



# Newsletter



OIC RESEARCH CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC HISTORY, ART AND CULTURE

## **Congresses, workshops**

International Congress on Islamic Archaeology convened in  
Islamabad, Pakistan

2011 Annual Seminar of the "Al-Quds/Jerusalem 2015"  
Program of architectural studies and workshops

The Forum of the Most Famous Calligraphers of the  
Holy Quran organised by the King Fahd Complex for Printing  
of the Holy Quran, and IRCICA's participation,  
Madina, Saudi Arabia

International Symposium on "The Role of Ottomans and  
Modern Turkey in Islamic Culture and Civilization" organised  
jointly with Marmara University and the Union of Islamic  
Universities, in Istanbul

West Asia - North Africa (WANA) Forum's regional workshop  
on the *Hima* held at IRCICA

## **Handicrafts festivals**

Doha International Handicrafts Festival organised jointly  
with the Ministry for Culture, Arts and Heritage of Qatar

Muscat International Festival for Arts, Heritage and Creativity,  
jointly organised by the Municipality of Muscat,  
Sultanate of Oman, and IRCICA

## **Exhibitions**

Exhibitions of historical photographs of Afghanistan  
and Yemen

Art exhibitions at IRCICA

## **Meetings, cooperation**

## **Book survey**

# Newsletter



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

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## **Editor in Chief**

Halit Eren

## **Editorial Board**

Zeynep Durukal  
Mohammed Tamimi  
Fayçal Benaissa  
Mihin Lugal

## **Address**

Yıldız Sarayı, Seyir Köşkü  
Barbaros Bulvarı,  
Beşiktaş 34349  
İstanbul, Turkey

Tel. (90 212) 259 17 42

Fax (90 212) 258 43 65

[www.ircica.org](http://www.ircica.org)

[ircica@ircica.org](mailto:ircica@ircica.org)

## **Graphic Design**

Said Kasımoğlu

## **Printing**

Ultra Grafik

[ultragrfk@gmail.com](mailto:ultragrfk@gmail.com)

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## EDITORIAL

This issue highlights the activities conducted by IRCICA during the period of January-April. The first major event of 2011 was the Islamic Archaeology Congress, organised jointly with the National Institute for Historical and Cultural Research, in Islamabad, Pakistan. After the first congress on Islamic Archaeology which was held at IRCICA, Istanbul in 2005, the Islamabad congress refreshed the interest and revived the joint effort towards promoting the study of archaeology relating to the Islamic period as a distinct field by itself, in accordance with the objectives formulated at the start. Furthermore, while it drew contributions from all periods and regions that Islamic archaeology covers including the Ottoman and the Central Asian, it underscored especially the South Asian dimension in Islamic archaeology reflecting both its vast materials and the advanced state of studies and publications. With an excellent profile of research presented by the participating faculty combined with expert presentations by museologists from the region and around, the congress was a remarkable contribution to Islamic Archaeology.

During the same period IRCICA also co-organised two festivals of Handicrafts - a subject largely within the range of focuses of Archaeology. The first festival, namely the Doha International Festival for Handicrafts was organized jointly with the Ministry for Culture, Arts and Heritage of Qatar. The second event was the Muscat International Festival for Arts, Heritage and Creativity, jointly organized by the Municipality of Muscat (Oman), and IRCICA. These were multimedia events comprising seminars, awards and exhibitions. We are preparing their proceedings for publication in the form of books as was done for earlier festivals and seminars on Handicrafts.

Another major event of the period was the 2011 Annual Seminar of the "Al-Quds/Jerusalem 2015" Program which was implemented by IRCICA's Department of Architecture and Heritage. The program's annual seminars are held with one-year intervals and generally made to coincide with the semester break in most universities around the world in order to make possible a mid-year review of the research and studio works

and project assignments that the partner architectural faculties are conducting during the academic year. This and the other programs of the same Department involve field studies directed with the aim of increasing the awareness of new generations of architects about combinations of multicultural heritage in urban contexts of coexistences of cultures. Such studies are carried out through summer workshops. Their findings often inspire topics for the above-referred research and studio projects. A system is thereby established of interactive and coordinated projects which becomes attractive for participants from different cultural backgrounds. This issue contains an outline of the activities of this year's Annual Seminar.

In each of the recent Newsletters we announced new publications resulting from our various research projects. Among them were: the critical edition with indexes, of the book *Sullam al-Wusul ila Tabaqat al-Fuhul (The Ladder of Elevation to the Lives of the Great and Famous by Generation)* by Katib Chalabi (edited and Introduction by Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu), the book based on documents from the Ottoman archives titled *The Arab provinces in Ottoman Documents* (prepared by Fazıl Bayat), the *World Bibliography of Translations of the Holy Quran in Manuscript Form-II, Translations in Urdu* (prepared by Ahmad Khan), and *History of the Literature of Medical Sciences during the Ottoman Period* in the series of bio-bibliographies titled *History of Ottoman Scientific Literature* edited by E. İhsanoğlu and prepared at IRCICA's Department of Studies on Bibliographies and Manuscripts. It is noteworthy that in the latter series IRCICA has very recently published the volume titled *History of Ottoman Astrology Literature*, which also contains a supplement to the volumes on astronomy, and another volume, which comprises supplements to earlier volumes on the other sciences. Thus the number of volumes published in this series reached 17. A last volume, to contain the indexes, is in preparation. The last two volumes published are introduced in this issue. Other publications are due to appear this year - you will find their outlines in forthcoming issues.

Dr. Halit Eren

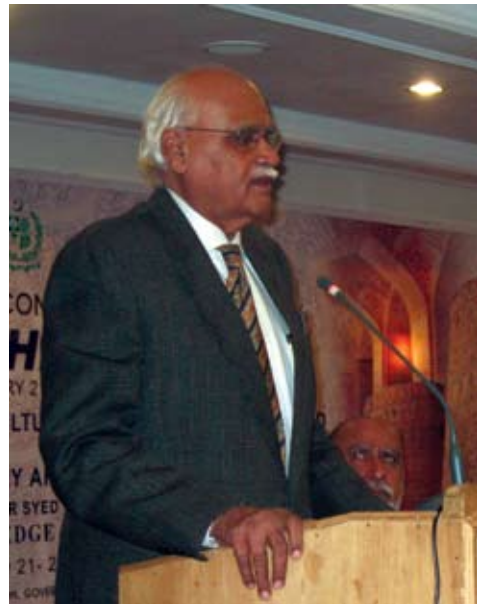
## CONGRESSES, WORKSHOPS

### **The Second International Congress on Islamic Archaeology held jointly with the National Institute for Historical and Cultural Research, Islamabad, Pakistan**

The Second International Congress on Islamic Archaeology convened in Islamabad, Pakistan, under the patronage of the Prime Minister of Pakistan H.E. Mr. Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani. The congress was organized jointly by IRCICA and the National Institute of Historical and Cultural Research (NIHCR) of Pakistan, on 21-23 January 2011. It was placed within the framework of the "Pakistan Knowledge Festival" that the Ministry of Education hosted in Islamabad. The Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education of Pakistan extended sponsorship to the congress and the accompanying cultural activities.

Scholars and specialists of history, archaeology, museology and connected fields and the representatives of cultural and art centers participated in the congress. The presentations covered a wide range of subjects relating to the different phases and regions of the Islamic period, communicating findings of research and excavations. An interdisciplinary forum of discussion was established. The conference focused specially on excavations and the conservation of archaeological sites. Fields connected to archaeology which have been influential features in the Muslim world such as urbanisation, architecture, surface decoration, and numismatics were given weight within the session themes together with such aspects as regional specificities, intangible heritage such as music and folklore, museology and documentation of artifacts. There were a total of thirty-four contributions to the congress. The participants were from administrative departments concerned, universities and museums of Pakistan, and from Azerbaijan, Egypt, Hong Kong, Iran, Italy, Kazakhstan, Macedonia, Nepal, Russia, Turkey and Uzbekistan.

Dr. Khurram Qadir, Director of NIHCR, addressed the inaugural session, briefing the audience on the preparations for the congress for which NIHCR and IRCICA had joined hands for about two years. Dr. Qadir said that from the viewpoint of the NIHCR, engagement in the field of Islamic archaeology followed the objective that the conference would highlight the Muslim roots of Pakistan archaeology in comparison with other parts of the Muslim world and at the same time facilitate the understanding of those aspects of archaeology which do not derive from Muslim tradition and Islamic perspective. Dr. Qadir said that like all congresses the present one was also a community-building exercise which would hopefully revitalize



Pir Aftab Hussain Shah Jilani,  
Minister for Culture, Government of Pakistan

and enhance interactions between archaeologists dealing with the Islamic period and geography. He added that they had tried "to bring to the attention of the community of archaeologists the potential of using their knowledge for the advancement of the understanding of history and culture and conversely, to bring to the knowledge of historians the possibilities of taking part in the study of archaeology and gaining assistance from the knowledge and resources of scholars in archaeology."

Professor Dr. Masoom Yasinzai, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the NIHCR and Vice-Chancellor of Quaid-i Azam University, welcomed the participants, those having traveled from abroad and those from Asia, Europe and from Muslim-minority regions as well as those from various parts of Pakistan. Prof. Yasinzai said that the field of archaeology is an important source of knowledge regarding the past which uses technical assistance of many scientific disciplines: "In a sense it is a bridge between natural and social sciences that studies society and technology as well as material and spiritual culture." Prof. Yasinzai spoke of Quaid-i Azam University, which for nearly half a century has been making concerted



efforts to produce research scholars of international standards to serve the countries' academic needs. The University, counted as one of the top universities of the world, is disseminating higher education in both the faculties of Social and Natural Sciences. Among numerous theses and dissertations in post-graduate studies, the University so far produced three theses in the Departments of History and Pakistan Studies about the Organisation of the Islamic Conference along with many on the Islamic world and Islam. As to the NIHCR, Prof. Yasinzai commended the achievements of this Institute in preserving knowledge of the history of Pakistan through its publications and conferences and expanding its domain of functions to the international horizon through its partnership in the Archaeology Congress.

IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren briefed the audience on IRCICA's activities and its cooperation with the government and the cultural institutions in Pakistan which goes as far back as the 1980s. The first joint event was the International Seminar on Islamic History, Art and Culture in South Asia which was organised in cooperation with the Islamic University Islamabad in 1986. As to the Archaeology Congress, the first congress had taken place in Istanbul in 2005, under the patronage of the Prime Minister of Turkey, H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. Thirty-five papers were presented and a number of recommendations were issued. One of the recommendations was that the second congress be held in Pakistan, where the region teemed with archaeological heritage and the level of education was high.



(From left) Dr. Khurram Qadir, Pir Aftab Hussain Shah Jilani, Prof. Dr. Masoom Yasinzai, Dr. Halit Eren

H.E. Pir Aftab Hussain Shah Jilani, Minister of Culture of Pakistan, delivered an opening address in which he said that Pakistan's culture relied on the unity that arose from cultural diversity. The people of Pakistan speak different languages, wear different clothes and have different holidays and ceremonies but they are enlightened with the Islamic understanding of respect for humanity. The Minister emphasized that this congress was of vital importance for Pakistan which occupied a special place in the history of Islam and concluded by saying that they were ready to support each and every step to discover and protect Islamic archaeological heritage and pass it on to future generations.

The working sessions were titled as follows: Excavations and Surveys; History of Conservation and Preservation; Urban planning; Markets, Universities and Hospices; Architecture: Mosques, Shrines and Necropolises; Architecture: Forts and Palaces; Regional Archaeological and Historical Studies; Surface Decoration and Artefacts, Coinage; Manuscripts and Calligraphy; Arts, Music and Folklore.



## 2011 Annual Seminar of the Al-Quds/Jerusalem 2015 Program

The Annual Seminar of the Al-Quds/Jerusalem 2015 Program of architectural studies and workshops was organised on 27-30 January 2011 in Istanbul. 2010's program was held exactly one year ago, with studios, visits to archives, and the annual meeting of the Al-Quds/Jerusalem Program's Executive Council.

