buildings, the Hejaz railway, and letters sent by notables of Baghdad to the Sultan upon proclamation of the Second Constitution (1908).

In his address, the Dean of the Faculty of Theology of Marmara University Prof. Raşit Küçük recalled that the great civilisations of the world had established urban centers of importance commensurate with their greatness and evolved from within and around these centers. The terms "city" and "civilisation" are generally used together and in relation with



each other. The study of the history of civilisations involves the study of the history of cities. Such study also involves remembrance, better understanding, and perhaps paying a tribute, centuries later, to the memory of the numerous philosophers, scientists and artists who lived in those cities and contributed to the progress of civilisation. In the different regions Islam spread, at different epochs of its history, major cities were established where a harmonious, often friendly and brotherly coexistence of peoples of different races and faiths was achieved. Baghdad is one of those cities. It symbolizes, from many angles, Islam's spirit and principles reflected in the civilisational history of Baghdad. One of the main reasons for choosing Baghdad as the topic of the symposium is that this city has been in the world agenda in the past and at present; it has seen occupations and destruction as well as periods of glory. Part of its multisided destiny will be highlighted in this symposium. Dr. Küçük

place in the surface of the world. What happened in Baghdad had implications and effects on what happened elsewhere. The Secretary General said that the symposium theme evoked the glories of Baghdad when the fate of the city once more had deep resonances on fate of the region as well as the modus operandi of the world affairs at large. He expressed his hope that though the concerns continue, gradual improvement in the overall situation in Iraq will contribute to provide the necessary conditions for the social, cultural and intellectual reconstruction of Baghdad in the long run. The Secretary General reviewed the steps taken by the OIC to make a positive impact to overcome the problems relating to the unfortunate disaster Iraq and Baghdad faced in the recent years: the convening a conference of reconciliation in Makkah on 20th October 2006 between Iraqi Sunnites and Shi'ites which issued the Makkah Document on Iraq signed by Sunni and Shi'ite scholars in Iraq; opening of a representative office in



Prof. Necla Pur,
President of Marmara University



Mr. Hasan Can, the Mayor of Ümraniye
Municipality in Istanbul



Prof. Raşit Küçük, Dean of the Faculty of
Theology, Marmara University

expressed the hope that this symposium will be the first of a series of meetings on the subject.

H.E. Prof. Necla Pur, President of Marmara University, said that a feeling of deep sadness accompanied the appreciation of the symposium's academic importance, a feeling of sadness and compassion for Baghdad in the face of its present situation. The image of Baghdad in our minds, she said, has always been one of culture, arts and sciences, in all its glory at the time of the Abbasids, and later on account of the magnificent cultural and artistic achievements of the Ottoman period. In the coverage of the different epochs of Baghdad's history, reference is made to the Moghul invasion, but the destruction that has been inflicted on the city today by the USA is far deeper, far more alarming than the invasion by Moghols. Prof. Pur expressed her belief that the last sessions of this symposium, which will highlight the successive epochs in Baghdad's history, will cover, in a most objective manner, the present situation of Baghdad under all its aspects.

H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the OIC, said, in his address, that for him as an academician of history of science, Baghdad meant much more than an ordinary city, and at a very critical period in the rise of the Islamic civilisation it was the centre of education, culture and commerce. It was the House of Wisdom, a most intellectual

Baghdad in July 2008 in a bid to contribute to the promotion of national reconciliation, putting an end to sectarian violence, and establishing security and stability in Iraq, participation in the meetings of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Iraq's Neighbouring Countries initiated by Turkey as well as in the last three Ministerial expanded meetings of the Foreign Ministers with the Permanent members of the UN Security Council. In these meetings the OIC's role in support of Iraq was acknowledged and appreciated. In addition, upon the OIC's initiative, these political meetings called on IRCICA and other institutions such as UNESCO, ISESCO and ALECSO to take initiatives in the field of preservation of the cultural heritage of Iraq. The Secretary General Prof. İhsanoğlu said that the OIC General Secretariat and all OIC institutions will continue to endeavour to extend all possible forms of assistance to Iraq in order to achieve lasting peace and development in this brotherly country and one of the founding members of the OIC.

In the latter part of the opening ceremony, the six awardees of the IRCICA Awards for Excellence in Research 2008 were announced and invited to the floor to receive their award certificates.

The keynote speech of the symposium was given by Prof. Ömer Faruk Akün from the Faculty of Letters, Istanbul University.

The titles of the sessions and the papers (either in English, Turkish or Arabic) were as follows:

FOUNDATION OF BAGHDAD

Ghade Musa Ruzuki al-Slik

The Round [City of] Baghdad in the year 1250

İsmail Yiğit

Some Remarks on Narrations Concerning the Establishment of Baghdad

Antrim Zayde Gordon

Connectivity and Creativity: Baghdad in the Discourse of Place, 3rd/9th - 5th/11th Centuries

Subhi al-Azzawi

Symbolism in the Architecture of Baghdad

POLITICAL-SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS in BAGHDAD

Mehmet Bahaüddin Varol

Impacts of Ahl al-Bayt and Ahl al-Bayt's Policies on the Social and Political Life in Baghdad

Ahmet Güner

Some Images from Baghdad during the Shiite Century or the Buwayhid Age

Vanessa Van Renterghem

Social and Urban Dynamics in Baghdad during the Seljuq Period (mid. 11th mid. 12th c.)

CULTURAL FORMATIONS in BAGHDAD

Oliver Leaman

The Ideology of Madinat al Salam and the Concept of Baghdad in Arab Culture

Husniddin Mamadaliev

Baghdad between the 9th-10th Centuries and its Place in Cultural Life of Central Asian Peoples

Mehmet Mahfuz Söylemez

Cultural Links between Baghdad and Marw

Shamsiddin Kamoliddin

On the Origin of Ibn al-Nadim

MONGOL INVASION and BAGHDAD - I

H. Ahmet Özdemir

For How Many Days Mongols Plundered Baghdad? An Analysis of a Narration

Fatih Yahya Ayaz

Early Mamluk Historians' Narrations and Interpretations about Invasion of Baghdad by Mongols

Jawad Abbasi

Reconstruction of Baghdad after the Mongol Invasion: 'Ata' Malik Juwayni's Tenure of Office (1259-1282)

MONGOL INVASION and BAGHDAD - II

Noori Abdul Hameed Khaleel

The Role of Baghdad in the Acquisition of Islamic Culture during the Mogol Period

Tia Wheeler

Baghdad during Timur's Conquests

İlhan Erdem

Baghdad during the Aq-Qoyunlus [1469-1508]

NON-MUSLIMS in BAGHDAD

Bahjat Kamil Abdullatif Irhaym

Indications of Co-Existence of Muslims and Christians during the Early Abbasid Period [145-221/762-835]

Nuh Arslantaş

Baghdad as a Religious and Administrative Center of Jewish Communities of Middle Ages

