



Newsletter



OIC RESEARCH CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC HISTORY, ART AND CULTURE

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(Cairo, Feb. 2013)

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reform process at the OIC: achievements, challenges
and future prospects”

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Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu: results announced (30 April 2013)

35 trainees received their *Ijaza* – licenses in the art of calligraphy

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IRCICA & Al-Turath Islamic Urban Heritage Program:
2013 Winter School focused on the historical area of Jeddah

Conference on “The Importance of Cultural Heritage and its
Preservation: the Islamic Vision of Cultural Heritage”

Libraries and archives

Conservation of old books: specialists from Mali complete training
program in Istanbul

IRCICA's participation in the Cairo International Book Fair

Meetings, cooperation

IRCICA Publications

Newsletter



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

January – April 2013, No. 90

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

Publisher

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

Editor in Chief

Halit Eren

Editorial Board

Zeynep Durukal
Fayçal Benaissa
Mihir 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
ircica@ircica.org

Graphic Design

Said Kasımoğlu

Printing

Ultra Grafik
info@ultramabaa.com

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Editorial

The last issue of our Newsletter featured four congresses on topics of history that were held towards the end of 2012, while coincidentally for the present issue, in 2013 up till now a large part of the activities were related to arts and cultural heritage. Art circles interested in Islamic calligraphy were looking forward to the announcement of the results of the 2013 calligraphy competition, the ninth one in a series IRCICA has been holding every three years. We announced its results on 30 April. This competition program has expanded its scope over the past years and allowed thousands of calligraphers to participate in it from within and outside the Muslim world. It has grown to become an established IRCICA tradition awaited by calligraphers, connoisseurs and the public at large. As the event matured its contributions towards reviving interest in this art, enhancing general knowledge of its different aspects, promoting artistic commitment on the part of its practitioners, encouraging observance of classical standards, it came to be known as a framework of criteria for advanced performance in this art. From the beginning, each round of the competition was dedicated to one of the acknowledged masters in the history of this art. Thus up to this point eight master calligraphers from different regions of the world were commemorated. At the Jury's recommendation after the eighth competition, in 2008, we had decided to dedicate the ninth competition to Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the OIC who, during his tenure as Director General of IRCICA (1980-December 2004), had formulated the concept of the competition and presided over its rounds. The competition series will continue with the tenth competition, which will be announced in 2014 and finalized in 2016.

Another event featured in the present issue comes under the program titled "Islamic Urban Heritage. Research, Preservation and Management" which is carried out jointly by Al-Turath Islamic Heritage Foundation (Saudi Arabia) and IRCICA. This is one of the main chapters of IRCICA's activity program titled "Architecture and Heritage Preservation". The many objectives of our work in this domain include the registration, with historical and descriptive information, of the heritage properties of the Muslim world; their study, restoration, conservation, and re-use by means of up-to-date techniques and in accordance with the requirements of present-day modes of life as regards settlements, urbanization, economic, cultural

and social activities and global interconnections of peoples. We are revising the specifics of these programs to ensure that the education and training, the research and know-how, the reports and references generated through their sessions may impart to the participants – professionals, researchers, students, readers, who are joining us from all continents, a knowledge of cultures and a set of intercultural management skills that they would apply in their careers and diffuse in their societies. As regards the Al-Turath and IRCICA joint program, it had started with the first summer school, held in June-July 2011. As an interdisciplinary program it drew interest and wide participation from the areas of architecture, urban studies, cultural tourism and heritage preservation. Then, jointly with Al-Turath we decided to institute it as a periodical activity, and organized a second summer school in 2012. Lastly, in March 2013 we held a winter school with the participation of 50 students and 9 professors. It focused on the historical area of Jeddah as a case study.

Some of the new orientations of our work are reflected in the brief news we are publishing on our meetings, contacts and cooperation with governmental and non-governmental authorities and institutions. I wish to add that in the coming months we shall make preparations for a series of congresses; among them is the International Symposium on The History of Islamic Civilization in East Africa. This event will be organized jointly by IRCICA, the National Records and Archives Authority (NRAA) of the Sultanate of Oman and the State University of Zanzibar (SUZA), in Zanzibar at the beginning of September 2013. Meanwhile, some new publications are under print which we shall introduce in the next issue of the Newsletter, among them an album of historical photographs of Makkah Al-Mukarramah and Madina Al-Munawara, the first two holy cities of Islam. It will come in the same series as the album Al-Quds/Jerusalem in Historical Photographs (2009) which contained photographs of Al-Quds, the third holy city of Islam, selected from the albums of Sultan Abdulhamid II.