An international collaborative network comprising architectural faculties in the OIC Member States, Europe and the USA is engaged in this program. The latter integrates four key components: studies in history, upgrading the living conditions of Muslim population, rehabilitation of Islamic buildings heritage, and promoting Haram al-Sharif through proper presentation of Al-Aqsa Museum and Library.

This year's event was a Seminar with special features, including the development of initial concepts for restoration projects of some key monuments: Khan al-Sultan and Suq al-Qattanin. These concepts will guide subsequent studio works to be done in relation with these monuments in various faculties of architecture during the academic year.



L-R: Prof. Murat Soygeniş, Dean, Fac. of Architecture, Yıldız Technical University, Dr. Eren, and Prof. Ahmet Hadrovic, Dean, Fac. of Architecture, Sarajevo University

Prof. Murat Soygeniş, Dean of the Faculty of Architecture of Yıldız Technical University, and Prof. Ahmet Hadrovic, Dean of the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Sarajevo were present at the opening session. Addressing the seminar IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren said that what was being done in the context of this program was followed with interest and appreciation by the OIC Member States by academic and architectural circles around the world. "This is due to the originality of the program, its authentic and innovative nature.

It also owes largely to the effective collaboration deployed by the network of universities cooperating with the Centre."

After the introductory speeches, there was a panel titled: "History, Archive, Architecture" where the speakers were Dr. Mohammad Ghosheh, a specialist of the waqfs (charitable foundations) of Al-Quds, Dr. Ihsan Elrabbae from Jordan, a specialist of Al-Aqsa Mosque architecture, Prof. Mehmet Ipsirli, historian of the Ottoman period, and Dr. Önder Bayır, Director of the Ottoman Archives Department of the Turkish Prime Ministry's Directorate General of State Archives.

The program continued with sessions and studios conducted by ten professors: Prof. Arch. Amir Pasic, Head of the Department of Architecture and Heritage, Prof. Ahmet Hadrovic, Prof. Murat Soygeniş, Dr. Mohammad Ghosheh, Dr. Ihsan Elrabbae, Dr. Adia Idrizbegovic, Ms. Lana Kudumovic, Dr. Cengiz Tomar, Dr. Zeynep Gül Ünal, Dr. Banu Çelebioğlu. Twenty-five students participated in the program.



L-R: Dr. Ihsan Elrabbae, Dr. Tahsin Tahaoğlu, the participants



R-L: Prof. Amir Pasic, and the participants



## The Forum of the Most Famous Calligraphers of the Holy Quran organised by the King Fahd Complex for Printing of the Holy Quran, and IRCICA's participation, Madina, Saudi Arabia

The King Fahd Complex for Printing of the Holy Quran has organised a large-scale Forum of the Most Famous Calligraphers of the Holy Quran, which was held in Medina, Saudi Arabia, from 26 April to 2 May 2011. The forum was aimed at bringing high profile Quran calligraphers together for an exchange of ideas and professional experiences, studying the history of the Holy Quran calligraphy, and, honoring calligraphers from all countries who are specialized in copying the Holy Quran in recognition of their services. The forum comprised exhibitions, lectures and workshops.

The forum events were inaugurated by Sheikh Saleh bin Mohammad Al-Sheikh, Minister of Islamic Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and supervisor of the King Fahd Complex for Printing of the Holy Quran, with a comprehensive address. The inaugural ceremony also heard the address of Dr. Muhammad Al-Oufi, Secretary General of King Fahd Complex for the Printing of the Holy Qur'an, who spoke on the forum, its objectives and constituent events, and the activities of the King Fahd Complex in general.



The opening: The Minister of Islamic Affairs Al-Sheikh (in the middle), the Secretary General of King Fahd Complex Dr. Al-Oufi (on the right)

Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, gave a speech outlining IRCICA's studies on Quran and publications on the copies (Mushafs) of the Holy Quran.

The lectures organised during the forum included the following: "Development of the different calligraphy styles over the centuries" (Yusuf Zunnun, Iraq); "Chinese efforts in copying the Quran" (Prof. Yahya Juneyd, Saudi Arabia); "The styles of Arabic calligraphy, the advancement of its aesthetics and the perception of it" (Prof. Abdullah Abdou Fteini, Saudi Arabia); "The present situation of Arabic calligraphy and possibilities of further development" (Dr. Salah Shirzat, Iraq); a panel on "The aesthetics of calligraphy; the concept and the features of copying Mushafs" (Prof. Minwar Al-Mheid, Saudi Arabia and Prof. Ilham Mohammed Hanash, Iraq).

Practical workshops were conducted during the forum, on calligraphy by Osman Taha (Saudi Arabia), Hasan Çelebi (Turkey), Noria Garcia Masep (Spain), on gilding by Abdullah Hanif (Afghanistan) and on illumination, by Fatma Özçay (Turkey).

Another major feature of the forum was the exhibition of copies of the Holy Quran from all over the world calligraphed in various styles and bound in various formats. IRCICA's stand at this exhibition displayed samples of its publications and outlines of its activities relating to the copies and the translations of the Holy Quran. IRCICA also collaborated with the organizers with respect to some of the lectures and workshops.

The Forum of the Most Famous Calligraphers of the Holy Quran received participants from numerous cultural institutions, universities, publishers, and calligraphers. The importance given to the forum was evident in its high profile. H.R.H. Prince Abdul Aziz bin Majed bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud,



The Secretary General of OIC Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu presents the Minister Sheikh Al-Sheikh with a copy of a facsimile edition of a Mushaf published by IRCICA



Prince Sultan bin Salman, Chairman, Al-Thurath Foundation, at IRCICA's stand

Governor of Medina, closely followed the forum's activities, visited the exhibition and met the participants. H.R.H. Prince Sultan bin Salman, Chairman, Al-Thurath Foundation, also followed the forum with interest, visited the stands and met the participants.

The closing ceremony on 2 May heard a comprehensive address by Prof. Ali M. bin Nasser Fakihi, Chairman of the Scientific Committee of the King Fahd Complex, who evaluated the results of the forum and declared their intention to renew it in four years.

The program included a visit of the participants to the King Fahd Complex for Printing of the Holy Quran, a leading institution with a wide purview in the field of printing the Quran (ten million prints a year) and Quranic studies and research ([www.qurancomplex.org](http://www.qurancomplex.org))



## **International Symposium on “The Role of Ottomans and Modern Turkey in Islamic Culture and Civilization” organised jointly with Marmara University and the Union of Islamic Universities**

The Department of Theology of Marmara University, the Union of Islamic Universities affiliated with the Muslim World League and based in Cairo, and IRCICA have jointly organised this symposium on 8-10 April 2011 at the Rectorate of Marmara University in Istanbul. The opening was officiated by the Vice-President of Marmara University Prof. Dr. Hasan Selçuk representing the President Prof. Dr. Zafer Gül, the Counsellor of the Union of Islamic Universities Prof. Wajdi Zayd, the Secretary General of the Union Prof. Jafar Abdussalam, the Dean of the Faculty of Theology, Marmara University Prof. Dr. Raşit Küçük, and IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren.

The symposium was arranged in ten working sessions, titled, respectively, as: The Heritage Acquired by the Ottomans, The Ottoman Experience in Learning and Education, The Ottoman Experience in Patronage and Preservation of the Muslim Geography, The Ottoman Geography and Experience of Coexistence, Ottoman Economic Dynamics, The Ottoman Art and Architectural Experience, The Ottoman Role in Islam's Expansion in Europe, The Scientific, Cultural, Economic and Political Relations of Modern Turkey with Islamic Countries, Factors of Development in Islamic Culture and Civilisation.

Prof. Dr. Raşit Küçük, Dean of the Faculty of Theology, gave a welcoming address in which he pointed to the promising benefits of the symposium in taking into consideration the past and the present together which will help to illuminate the future path. Prof. Küçük briefed the audience on the history and the activities of Marmara University's Faculty of Theology, which presently has the highest number of students compared to other faculties of theology. He said that it has a curriculum in English in addition to Turkish for the benefit of students from other countries.

The address of Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, was read by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Cengiz Tomar (IRCICA): the Ottoman State which encompassed the Muslim world all around the Mediterranean until the beginning of 20th century has for along time



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

been a contributor to and a crucible for the development of Islamic culture and civilization. As to the present, Turkey plays essentially two roles within the Muslim world: first, it carries the Ottoman cultural and civilisational heritage that is living in three continents in the cities, the architecture, the languages and the arts; secondly, Turkey is one of the leading countries of the Muslim world in the fields of science, technology and industry and it is also active in promoting academic and cultural cooperation among Muslim countries. Manifestations of this are many: one of them is that Turkey hosts IRCICA, which is the cultural and civilization research centre of the 57-member Organisation of the Islamic Conference which is one of the ways by which Turkey supports and promotes cultural and art studies and cooperation. At the same time, Turkey acts, today as in the Ottoman past, as a cultural bridge between the Muslim world and the West.

Prof. Jafar Abdussalam, Secretary General of the Union of Islamic Universities, said that both the Ottoman State and Modern Turkey are constituents of the Islamic civilisation. He



pointed to the significance of this congress and recalled that its foundations were laid during the visit of Dr. Abdullah Bin Abdul Muhsin Al-Turki, Secretary General of the Muslim World League and himself to Turkey the preceding year whereby the congress was planned as a series to aim to strengthen cultural and scholarly bonds between Turkey and the Arab countries.

Prof. Wajdi Zayd, Counselor, Union of Islamic Universities, referred to common features and shared aspects of history, social and cultural life between Arab countries, particularly in Egypt, where his Union is based, and Turkey. He expressed appreciation of the revival and strengthening of these bonds in recent times.

Prof. Dr. Hasan Selçuk, Vice-President of Marmara University, expressed appreciation of the wide range of themes covered by the symposium. He evoked the major states and empires having ruled in the Muslim world throughout Islamic history. He referred to the differences in the availability of references for studies pertaining to each of these periods and pointed to the abundance of the materials and written heritage that are available about the Ottoman State. Prof. Selçuk cited the main collections of official documents and registers that provide ample evidence to the various ways in which the Ottoman State contributed to the development of Islamic culture and civilization. Prof. Selçuk also recalled that during the last couple of centuries of its existence the Ottoman State provided the Muslim world with an exemplary process of modernization in all fields.

Thirty-six papers were presented during the working sessions. A sample of the titles would reflect the symposium's coverage of the theme: on Coexistence, «Christians' religious life in the Ottoman State as observed by European travelers» (Assoc. Prof. A. Taşpınar); «Jews in the Ottoman social life» (Prof. Dr. A.H. Eroğlu); «The treaty of Sultan Mehmed II with the priests and bishops in Al-Quds » (Prof. Dr. A. Iwazullah); on the Expansion of Islam in Europe, «Sultan Mehmed II and the expansion of Islam in Europe» (Prof. Dr. A.A. Adawi); «The future of Bosnia and Herzegovina from the Ottomans to the Independence» (Prof. Dr. A. K. Subki); «The conquest of the Mediterranean Islands by the Ottomans» (Prof. Dr. M. A. Hannawi); «The conquest of Istanbul: the testimony of the Russian priest Skandar» (Dr. H. Tahtawi); on Economy, «The place of the Ottoman economy in the Muslim world» (Prof. Dr. A. Tabakoğlu); «The place of economic reforms in Ottoman-Turkish modernization» (Prof. Dr. C. Çakır); «The role of the waqf investments and enterprises in the Ottoman economic growth and development» (Prof. Dr. A. Kal'a); on the relations of modern Turkey with the Islamic countries, «Social sciences as a medium of rapprochement between Muslim countries» (Prof. Dr. Zekeriya Kurşun); «Relations between modern Turkey and the Turkic Republics» (Prof. Dr. Suleiman Kayipov); «Changes in mutual perceptions between Turkey and Arab countries during the last decade and their effects on political, cultural and scientific relations» (Dr. B. Köroğlu).