Muhittin Macit

The Christian Translators of Baghdad in the 9th and 10th Centuries

INTELLECTUAL FORMATIONS in BAGHDAD

Mustafa Demirci

All Roads Lead to Baghdad: Transmission of Science and Thought of Antiquity

Mohammad Mukhtar Derar al-Mufti

Contributions of Muslim Scholars on the Thought Movements in Baghdad: the Example of Khatib al-Baghdadi's (d. 463/1076) Tarikh al-Baghdad

Sabah Ibraheem Said al-Shaikhli

Scientific Travels during the Late Abbasid Period and Baghdadi Doctors

Najiyah Abdullah Ibraheem al-Arabi

The Scholarly Efforts of the Director of Mustansirriya Library (Hazin al-Kutub) Historian İbn as-Sa'i al-Baghdadi



ECONOMIC STRUCTURE OF BAGHDAD

Ahmet Turan Yüksel

Commercial Structure of Baghdad at the Time of Foundation and its Commercial Relations

Stefan Heidemann

Unislamic Taxes and an Unislamic Monetary System in Seljuq Baghdad

Recep Ulusoy

Ottoman Monetary System and the Baghdad Currency

SUFISM in BAGHDAD

Ekrem Demirli

Tasawwuf at the Capital: The Baghdad School and its Significance in the History of Tasawwuf

Afshan Bokhari

Between Shari'a and Tariqa: 'Gendering' Sufism in Baghdad and Beyond

Yakup Çiçek

Baghdadi Sufis in the Work Titled Tibyan al-wasail'l-Hakaik fi Bayani Selasili't-Taraik

OTTOMAN-IRAN RELATIONS and BAGHDAD

Funda Demirtaş

The Detailed Panorama of Iraqayn Campaign in the Narrations of Celal-zade Mustafa Çelebi

Remzi Kılıç

The Ottomans' Take Over of Sovereignty in Baghdad and Kanuni's Activities in Baghdad

Kioumars Ghereghlou

The Question of Baghdad in the Course of the Ottoman-Safavid Relations According to Safavid Narrative Sources

Mesut Aydınır

The Hard Days of Baghdad: The Eight-month Siege of Nadir Shah

FIQH and ARABIC LANGUAGE in BAGHDAD

Murtaza Bedir

The Rise and the Fall of the Hanafi School of Law in Abbasid Baghdad

Mehmet Nuri Güler

Fiqh Oriented by Mawali versus Fiqh Developed by Arap Reaction during the Early Period of Baghdad

Halil İbrahim Kaçar

The Contribution of Baghdad School of Language and Literature to Islamic Culture

Salih Mahdi Abbas

Efforts Towards Concord in Language in 4th-Century Baghdad

OTTOMAN ADMINISTRATION in BAGHDAD - I

Mustafa Eravcı

Niyazi's *Zafer-Name* and the Activities of Beylerbeyi Ali Pasha

Mustafa Güler

Süleyman Pasha, Governor of Baghdad, and his Activities [1779-1802]

Ebubekir Ceylan

The Report of Abdurrahman Pasha, Governor of Baghdad, Concerning Iraq

Eyüp Baş

Ottoman Administration in Baghdad According to Contemporary Arab Historians

OTTOMAN ADMINISTRATION in BAGHDAD - II

Salih Kh. Mohammad

The Establishment and Activities of the British Consulate in Baghdad in the Ottoman Period

Mahmoud Masri, Nadheer Jabbar Hussein, Ali Shaker Ali

"Arazi-yi Seniyye" in Baghdad during the Reign of Sultan Abdulhamid II (1876-1909)

Hulûsi Yavuz

A Prestigious Project of Sultan Abdulhamid II; Baghdad Railway

OTTOMAN ADMINISTRATION in BAGHDAD -III

Fazıl Mehdi Bayat

Manifestations of Ottoman Administration in Baghdad Province: a Historical Evaluation in the Light of Ottoman Sources and Documents

Fleiah Kaream al-Rekabi, Abdul-Wahied Mishaal Abid

Social Situation in Baghdad Province during the Ottoman Period

Mehmet Akkuş

Turkish Culture in Baghdad and its Surrounding Area according to Hatibi's *Tezkire-i Şuara-i Bagdad*

Hisham Swadee Hashem

Baghdad Towards the End of 19th Century in the Light of Ali Bey's Travel to Iraq Between the Years 1300-1304/1882-1886

PHILOSOPHY and LOGIC in BAGHDAD

Mehmet Bayrakdar

The Baghdad School of Philosophy

Ali Durusoy

A Turning Point in the History of Logic: the Baghdad School of Logic

Ammar Djidel

Baghdad: An intersection of Sciences or the University of the Muslim world

Emily J. Cottrell

From Baghdad and Rayy to Tabriz and Sivas, Through Khorassan: Reading the Classics in the 12th-13th Century

KALAM in BAGHDAD

Hatice Arpağuş

Mutazilite School of Baghdad: the Example of al-Qa'bi

Osman Aydınlı

Baghdadian Mutazilites' Contributions to Islamic Sciences and Thought

Osman Demir

Mutakallimun of Baghdad Mutazilite Sect (Bagdadiyyun) and their Influence on Intellectual and Political Shaping of the Age

FINE ARTS in BAGHDAD

Şeyda Algaç

The Gilded Qurans of Yakut al-Musta'simi in Baghdad
(669-696/1270-1297)

Sheila Blair

Baghdad: Calligraphy Capital under the Mongols

Yuka Kadoi

Baghdad and the East: A Sino-Mongolian Artistic
Connection up to 1400

Zeren Tanındı

The Painted *Shahnama* of the Daftardar of Baghdad

ARCHITECTURE in BAGHDAD

Suphi Saatçi

Mimar Sinan's Works in Baghdad

Abdüsselam Uluçam

Some Examples of Architectural Monuments in Baghdad
during the Ilkhans and Djalayirids Periods

Ahmad Abdulwahid Thanoon Taha

Architectural Features of Mustansirriya Medersa in
Baghdad

TRAVELLERS in BAGHDAD

Abdulwahid Thanoon Taha

The Baghdad Civilisation in the Light of the Travelogues
of Ibn Jubayr and Ibn Battuta

Mehmet Şeker

Baghdad According to Evliya Celebi's Travelogue

Esra Doğan

Baghdad According to Travel Books of Iranian Pilgrims

Hatem Abdel-Rahman Hatem al-Tahawy

Baghdad and its Culture According to Chinese Sources:
The Example of Chau Ju-Kua

BAGHDAD in the MODERN PERIOD - I

Mahmoud Abdulwahid Mahmoud

Baghdad, 1869–1914: A New Glimpse

Davut Hut

The Formation of the Baghdad Branch of the Committee
of Union and Progress and Some Reflections of the
Proclamation of Second Constitution in Baghdad

İsmail Nuri Hamidi

The Attitude of Baghdadi People towards Ottoman Forces
during the First World War (1914-1918)

Osamah A. Noaman al-Doori

The Social Situation of Baghdad during the British
Occupation (1917–1920)