We will be pleased to publish news on the outcomes of these activities in our next issue. Meantime, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our Muslim readers on the occasion of the coming month of Ramadan and wish all our readers a good and productive Summer period.

Dr. Halit Eren



Highlights of the 12th Islamic Summit Conference

Cairo, 6-7 February 2013

The Heads of State and Government of the OIC Member States met on their 12th Summit Conference, which was held in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt, from 6-7 February 2013. The Summit was opened by the Egyptian President H.E. Mohamed Morsi. H.E. Macky Sall, President of Senegal, gave an address covering the OIC's activities and developments since the 11th Summit (Dakar, Senegal, 11-12 March 2008) before handing the presidency of the Summit to Mr. Morsi. In his opening address, President Morsi alluded to the many and varied issues of political, economic and social nature and to development problems facing the Muslim world. Observing that 21 of the OIC member States were amongst the poorest in the world, he pointed to the need for more education and research efforts. He also raised concerns about the problems of Muslim minorities around the world, citing in particular the Rohingya Muslim minority in Myanmar. President Morsi called for further co-operation and support among the Member States in all fields.

On top of the political agenda were the civil war in Syria and the situation of insecurity and instability prevailing in Mali in addition to the foremost issue of concern to the Muslim world, the question of Al-Quds and Palestine. In its Final Communique the Summit reaffirmed the centrality of the cause of Palestine and Al-Quds Al-Sharif to the Muslim world as a whole and the need for the latter to use all its powers and legitimate ways and means to defend the inviolability of the Islamic and Christian holy places. The Summit welcomed the UN General Assembly's adoption of resolution 19/67 on 29

November 2012 upgrading the status of Palestine in the United Nations to Observer State, commending the support given to the resolution by the majority of world states as an important step toward readdressing the historical injustice inflicted upon the Palestinian people for many decades; this is likely to shore up the efforts to incarnate the sovereignty of the State of Palestine over the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including the city of Al-Quds Al-Sharif and all the Islamic and Christian holy places (The full text of the Communique can be found at: oic-oci.org).

Among the other subjects on the political agenda, the Summit reaffirmed its support for Lebanon to fully liberate all its territories from Israeli occupation through all legitimate means; it called for full implementation of resolution 1701 (2006) and strongly condemned Israel's continued violations of Lebanon's sovereignty by land, sea and air including the spy networks planted in Lebanon. Regarding the Syrian Golan, the conference strongly condemned Israel's policy refusing to comply with Security Council Resolution 497 (1981) concerning the occupied Syrian Golan and Israel's policies of annexation and building of colonial settlements, confiscation of land, diversion of water sources, and imposition of Israeli nationality upon Syrian citizens. The Summit demanded that Israel completely withdraws from the occupied Syrian Golan to the 1967 border pursuant to Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), the principle of land for peace, the terms of reference of the Madrid Peace Conference and the Arab Peace Initiative adopted by the Arab Summit held



in Beirut on 28 March 2002. Concerning the ongoing war in Syria, the Summit stressed the need to preserve Syria's unity, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity; it strongly condemned the ongoing bloodshed in Syria, and underlined the Syrian Government's primary responsibility for the continued violence and destruction of property. It expressed grave concern over the deteriorating situation, the increasing frequency of killings, which claim the lives of thousands of unarmed civilians, and the perpetration of massacres in towns and villages by the Syrian authorities. The Summit conference called for immediate cessation of violence, killings and destruction, for the respect of Islamic values, human rights, and for saving Syria from the danger of an all-out civil war, including its dangerous consequences on the Syrian people, on the region, and on international peace and security. It urged the Syrian regime to show wisdom, and called for a serious dialogue to take place between the National Coalition of Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces and representatives of the Syrian Government committed to political transformation in Syria and who have not been directly involved in any form of oppression, in order to pave the way for a transition process that would lead the Syrian people to achieve their aspirations for democratic reforms and changes. The Summit appealed to the National Coalition of Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces to speed up the constitution of a transitional government representing all parties and factions of its people without any discrimination or exclusion, and to be ready to assume the political responsibility in full until the completion of the political change process sought. It warned that the continued military escalation which has been rejected and condemned by the international community will push the country to slide towards dangerous risks threatening peace, security and stability in the country and in the entire region.

The Summit expressed its satisfaction regarding the ongoing political transformations in Libya and the efforts to build a state of law and institutions. Relating to Yemen, it expressed its full and continued support to the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Yemen, and called upon all the Member States to extend all necessary assistance to the new leadership to consolidate peace, stability, security and development in the country.