Prof. Dr. Jafar Abd al-Salam, Secretary General, Union of Islamic Universities



Prof. Wajdi Zayd, Counselor, Union of Islamic Universities



## Regional Workshop “The Hybrid Hima Approach to Community-Based Resource Management. Bridging the Gap Between Tradition and Modern-Day Governance”

The West Asia - North Africa (WANA) Forum, in cooperation with the United Nations University - Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH), the Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon (SPNL) and the World Justice Project (WJP), in partnership with IRCICA, have organised a regional workshop on the theme of “The Hybrid Hima Approach to Community-Based Resource Management. Bridging the Gap Between Tradition and Modern-Day Governance”. The workshop was held from 14 to 16 April 2011 at IRCICA. Hybrid Hima approach is defined by WANA Forum as “the community-based approach to managing natural and human resources that utilizes traditional knowledge and modern-day innovation.” In his welcoming address, IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren commended the Hybrid Hima project as another authentic initiative launched by H.R.H. Prince El-Hassan bin Talal of Jordan. He praised the principal features of the project, which revives and proposes an application of the deep-rooted concept of Hima in modern-time resource management, in particular, its engaging state and society at all levels and its emphasis on regional cooperation. He briefed the meeting on several aspects of IRCICA’s mandate that are related to the objectives of this project.

On behalf of H.R.H. Prince El-Hassan bin Talal of Jordan, Chairman of WANA, Ms. Laura Haddad (WANA) greeted the audience and reviewed the objectives of the Hybrid Hima approach addressing the WANA region and beyond as promoted by Prince El-Hassan in his endeavour as a guardian and protector of the process. Mr. Walid Saleh from UNU-INWEH evoked the aims targeted and the experience gained in the project, in particular the emphasis given by H.R.H. Prince El-Hassan to regional cooperation and the impetus gained since the holding of the first Hima Regional Workshop in Hima Kfar Zabad, Lebanon, in 2007 which was realized in conjunction with the Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon (SPNL). Then Mr. Assad Serhal, Director General of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon (SPNL), described the experiences and the expectations from the Istanbul workshop and future activities planned. He gave background information on work accomplished and regional progress achieved. He evoked the pioneering initiative taken by Qatar through the establishment, in 2008, of the Hima Fund. Then Mr. Elsadiq Beshir, Coordinator of the Hima Fund, Qatar, gave detailed information on the Fund which is in the amount of US\$ 1 million and is ran under the sponsorship of Sheikha Jawahar, consort of the Heir Apparent of Qatar. The website <http://wanaforum.org> describes the Hima, which was a concept and practice developed in time and gained a public and environmental benefit purpose especially in Islamic history: it emphasizes the role of traditional and indigenous populations in



Ms. Laura Haddad conveyed the greetings of H.R.H. Prince El-Hassan bin Talal (Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan), Chairman of WANA, to the audience



Mr. Assad Serhal, Director General, Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon (SPNL) spoke of the Hybrid Hima project experience



moulding the past and the future of a region. “The objective of Hima advocates is not replicate historical Himas but to reinvigorate an authentic culture-based conservation paradigm from the region that bridges traditional and contemporary approaches and responds to the cultural needs, contexts, and value systems of countries in the WANA region. Hybrid Hima merges the values of traditional Hima embedded in culture with modern scientific approaches. It incorporates principles of consultation, equitable distribution and sustainable use of resources, avert any tendencies toward tribal, ethnic, or



gender discrimination and adapt to new political, legal and socio-economic realities in order to meet the changing needs of local communities and the requirements of modern nation states.” (<http://wanaforum.org>)

The workshop held in Istanbul drew 32 participants from different countries across the WANA region, comprising representatives from NGOs, government agencies, universities, and local communities. The workshop appraised the rationale for devising a strategic policy to revive the Hima approach to meet present-day challenges by integrating traditional knowledge and wisdom with scientific innovation. An overview of regional progress was presented. The working sessions heard case studies from Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia. The workshop devised a strategy for including Hybrid Hima in regional protected area management and developed recommendations for follow-up action at policy and programmatic levels. The presentations were grouped under the following themes: Traditional Natural Resource Governance, Contemporary Natural Resource Governance, The Hybrid Hima Approach to Natural Resource Governance, Opportunities for Expanding Hybrid Hima, Policy and Legal Instruments in Governing Natural Resources, Equity in Policy Development. The website of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon ([www.spnl.org](http://www.spnl.org)) in its brief on the results of the workshop states that “the policy brief on Hima governance, the first of its kind, will serve as a flexible tool that can be adapted to meet the needs of local communities, while the proposed knowledge management system will be the region’s hub for knowledge sharing with case studies and interactive maps, along with proposed regional projects.”



## **International Symposium on “The Ottoman Legacy in the Balkans - The Image of Others in Text Books and Popular Culture”, Bilecik, Turkey**

This International Symposium held at Bilecik University, Turkey, on 1-3 April 2011 highlighted the theme of “The Image of the Other” in the context of the Balkan region and the Ottoman legacy of coexistence of faiths and cultures in the region. IRCICA, the Centre for Advanced Studies of Sarajevo, the Balkan Civilisations Association (BALMED, Istanbul) and the Cultural and Solidarity Association of Rumelian Turks (Bilecik) collaborated with Bilecik University towards its organisation.

The working sessions were titled as follows: Understanding the Balkans and the Image of the Other, Post-Ottoman Period and the Survival of Muslims, Perception



The Rector of Bilecik University Prof. Dr. Azmi Özcan presenting the plaque of the University to Dr. Eren



of the Ottomans in the Balkans, Perception of the Other in Popular Culture. Papers were presented by participants from Albania, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Kosovo, Montenegro, Romania and Turkey. A number of them surveyed the references to the Ottoman period as seen in history textbooks used at different levels of education in their respective countries.



## IRCICA awarded the distinction “Institution of the Year” by *al-Arabi* journal

*Al-Arabi* journal published by the Ministry of Information of Kuwait awarded IRCICA the distinction “Institution of the Year”. IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren received the award from the Minister of Petroleum and Information H.H. Sheikh Ahmad al-Abdullah al-Ahmad al-Sabah at a ceremony held on 24 January 2011 at the inauguration of the conference “The Arabs are heading towards the East”. The Minister expressed appreciation to IRCICA for carrying on valuable studies. The conference was organized under the patronage of Prime Minister Sheikh Nasser al-Muhammed al-Ahmed al-Jaber al-Sabah.

Minister al-Sabah explained that the conference was marked by the 50th anniversary of the Independence of the State of Kuwait and expressed that the historic ties between Kuwait and Asia were not left in the past but were renewed day by day; he stressed that the Arab world was part of Asia and therefore, establishing strong ties between the Middle East and Asia was vital. During the award ceremony organized within the coverage of the conference, IRCICA received the Institution of the Year award for its contribution to the development of relations between Asia and the Arab world and for its studies and publications in the area of Islamic culture and civilization.

In turn IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren congratulated *al-Arabi* journal for its contributions to culture in the Arab world and the Muslim world at large for more than fifty years, and said that they were following with appreciation *al-Arabi*'s



H.H. Sheikh Ahmad al-Abdullah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Minister of Petroleum and Information, presented the award for IRCICA

efforts to strengthen the ties of friendship among Muslim countries. Dr. Eren said that IRCICA was proud to be found worthy of this award by *al-Arabi*. He briefed the audience on the Centre's activities.

On 25 January 2011 Dr. Halit Eren was received by the Crown Prince of the State of Kuwait H.H. Sheikh Nawaf al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah in al-Seif Palace.



Sheikh Nawaf al-Sabah, Crown Prince of Kuwait, together with the award winners

## **Within the framework of the “1400th Year of the Revelation of the Holy Quran” Hadith and Seerah Award ceremony held at IRCICA**

The “2011 Hadith and Seerah Awards - The Last Prophet” resulting from a competition organized by the Meridian Association (NGO, <http://www.meridyendernegi.org/eng>) were presented to their winners at a ceremony held in cooperation with IRCICA and on the latter's headquarters on 9 April 2011. Mr. Ertuğrul Günay, Minister of Culture and Tourism of Turkey, delivered an address at the ceremony underlining the need to endeavour continuously to correct wrong and incomplete information which still is in effect about the Prophet of Islam Mohammed S.A.W. in parts of world opinion. He pointed to the benefits of using modern technology to develop and disseminate correct knowledge. He stressed that this activity should address all humankind irrespective of differences, an obligation that was reflected directly in the Sunnah – the tradition – of the Prophet. The message of IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren was read by Mr. Mohammed Tamimi (IRCICA), in which he pointed out that in the Muslim world the Hadith – sayings of the Prophet – and the Seerah – the life of the Prophet – were among the first subjects to be developed as research themes. He outlined the activities undertaken by IRCICA in these fields, with an emphasis on the “1400th Year of the Revelation of the Holy Quran” and the publishing of bibliographies of translations of the Quran in world languages and facsimile editions of the oldest copies of the Quran.

Awards were distributed for masters and doctorate studies in Islamic studies. This was the fourth annual edition of the “Hadith and Seerah Awards - The Last Prophet”.



The Minister of Culture of Turkey Mr. Ertuğrul Günay together with the organisers and the participants

## **IRCICA Director General awarded the “Distinction for Achievements in Culture” by the Ministry of Culture of Tatarstan**

The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Tatarstan (Russian Federation) has conferred upon Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, the “Distinction for Achievements in Culture” for his contributions to the development of cultural relations between the Member States of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference and the Republic of Tatarstan through the many activities undertaken by IRCICA in conjunction with Tatarstan.

IRCICA as the cultural research centre of the OIC on one hand and the Republic of Tatarstan on the other have developed cultural cooperation which resulted in the organisation of congresses, publication of books and other activities which engaged the participation and collaboration of specialists and researchers from around the world, particularly from the OIC Member States. Moreover, the two congresses on Islamic Civilisation in Volga-Ural Region which were held in Kazan, Tatarstan, highlighted several aspects of shared cultural heritage between the OIC Member States and Tatarstan.

The medal was presented to Dr. Eren by H.E. Mrs. Zilya Valeeva, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Culture of Tatarstan.



Presentation of IRCICA's plaque to Mrs. Zilya Valeeva, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Culture of Tatarstan on an earlier occasion

## HANDICRAFTS FESTIVALS

### **Doha International Handicrafts Festival accompanied by the International Seminar on Innovation and Creativity in Crafts, the Doha International Award for Innovation and Creativity in Crafts and the International Exhibition of Artisans-as at-Work on the occasion of “Doha, Capital of Arab Culture”**

Within the framework of “Doha, Capital of Arab Culture” for 2010, the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage in the State of Qatar and IRCICA, Istanbul organised the Doha International Festival for Handicrafts, which was accompanied by an International Seminar on “Innovation and Creativity in Crafts”, the “Doha International Award for Innovation and Creativity in Crafts”, and the International Exhibition of Artisans-as at-work. The events took place from 5-9 December 2010.

The seminar and the festival were inaugurated by Prof. Mubarak bin Nasser Al-Khalifa, Secretary General of the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage, and Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, in the presence of the ambassadors of OIC Member States represented in Doha. Prof. Al-Khalifa stated in his address that handicrafts were considered as a first priority within the Cultural Strategy of the State of Qatar. He said that handicrafts image national identity and contribute towards introducing cultures to each other.

Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA pointed to the importance of organizing this festival in Doha and gathering master artisans from various regions to display their innovative works and meet with specialists of the field. He added that the festival aimed to raise awareness on the contribution of handicrafts to economy and culture. He gave a brief about the various events IRCICA organised before and the books it published in this field. He expressed his gratitude to the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage of the State of Qatar and its staff for their efforts in organizing the event.