BAGHDAD in the MODERN PERIOD - II

Wissam al-Zahawie

The Cultural Scene in Baghdad and its Socio-Political
Backdrop on the Eve of the Revolution of 1958: A
Personal Memoir

Salih Bıçakçı

From Madinat al-Salam to a New Baghdad: to be the
Other in the New Order, and Security Culture

Usama Nasır al-Naqshibandı

Attacks on Iraqi Manuscripts during the Occupation
Period (1991–2003)

MUSIC in BAGHDAD

Ahmet Hakkı Turabi

A Theorist of Music in Baghdad: Ya'qub Ibn Ishaq al-
Kindi (d. 261/874)

Fazlı Arslan

Baghdad and the Science of Music (Nasır al-Din al-Tusi,
Safi al-Din al-Urmawi and Qutb al-Din al-Shirazi)

Mehmet Nuri Uygun

An Artist and Scholar, Safi al-Din al-Urmawi
Enlightening the City of Baghdad in the 13th Century

Hüseyin Akpınar

Baghdad from the Point of View of Turkish Music

INSTITUTIONS in BAGHDAD

Güray Kırpık

The Foundation, Structure and Operation of Baghdad
Nizamiyya Madrasa

Said Öztürk

Baghdad Waqfs in the 16th Century

Nabila Abdulmunim Dawood

Scientific Mentality in Baghdad Medersas: the
Mustansirriya Example

Bilal Aybakan

The First Mudarris of Baghdad's Nizamiyya Madrasa;
Abu Ishak al-Shirazi

Concluding remarks were given in the last session by Prof. Raşit Küçük, Dean, Prof. Mustafa Fayda, and Prof. Ziya Kazıcı, members of the Faculty of Theology, Marmara University; Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, and Prof. Suphi Saatçi from Mimar Sinan University of Fine Arts.

An exhibition of documents reflecting part of the history of Baghdad, selected and presented by the Directorate of the Ottoman Archives in Istanbul, was opened on the occasion of the symposium.

A book containing the reproductions and Arabic translations of official Ottoman archive documents concerning Baghdad together with historical maps and photographs prepared by Dr. Fadil Bayat from IRCICA was published and distributed to the symposium participants.

A booklet introducing the recipients of the IRCICA Award for Excellence in Research 2008, as well as the award programs of IRCICA since their inception in 1990 and the awardees of the previous years, was also distributed to the participants.

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON "ISLAMIC CIVILISATION IN SOUTH ASIA"

Dhaka, 16-18 November 2008

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and IRCICA, in association with Dhaka University, have organised a symposium on "Islamic Civilisation in South Asia".

H.E. Hon'able Dr. Fakhruddin Ahmad, Chief Advisor of the Government of Bangladesh, graciously extended his patronage to the symposium.

The opening ceremony started with a welcoming address by Mr. Muhammad Imran, Director General (International Organisations), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh. Mr. Imran underlined the importance of convening this scholarly congress in Bangladesh as a result of fruitful cooperation between the Ministry and IRCICA. He conveyed thanks to all those who contributed in its organisation.

Then, IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren thanked H.E. the Honourable Chief Advisor for having graciously extended his patronage to the event which "increases its significance and underlines the importance accorded by their esteemed Government to scholarly and cultural cooperation within the framework of international relations, in particular with the OIC Member States and their academic communities in the present context". The Director General also thanked University of Dhaka for the excellent collaboration in conducting this symposium. He alluded to IRCICA's cooperation with the cultural institutions, libraries and universities of South Asia, foremost among them Bangladesh, Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka. He said one of the significant features of culture in South Asia is the abundance of scholarly and scientific literature produced over the centuries reflecting the long history of intellectual activity in this region. Speaking of Islamic literature in particular, Urdu has been one of the languages which contributed importantly to this literature over history, not only because it is one of the most widely spoken languages of the Muslim world, but also due to the emergence of prominent scholars and writers in various fields from this region.

Prof. Dr. S.M.A. Faiz, Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University, emphasized the importance of the symposium from scholarly point of view. The symposium was officially inaugurated by H.E. Mr. Md Touhid Hossain, the Foreign Affairs Secretary of the Government of Bangladesh, as the Chief Guest. In his address, the Foreign Secretary said that his nation with its thousands of years of history has its deep-rooted conviction in the human spirit and the dignity of human expressions, and that with the infusion of Islam in the mainstream socio-cultural modes of existence, the people of Bangladesh have ascribed an even greater conviction in the equality and universality of core human values. A collective effort should be in place to promote greater understanding and demonstrate commitment to peace and moderation, to

prove that terrorism, fundamentalism, and intolerance are alien to Islam. Mr. Hossain said that "only such actions can prove to the world that Islamophobia is unjust and unfair". He recalled Muslims increasingly realise that their societies would benefit from more dialogues to ensure integration into the global political, economic and intellectual community: "such initiatives will help counter the forces that fuel polarization and extremism and generate ideas on how to overcome these barriers". The Foreign Secretary pointed out that researches and dialogues should be aimed at building respect and understanding among cultures and expressed the hope that the symposium would be another step forward towards that end.

The symposium concretised a project IRCICA had launched years ago, that of maintaining a forum for exchanges between scholars and researchers dealing with various aspects of the history of Islam and Muslim cultures in South Asia, and in this regard, renewing the forum created by the first symposium entitled "Islamic History, Art and Culture in South Asia" which was held in 1986 in Pakistan and organised jointly with the Islamic University Islamabad. The aim and wish were fulfilled thanks to the approval of the Government of Bangladesh and the cooperation extended by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Following the opening session, an Art & Photography Exhibition was inaugurated at Zainul Gallery of Dhaka University. Prof. Dr. S.M.A. Faiz, Vice Chancellor, Dhaka University, inaugurated the exhibition. On display were documentary photographs of Islamic monuments of Bangladesh and works of calligraphy. The photographs, taken by the eminent photographer Mr. Babu Ahmed, demonstrated the architectural and ornamental features of various historical buildings of Bangladesh. Calligraphies by well-known artists from Bangladesh were displayed namely Mr. Murtaja Baseer, Dr. Abdus Satter, Mr. Mohammad Syful Islam, Mr. Ibrahim Mondol, Mr. Arifur Rahman, Mr.

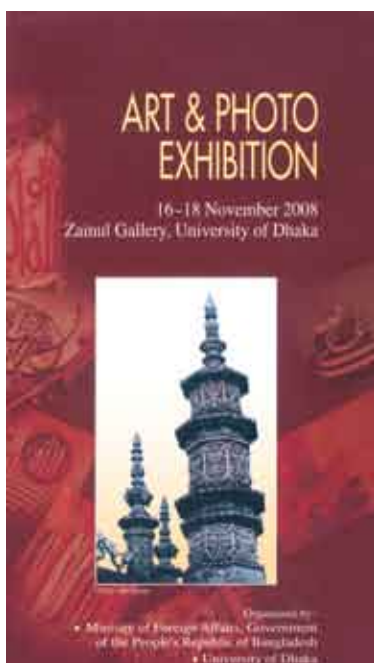


Aminul Islam Amin, and Mr. Mohammad Abdur Rahim. The brochure of the exhibition is enriched by a scholarly Introduction by Prof. Syed Mahmudul Hasan, President of the Islamic Arts Organisation, Bangladesh.