The Summit conference recorded its esteem for the initiative undertaken by His Royal Majesty King Hamad Bin Issa Al Khalifa, the Monarch of the Kingdom of Bahrain, which called for a national dialogue among all factions of the Bahrain society, aimed at fulfilling the requirements of modernization, achieving continued reform, realizing the aspiration of the Bahraini people, enhancing understanding, strengthening, and reserving national security, safety and territorial integrity. The conference called upon all factions of the Bahraini society to respond positively to the initiative of H.R.M. the King of Bahrain, in order to resume the national dialogue aimed at reaching consensus on matters that would ensure the national interests and promote prosperity for the people of Bahrain.

Relating to the Sudan, the conference welcomed the Framework Agreement which was signed in Addis Ababa on 27 September 2012 between H.E. Omar Hasan Ahmad Al-Bashir, President

of the Republic of the Sudan, and H.E. Salva Kiir Mayardit, President of the Republic of South Sudan, which addressed a number of outstanding issues between the two countries, and the latest agreement signed on 5 January 2013 in Addis Ababa. It expressed the hope that the agreements would help find a final solution to all outstanding issues and develop bilateral relations between the two countries in all domains. Addressing the situation in Somalia, the Summit welcomed Somalia's significant achievement in selecting the new parliament members and the election of President Hassan Sheikh Mahmoud through a transparent and democratic process and under supervision by regional and international organizations, most notably the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. It also welcomed the subsequent formation of a new government, which was able in a short period of time to improve the security situation, promote stability, restructure state institutions, particularly security and financial institutions and the judiciary. This, in addition to opening dialogues with the political forces, and reaching out to its regional neighbors and the international community, which enabled it to establish new bilateral relations with the United States, European countries, and Arab, Islamic and African countries, Japan and China, as well as with international donor organizations including the World Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, and certain Arab funds.

Relating to the situation in Djibouti, the Summit reaffirmed its full solidarity with the Republic of Djibouti in its territorial dispute with Eritrea, and commended the efforts of the Government of the Republic of Djibouti to end tension with peaceful means. About the Union of Comoros, it reiterated its call to all Member States as well as OIC affiliated institutions to support the Union of the Comoros in conformity with the OIC's Council of Ministers Resolution 7/39-Pol by materializing the announcements made during the Doha Conference on investment in Comoros and by making available to the Comoros the resources required to implement the socio-economic development programmes. It commended the Union of Comoros for having concluded the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiatives in collaboration with the Breton Woods institutions. It invited Member States and financial institutions to show further solidarity with the friendly state of Union of Comoros by proceeding with the reduction or cancelation of its external debts as already done by Western countries and financial institutions which have or are still supporting HIPC initiatives by promoting win-win investment in this country.

Addressing the situation in Mali, the conference reiterated its support for the safe-guarding of the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Mali. It firmly condemned the acts of diverse terrorist groups and movements as well as the transnational organized crime and drug trafficking networks which constitute a real threat to the security and stability of Mali and entire region, aimed at disrupting the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Mali. It reaffirmed its full solidarity with the people of Mali and its National Union Government. It also reiterated its firm support for the current efforts aimed at recovering the

territorial integrity and re-establishment of state authority by the Republic of Mali on its entire national territory. In this regard, it took note of the adoption of resolution 2085 (2012) by UN Security Council which sets out a global approach for resolving the multidimensional crisis existing in Mali and the current initiatives by the African Union and the Economic Commission of West African States. The conference strongly condemned the heinous acts perpetrated by terrorist groups and organizations against the civilian population, the destruction of cultural sites in Timbuktu especially those classified by UNESCO as world cultural heritage. Furthermore, the Summit welcomed the designation by OIC Secretary General of Mr. Djibrill Bassole, the Foreign Minister of Burkina Faso, who has been serving as the Representative of the ECOWAS Mediator to also serve as OIC Special Envoy for Mali and the Sahel to the region in order to lead OIC's efforts in contributing to the peaceful resolution of the conflict.

Discussing the situation in Niger, the Summit Conference noted with satisfaction the democratic transition in the Republic of Niger through recent successful elections, and called upon the Member States to continue to support the country in coping with the challenges of sustainable development including an emergency humanitarian aid to face an increasing flow of Malian refugees. Relating to Cote d'Ivoire, the Summit reaffirmed its solidarity with the country in its peace building endeavors and the renewal of its war-ravaged economy. In this context, it urged the Secretary General to step up efforts to convene the donors' conference as approved by the 38th CFM (Astana, 2011) and appealed to the Member States to actively participate and generously contribute in the said conference for the reconstruction of Cote d'Ivoire. Relating to Guinea, the Summit welcomed the positive political and economic developments in Guinea, and called upon all OIC Member States and OIC institutions to extend necessary economic, political and financial support to Guinea to implement its development projects and activities. Concerning Nigeria, it welcomed the overall endeavors of the authorities in Nigeria in combating the activities posed by armed and terrorist groups which continue to threaten the peace, unity and harmony in the country; it reiterated its full support and solidarity with the Government and people of Nigeria in this regard.