H.E. Dr. Hamad bin Abdul Aziz Al-Kawari, Minister of Culture, Arts and Heritage of Qatar, inaugurated the closing ceremony of the festival. The Minister congratulated the artisans at their stands and met with the seminar participants.

During the period of the festival, the Director General of IRCICA Dr. Halit Eren was received by H.E. Mr. Ahmad Bin Abdullah Al-Mahmoud, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, State of Qatar, and H.E. Dr. Gaith Bin Mubarak Al-Kuwari, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, State of Qatar.

The festival aimed at gathering innovators in handicrafts and craftspeople in pavilions forming a craft village where they displayed their works, their tools and techniques. Twelve



Opening of the events jointly with Prof. Mubarak bin Nasser Al-Khalifa, Secretary General of the Ministry of Culture, Qatar

artisans selected from each country were invited to this exhibition, along with artisans from Qatar itself.

#### **International Seminar on Innovation and Creativity in Crafts, 7-9 December 2010**

The seminar aimed to raise international awareness of the importance of handicrafts; to explore the economic role that handicraft products can play; to discuss ways of exploring job opportunities for citizens in this sector; to try to activate innovation and creativity in this field; to explore potential benefits of handicrafts linked with tourism and other economic



Dr. N. Marouf (IRCICA), Dr. M. Alkhatib (Egypt), Mr. I. Vencatachellum (International Network for Craft Development)



sectors; to examine the current situation of the crafts and the perspectives of their development; to preserve the originality of the traditional crafts. 11 papers were presented by craft specialists from around the world and from Qatar itself. The participants included representatives of some international organizations and specialized institutions, and crafts experts.

In its recommendations, the seminar emphasized the importance of searching for opportunities that would guarantee providing raw materials locally in order to reduce dependence on imported materials some of which affect the end price. It also recommended the establishment of local associations concerned with the supply of raw materials and exportation of products. The seminar also stressed the fact that requirements of the consumer must be met through product development. This is in addition to the need for growth and development of traditional products through the application of standards for quality control, and printing of the approved label, packaging and preparation in line with market competition to win the satisfaction of the consumer, and finally one of the priorities of the institutions is to enter new markets.

The seminar pointed out the importance of consumer education and raising awareness of the advantages of consumer education for this sector. Relating to the education of craftspeople, the seminar participants recommended that it must be done by establishing linkages between craftspeople and all levels of education in order to enable them to benefit from the general culture around the craft, obtain basic knowledge on design and development skills, improve product quality, marketing methods and relations with the consumer.

The seminar pointed to the need to develop integrated training programs for artisans to strengthen and upgrade their qualifications. The seminar also made recommendations relating to documentation, in a way to build documentation with respect to all types of craft products and techniques.

As to the issue of funding, availability of funds and possibilities of access, the participants agreed that these were key elements plaguing the sector. They pointed to the absence of policies geared to ensuring security in this regard.



Dr. Hamad bin Abdul Aziz Al-Kawari, Minister of Culture, and Dr. Eren, at the stand of Mr. Mahdi Heideri from Iran

The seminar participants pointed out the needs to develop a strategy for international cooperation in this field, to produce studies on the evolution of demand and supply as well as on changing tastes of consumers in the global market.

Establishing craft villages and linking them to tourism, using monuments or historical sites for the purpose, were considered. The usefulness of competitions and awards for studies and documentation in the field of handicrafts was underlined.

#### **Doha International Award for Innovation and Creativity in Crafts:**

The Festival included an Award for artisans. The participants were requested to present at least two pieces of their products: one completed product along with a semi-completed one to be finalized in the presence of the international jury members. Participation was opened for all artisans provided that the product is submitted for the first time and has never been presented before. Comprehensive information was provided about every piece presented, relating to materials used, techniques applied, etc. Criteria applied in the selection of the

winners were: Excellence, Creative Concept, Design and Invention in Traditional Technique. The Awards were granted by the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage of Qatar.

Comprehensive information on the Festival events is at [www.ircica.org/highlights-of-the-doha-international-handicrafts-festival/irc843.aspx](http://www.ircica.org/highlights-of-the-doha-international-handicrafts-festival/irc843.aspx)



Stand of the Qatari artisan Mr. Suad Ibrahim



## **Muscat International Festival for Arts, Heritage and Creativity accompanied by the International Seminar on Innovation and Creativity in Arts and Crafts, the Muscat International Award for Innovation and Creativity in Crafts, and the International Exhibition of Artisans-as at-Work**

The Muscat International Festival is one of the most significant and popular events celebrated in Oman. It includes numerous features, among them the Omani Heritage Village at the Qurum Natural Park which highlight the different social aspects of life in Oman, such as the traditional handicrafts and folklore. This year Muscat Festival was opened on 27 January 2011, and organized jointly by Muscat Municipality, Sultanate of Oman with the cooperation of IRCICA. The Festival included the “Muscat International Festival of Arts, Heritage and Creativity”, a seminar on “Innovation and Creativity in Arts and Crafts”; “Muscat International Award for Innovation and Creativity in the Crafts”; and, the International Exhibition of Artisans-as at-work.

Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, addressed the International Seminar on Creativity and Innovation in Crafts. He pointed out the importance of organizing this international event in Muscat with the participation of more than 150 master artisans from different regions of the world. Dr. Eren expressed his pleasure that nearly 14000 visitors had visited the exhibition stands on the first day while 40000 visitors had visited the stands during the first weekend.

The Muscat Festival 2011 was opened in two locations at Al-Qurm and Al-Naseem Parks, and other locations associated with the events. H.E. Engineer Sultan bin Hamdoon Al-Harthy, Chairman of Muscat Municipality and Chairman



of the Organizing Committee of the Festival, said that the Festival aimed to promote tourism and cultural heritage in the Sultanate by displaying a wide variety of activities and events. He also said that this year's festival was unique, as the events were chosen with great care and new ones were added. He pointed out that the message of the festival combined heritage, authenticity and contemporary features with an open message to all people to visit Muscat - a historical city.

During the festival Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA paid a visit to H.E.Mr.Yusif Bin Alawi Bin Abdullah, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Sultanate of Oman.



Meeting with H.E. Mr. Yusif bin Alawi bin Abdullah,  
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Sultanate of Oman



Meeting with Eng. Al-Harthy, Chairman of Muscat Municipality  
and Chairman of the Festival Organizing Committee



The Muscat International Festival for Arts, Heritage and Creativity was inaugurated by H E Mr. Khalid bin Hilal bin Saud Al Busaidi, Secretary General of the Council of Ministers, in the presence of H E Mr. Ali bin Masoud Sunaidi, Minister of Sports Affairs, Engineer Sultan bin Hamdoon Al-Harthi, Chairman of Muscat Municipality, and a number of ambassadors and officials of the Muscat Municipality.

It is notable that the festival has managed through the fourth week of the festival to maintain the level of popular success that has been achieved in the first week. Over 150 master artisans from various different countries had come together to display their skills and their products including textiles, artworks, pottery, carpets, rugs, mosaic, traditional costumes, leather works, ceramics, paintings, silver works, wooden crafts, textiles, marbled paper, gilding and illumination.

### *The stands*

The Festival events included: Exhibitions of Artisans-at-work, an exhibition of masterpieces of handicrafts products, an arts and crafts market (Bazaar), an exhibition of books on arts and handicrafts.

Performances by folklore groups from various countries drew large audiences. IRCICA had arranged the participation of three of them: those from Senegal, Tatarstan, and Turkey.

The Arts and Crafts Market (Bazaar) was organized in the form of a craft village displaying embroideries, traditional costumes, carpets, bookbinding, gilding, marbled paper, architecture, mushrabiya, stucco colored glass, pottery and ceramics, silver and metal crafts, and engravings.



The folklore group from Senegal



Mr. Khalid bin Hilal bin Saud Al-Busaidi, Secretary General of the Council of Ministers, Sultanate of Oman, along with the Ambassador of Morocco, at a Moroccan stand



Carpet weaver Mr. Shaukat Ali, from Pakistan



Wood crafts from Russia

The Seminar on Innovation and Creativity in Arts and Crafts aimed to raise international awareness of the importance of arts and crafts, explore the economic role of handicrafts, discuss ways of providing job opportunities for job-seekers in this sector, try to activate innovation and creativity in this field, estimate income to be expected from handicrafts when linked to tourism and economy, examine the current state and perspectives of development of the sector, and preserve the originality of traditional crafts. Seven keynote speakers were invited to present papers. The seminar themes were:

- 1 - General theme: arts and crafts: past, present and future,
- 2 - Arts and crafts from the perspective of heritage and culture,
- 3 - Arts and crafts from the perspective of economy and tourism,
- 4 - The size of employed labor in the field of arts and crafts, and its economic returns,
- 5 - Perspectives of handicrafts marketing,
- 6 - The role of arts and crafts in introducing the cultural heritage identity and make it known,
- 7 - The role of arts and crafts in the cultural dialogue among peoples,
- 8 - The relationship of arts and crafts with the habits and traditions of the region,
- 9 - The impact of arts and crafts on European art,
- 10 - Patronage and governmental efforts in developing and protecting arts and crafts,
- 11 - Training and education opportunities in this sector,
- 12 - Means that guarantee the increase of public awareness of the importance of artisans and this heritage,
- 13 - Audio-visual media and their responsibility in forming consciousness of the importance of handicrafts,
- 14 - Educational programs for children and their role in forming awareness of the importance of arts and crafts and heritage.



The opening of the seminar was attended by Engineer Sultan bin Hamdoon Al Harthy, Chairman of Muscat Municipality, and Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, and a number of interested people and specialists in the field of handicrafts and traditional arts, in addition to a number of artisans, researchers, and specialists from various countries. The session heard the opening words of Muscat Municipality, delivered by Mr. Juma Salim al-Shkeily, General Supervisor, Planning and Training, and Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA. The working sessions heard the following presentations:

**First Session:** Handicrafts and Tourism

- Paper of the General Authority for Traditional Industries in the Sultanate of Oman, Suleiman al-Harthy
- "Crafts and Tourism: Problems and Prospects", Indrasen Vencatachellum

**Second Session:** Importance of Establishment of Craft Villages and the Introducing of the Regional Cultures and the Assuring of the Sustainable Environment

- Traditional Crafts as a Mean of Introducing Regional Cultures and Assuring Sustainable Environment, Naoto Suzuki
- Importance of the Establishment of Craft Villages and the Best Use of Restoring Traditional Architectural Buildings and Historical Monuments for Employment within the

Economical, Tourism and Cultural Sector, Nezhir Marouf

**Third Session:** Handicraft Centers and the Means Necessary to Ensure the Increase Awareness of the Society of the Real Developing Importance of this Sector

- Handicraft centers as a tool for revitalizing the traditional artifacts industry: An Egyptian Experience, Mohamed Elkhatab
- The Necessary Means to Ensure the Increase Awareness of the Society of the Real Developing Importance of this Sector, Faika Uwaida

**Fourth Session:** Arabic Islamic Miniatures and the Sufi Dimension, Development of Handicrafts

Arabic Islamic Miniatures and the Sufi Dimension, Asad Arabi

Development of Handicrafts, Mohamed Said Al-Blushi

**Muscat International Award for Innovation and Creativity in Crafts, Awards totaling US\$100,000**

The jury made its decisions after a series of evaluation visits to the stands of the artisans. The Award (worth US\$ 100,000) was distributed to winners in different categories,



Miniature works of Mr. Kurambay Matmuratovp, First Prize



Mr. Malik Muhammad Abdul Rehman Naqqash, Pakistan, First Prize, Illumination and Ornamentation



Mr. Ben Belfkein Mohamed, Morocco, First Prize in the woodwork category



Mr. Ibra Ndiaye, a master carpet-weaver from Senegal (Second Prize)



Mr. Al-Sakhi Idris, Morocco, First Prize in Metal Crafts



Embroider Ms. Imotova Manzura, Tajikistan

involving over 150 artisans representing 25 countries. The award categories were: Miniature, Illumination and Ornamentation, Pottery, Ceramics, Carpets, Woodwork, Metal Crafts, Costumes, Embroidery, Textiles, Leather, Mosaic.