On the last day of the symposium, Dr. Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, Foreign Adviser, received IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren at his office. The talks centered around cooperation between the governmental institutions of Bangladesh and IRCICA: the two parties affirmed their intention to hold other symposiums in fields related to culture and arts in future, the need to intensify the contacts in order to fully cover the Islamic sites and monuments of Bangladesh in the Prince Sultan bin Salman Islamic Architectural Heritage Database maintained by IRCICA, to look into the ways and means of developing cooperation programs between the Department of History of Dhaka University and IRCICA, and, the possibility of training Bangladeshi artists, in particular calligraphers, in Istanbul under the coordination of IRCICA. The Foreign Adviser spoke later to the media affirming that Islamic ethos and values have a natural focus in the nation's history and culture and that Bangladesh has always been participating in the major OIC events and consistently endeavouring to promote the objectives and the spirit of the OIC Charter and the cause of the Islamic Ummah. This meeting, as well as the symposium, were reported amply in the major newspapers, including *The News Today*, *The Bangladesh Observer*, *New Age*, *The Daily Star*.



Dr. Iftekhar A. Chowdhury, Foreign Adviser, Government of Bangladesh, received IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren in his office



The symposium covered a large variety of subjects under its broad theme. A list of the papers presented follows.

Session 1

Khurram Qadir (Pakistan)

"Formation of the Muslim Tradition of Intellectualism in South Asia"

K.M.H. Khalideen (Sri Lanka)

"Islam in Sri Lanka"

Syed Qandil Abbas (India)

"Islamic Resurgence and Islamic Civilization in the Subcontinent"

Session 2

Abdul Rauf (Pakistan)

"Mawlana Shibli Numani's Response to the Contemporary Perspectives"

Mujeeb Ahmad (Pakistan)

"Dawat-i Islami: A Revivalist Movement of Bareilwis"

Sh. Ishtiaque Ahmed (India)

"Shah Waliullah Dehlavi: The Great Pioneer and Revivalist of Muslim Cultures in the Indian Sub-continent"

Maqbool Ahmad Siraj (India)

"Hindu-Muslim Cultural Intercourse in Indian Subcontinent was Rule, Not Exception"

Altaf Qadir (India)

"The War of Independence 1857 and the North-West Frontier: The Struggle of Mujahideen against the English"

Session 3

Ayesha Begum (Bangladesh)

"The Zinjira Mughal Palace and its Architectural Remains"

Durgadas Mukhopadhyay (India)

"Syncretization of Spiritual Traditions in India and Bangladesh"

Syed Minhaj ul Hassan (*Pakistan*)

“Women, War and Peace in Pakhtoons’
Society:
A Religio-Cultural Study”

Habiba Khatun (*Bangladesh*)

“Islamic Architecture of South Asia with
Reference to Bangladesh”

Session 4

Rizwanur Rahman (*India*)

“Sharafuddin Ahmad Maneri: The Patron
Saint of Islam in the Indian Province”

Muhammad Ataur Rahman Miaz

(*Bangladesh*)

“The Role of Sufis in the Preaching of
Islam in Bangladesh”

Syed Akhtar Husain (*India*)

“Amir Khosrow: The Architect of Indo-Islamic Culture”

Abuzar Khairi (*India*)

“Sufis of Central Asian Origin and Indian Culture”

Muhammad Sanaullah (*India*)

“Aspects of Inter and Intra-cultural Mingling in the
Gnostic Sufi Brotherhoods of the Indian Sub-Continent”

Dr. Syed Anwar Hossain (*Bangladesh*)

“Islam in South Asia”

Session 5

Muhammad Iqbal Husain (*India*)

“Arabic Language: A Source of Islamic Civilisation and
Culture in India”

Mirza Asmer Beg (*India*)

“Muslim Educational Institutions in South East Asia”

Mohammad Ayub (*India*)

“Arabic Journalism in India from 1871 to 1960”

Session 6

Mansura Haidar (*India*)

“Introducing Some New Illustrated Manuscripts”

Quzi Azizul Mawla, Fatema Meher Khan (*Bangladesh*)

“Shared Roots of Dhaka’s Urban Morphology:
South Asian
Context”

Arshi Kan (*India*)

“Beyond
Multiculturalism:
Situating the Role
of Islam in India
for Peaceful Co-
habitation”



The symposium program was enriched with a series of instructive cultural visits. One of them was a visit to Lalbagh Fort, an important must-see palace-fort which was built in the second half of 17th century by Prince Mohammad Azam, administrator in Bengal, son of Aurangzeb, the powerful Moghul emperor, and Shayesta Khan, lieutenant for the province of Bengal. The complex of Lalbagh Fort includes other important monuments such as the Tomb of Bibipari, daughter of Shayesta Khan, and the Audience Room and Hammam (bath) used as a museum. The participants also visited Ahsan Manjil, a palace of the Nawabs of Dhaka built in the second half of 19th century, which houses a museum of great beauty. These sites and monuments are attached to the Department of Archeology of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs.

The participants in the congress visited the Islamic University of Technology (IUT) in Gazipur, a subsidiary of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference. The university was initially established as the Islamic Centre for Technical and Vocational Training and Research (ICTVTR) in 1981. Its current name, Islamic University of Technology, was approved by the Twenty-eighth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held in 2001. Its campus is located in a picturesque environment at Gazipur, 30 km. north of Dhaka.



INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON “EMPLOYMENT OF TRADITIONAL HANDICRAFTS IN ARCHITECTURAL PROJECTS: ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS, SPECIFICITIES, AND CONTRIBUTIONS”

Tunis, 27-31 October 2008

Within the framework of IRCICA's program for developing handicrafts in the Muslim world and in view of its objectives of vitalising handicrafts' economic, cultural and traditional aspects, as well as generating more job opportunities for artisans, an international congress on “Employment of Traditional Handicrafts in Architectural Projects: Economic Characteristics, Specificities, and Contributions” was organised in Tunis. H.E. President Zine El-Abidine Ben Ali, President of the Republic of Tunisia, gave his patronage to the event, which was jointly organised by the National Office for Tunisian Handicrafts and IRCICA, in collaboration with the Ministry of Trade and Handicrafts and the Ministry of Culture and Heritage Preservation of Tunisia.