Concerning the problem experienced by Azerbaijan with the aggression of Armenia against its territory, the Summit reaffirmed that acquisition of territory by use of force is

inadmissible under the Charter of the United Nations and the international law, and urged for strict implementation of UN Security Council resolutions nos. 822, 853, 874 and 884 and for immediate, full and unconditional withdrawal of the armed forces of Armenia from occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan, including its Nagorno Karabakh region. The conference called for the resolution of the conflict within the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of the internationally recognized borders of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Relating to Afghanistan, it urged the Member States and the international community to continue their vigorous support and assistance to the people and Government of Afghanistan in fighting terrorism, counter drug trafficking, achieve security, stability, rehabilitation and reconstruction as well as comprehensive and sustainable development. It reaffirmed its support to enhanced regional cooperation which bears relevance for ensuring sustained peace and stability in Afghanistan and beyond, and welcomed the Istanbul Process as a new agenda for regional cooperation in the "Heart of Asia" by placing Afghanistan at its center and engaging the "Heart of Asia" countries to strengthen trust and cooperation in the region for a peaceful and stable Afghanistan as well as a secure and prosperous region as a whole. It also welcomed the proposal of Kazakhstan to host the Istanbul Process Ministerial Meeting in Almaty on 26 April 2013 and called upon Member States to participate in this event. It commended the UAE for facilitating the opening of the OIC office in Kabul. It welcomed the ongoing positive developments in Afghanistan, especially expressing its support for the Afghan owned and Afghan led peace process based on the Constitution of Afghanistan, which hopefully would contribute to strengthening stability in the country. The Summit expressed its deep appreciation to countries, in particular the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting a large number of Afghan refugees and acknowledged the huge burden they have shouldered in this regard. It called on the international community and the relevant UN agencies for the provision of enhanced assistance to the Afghan refugees and internally displaced persons to facilitate their voluntary, safe and dignified return and sustainable reintegration into the society of origin so as to contribute to the stability of Afghanistan.

Concerning the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, the Summit reaffirmed its principled support to the people of Jammu and Kashmir for the realization of their legitimate right to self-determination, in accordance with relevant UN resolutions and with the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. It recorded its concern at the indiscriminate use of force and gross violations of human rights committed in Indian Occupied Kashmir by Indian security forces which have resulted in killing scores of innocent and unarmed civilians as well as injuring hundreds of others including women, children and elderly. It called upon India to allow the OIC Fact-Finding Mission and the international human rights groups and humanitarian organizations to visit Jammu and Kashmir. It urged India to undertake independent investigations into the discovery of mass graves including



DNA testing and ensure free and fair trial of those responsible of those heinous crimes. It expressed deep concern on the recent ceasefire violations along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir and urged for the need to observe the ceasefire in letter and spirit and to abide by and strengthen existing military mechanisms put in place by India and Pakistan to ensure peace.

Concerning Kosovo, the Summit renewed the call made in Resolution no. 15/39-Pol which was adopted during the 39th Session of the OIC's CFM (Djibouti, 2012), addressed to all Member States of the Organization that have not yet done so, to consider recognizing Kosovo's independence, based on their free and sovereign rights as well as on their national legislations. The conference also reaffirmed the call to Member States to continue contributing to the fostering of the Kosovo's economy. On Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Summit reiterated its firm support to preserve the territorial integrity, sovereignty, equality of the two entities and the three constituent peoples and others, within the internationally recognized borders of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It called upon all political leaders in Bosnia and Herzegovina to join their forces for the common future of the country and thus focus on the reform process.

The conference expressed regret that the last negotiation process for a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus issue initiated under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General's Good Offices Mission in 2008 was unable to produce a result, and declared its support for a just, comprehensive and lasting settlement in Cyprus based on the inherent constitutive power of the two peoples, their political equality and co-ownership of the Island. It expressed solidarity with the Turkish Cypriots and appreciation for their constructive efforts to attain a mutually acceptable settlement and called on Member States to strengthen effective solidarity with the Turkish Cypriot State.