Another key feature of the Festival was the International Arts and Crafts Village organized by Muscat Municipality and IRCICA featuring around 150 master artisans from nearly 30 countries. The exhibition included artisans at work, an exhibition of masterpieces of handicraft products, a bazaar and an exhibition of albums, catalogs and books published in the field of arts and handicrafts.

The list and photographs of the Award winners is at [www.ircica.org/content\\_images/Highlights of the Muscat Festival](http://www.ircica.org/content_images/Highlights of the Muscat Festival)



Master Artisan Makhmhdov Said, Wooden Works, Tajikistan

## ART AND DOCUMENTARY EXHIBITIONS

### IRCICA's photograph exhibition in Sana'a, Yemen

On the occasion of the state visit of H.E. Abdullah Gül, President of the Republic of Turkey, to the Republic of Yemen in January 2011, IRCICA held an exhibition of historical photographs selected from its own archives. A special section of the photographs displayed referred to the theme "Friendship Between Turkey and Yemen Throughout History". The exhibition was opened by President Gül on 10 January 2011 in Sana'a as part of the program of his visit.

The exhibition comprised the reproductions of 54 photographs selected from the "Albums of Sultan Abdulhamid II" which constitute the basis of the archives of IRCICA. A catalogue containing 122 photographs was published on the occasion. It pictures shared memories of the peoples of Turkey and Yemen.

During the meetings between the President of Yemen H.E. Ali Abdullah Saleh and President Gül involving the delegations in their entourage, President Gül, accompanied by Dr. Halit Eren, IRCICA Director General, presented President Saleh with the large-size catalogue of the exhibition. This was an occasion to recall the Congress on "Yemen during the Ottoman Period" which was organized by IRCICA and the National Archives of Yemen under President Saleh's patronage in December 2009 and the audience that was accorded to Dr. Eren at the Presidency office.

At the opening of the exhibition in Mövenpick Hotel, Sana'a, Dr. Eren also presented a copy of the catalogue to the Prime Minister of Yemen Mr. Ali Muhammed Mujur.

The catalogue published by IRCICA is a valuable addition to the series of albums it publishes in order to render this documentary treasure accessible to all, such as the albums on Istanbul, Erzurum, Bursa in Turkey, Egypt, and Japan published earlier. It holds exhibitions on various occasions: from 1980 to 2011 IRCICA organized 231 exhibitions of historical documents, manuscript works and rare books, architectural projects and designs, works of fine arts and handicrafts as well as photographs. Some of these were displayed in its own halls at Yıldız Palace, Istanbul and others in: Algeria, Egypt, France, Germany, Guinea, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Senegal, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, UK, USA, UAE and Yemen.



Opening of the exhibition by President Gül. Also present: Minister of State and Deputy PM Mr. B. Arınç, Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. A. Davutoğlu, Minister of Health Mr. R. Akdağ, and, the Chairman of the Union of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Turkey Mr. R. Hisarcıklioğlu

### Exhibition of historical photographs of Afghanistan selected from Yıldız Palace Archives, organised in Kabul

An exhibition of historical photographs of Afghanistan was organised by IRCICA in the Afghan capital Kabul in conjunction with the commemoration ceremony and activities held by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan and Turkey on 1 March, the Turkish-Afghan Friendship Day. The exhibition and its catalogue were arranged under sections titled Diplomatic Relations, Architectural Heritage, and Glimpses at Social Life.

The commemoration program took place in the Babur Gardens in Kabul. Following the official addresses, the exhibition was opened in the presence of the Minister of Education of Afghanistan Dr. Ghulam Faruk Wardak, the Minister of Public Health Mr. Suraya Delil, the



Dr. Ghulam Faruk Wardak, Minister of Education of Afghanistan, addressed the opening



Minister of Public Works Mr. Abdulkuddus Hamidi, the Mayor of Kabul Mr. Muhammed Yunus Nevendish, together with a number of high officials and representatives of diplomatic missions. The opening message of Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, was read by his representative Dr. Güler Doğan (IRCICA). The exhibition displayed 50 photographs, and its catalogue contains 63 historical photographs of Afghanistan, including scenes referring to relations with Turkey. The catalogue is published in the English, Dari and Turkish languages.

This exhibition was the first event of a week's program which continued with conferences and folkloric performances.



## Calligraphy, gilding and miniatures exhibition by the Iranian artists Mr. Babek Hejazi and Ms. Sumayya Jaber

Two senior artists from Iran, Mr. Babek Hejazi, calligrapher, and Ms. Sumayya Jaber, gilder-calligrapher, exhibited a rich collection of their works at IRCICA from 17-30 December 2010. Samples of classical Iranian calligraphy, gilding and miniature painting were accompanied by modern-style interpretations, in about a total of 90 works of art. Some reflected the Safawid and Qajar styles while there were calligraphies in the Nastaliq, naskh, Diwani and Qufi styles by each artist. The exhibition also presented works by the well-known Iranian calligraphers Mirza Gholamriza, Mirhuseyin el-Turk, Mirza Kuchek, Molla Shefia and Anjawi. A special section displayed tools and materials used in the practice of these arts.

The artists briefed the visitors and members of the press attending the opening, on their art, their perspective, their aims, their styles and their works. Mr. Babek Hejazi evoked the growing interest in the classical arts and the large number of leading artists performing in Iran. He introduced himself recalling that he had obtained his diploma (Ijaza) from the famous Iranian calligrapher Gholam Hussein Amirkhani. Mr. Hejazi said that in the selection of works for display they had given relatively more emphasis to the Nastaliq style, a combination of the Naskh and Taliq styles, which is not widespread among calligraphers of other countries, including Turkey.

Ms. Sumayya Jaber gave information on the "Gul u Murg" (Flower and Bird) patterns of gilding used widely in Iranian arts. Comparing the dominant features of the art of gilding in Iran and in Turkey, she said that in Turkey this art follows stricter rules, scales, measures and symmetry while Iranian gilding art has relatively more freedom as to its technical aspects. Ms. Jaber said

that gilding is an inseparable part of calligraphy and qualified in Iran as "the coating of calligraphy".

Ms. Sumayya Jaber was trained in calligraphy by Munawwari and Shirazi and in gilding by Muradi, Agamiri and Rami. She won awards in the arts of miniature painting and calligraphy and participated in several exhibitions in various countries.

Mr. Babek Hejazi studied electrical engineering. He was trained in calligraphy by Aga Nuri and Gholam Hussein Amirkhani. He lectures at the Iranian Calligraphers Association and at Azad University of Karaj, Iran. An award-winner in calligraphic arts, he published books and presented his works at several exhibitions.





## Exhibition on “Istanbul, the city of seven hills” by Painter İsmail Şentürk

An exhibition by the Turkish painter Mr. İsmail Şentürk was opened at IRCICA on 19 April 2011. The exhibition, titled “Istanbul, the city of seven hills” as the city is known, was on display for ten days. It drew a large number of visitors. Guests at the opening ceremony included the Consul General of Syria Mr. Mamoun Hariri, the Consul General of Algeria Mr. Rachid Meddah, Mr. Aidar Gashigullin from the Istanbul Representation Office of Tatarstan (Russian Federation), and Mr. Gürsoy Erol, deputy in the Turkish Parliament’s 22nd term. The Director General of IRCICA opened the exhibition emphasizing the importance given by IRCICA to promoting arts and artists and encouraging exchanges among artists from different countries and regions. He congratulated Mr. Şentürk on his qualifications and performance and his accurate choice of significant locations in Istanbul for his landscape paintings.



Mr. İsmail Şentürk was interested in the art of painting from a young age. Painting became one of his main occupations after a swimming accident in the Erdemir (Zonguldak, Turkey) team left him invalid in his high school years. Mr. Şentürk mostly paints landscapes. In 1998 he founded the Association of the Physically Handicapped in Zonguldak which he chairs to date. Mr. İsmail Şentürk opened exhibitions in Hannover (1998) and Zurich (2007). He has a number of awards including the Turkish Prime Ministry’s Prize of Honour, the prize of the Junior Chamber Turkey, Platin Journal’s Award for Leadership Among Young Entrepreneurs and Businessmen, among others.



## Exhibition on Traditional Islamic Arts organised by IRCICA at the OIC General Secretariat, Jeddah

IRCICA organised an exhibition on Traditional Islamic Arts as part of a series of cultural activities which were held at the OIC General Secretariat in Jeddah, during the period of 27 February – 5 March 2011. Works of calligraphy, gilding and illumination, and marbled paper were presented by the following artists: Ms. Münevver Üçer, professor of gilding at Mimar Sinan University, İstanbul, an award winner in gilding; Ms. Ayten Tiryaki, calligrapher and gilder, teacher of these arts, award-winner; Mr. Hikmet Barutçugil, marbled paper artist; Ms. Nurcan Toprak, curator of art exhibitions at IRCICA, gilder; Ms. Özlem Bulut (IRCICA), marbled paper artist; Ms. Şebnem Aras, painter. A large number of art lovers visited the exhibition. The opening of the series of cultural activities itself was attended by a large audience from diplomatic and cultural circles in Jeddah.



## MEETINGS, COOPERATION

### **The President of Macedonia Mr. Georgy Ivanov visited IRCICA**

H.E. Mr. Georgy Ivanov, President of the Republic of Macedonia, visited IRCICA on 14 April 2011. This was the first visit of Mr. Ivanov to IRCICA, but he was already acquainted with the Centre's activities through the cooperation that has been going on for some years between the government and the academic circles of Macedonia on one hand and IRCICA on the other. This cooperation culminated in the Fourth Congress on Islamic Civilisation in the Balkans which was organized in Skopje in October 2010 under the patronage of President Ivanov and jointly with the Macedonian Academy of Sciences. President Ivanov delivered a comprehensive scholarly inaugural address at the congress. During the meeting at the Centre President Ivanov and Dr. Eren reviewed the follow-up process of the congress including the proceedings which are being prepared for publication in the form of a book. The President was accompanied by Mr. Hadi Nezir, Minister of State, and a delegation of high officials.



H.E. Mr. Georgy Ivanov, President of the Republic of Macedonia, received information on the publications

Dr. Eren guided the President and his entourage to the library building and briefed them on the collections, the digital library in progress, and the Centre's research and publications in general.

### **Visit of Mr. Ian Biggs, Australian Ambassador in Ankara**

Ambassador Ian Biggs, Ambassador of Australia in Ankara, Turkey, visited the Centre on 16 March 2011. Dr. H. Eren briefed the guest on the Centre's activities, in particular, those relating to the history of science and culture and the interactions between peoples, cultures and civilizations; the library and the archives of historical photographs, the congresses on history, and activities highlighting the Islamic arts. Ambassador Biggs was acquainted with the OIC during his years of mission as Ambassador in Jeddah. At the end of his visit at IRCICA, Ambassador Biggs recorded his impressions in the Visitors Book, as follows: "Thank you for the opportunity to visit this splendid facility of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, a body with which I had the privilege to be associated in Jeddah over several years. Here in Istanbul, with your beautiful location, important scholarship, and crucial role – for intercultural dialogue – I look forward to cooperation on projects of significance to the Australian Government and people – especially our Muslim population. Australia is proudly multicultural, and bodies such as this are important to facilitating common understanding".