The Secretary General of the OIC Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, during his visit to Tunisia, attended the opening of the congress together with the Minister of Trade and Handicrafts. Addressing the ceremony, the Secretary General stressed the need to pay greater attention to the traditional heritage of the member countries and their real capabilities in order to achieve development and face economic crises. The traditional industries sector is an important sector of investment which provides employment for a large proportion of the workforce without resorting to substantial capital, encourages the tourism business, and brings revenues. It offers a possibility to establish craft villages which motivate the economy through the artisans working there and their products. The Secretary General praised the role played by IRCICA as a major focal point of cooperation for the concerned authorities working in the field of handicrafts development, in particular the special efforts made for enhancing cooperation relationship with the authorities dealing in this developing sector in the Member States. In this vein the Secretary General referred to past experience in organizing, in Tunis, in 1999, the international symposium on traditional carpets and kilims in the Muslim world. He also underlined the importance and called for the continuation of convening such scientific conferences, which bring opportunities for mutual exchanges of knowledge, views and experiences in all important fields of life, with a view to ensuring sustainable development, opportunities for advancement and decent lives for peoples.

Dr. Halit Eren, Director General, IRCICA, pointed to the importance of promoting handicrafts and cultural heritage in the Muslim world, taking into consideration the role and functions it fulfills in development from various viewpoints, including cultural, economic and social aspects. He added that it acts as a bridge of communication among people, in addition to its



H.E. Mr. Rida al-Tuwaity, Minister of Trade and Traditional Industries of Tunisia



H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of OIC
Addressing the audience during the inauguration ceremony

growing role in the economy of most countries, especially in providing job opportunities, activating lines of marketing and exporting, enriching the tourism programs with what it provides of images of innovation and creativity as well as increasing the aesthetic and utilitarian elements in the architectural and municipal facilities. It also introduces the cultural identity which traditional industry products represent, highlighting the features of member countries' societies as compared to other communities. He also pointed out that the activities organised by the Center

earlier in this field were prominent stations in documenting handicrafts, with research led by experts from the field which paved the way for establishing a kind of a data bank on the state of the traditional industry sector in the Muslim world; these activities also generated practical proposals by specialists on how to further advance the sector. He added that IRCICA became a focal point for all subjects relating to crafts and its development in the OIC Member States. He also said that the congress sought to provide an opportunity for policy makers, planners and administrators working in the field of traditional industries, municipalities and constructions to consult and exchange experiences on the means of employing this sector well. Advantage should be taken of the possibilities the sector provides for architecture with all its cultural, economic, tourist and heritage aspects.

H.E. Mr. Rida al-Tuwaity, Minister of Trade and Traditional Industries of Tunisia called upon the experts, architects and artisans to create the equation between the evolution of architecture with its modern scientific merits, the professional skills and the input of local construction materials on one side, and the artistic creations and craft skills which are generated from the culture and heritage of the countries of the Islamic world, on the other side. Turning to the relationship between architecture and traditional crafts in Tunisia, he stressed the keenness of the country to maintain the authenticity of Tunisia in the field of architectural art which constitute a local character of many towns and villages in the country, noting that some craft products had been an important component of some buildings, that artistic creativity has connection with building constructions through, for example, engravings on stone, gypsum, marble and iron works, ceramics and other crafts that are devised in harmony with the geometrical layout of the building. In this context he highlighted the call made by H.E. President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali for urging the public authorities and firms to widely employ the traditional products within the construction and furnishing projects as this would add economic value to these industries and will also bring profits to economic sectors, particularly tourism.

The inauguration day also included the following events:

- Exhibition of handicraft products that could be used in architectural projects in the member countries.
- Presentations of artisans at work.



Mr. Mohamad Bu Said, Director General of the Handicraft National Agency (ONA)

- Exhibition of handicraft projects published in brochures, catalogs and books, which are being used or could be integrated in architectural projects in the member countries.

Participating in this congress were representatives and artisans from OIC member countries, international organisations, specialised centers and institutions, handicraft experts, architects, and specialists from other fields of culture and heritage. The congress examined issues related to tourism, culture and heritage. It also dealt with potential means for a more efficient deployment of the handicraft sector in architectural projects. Moreover, it underscored the fact that considerable revenues could be earned through promoting this sector while preserving its authenticity, and underscored the need to publicise it through all available channels. The objective was to draw a practical and stable promotion policy, insofar as the sector embodies cultural, economic, tourist, and patrimonial dimensions.

Dr. Nazeih Maarouf, Head, Crafts Development Program, IRCICA, as reporter of the congress, presented the report and the recommendations. Mr. Mohamad Bu Said, Director General of the National Office for Tunisian Handicrafts presented the Tunis Declaration.

64 papers were delivered from which the following recommendations were drawn:



One of the working sessions of the Congress

1- The congress underscores that, owing to its past and present and various patterns, its originality in terms of shape, color and technique, as well as its use of environment-friendly raw materials, and the beneficial role it plays in society, the handicraft sector constitutes cultural, patrimonial, tourist and economic assets that can help us face social and economic challenges in our societies, especially in relation to creating job opportunities. Crafts also help vitalise marketing and export, enrich tourist projects insofar as they guarantee constant creativity and innovation and offer aesthetic and practical dimensions to municipal and architectural buildings, and define and demarcate our cultural heritage through handicrafts.

2- The congress also calls for adopting a common strategy for the deployment of handicrafts in contemporary architectural and restorative projects in such a way that they are not cut off from their roots and references. It also asks the municipalities to further deploy handicraft products in new architectural projects, in such a way as to boost the patrimonial, cultural and tourist sectors.

3- Society: The congress highlights the importance of taking care of both male and female artisans, namely those who lack basic means to carry out their work as well as mechanisms to access raw materials; design facilities allowing them to keep up with new models; training and marketing opportunities that would allow them to be better competitors.

The congress also calls for restructuring the handicraft sector in the countries where the sector has not been organised yet as a national and official handicraft institution delineating policies aiming at promoting the sector as well as structuring and advising those who work in it.

4. Economy and Marketing: The congress decides that funding is a major obstacle for handicrafts in many member countries and prevents promoting their activities and projects. The congress also calls all member countries and the funding sources in the private sector to facilitate fund-raising activities and micro-credits to support these projects and provide them with opportunities to maintain the sector's creative and Innovative potentials, which is a fundamental principle in Islamic heritage.



The Egyptian Stand: Artisan Ebrahim Said Hamed showing techniques of his Pottery works

The congress underscores the necessity for effective coordination between the member countries regarding skills exchange, so as to keep up with the changes in demand and offer, as well as the fluctuations of the consumer habits in the world market. This would help open new markets based on novel ideas that would meet society's needs.

It also calls for assisting craftspeople in reaching out both local and world consumers through heightening their awareness of the high demand on their products, as well as their important role in developing society through productivity.

The congress highlights the need for more research on local raw materials in order to avoid importing them and spare producers all additional costs incurred from paying for these materials in hard currency. This would make products available on market at competitive prices and boost their sale and distribution.