Concerning the Muslim communities and minorities in non-OIC Member States, the conference reiterated its support to the Secretary General's efforts, initiatives and good offices aimed at finding just solutions to the political, cultural and economic issues of Muslim communities and minorities in non-OIC Member States. It commended the expansion of these efforts to include new countries in North America, Australia, and Europe, and the Secretary General's continued efforts to address the issues of Muslims in Southern Philippines, Southern Thailand, Republic of Myanmar, as well as the issues of Muslims in the Balkans, the Caucasus, India, etc., in total respect of the sovereignty of the States in which these communities live. It affirmed that the current challenges require the adoption of the principles of dialogue and cooperation and the obligation to respect the culture and traditions of peoples.

On the problem of the Muslims in Southern Philippines, the conference called for a solution promptly. It urged the Government of the Philippines (GPH) and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) to continue their efforts in order to find a solution to pending issues, consistent with the 1976 Tripoli Agreement and the 1996 Final Peace Agreement, related to the autonomous region, revenue sharing, definition of strategic minerals and the Transitional Mechanism. It

welcomed the Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro (FAB) signed on 15 October 2012 between the GPH and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) under the facilitation of the Government of Malaysia. It urged the GPH, the MILF and the MNLF to continue their efforts in close cooperation. It affirmed the need to relate the FAB to the 1976 Tripoli Agreement and urged the OIC Secretary General to exert his efforts with the GPH, MILF and MNLF to avoid any discrepancies between the two tracks of negotiations.

The conference denounced the continuation of atrocious acts against Rohingya Muslim community in Myanmar which represents a serious violation of the international law and international human rights covenants; and urged the Government of Myanmar to take all necessary measures to protect their basic rights, including their basic right to a nationality and protection from all forms of discrimination in accordance with UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/67/233. It also affirmed the responsibility of the international community to work with the Government of Myanmar to take all necessary measures to protect minorities in its territories and put an end to violence against the Rohingya Muslim minority; it called on the Government of Myanmar to grant easy access for humanitarian aid to be channeled to the affected and the needy.

The conference expressed its support to the just cause of the Turkish Muslim Minority in Western Thrace and the Muslim population of the Dodecanese, and called on Greece to take all necessary measures to ensure the respect of the rights of Muslim community and their identity and culture, taking into account the widespread reactions of the Muslim Minority in Western Thrace against the latest regulations on the appointment of 240 Imams in Greece. It also called for refraining from taking further steps on that matter against the will of its Muslim citizens.

Another item on its agenda was the situation of Muslims in Southern Thailand. The Summit expressed hope that the Government of Thailand will make further constructive steps and requested the Secretary General to continue the constructive dialogue with the Government of Thailand in the interest of Muslims in Southern Thailand towards the achievement of peace and stability therein.

"Combating terrorism" is a permanent agenda item of the OIC. The Summit recorded its strongly condemning terrorism, including State terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations committed by whomsoever and wherever, and reaffirmed its commitment to strengthen mutual cooperation in the fight against terrorism through, inter alia, evolving an appropriate definition of terrorism by consensus at the international level as well as an international convention to combat terrorism. It took note of the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in 2006 and its three reviews in 2008, 2010 and 2012; it reaffirmed its status as a living document to be updated and called for the subsequent review mechanism of the strategy to take into account the root causes of terrorism and draw distinction between acts of terrorism, being unequivocally unlawful and rejected, and the legitimate

struggle for the right of self-determination by people under foreign occupation and colonial or alien domination. It recognized that a time-structured approach, envisaging short, medium, and long-term objectives, to the implementation of the strategy could best accommodate the contentious issues related to the strategy. It called upon Member States to sign and ratify the OIC Convention on Combating International Terrorism, if they have not already done so. The conference recorded that financing of terrorism is a matter of grave concern to the international community and recognized that the payment of ransoms to terrorist groups constitutes one of the main sources of financing of terrorism. It urged the Member States not to pay ransoms and to cooperate for banning the payment of ransoms claimed by terrorist groups. It expressed its deep concern over the rise of systematic state terrorism manifested, among others, by blatantly assassinating Iranian scientists and researchers and condemned such abhorrent terrorists acts. It commended the continuous efforts of all Member States in strengthening global efforts in order to effectively eliminate all forms of terrorism. In this regard, the conference reiterated its support to the continued efforts made by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah Bin Abdul-Aziz Al-Saud in establishing the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, and the commencement of its activities.

Relating to the question of disarmament, the Summit reaffirmed its continued support for the establishment of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in the Middle East, and called on Israel, as the only non-NPT party in the Middle East, to accede, unconditionally and without further delay, to the Treaty as a non-nuclear-weapon party, and to place all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive safeguards of the IAEA. The Summit expressed its grave concern over the failure of Israel to declare its participation in the Conference on the Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Weapons of Mass Destruction, aiming to undermine the convening of the Conference as well as the realization of Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Weapons of Mass Destruction.