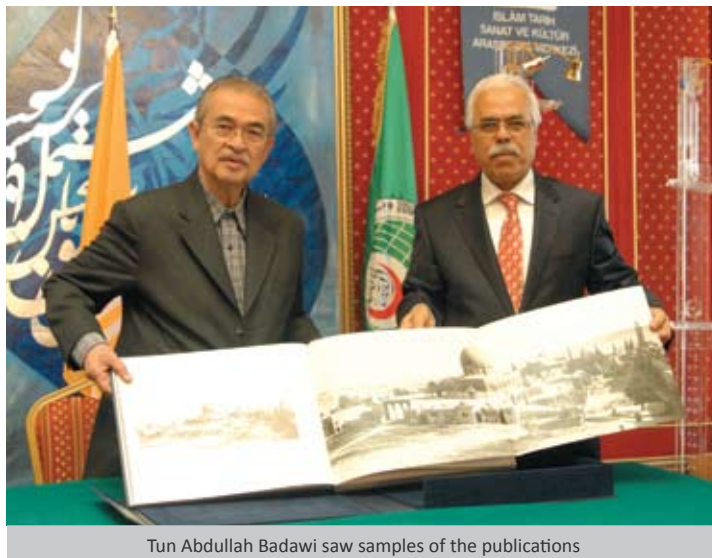


The Ambassador of Australia Mr. Ian Biggs signed the Visitors Book



## **Tun Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad Badawi, ex-Prime Minister of Malaysia, at IRCICA**

IRCICA was honoured to receive Tun Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad Badawi, ex-Prime Minister of Malaysia, at its headquarters on 16 March 2011. The talks at the Directorate General were about the Centre's activities, with focus on the long-term programs such as those relating to the congresses on history, the Islamic heritage preservation program on Al-Quds, studies on copies and translations of the Holy Quran, among others. Reference was made to the cooperation between Malaysia and IRCICA which gave fruitful results in the past starting from the mid-1980s. The book titled *Islamic Civilization in the Malay World*, published in several languages, was recalled: it was the outcome of a joint project involving the governments of Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam and Indonesia with IRCICA as coordinator. The publication of some of IRCICA's publications in the Malay language, visits of representatives from universities of Malaysia to IRCICA, and cooperation between Malaysian cultural institutions, scholars and artists with IRCICA were among the collaborative activities recalled during the meeting.



Tun Abdullah Badawi saw samples of the publications

A welcoming meeting was held at Çit Qasr in the presence of IRCICA staff members. Tun Abdullah commended the activities of IRCICA and wrote his impressions in the Visitors' Book: "... Your work has contributed to the magnificence of Islamic civilization and most of all to our religion, Islam. ..."

## **The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Gambia visited IRCICA**

IRCICA was honoured to receive Dr. Mamadou Tangara, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Gambians Abroad, Republic of The Gambia, at its headquarters on 1 April 2011. Dr. Halit Eren received Dr. Tangara in his office at Seyir Köşk and briefed him on developments relating to the Centre's activities, with focus on the long-term programs such as those relating to the congresses on history, the Islamic heritage preservation program on Al-Quds, studies on copies and translations of the Holy Quran, among others. Dr. Eren then guided Dr. Mamadou Tangara to the library of the Centre. A welcoming meeting was held at Çit Qasr where IRCICA staff members were present.

Minister Dr. Mamadou Tangara recorded his impressions in the Visitors' Book, as follows: "Preserving and promoting the industry of knowledge is the best way of transmitting the flame of Islam to the present and future generations. Islam as the culmination of revelation is the religion (if understood) that will transform the jungling discords in the world into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood and sisterhood. Only knowledge can help the lights of Islam to shine and illuminate our path throughout the journey of life and the Hereafter. Keep up the excellent work!"



Minister Mamadou Tangara was presented with samples of the publications



## **Meeting with the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of China Mr. Zhai Jun in Istanbul and visit of the Ambassador of China Mr. Gong Xiaosheng to IRCICA**

The Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of China Mr. Zhai Jun and IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren met in Istanbul on 17 December 2010, during the official visit of the Vice Minister to Turkey. The meeting underscored the need to develop cooperation between the government and the cultural and academic institutions of China on one hand and IRCICA on the other, taking into consideration the deep-rooted civilisational experience that the Muslim world and China have shared in history and the expansion of their relations in all fields in our time. During the talks, Dr. Eren briefed the Vice Minister on the Centre's activities, especially the cultural and scholarly relations that the Centre has initiated with different regions within and outside the Muslim world, especially the regions neighbouring the Muslim world and with which it interacted productively throughout history. The Vice Minister took note of the possibility to organise similar scholarly activities that would highlight the theme of the Muslim world and China and their interactions in the past and the present.



H.E. Mr. Gong Xiaosheng, Ambassador of China in Ankara, visited the premises

Soon after, on 4 January 2011, H.E. Mr. Gong Xiaosheng, Ambassador of China in Ankara, visited IRCICA. During the talks with Dr. Eren, reference was made to the meeting with the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Mr. Zhai Jun. Ambassador Gong said that the Muslim world and China had interacted in history via the Silk Road, however today their knowledge of each other comes through books only. Sometimes these sources may not reflect realities. "Both China and the Muslim world are developing. We must learn more about each other, not only the past but also the present." The Ambassador reaffirmed the importance China gives to developing cultural cooperation with the OIC-IRCICA Member States and that IRCICA's experience in multilateral cooperation besides the bilateral would be a valuable input to this effort. He said they regarded IRCICA as a strategic partner in this respect.

Dr. Eren agreed that the Muslim world and China know each other through books only and that this must be worked upon. He said the research work of the Centre about China is related to history of science with respect to Chinese contributions to scientific development. The cultural and civilisational contacts have been dense and close and the cultural links are there. He said that cooperation could begin with mutual visits, and, referring to his meeting with the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Zhai Jun, he said it is important that a large-scale academic activity such as a congress be held jointly.

Ambassador Gong signed the Visitors Book, writing "I hope that the Chinese civilization and the Islamic civilization will grow together towards a brighter future."

## **Visit of Dr. Riad Ismat, Minister of Culture of Syria, to IRCICA**

The Minister of Culture of Syria Dr. Riad Ismat visited IRCICA on 28 March 2011. During the meeting at the Directorate General, Dr. Halit Eren briefed the Minister on the Centre's activities. The meeting was an opportunity to review the various cultural events which were organised by IRCICA jointly with the government and the institutions of Syria over the past years. The Minister recorded his impressions in the Visitors' Book:

«I am happy to visit this great cultural centre which has the noble mission of preserving and promoting the historical heritage. All that I saw together with the Syrian delegation will remain in not only our memories but also our hearts since it represents a history which is common to us and a deep cultural dimension on the basis of which the future can be built.»



## Visit of Dr. Ahmed Badreddin Hassoun, Grand Mufti of the Syrian Arab Republic

On 26 February 2011, the Grand Mufti of Syria Dr. Ahmed Badreddin Hassoun visited IRCICA. Director General Dr. Halit Eren outlined the activities of the Centre, evoking the events such as congresses and seminars which were organised in the context of the cooperation between Syria and IRCICA. The Grand Mufti



The Mufti received information on the facsimile editions of Quran copies published by IRCICA

recorded his impressions, as follows: «I have seen the works achieved and the noble efforts deployed by IRCICA, subsidiary of the OIC, which are a blessing and manifestation of

the Word of God: «Indeed, it is We who bring the dead to life and record what they have put forth and what they left behind» (Quran, 36:12). May God help all those who contributed in achieving this work and all those who follow its example.”



## Mr. Faruk Çelik, Minister of State of Turkey, at IRCICA

Mr. Faruk Çelik, Minister of State of Turkey, visited the Director General of IRCICA Dr. Halit Eren on Friday, 11 March 2011. Extensive talks were held on cultural activities and cooperation in the Muslim world, with special focus on IRCICA's mission as the OIC's cultural research center. Dr. Eren briefed the Minister on the Centre's programs and publications and guided him to IRCICA library.

Mr. Faruk Çelik is the Minister of State in charge of the Presidency of Religious Affairs, the Turkish cooperation and development Agency TİKA, and the Presidency for Turks overseas and relative communities.

During the visit Dr. Eren recalled with appreciation the support and cooperation extended by the Turkish Government to the International Inaugural Conference of the “1400th Year of the Revelation of the Holy Quran”, which was organised by IRCICA under the patronage of the Prime Minister of Turkey Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and opened by the Prime Minister on 5 September 2011. Following the opening ceremony, the working sessions of the conference were chaired by Mr. Faruk Çelik, representing Turkey. During the discussions where the representatives of Islamic countries, eight of them ministers, were speaking of activities implemented by their respective governments, Mr. Çelik briefed the conference on activities being held in Turkey in the field of Quranic studies and education.



IRCICA's facsimile edition of the Quran copy at Topkapı Palace Museum, İstanbul, was presented to the Minister

## BOOK SURVEY

### »»» Recent acquisitions by IRCICA Library

- Sheikh Mohammed H. Al-Mojan, **The Honourable Ka'bah. Architecture and Kiswah**, English translation by Ghassan Rimlawi, Al-Kawn Center, Makkah Al-Mukarramah, 2010, ill., 2 volumes (in English and Arabic)

This beautifully designed and meticulously drafted large-size book is a history of the Holy Ka'bah with regard to its architecture and covering curtain. It brings a number of new contributions to the study and recapitulation of specific aspects of the history of the Kiswah (covering). It is supported by functional and beautiful pictures taken from inside and outside the Ka'bah. The Kiswah corresponds to a religious tradition which is carried on since the time of the four Caliphs. Some examples of historical and archaeological facts and information that are addressed for the first time in this publication are contained in the photographs of: one of the Ka'bah's three columns which were built by Abdullah bin Zubayr, a set of the Ka'bah's locks and keys, the inner door, the Door of Repentance (Bab al-Tawba), and, studies of the oldest pieces of the covering that are preserved at different locations around the world.

The book has a foreword by Sheikh Saleh bin Mohammad Al-Sheikh, the Minister of Islamic Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, where the Minister observes there were no extensive studies on the Ka'bah Kiswah until Sheikh Al-Mojan undertook this research which took eight years for the collection and examination of documents, the search for artifacts in private collections, and preparation of the book in a most comprehensive manner. Some findings of Sheikh Mojan made it possible to revise the existing knowledge about the availability of pieces of some old coverings of the Ka'bah. The preface by the author, Sheikh Al-Mojan, gives background information on the history of the Ka'bah and its Kiswah.

The book is arranged in two parts. The first part contains the history of the construction of the Ka'bah, covering each period comprehensively: the constructions before and during the time of Ibrahim, the Ka'bah during the time of Prophet Mohammad and the periods of the four caliphs, the reconstructions conducted during the Omayyad, Abbasid, Mamluk and Ottoman periods, and those of the Saudi period. In the second part the author examines the history of the Ka'bah's Kiswah: the Kiswah before Islam, from the dawn of Islam until the end of the Mamluk era, during the Ottoman era. The author also looks into the development of the inscriptions and the ornaments, celebrations and ceremonies relating to the covering of the Ka'bah as practiced during the Mamluk and the Ottoman eras. At the end of the book are the following appendices: 1. Important events and developments related to the Ka'bah and its surroundings; 2. The most famous Hajj journeys. The author has tapped numerous sources and richly illustrated the

book with photographs and drawings in order to highlight the historical and aesthetical importance and the spiritual and material features of the Ka'bah.

- **İslam Medeniyetinde Bağdat (Medinetü's Selâm) Uluslararası Sempozyum, 7-8-9 Kasım 2008** [Baghdad (Medinat al-Salam) in Islamic Civilisation, International Symposium, 7-8-9- November 2008], published by the Waqf of Marmara University Faculty of Theology, Istanbul, March 2011, 2 volumes

The Faculty of Theology of Marmara University and IRCICA had collaborated towards this symposium with Umraniye Municipality (Istanbul) as the sponsor, on 7-9 November 2008 at Marmara University. It was conceived as a large-scale academic event with wide subject scope. Since it was the first symposium on this subject, its theme was not restricted to any specific periods or topics and was left unlimited, to cover all aspects of Baghdad during the Islamic period. The 74 papers which were presented during the symposium have been edited by Prof. İsmail Safa Üstün, compiled in two large volumes and published by the Waqf of Marmara University Faculty of Theology. The papers are in their language of presentation (Arabic or Turkish). After the foreword of the editor, the book begins with the opening addresses which were delivered by the Mayor of Umraniye Mr. Hasan Can, the Director General of IRCICA Dr. Halit Eren, the Dean of Marmara University's Faculty of Theology Prof. Dr. Raşit Küçük, the Rector of Marmara University Prof. Dr. Necla Pur, and the Secretary General of the OIC Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu.