5. Tourism: The congress considers tourism as one of the most important sectors generating considerable income for many countries. Therefore, the member countries should reinforce the link between tourism and handicrafts. For instance, it is possible to use architectural, decorative, and ornamental handicrafts in historical monuments and sites for tourism, while at the same time preserving their architectural character, it is important to establish handicraft villages linked to tourism, which should be included, alongside with handicraft shops, in



One of the working sessions

local tourist guidebooks leading, therefore, to an interaction between the artisan and the tourist in such a way to allow the latter to purchase authentic products directly from the craftsman, which would encourage the latter's inventiveness so as to meet the market's needs.

An important prerequisite for the success of cultural tourism and heritage rehabilitation actions is to associate effectively the local populations' and craftpeople's resources.

6. Heritage, Preservation of Authenticity and Traditions, and Cultural Dialogue and Mutual Influence: The congress believes that it is a national and historical duty to go back to roots. It is worth noting that some of the basic elements of civilisation have been overlooked in the process of keeping up with fast international developments.

It also believes that it is highly important to safeguard cultural identity through reinforcing national specificities, and to preserve and develop traditions and guarantee their transmission from one generation to another, especially in today's world in markets' globalisation and technological progress.

Therefore, the Congress calls for working more intensely on restoring, maintaining, and protecting Islamic architectural monuments, as well as insisting on documenting and reviving them by organising regular events so as to preserve their cultural and traditional character. The appropriation of this heritage by local populations is an important condition for the sustainability of such actions.

The congress underscores the necessity to come up with ideas and strategies, which would lead to a sustainable urban and architectural development in such a way as to combine the old with the new in a style not in contradiction with modern taste and contemporary construction methods and materials making use of new technologies.

7. Education, Teaching, Training, and Documentation

The congress, in light of the increase of competition in a world characterised by speed and access of education to all social classes, thinks that the success of any handicraft project has to be based on training the artisan and upgrading their



The Turkish Stand with creative ceramics and Iznik tiles

technical and educational competences, as well as upgrading the trainers' skills.

Therefore, the congress insists on the importance of affiliating the artisan to an educational institution, or the handicraft workshop to an educational service, with a view to provide the craftsman with the opportunity to acquire a comprehensive culture about the concerned craft and basic design principles, improve skills, enhance quality and marketing strategies, and promote customer services in such a way as to allow the craftsman to conquer the market and to deal with national and international customers.

The congress underscores the importance of establishing scientific training programs culminating in certificates reflecting different competence schemes designed by specialised experts in conformity with local standards, both for formal and informal education schemes.

Moreover, the congress puts emphasis on the need for data collections and scientific documentations of handicraft types and techniques together with applied arts for the purpose of setting up a data base for them. It should also be noted that it is important to exchange expertise and skills amongst specialists like scientists, researchers, engineers, crafts people, and professionals.

8. Inventiveness and Importance of Participating in Exhibitions

The congress points out the importance of reviving research and creativity; the preservation of a constant pace of productivity in handicrafts to meet the customer's growing desire for novelty; as well as for modernizing materials, patterns and designs within the boundaries of a modernity deeply rooted in traditions. This should be done through the craftsman's experimentation with new designs and ideas; making decisions with regard to new work methods in such a way as to encourage them to improve the quality and marketability of their products.

The congress encourages exchange visits between the member countries' craftspeople with a view to learn about



Artisan Malik Muhammad Abdul Rehman Naqqash, Pakistan



Master Printer Mr. Arbab Ali Soomro showing his technique in creative traditional Sindhi textile (ajrak)

the new means and techniques used in each country so as to enhance their skills. It also encourages the craftsman to participate in exhibitions, conferences, and international events in order to publicise their products, and meet with importers, interior designers, and representatives of architectural schools always in search for new ideas and products.

9. Role of Government and Efforts of the Private Sector

The congress believes that it is highly important to preserve the technical skills inherited by the artisan over generations, conserve and promote thoroughly this creative skill with a view to maintain cultural continuity between past and present.

For this reason, the congress calls for the Islamic governments to provide the sector with all the necessary needs in terms of financial and moral support and training opportunities; skills, funding and marketing promotion and raw material supply; opportunities of participation in exhibitions and conferences; marketing networks; etc.

The congress also insists on the importance of organising regular exhibitions and encourages female and male artisans to take part in them with products that single them out in such a way as to guarantee competition and inventiveness.

The congress recommends the authorities in member countries to deploy traditional artworks in all major projects, in addition to promulgating legal and regulatory texts which offer opportunities to artisans to participate in public biddings and architectural projects, as well as protecting the artisan's intellectual property including their products, designs, techniques, etc. For this purpose, the congress recommends that national authorities proceed to awareness-raising and information campaigns concerning the implementation of international conventions and standard-setting instruments



Part of the Egyptian Stand

voted by UNESCO member states that can provide a favourable legal framework for arts and crafts.

10. Media's Role in Raising Awareness of the Sector's Importance and Contributions to Society

The congress considers that it is the media's responsibility to promote information programs highlighting the handicraft characteristics as artistic products which can benefit society. Therefore, they have to operate in such a way as to enhance society's education and awareness of the importance of this heritage as a developmental element in our societies which can secure the continuity of our traditions, and making us proud of them in the world. This heritage, if used properly, would generate considerable job opportunities, in so far as it represents a source of great national wealth, fine artistry, special status in our culture and history.

The congress also calls for the integration of educational syllabi in schools to raise the awareness of our children about the potentials of handicrafts and their importance and status

in society leading, therefore, to deepening one's consciousness of the positive impact of this sector.

The congress, finally, called on the member countries to follow up the implementation of these recommendations.



Part of the participating delegations

SYMPOSIUM ORGANISED JOINTLY BY THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND IRCICA: "GLOBALISATION AND IMAGES OF THE OTHER: CHALLENGES AND NEW PERSPECTIVES FOR HISTORY TEACHING IN EUROPE?"

Istanbul, 30 November-2 December 2008

Within the framework of the Council of Europe's project titled "The Image of the Other in History Teaching", the Council of Europe and IRCICA jointly organised the symposium on "Globalisation and images of the Other: challenges and new perspectives for History Teaching in Europe?" The symposium was held on IRCICA's premises and in the halls of Yıldız Technical University, in Yıldız Palace, with nearly one hundred participants, on 30 November-2 December 2008. The meeting proceeded in three parallel sessions of working groups and round-tables.

The project on "The Image of the Other in History Teaching" the symposium was part of aims "to promote, by means of educational policy measures and proposed strategies and methods, an approach to teaching and learning history that reflects the increasing cultural and religious diversity of European societies; to contribute to reconciliation, acknowledgement, understanding and mutual trust between different cultures and outlooks and to overcome stereotypes and prejudices by promoting the values of tolerance, openness to and respect for others, human rights and democracy." (from the Council of Europe, History Teaching website)

In his welcoming address at the opening ceremony the Director General Dr. Halit Eren said that IRCICA's participation in the project followed from its concern with themes relating to intercultural relations and dialogue on which the Centre has been conducting various types of activities. One of the latter is a project to examine and if necessary revise the history textbooks used in the member countries of OIC-IRCICA, with respect to references to each other; this project is conducted in stages defined on the basis of regions and in cooperation with the concerned countries' governments. Another project, equally important, is concerned with the coverage given and references made to the Muslim countries and peoples in the textbooks used in countries and regions outside of the OIC member countries. Therefore, IRCICA's participation in the Council of Europe project added a new significant dimension to its involvement in this field. The Director General expressed his appreciation to Ms. Gabriela Battaini-Dragoni, Director

General of Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe, and Dr. Jean-Pierre Titz, Head of the Division of History Education, Council of Europe, for the collaboration extended to IRCICA within the framework of the project. He conveyed his gratitude to the Rector of Yıldız Technical University Prof. İsmail Yüksek for the cooperation extended towards the organisation of the meeting.