Under the agenda item on Human Rights, the Summit reaffirmed that Human Rights in Islam are an integral part of the overall Islamic order and it is obligatory on all Muslim governments and organs of society to implement them in letter and in spirit within the framework of that order. It reaffirmed the civilizing and historical role of the Islamic Ummah in contributing to the efforts of mankind to promote and protect fundamental rights and freedoms which are an integral part of the Islamic religion and that no one shall have the right as a matter of principle to abolish them either in whole or in part or to violate them or ignore them.

Concerning Islamophobia, it expressed deep concern that the culture of peaceful coexistence and inter-communal and interreligious tolerance is under threat from marginal and extremist fanatics, and from the mushrooming xenophobic discourse espoused by extremist politicians and political parties that, for the sake of narrow domestic political gains, exploit the socio-economic difficulties faced by their societies to foment hatred against Islam and Muslims through negative

stereotyping and defamation. The Summit underscored in this regard that the global nature of migration in today's world poses immense challenges, but more importantly offers great opportunities for coalescing the forces of change to enhance cultural interaction and tolerance. The conference expressed its grave concern at the continued rise of attacks on Islam and Muslims and in particular the attack on the sacred image of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) the burning of the Holy Qur'an and negative stereotyping and discrimination against Muslims. It recognized the fundamental role of religions and beliefs in shaping their adherents conception of life and identity, and that many may accordingly consider denigration of religions as a direct assault on their selves. The conference participants recorded they were alarmed at the rising trends in some national policies, laws and administrative measures that stigmatize people belonging to certain religions and beliefs, particularly Islam, under a variety of pretexts, hence impeding their freedom to express their identity, legitimizing discrimination against them and impairing their ability to observe, practice and manifest their religion freely without fear of coercion, violence or reprisal. It called on Member States to develop a unified strategy to impress upon the international community to take effective measures against such acts of incitement of intolerance and hatred that may lead to violence and loss of lives. The Summit reaffirmed that Islam is a religion of moderation and openness which rejects all forms of intolerance, extremism and introversion and, in this connection, underscores the importance of countering any dissemination or propagation of aberrant ideology with all means available. It called for developing educational curricula in such a way as to inculcate the true Islamic values of mutual understanding, tolerance, dialogue and pluralism, and for establishing bridges between the members of the Islamic Ummah to enhance unity and solidarity through the holding of symposia and conferences that would explain these values. It also called for combating extremism disguised as religion and doctrine, refraining from declaring followers of other Islamic schools of thought as disbelievers and deepening dialogue between these schools to promote moderation and tolerance. It commended the proposal by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques during the 2012 Makkah Al-Mukarramah Extraordinary Summit to establish a centre for dialogue among the schools of thought to promote unity and solidarity among Muslims. The Summit condemned any advocacy of religious hatred that constitutes incitement to hostility or violence, whether it involves the use of print, audiovisual or electronic media or any other means. In this regard, it commended the Istanbul Process initiative, and urged for further progress in implementing the steps unanimously agreed in relevant United Nations General Assembly and Human Rights Council resolutions towards the common global goal to combat religious intolerance. The conference also commended the efforts of His Majesty King Abdullah II bin al-Hussein in holding at Amman in 2005 an international conference to discuss the manifestations of defamation of Islam, with participation of Muslim scholars from various schools which produced the Amman Message that reflected the bright image of the great Islam, highlighted the principles of tolerance, moderation and

temperance and its keenness for dialogue with the other for the good and progress of human society. It also commended the efforts seeking the promotion of mutual understanding and harmony among religions. It expressed appreciation of the numerous initiatives of His Majesty on bridge building and elimination of misconception among followers of different religions. These initiatives include the World Interfaith Harmony Week endorsed by the UN General Assembly in October, according to which the first week of each February was declared the Interfaith Harmony Week. The Summit welcomed endeavors by the states in celebrating the events and activities of this week. It reiterated its strong support of the initiative of His Majesty King Mohammed VI of the Kingdom of Morocco calling for developing an international charter that defines appropriate standards and rules for exercising the right of freedom of expression and opinion, and the obligation to respect religions symbols and sanctities as well as spiritual values and beliefs. It welcomed and commended the initiatives taken by Member States including the 10th Anniversary of the initiative of Kazakhstan Leader Nursultan Nazarbayev to conduct the Congress of leaders of world and traditional religions; the Global Movement of Moderates initiative by Malaysia, and the Alliance of Civilization initiative by Turkey. It called upon the Member States to support the request of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques for United Nations to adopt resolution to condemning any state or individual or group that insults divine religions, prophets and messengers while taking preventive measures in this regard. The Summit recognized the need to further institutionalize cooperation among Member States to effectively implement the Strategy on Combating Islamophobia adopted by the 11th Islamic Summit (Dakar, 2008) and the importance of expediting the implementation process of its decision on developing a legally binding international instrument to prevent intolerance, discrimination, prejudice and hatred on the grounds of religion and defamation of religions, and to promote and ensure the respect for all religions. In the same context the Summit called on the OIC to take the lead and on the Member States to contribute towards strengthening inter-cultural and inter-faith dialogue and dialogue among civilizations, and welcomed the establishment of the King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Center for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (KAICID) in Vienna aimed at enhancing and supporting efforts at both regional and international levels, towards reducing confrontation, promoting tolerance and interfaith dialogue and harmony, suppressing Islamophobia and hatred based on race or religion; promoting respect for diversity based on justice, fraternity and equality.