In view of the width of the theme which necessarily leaves countless pertinent topics uncovered, and taking into consideration the great interest aroused by the symposium, its organisers and participants had agreed on the need and potential benefits of convening this symposium periodically. Meantime, the present two volumes of papers constitute a rich body of literature that can help to promote studies in this field until a second symposium is convened.

The book is arranged according to the following section titles: Foundation of Baghdad, Political and Social Formations in Baghdad, Cultural Formations in Baghdad, Mongol Invasion and Baghdad, Non-Muslims in Baghdad, Economic Structure of Baghdad, Sufism in Baghdad, Ottoman-Iran Relations and Baghdad, Fiqh and Arabic Language in Baghdad, Ottoman Administration in Baghdad, Fine Arts in Baghdad, Architecture in Baghdad, Travelers in Baghdad, Baghdad in the Modern Period, Music in Baghdad, Institutions in Baghdad.



- Nasser Rabbat, **Mamluk History Through Architecture. Monuments, Culture and Politics in Medieval Egypt and Syria**, I.B. Tauris, London, 2010, xiv, 261 p.: ill., plans

This book brings a novel approach into the inquiry on the social and cultural history of the Mamluk Sultanate (1250-1517): Prof. Nasser Rabat, the Aga Khan Professor of Islamic Architecture at MIT and Director of the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture, delves into the Mamluk arts and architecture to extract from them and analyse evidence as to their socio-cultural background - the mentalities, ambitions and attitudes of the Mamluks. Studies in history of art and architecture have already covered, relatively well compared to other periods, the architectural monuments and artifacts of the Mamluk period; the lives and works of the patrons of art, and to some extent also the architects and the artists, have been recorded. In this collection of essays the author explores the written sources on Mamluk culture and architecture and combines the insight gained from the examination of these sources with research into the built and the formal expressions of Mamluk culture. These essays were published in books and journals over a period of sixteen years (1989-2005). They form fifteen chapters arranged in four parts. The first part, "Unpacking Mamluk Sources" is historiographical: it looks into how the written texts influenced the perception of Mamluk culture, society and individuals. The second part, titled "Architecture as History" refers directly to the objective of the book, while the third part, "Architecture and Language", asserts it by showing the relationship between architecture and text through four case studies that illustrate how built elements epitomize the cultural and social contexts in which they are situated. The fourth part, "Architecture as Cultural Index" brings culture into the discussion, arguing on the interplay of architecture and history with culture as a variable that changes at a rate different than architecture but affects it and is affected by it. Here the author not only portrays a detailed picture based on case studies, but also explores the Mamluk approach to architecture, governance and the waqf system in documentation of the buildings. Altogether, Mamluk architecture becomes a key to the cultural and social history of the period, mirroring Mamluk society with all its structures - political, financial, intellectual, artistic, etc. It draws on examples of architecture from Egypt and Syria. Along with its extensive glossary and bibliography, the book will no doubt be invaluable to scholars and researchers of the Mamluk period. *(Book presentation by Tuğrul Ihsanoğlu)*

- **Old Mosques of the Coasts of Abu Dhabi** by Dr. Geoffrey King, SOAS, University of London, published by the National Center for Documentation and Research, 112 p. English and 108 p. Arabic, each including Appendix: Mosque Catalogue, Bibliography, Plate List, Index: ill., plans (in English and Arabic)

This illustrated study and catalogue of the old mosques of the coasts and the islands of Abu Dhabi is a valuable record of the traditional architectural heritage of the region. It responds to a need and fills a gap: no accounts of old mosques of either Abu Dhabi City or Abu Dhabi's coasts were available before

mid-20th century. Given that nearly all old mosques of the UAE have been rebuilt and renovated in modern style, as the author indicates, and that the process is likely to continue, recording the extant old mosques became a pressing task. This book fulfils it in an excellent manner. It resulted from extensive fieldwork conducted by Dr. Geoffrey King (Reader in Islamic Art and Archaeology at SOAS, University of London) and his colleagues. It was launched in 1992 under the aegis of the Abu Dhabi Islands Archaeological Survey (ADIAS) which was founded at the instruction of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al Nahyan, Ruler of Abu Dhabi and the first President of the UAE, under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed al-Nahyan, now Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces and Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi. A large number of mosques of varying types, ranging from simple stone outline mosques to more complex structures, were found on the coasts and islands. The book gives detailed information on the structures, their materials, their social, environmental and economic contexts, which are often directly linked to the trade of pearls and fish. In the Introduction the author has included information on the beginnings of scholarly awareness on the traditional architecture of Abu Dhabi in the last quarter of 20th century. In the subsequent sections the reader will find ample descriptions, analyses and interpretations of the mosques' features. "The social context of the Abu Dhabi Mosques", "The Origins of the mosque tradition in SE Arabia", "Settlements", "A Typology of the Traditional Mosques of the Abu Dhabi Coasts and Islands", "Building Materials" "History and Stylistic Origins of the Abu Dhabi Mosques" are some of the many informative sections that form the book. The Mosque Catalogue has lists of the mosques which are known to have existed in Abu Dhabi City in the past, before it developed as the modern city that it is today, and a comprehensive list of the mosques of the coasts and islands. The book has been published by the National Center for Documentation and Research (NCDR), the leading archival and research institution in the UAE. The Center constitutes the "Memory of the Nation": its activities include research and publishing on the history and heritage of Abu Dhabi and maintainance of indigenous oral history records.

- **Devhatü'l-Meşâyih**, Editor and Introduction: Barbara Kellner-Heinkele, 2 volumes, Verzeichnis der Orientalischen Handschriften in Deutschland Supplementband 27, 1-2, Franz Steiner Verlag, Stuttgart, 2005 (in German)

*Devhatü'l-Meşâyih* is one of the most important works of Ottoman biography literature. The book is about the Ottoman *şeyh'ul-Islams*. The complete work is composed of seven parts and complete copies of it are rare. Suleyman Saadeddin Mustakimzade (1719-1788) was a scholar of Islamic studies who published extensively. The large or smaller books that he wrote and the classical works he translated from Arabic and Persian number 130 in total; among them are the titles: *Divan-ı Hazret-i Ali*, *Tuhfe-i Hattatin*, *Terceme-i Fikh-i Ekber*, *Risale-i Ebeveyn*, *Menakib-ı Eshab-i Bedr*, *Akide-us-Sufiyye*, the translation of *Murşidu'l-Muteehilin*, *Teracim-i Ahval*, *Risale-i Tac*, *Risale-i Selatil-Vusta*, *Menakib-i İmam-i Azam*, *Mecellet-un-Nisab*.

*Devhatü'l-Meşayih* ("The Tree of Sheikhs") records the lives and professional careers of the *şeyh'ul-Islams* who succeeded to each other from the middle of 15th century until the middle of 19th century. The main body of the book, authored by Mustakimzade, covers the biographies of 63 *şeyh'ul-Islams*. This is followed by the author's supplement, and the lives of 41 other *şeyh'ul-Islams* which were recorded by his successors, other biographers (Seyyid Mehmed Munib Efendi, Suleyman Faik Efendi, Abdulaziz Mektubizade) bringing the total number of *şeyh'ul-Islams* covered to 104.

The present edition by Professor Barbara Kellner-Heinkele constitutes a valuable scholarly contribution to studies on Ottoman history and literature, especially since it makes available to researchers this rather rare genre of work by preceding it with a large introductory volume she authored on the basis of studies on first-hand sources. In the said first volume Prof. Kellner-Heinkele gives a comprehensive Introduction resulting from research which highlights the nature and importance of the book, describes the characteristics of its method and various sections. It contains a catalogue of its extant copies that are located in Istanbul, Berlin, Cairo, Paris, Munich, and Vienna. Furthermore, this first volume contains detailed chapters on the lives of Mustakimzade and the other biographers and about the *şeyh'ul-Islams* covered in the book. Reviewers of Prof. Kellner-Heinkele's edition in academic journals have commended in particular the originality of these biographical sections and the remarkable effort invested in them: the editor has not contented herself with recording the lives and works of the biographers but searched every resource to prepare instructive references on them, reconstructing their characters, attitudes and relations with their social environment. Those specialists of the subject have also commended the list of extant manuscripts of the book and the editor's detailed examination of each copy (e.g. Colin Imber, *Turcica* 38, 2006; Nevzat Gözaydın, *Türk Dili*, no. 658, 2006). The edition comes within the framework of the long-term project aimed at cataloguing and examining the Eastern manuscripts located in Germany ("Verzeichnis der Orientalischen Handschriften in Deutschland").

■ Tobias Heinzlmann, **Henning Sievert, Buchkultur im Nahen Osten des 17. und 18. Jahrhunderts** (Book culture in the Near East in the 17th–18th centuries), Peter Lang, Bern, 2010, *Welten des Islams*, vol. 3 (in German)

This is a collection of papers presented during the 30th German Orientalists Conference which was held in Freiburg in September 2007. The articles of H. Sievert, T. Heinzlmann, S. Reichmuth, R. Elger and F. Schwarz are preceded by a 14-page Introduction. The articles study the sources that represent the book culture of the 17th–18th centuries in the Near East and the various constituents of written heritage including exegeses of the Quran, literary works, translations of treatises, inventories of legacies, and other types of documents. They highlight the importance attributed to the book and to libraries in Muslim societies of the 17th–18th centuries, where until the 19th century the book culture was mostly the culture of manuscripts. They look into such subjects as the reading and utilization of classical texts, transfers of knowledge from those texts, the role of the advancement of

book culture in providing access to these resources, and other aspects and consequences of the perception of and attitude towards the book. The region referred to in these articles is largely the Ottoman empire and its neighbours including Iran; with respect to subjects, the focus is generally on book culture in the Muslim world, mostly in relation with religious books. The joint usage of three languages, namely Arabic, Turkish and Persian in the region's book culture is evoked frequently. Translations from Arabic and Persian into Ottoman Turkish gained pace in the 17th century whereby interest in the classical works, particularly of political and social sciences and literature, grew among the learned. The 18th saw a growth of translations from European languages especially of books on technical and military subjects, but interest in Arabic and Persian literature continued. Ottoman learned circles were following the cultural activities and publications in the Near East, such as those in Iran, as well as European culture and literature. Libraries belonging to individuals or bequeathed to waqfs, and madrasas, mosques and derwish lodges as public institutions, were the centres where book culture was carried on.