In her address at the opening ceremony, Ms. Gabriela Battaini-Dragoni, Director General of Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport, Council of Europe, said that in the course of the last few years and especially since the Warsaw Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe, intercultural dialogue had become one of the Council's priority themes of work. She referred to the White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue on the theme "Living together as equals in dignity" which was adopted by the Foreign Ministers of the Council of Europe in June 2008, and which she had coordinated. She cited three key messages of the document. The first one is the White Paper's underlining in particular that intercultural dialogue rests on the basis of values shared by all; i.e. the universal human rights, democracy, and the rule of law are values that govern the others. The second message is that of equal value and dignity. Lastly, she stressed that promotion of intercultural dialogue is the responsibility of everyone – of the individual and the social group. The White Paper clearly shows why and how intercultural dialogue must involve all agents of society – individuals, national governments, local and regional public authorities, civil society, religious communities, the media. History and the teaching of history acquire special significance in this context: in most cases of intercultural encounters the first exchanges are often related to history. Ms. Battaini-Dragoni recalled in this respect that the first discipline in which the Council of Europe began educational cooperation, as early as in 1950, was history teaching.

Senator Cecilia Keaveney, Parliamentarian (Ireland), member of the Committee on Culture, Science and Education of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, pointed out that the coming together of so many experts, in the historic



city of Istanbul, in a hall that is history itself, being built to accommodate the meetings of foreign missions, to discuss the image of the Other, was as relevant as it ever had been. She spoke of the Report she had been asked to write, as a member of the Committee, on "Teaching History in Areas of Recent Conflict" (which was to be brought before the Plenary Session in January 2009). Her Report asks political questions around

assisting the development of tolerance of diversity through history teaching and contains draft recommendations. Senator Keaveney said that peace is a slow process politically but it is also a process in education terms as communities are facilitated to learn about “the Other”. She underlines that “history teaching is a tool and interventions are needed as to what is taught and how it is taught.”

The Governor of Istanbul Mr. Muammer Güler was invited to the stage. He welcomed the participants to Istanbul, a world city and Capital of World Culture 2010. He expressed his pleasure to see that the meeting, organised by the Council of Europe and IRCICA, is being held in Istanbul, and in Turkey, a state which is member to both organisations. He said that Istanbul was the capital of three empires and a land of coexistence of all religions and all cultures for centuries. In history, globalisation could be understood as the expansion of trades, sovereignties, and religions. But in our time globalisation indicates far more complex a phenomenon encompassing the totality of economic, cultural and political processes taking place in the world. Amidst these processes, cultural interactions, images of culture, acquire utmost significance. Objective and realistic history teaching has a prominent role to play in shaping true images of the Other. Therefore, history teaching must evolve around the axis of dialogue.

Over two and half days, the meeting proceeded in three parallel sessions of working groups and round-tables. The themes of the two round-tables, which heard papers presented by experts from the countries, were “Globalisation and the role of History Teaching in a new context?” and “Pedagogical innovations and reforms strategies with a view to taking into account globalisation in history teaching. The Plenary session synthesised the earlier discussions, discussed on the issue of “Training actors of history learning” and adopted the Conclusions and recommendations of the meeting.



The White Paper document mentioned by Ms. Battaini-Dragoni, Director General of Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe, states that the current project in the field of history teaching, i.e. the project “The Image of the Other in History Teaching”, will be continued and developed: “The Council of Europe will continue the project and consider broadening its scope particularly through cooperation with Unesco, Aleco and the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA)” (p. 44).

IRCICA participates in international efforts aiming to review and follow the references to Islam and Muslim nations in publications, especially history books, around the world. This activity corresponds at the same time to the tasks assigned to IRCICA within the framework of the implementation of the OIC’ Ten-Year Program of Action on subjects relating to the image of Islam and Muslim countries in the world. The Centre’s participation in the project titled “The Image of the Other in History Teaching” of the Council of Europe comes in this context. Thus in the past years the Centre participated in the seminar on “Contact and interaction: the image of the Muslim world in history learning in Europe” (Strasbourg, 9-10 October 2006) and the symposium on “Learning History to Understand and Experience Cultural Diversity Today” (Strasbourg, 29-30 October 2007) which constituted the first-year activities of the project “The Image of the Other in History Teaching”. In 2008 the Centre participated in the second stage of this project, a stage titled “History Teaching in Europe: the image of the Other in the context of Globalisation”: in the seminar held in Strasbourg on 27-28 March 2008 and the third meeting of the Ad hoc Group on History Teaching held in Strasbourg on 23-24 April 2008.

The Council of Europe has 47 Member States. Albania, Azerbaijan, and Turkey from among the OIC Member States, and Bosnia and Herzegovina from among the OIC Observer States, are also members of the Council of Europe.



VISITS, MEETINGS

Sheikh Sultan bin Tahnoun al-Nahayan, Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Tourism Authority, visited IRCICA

The Centre was honoured to receive, on 19 December, His Highness Sheikh Sultan bin Tahnoun al-Nahayan, Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Tourism and Heritage Authority, together with Mr. Mohammed Khalaf al-Mazrouei, Director of the Abu Dhabi Culture and Heritage Authority, high officials, and the Consul General of the United Arab Emirates in Istanbul H.E. Mr. Isa Masud. The distinguished guests were briefed on the preparations ongoing at the Silahhane Building, where the Centre is setting up an e-library. They visited Çit Qasr, and received information on the research programs and publications. H.H. Sheikh Sultan bin Tahnoun al-Nahayan expressed his pleasure and appreciation taking note of the Centre's activities on a wide range of subjects.



Visit of His Highness Sheikh Majid bin Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum, Chairman of the Dubai Culture and Arts Authority

His Highness Sheikh Majid bin Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum, Chairman of the Dubai Culture and Arts Authority, visited IRCICA on 18 December 2008. The accompanying delegation comprised Mr. Adil al-Shaarid, Executive Chairman of the Mohammed bin Rashid Program for Leadership Development, Dr. Mohammed Ahed bin Fahd, Dean, Dubai Police Academy, Mr. Jamal bin Houaireb Al-Muhairy, Cultural Advisor at the Executive Office, Dubai Government, and Mr. Marwan bin Bayat, Director of the Cabinet of Sheikh Majid. The guests were accompanied by Mr. Isa Masud, Consul General of the United Arab Emirates in Istanbul. Sheikh Majid was guided by Dr. Halit Eren to the three buildings of IRCICA's premises – Yaveran Qasr comprising its research sections, Çit Qasr where the conference and exhibition halls and the rare books section of the library are located, and Silahhane Building, where the Centre's library is being re-arranged and endowed with electronic technology within the framework of a project funded by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid



al-Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and Emir of Dubai. Sheikh Majid received information on the on-going activities in each of these sections, especially the e-library project funded by his father, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum.