The Summit underlined the important role of education and responsible media in the promotion of tolerance, and appreciated the efforts of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to promote and include human rights aspects in educational programmes, particularly the World Programme for Human Rights Education proclaimed by the General Assembly on 10 December 2004. It called for the continuation of such efforts, in collaboration with other relevant bodies of the United Nations system and regional and international organizations, in order to encourage dialogue among

civilizations and promote understanding of the universality of human rights and their implementation at various levels. It called upon all States to promote, particularly through education, understanding and respect in all matters relating to freedom of religion or belief, in an effort that involves acceptance by the public of, and its respect for, diversity, including with regard to religious expression. It urged non-governmental organizations, religious leaders and institutions and the media to support and foster such efforts. It welcomed in this regard the efforts of ISESCO and the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) in countering the negative stereotyping of Islam and Muslims, promoting correct knowledge of Islamic civilization and their contribution to world civilization, combating Islamophobia and fostering dialogue of cultures, civilizations and religions. It invited both organs to carry on their efforts, inside and outside the Muslim world, in association with partner regional and international organizations, and in coordination with the Secretary General and Member States, to undertake innovative initiatives and put in place mechanisms to counter the fierce campaign targeting Islamic sanctities and symbols in coordination with national, regional and international media.

“Voting at International Fora”: on this subject the Summit called upon all OIC Member States to abide by previous OIC resolutions which call upon them to vote for resolutions submitted on behalf of OIC at international fora, in particular at the United Nations. It stressed that failure to vote for those resolutions and the announcement of positions different from those agreed upon is a departure from the consensus imposed by the duty of Islamic solidarity between Member States. The conference mandated the General Secretariat to follow up OIC Member States’ voting patterns on resolutions relating to issues of concern to the Organization at international fora and urged Member States to vote in favour of these resolutions which had been adopted by the OIC at Ministerial and Summit levels.

On “Humanitarian Affairs”, the conference reiterated its support for the OIC in its various humanitarian activities, despite its very limited financial resources. It urged all Member States and their philanthropic and humanitarian civil society organizations to provide the General Secretariat with all necessary means and assistance to enable it to fulfill its duties towards the needy and vulnerable populations in the face of increasing humanitarian challenges, in accordance with rules and regulations in force in each State. It mandated the Secretary General to convene an Expert Group Meeting to conclude discussions on preparing a document for the establishment of a Special Emergency Fund and present it to the next session of the Council of Foreign Ministers. The Summit affirmed the need to coordinate the relief efforts and activities of relevant civil society institutions to improve the collective performance of the Organization and to coordinate efforts, exchange experiences, and encourage the institutions to work through those coordination mechanisms.

The Summit conference took numerous resolutions on economic cooperation among the OIC Member States. It pointed to the current trends in the global economy and their implications on growth and job creation as well as volatility in

international financial markets and the challenges these trends pose to efforts of Member States for economic recovery and balanced growth. It emphasized that youth employment crisis is a major challenge to the OIC Member States, especially the least developed countries and those who lack the fiscal space needed to finance the creation of job opportunities as well as social protection schemes. The youth employment crisis, aggravated by the global economic and financial crisis, is a global challenge. Therefore it needs to be addressed by relevant mechanisms at the international level, taking into account its social and economic characteristics vary considerably in size and nature, within and among countries and regions. It requires actions by governments, employers and workers at the country level to promote, create and maintain decent and productive jobs. The Summit called upon the Member States to continue coordinating their efforts on global economic issues including issues of stabilization and reform of the financial system and its effects on developing countries, tackling poverty and humanitarian disasters. Whenever there is the need to the OIC to participate in any of G20 meetings, the OIC Member States in the G20 would seek the support of the Chairman of G20 with a view to securing invitation for OIC participation.