■ **Catalogue of the Arabic, Turkish, Persian and Bosnian Manuscripts in the Institute for Oriental Studies Sarajevo**, prepared by Lejla Gazic, Sarajevo, Orientalni Institut, 2009, xxxvii, 246 p., 16 pl. (in Arabic), Al-Furqan Islamic Heritage Foundation, Pub. No. 120, *Catalogues of Islamic Manuscript Series*, No. 62

The manuscript collection of the Institute for Oriental Studies in Sarajevo was destroyed when the Institute's library was set to fire in 1992 during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The thousands of manuscripts used to constitute one of the richest manuscripts collections in the Balkans. Earlier it had 5263 codices in the Arabic, Turkish, Persian and Bosnian languages. A very small number of manuscripts were saved. Al-Furqan Islamic Heritage Foundation in London which works for conservation and preservation of Islamic written heritage all over the world has been helping to preserve the rescued manuscripts and also participating in efforts to restore the collection as much as possible by obtaining copies available in other collections. In this way, and also through purchases and gifts by individuals and institutions, the collection was re-instituted after 1995. The collection comprises manuscripts from all scientific and theological disciplines: Qur'an manuscripts, Hadith (sayings of Prophet Mohammad), law, ritual rules, theology, prayers, mysticism works, Islamic philosophy, logic, sciences, calendars, astrology, occultism, history, geography, politics, grammar, lexicographical works, fine arts and musical literature, poetry, manuscripts of local authors, among others. The titles of works are recorded in Arabic script with their Latin translation, and untitled works are classified according to their content. At the end of the book are various indexes such as: index of titles in Arabic script and Latin transcription, of authors, of copyists, of owners and donors, of geographic names, other names, of catalogue numbers and call numbers. These indexes are very useful to facilitate the task of researchers. The catalogue is remarkable and praiseworthy for its purpose and for the efforts invested in its preparation.

**Sullam al-Wusul ila Tabaqat al-Fuhul**  
**(The Ladder of Elevation to the Lives of the Great and Famous by Generation)**  
**Katib Chalabi**

Edited and Introduction by Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, in collaboration with Mahmoud Al-Arnaut and Saleh Sadawi Saleh, Indices by Selahaddin Uygur, 2 eds.: Arabic-English and Arabic-Turkish, 6 vols.; IRCICA, Istanbul, 2010, Vol. I: 501 p. Ar. + 50 p. English or Turkish; Vol. II: 439 p.; Vol. III: 473 p.; Vol. IV: 485 p.; Vol. V: 489 p.; Vol. VI: Index, 420 p.

The present book is a critical edition of the major biographical work Sullam al-Wusul by Katib Chalabi (d. 1657), one of the most important Ottoman scholars of the 17th century. His most well-known works are Kashf al-Zunun (bibliographical), Sullam al-Wusul (biographical), Fezleke (general Islamic history) and Cihannuma (geographical). The first cited, an outstanding bibliography in history of science, and the last cited, were published many times. Sullam al-Wusul was not published until today (Fezleke either).

The book is arranged in two editions of 6 volumes each. The main body is in Arabic in both editions, whereby the comprehensive Introduction by Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu and the Preface by Dr. Halit Eren are provided in also English in one of the editions and also in Turkish in the other edition. The sixth volume altogether is the Index.

Work towards this publication was conducted at the initiative and under the editorship and coordination of Prof. İhsanoğlu on the occasion of the 2009 Katib Chalabi Year proclaimed by UNESCO. It was conceived in the context of IRCICA's objective to publish major sources of culture and learning that are part of the Muslim world's heritage and render them available to researchers.

In the comprehensive Introduction, İhsanoğlu explores some features of Islamic literature in the area of biography as observed over the centuries. Historians of the Muslim world wrote hundreds of books in every branch of biography: "While some of these contained the biographies of scholars belonging to specific branches of science or to certain sects, others dealt with the life stories of statesmen, scholars and religious authorities who lived in specific places or specific periods of time. These kinds of biographies were usually arranged by category and by date. ... Another type of biographies contained information on important statesmen, scholars, religious figures, authors, artists, etc. having lived in history. ... This type of general biography was usually arranged alphabetically. ...



Katib Chalabi is the leading, or one of the leading personality among those who produced general biographies."

This biography records the lives and works of important statesmen and scholars in Islamic history and also of renowned personalities from pre-Islamic times who held a place in learning and literature. In the second part of the book Katib Chalabi gives information about the personalities' names derived from their places of origin or their genealogy. In the prologue, he explains the method he followed in the book, comments on the science of history, and adds information on names derived from places or genealogy. In this regard Sullam al-Wusul is also a book on genealogy.

The Index section has been added to the edition. It is composed of four parts: personal names, place names, publication titles, names of institutions.

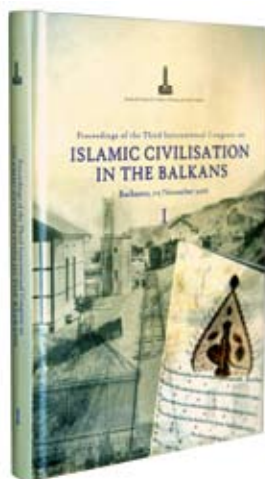
IRCICA is pleased to render this major work on the history of science and culture available to researchers and interested readers.



## IRCICA Publications

### Proceedings of the Third International Congress on “Islamic Civilisation in the Balkans”

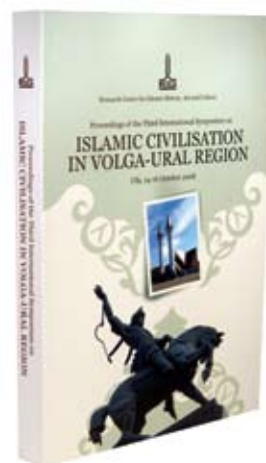
Bucharest, 1-5 November 2006, IRCICA, Istanbul, 2010



The third congress on Islamic Civilisation in the Balkans was held in Bucharest, Romania, under the patronage of President Traian Basescu. It was jointly organised by IRCICA, the University of Bucharest, and the Academy of Sciences of Romania, on 1-5 November 2006. For the first time on this subject, the congress enlisted academic cooperation between OIC-IRCICA representing fifty-seven Muslim countries, on one hand, and Romania on the other, with participation from other countries in the region. This was significant in itself as it reflected a shared concern of the co-organisers and the participants for highlighting the history and the heritage of Muslim cultures in the Balkan region and for promoting their study and teaching. Earlier IRCICA had published the papers and proceedings of the first two congresses on “Islamic Civilisation in the Balkans”. The first congress was organised in Sofia, in 2000, in cooperation with Bulgarian universities, the Academy of Sciences and the National Library of Bulgaria. The second congress was held in Tirana, in 2003, in cooperation with the University of Tirana, the Academy of Sciences and the National Archives of Albania. The Bucharest congress received high quality contributions. It reflected advancements made in this research area and the benefits drawn from international communication through this and other series of forums. The book contains six articles in Part I titled “Historical Background”, six in Part II on “Education, Culture and Art”, three in Part III on “Social Life and Rituals”, and five articles on miscellaneous subjects.

### Proceedings of the Third International Symposium on “Islamic Civilisation in Volga-Ural Region”

Ufa, 14-16 October 2008, IRCICA, Istanbul, 2010



The Third International Symposium on “Islamic Civilisation in Volga-Ural Region” was held in Ufa, capital of Bashkortostan, under the patronage of the then President of Bashkortostan Mr. Murtaza Rakhimov, and opened with the President’s address. The symposium generated a wide array of studies on Volga-Ural region’s features and developments relating to intellectual heritage, religion, cultural identity, ideological movements, arts and architecture, multi-cultural influences, and the Islamic influence in the formation of all these processes. The book has the text of the comprehensive address (in Bashkir) of President Rakhimov. The 39 papers are published in their original language, in Bashkir, Russian or English. Some of the titles are: “A comparison of Idil-Ural madrasahs and the Ottoman madrasahs” (Prof. Ali Arslan), “The Myth on the Origin of the Bashkorts and its variants in the Turkish world” (Prof. Özkul Çobanoğlu), “Islamic institutions and activities in Volga-Ural region during the 1917 revolution” (Prof. Nadir Devlet), “Nogays in the steppes of the Caspian Sea in the eyes of the 19th century Western travelers” (Assoc. Prof. Mustafa Eravcı), “The Timurid Lyceum” (Dr. Mohd. Sanaullah), “Astrakhan from the view of English and French travelers in the first quarter of the 19th century” (Dr. H. Kara, Dr. A. Başer), “The impact of Zeki Velidi Togan (1890-1970) on Turkish Politics” (Dr. T. Erdoğdu).

In 2010, Ufa also hosted the fourth congress on the same theme, under the patronage of the current President Mr. Rustem Zakievith Khamitov. The book to contain its proceedings is in preparation at IRCICA.

*Osmanlı astroloji literatürü tarihi ve Osmanlı astronomi literatürü tarihi zeyli*

***History of Ottoman astrology literature and supplement to the history of Ottoman astronomy literature* (Vol. I) and *Osmanlı Bilim Literatürü Tarihi Zeylleri (Matematik, Coğrafya, Musiki, Askerlik, Tabii ve Tatbiki Bilimler, Tıbbi Bilimler) ve Osmanlı Mavzu'at al-Ulum Literatürü Tarihi Supplements to the History of Ottoman Scientific Literature (Mathematical, Geographical, Music, Military Arts, Natural and Applied Sciences, and Medical Sciences Literature) and History of Ottoman Classification of Sciences Literature* (Vol. II)**

prepared by Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Ramazan Şeşen, M. Serdar Bekar, Gülcan Gündüz, Veysel Bulut,  
Editor: Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Preface: Halit Eren, Series of Studies and Sources on History of Science;  
No. 16, History of Ottoman Literature of Science Series; No. 8, IRCICA, Istanbul, 2011

The 16th and 17th volumes of the series that IRCICA has been publishing for fourteen years now under the title History of Ottoman Scientific Literature have appeared. This series consisting of bio-bibliographies resulted from a project that was launched in 1985 under the initiative of Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu and implemented since then by IRCICA's Department of Bibliographies and Manuscripts, which is chaired by the eminent specialist of history of science and Islamic manuscripts Professor Ramazan Şeşen. The project aims at assessing and recording the scientific activity that was conducted within the Ottoman geography during the six hundred-years Ottoman period. Its findings were compiled in bio-bibliographies arranged according to the fields of science, namely astronomy (1997), mathematics (1999), geography (2000), music (2002), military arts (2004), natural and applied sciences (2006), medical sciences (2009) and the present one, astrology (2011).

The series on History of Ottoman Scientific Literature contributed in increasing knowledge on the scientific heritage of the Ottoman period which is one of the weighty and important parts of history of science in Islam. Hundreds of scientists and thousands of works have been recorded in this series for each field of science. From among the volumes published earlier, those on astronomy deal with 582 authors and 2438 works. In the field of mathematics, 963 works written by 491 scientists and 153 other works, i.e. 1116 works in total, are introduced. The book on geography, cosmography and cartography, third in the series, covers 1628 works; the authors of 727 of them are introduced, while those of the remaining 901 are not known. As to the book on the history of musical literature, it introduces 223 authors and 440 works belonging to them, together with 273 works the authors of which are unknown. The volumes covering publications such as books, articles, laws and regulations about military arts and subjects cite 3273 publications in total; the authors of 1546 of them are not known. The volumes on natural and applied sciences relating to physics, chemistry, mineralogy, geology, botanical science, zoology, and the sciences of their applications, i.e. engineering, manufacturing, agriculture, animal husbandry, forestry cover 3354 works; the authors/

translators of 2407 of them are introduced, while those of 926 are not known. The volumes on medical sciences, dentistry, pharmacology and veterinary sciences cover 5607 books and articles authored by 1430 scientists.

The first of the two volumes

published in 2011 consist of the bio-bibliography on the history of astrology, as an eighth field of science covered by the series, together with additions and corrections – supplements to the volume on astronomy, which was the first volume in the series. The second volume contains the supplements to the volumes published earlier on mathematics, geography, music, military arts, natural and applied sciences, and medical sciences on one hand, and a bibliography of on books on the classification and methodology of sciences written during the Ottoman period, on the other. Some additions were made to the entries about authors included in earlier volumes; thus, information obtained later about 218 authors and their works was added. A list of nearly 2000 maps was added to the supplement to the volume on geography. The Introduction by Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu recapitulates the overall features and findings of the project during the twenty-five years of its implementation. It also reviews the main trends and features of the science of astrology in the Muslim world, describes the way it was perceived and practiced, classifies and describes the main types of works that form the body of Ottoman astrology literature. The series will conclude with a volume, forthcoming, to contain the indexes for the 17 volumes published until the present.