A welcoming ceremony was organised at Çit Qasr, where Dr. Halit Eren gave an address, speaking of the activities of IRCICA in general and the e-library project in particular. Sheikh Majid expressed his pleasure to have visited the Centre and received first-hand information on its activities.

Visit of H.E. Prince Abdulaziz bin Jassim bin Hamad al-Thani, of the State of Qatar, to IRCICA



H.E. Prince Abdulaziz bin Jassim bin Hamad al-Thani, of the State of Qatar, visited IRCICA on 12 September 2008.

The distinguished guest received first-hand information on the Centre's activities. He visited the library which is under installation in the spacious building recently allocated to the Centre by the Turkish Government. Director General Dr. Halit Eren briefed H.E. the Prince on the various collections of the library.

Visit of a ministerial delegation from Malaysia

The Centre was honoured to receive on its premises Dato' Mohammed Kamal Yan Yahaya, Deputy Secretary General, and Mr. Ahmad Jazri Mohammed Johar, Undersecretary (in charge of relations with the OIC), from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, on 19 December 2008. The delegation was guided by Director General Dr. Halit Eren to the various departments of the Centre where they were briefed by the staff in charge on the different projects and publications. The talks centered around the idea of organising a congress on the history and heritage of Islamic civilisation in Southeast Asia jointly by the Government and the academic institutions of Malaysia and IRCICA. The visit was also an occasion to recall the various activities organised jointly in the past years.



Visit of a delegation from Juma al-Majid Centre for Culture and Heritage, Dubai

A delegation from Juma al-Majid Centre for Culture and Heritage, United Arab Emirates, visited IRCICA on 20 December 2008. It was composed of Mr. Mohammed Yasser Amroh, Assistant Director General, Dr. Bassam Daghestani, Director for Restoration, and Dr. Hadi Ahmed, Director of Heritage. Extensive talks were held with the delegation on the ongoing and envisaged future cooperation between Juma al-Majid Centre and IRCICA. One of the main areas of cooperation being developed presently is related to the restoration of historical Islamic manuscripts located in various regions within and outside the Muslim world. The delegation was in Turkey on the occasion of Sheikh Juma al-Majid's visit to Konya on the occasion of the inauguration of the restoration unit, established with funding from his Centre, at the Library of Manuscript Works in Konya. H.H. Sheikh Majid bin Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum, Chairman of the Dubai Culture and Arts Authority, inaugurated the unit.

BAGHDAD **in the light of Ottoman Archive Documents**

prepared by Dr. Fadil Bayat, History of Muslim Countries in the Light of Ottoman Archives Series 2,
IRCICA, Istanbul, 2008, 142 p., photographs, maps (in Arabic)

This is a collection of historical documents, maps and photographs concerning Baghdad selected from the Ottoman Archives in Istanbul affiliated with the General Directorate of State Archives, Prime Ministry of Turkey. It was prepared by Dr. Fadil Bayat, expert at IRCICA, and launched during the congress on “Baghdad in Islamic Civilisation” which was organised jointly by Marmara University and IRCICA with the cooperation of Umraniye Municipality and held in Istanbul on 7-9 November 2008. The documents and other materials contained in the book reflect part of the history of Baghdad during the last couple of centuries in the Ottoman period and will serve as a useful reference for researchers. The Preface by Dr. Halit Eren explains the reasons for emphasising the Ottoman archive documents as primary sources reflecting the facts and events, the features and particularities of the Ottoman period as reflected in Baghdad at that time.

The book begins by Dr. Bayat's introductory article on the «Characteristics of the History of Baghdad during the Ottoman Era» which is a glimpse at the history of the city from the beginning of Ottoman administration in 1534 until the British occupation in 1917. The documents which are reproduced and translated in the book were chosen from the Mühimme registers contained in the Ottoman Archives; these registers comprise the decrees issued by the Divan-ı Hümayun (corresponding to the Prime Ministry) under the chairmanship of the Sadrazam (Grand Vizir), which were then submitted to the Sultan's approval and circulated on his behalf to the parties concerned for implementation.

A second group of documents were selected from various collections of the Archives and include statistical tables copied from the Devlet-i Osmaniye Salnamesi (Almanach of the Ottoman State) the Nazaret-i Maarif Salnamesi (Almanac of the Ministry of Education), the Bağdat Vilayeti Salnamesi (Almanac of Baghdad Province). Photographs taken during the Ottoman period and



reflecting various features of the city are also included, together with various maps of the city.

The documents do not cover any specific aspect of the city but general themes about its history in various periods. These themes constitute the titles of the chapters.

The statistical tables included in the book were compiled from the Almanac of Baghdad Province for the year 1897 reflecting the administrative, judicial, social and financial organisation of the city, and from the Almanac of the Ministry of Education concerning the educational establishments of Baghdad at the beginning of 20th century



A bridge on Tigris River, 1903

**Proceedings of the International Symposium on
Islamic Civilisation
in Volga-Ural Region**

Kazan, 24-26 June 2005, IRCICA, 2008
(in Russian, English, Turkish)

This book contains the research papers that were presented during the Second International Symposium on Islamic Civilisation in Volga-Ural Region, which was held in Kazan, Tatarstan (Russian Federation) on 24-26 June 2005. The papers are published in their original languages, either Russian, English or Turkish, cited here in the order of number of papers in each.

Under the patronage of the President of Tatarstan His Excellency Mintimer Shaimiev, in the presence of Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the OIC, and with the cooperation of governmental and academic circles concerned from the Russian Federation and Tatarstan, the symposium enjoyed high academic quality and a remarkable rate of participation. It succeeded in generating studies on a large variety of topics on key constituents of culture in the Volga-Ural region including the written sources that constitute the Volga-Ural intellectual heritage, religion, ethno-cultural identity, ideological movements, high culture, arts and architecture, the multi-cultural influences and the Islamic component in the formation of these processes. Besides, the congress was placed within the framework of the commemoration program of the millennium of Kazan City. The first congress in the series was also held in Kazan in 2001, under the patronage of the President of Tatarstan H.E. Mintimer Shaimiev, and its proceedings were published by IRCICA.

The present book was launched during the third congress on this theme which has been held in Ufa, Bashkortostan, under the patronage of H.E. Murtaza Rakhimov, President of the Republic, on 14-16 October 2008. It contains interesting and instructive articles and also the speeches delivered at the opening by the President of Tatarstan Mintimer Shaimiev, OIC Secretary General Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, and IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren.