The Summit commended the progressive increase in intra-OIC trade from 14,44% in 2004 to 17,71 % in 2011. It recognized the importance of the Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member States (TPS-OIC) as the basis for the realization of the target of 20 percent of intra-OIC trade by 2015, and welcomed the entry into force of the Preferential Tariff Scheme (PRETAS) and TPS-OIC Rules of Origin in 2010 and in 2011 respectively. It urged Member States to complete the necessary procedures to make this System operational.

The Summit reviewed the current activities of the OIC towards addressing development challenges of its Member States, particularly the establishment of the various poverty alleviation programmes and the promotion of intra-OIC trade. In this regard, it commended the roles of the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) and the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC) on promotion of trade between Member States, including the Aid for Trade (AfT) initiatives aimed at mobilizing the support of regional and international partners for its urgent implementation. The conference affirmed the importance of upgrading development programmes and reducing poverty, unemployment, combating diseases, achieving and supporting participation of various segments of the society and the private sector in these programmes and encouraging coordination among them as part of a comprehensive strategy to achieve stability and development and to eliminate conflicts in all Member States. It called on all member states to work together in supporting the economies of Arab Spring countries and increasing the volume of investments targeted at them in developmental and services domain. It expressed satisfaction at the increased role of the Islamic Development Bank in promoting socio-economic development in OIC Member States. Considering the salutary effects of the numerous interventions under the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development in scaling up the developmental activities in OIC Member States, it urged

all Member States to contribute, or redeem their respective pledges, to this Fund. It reiterated the need for strengthening the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development with proper mechanisms for supporting vital areas such as capacity building, poverty alleviation, unemployment and epidemics, and responding to the needs of the poorest countries. The Summit noted with satisfaction the successful implementation of the Special Programme for Development of Africa by the Islamic Development Bank Group. It recommended that the Islamic Development Bank concludes the second programme on the Development of Africa to be implemented in the next five years, given the achievements recorded during the first programme, and agreed on the need to proceed expeditiously with the elaboration of a successor programme. In the same vein, it praised the establishment of the OIC Plan of Action for Cooperation with Central Asia, and agreed that such regional frameworks have huge potentials for promoting effective and rewarding cooperation among the OIC Member States. The conference welcomed the various initiatives aimed at expanding intra-OIC cooperation in such sectors as agriculture and food security, tourism, health, labour, environment, transportation and Islamic finance. In this regard, it commended the role of COMCEC and all OIC committees and programmes in operationalizing the OIC projects and activities, particularly the frameworks for tourism, transportation and agriculture, respectively as well as the OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway Project. It commended the initiative of His Highness the Emir of the State of Kuwait to establish a Decent Life Fund with US\$100 million, from which several Member States have benefitted to support their food security programme. It also commended the endeavours under the COMCEC for deepening economic and commercial cooperation among the Member States, in particular the operationalization of the Standard and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC), the establishment of COMCEC Capital Markets Regulators' Forum, of OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum and Transport Cooperation Framework within the OIC, among other schemes. It requested the Member States to actively participate in the programmes and projects developed under the auspices of the COMCEC.

Relating to the agenda items on social and cultural affairs, the conference welcomed the efforts by the Arab Republic of Egypt to advance the role of women, as reflected in the establishment of the OIC Women Development Organization (WDO), as a Specialized Agency based in Cairo, and invited the Member States to join the Organization by signing and ratifying its statute so that it could enter into force, be fully functional and carry its mandate. Furthermore, the Summit commended the OIC General Secretariat and the Governments of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Indonesia for convening the Third and Fourth OIC Conferences on "Women's Role in the Development of OIC Member States" respectively in Tehran, on 19-21 December 2010 and in Jakarta, on 4-6 December 2012 which enhanced the OIC collective work towards the advancement of women. The Summit reemphasized the importance of family in the process of the political, economic and social development of the Islamic societies; and

recognized that the issue of family should continue to be part of the discussion of all meetings and forums related to women in the OIC.

On science and technology, the Summit emphasized the crucial role of science and technology in the socio-economic development of the OIC Member States and in addressing the contemporary challenges of development, poverty eradication, environment, climate change, human health, energy and water resources. It noted that despite many other immediate priorities and recent economic crises, the OIC Member States have on the average been able to move closer to the OIC Ten-Year Program of Action (TYPOA) target of budgetary allocations of 1% for R&D. From 2003 to 2011, national spending on R&D on the average quadrupled from 0.2% to 0.81% of the GDP. In this regard, it expressed appreciation for the national actions and strategies, bilateral and multilateral cooperation among Member States, ongoing OIC programmes and activities and appreciated the vision and personal interest of the OIC Secretary General in this area. It stressed the need for continuing activities and programmes for strengthening of R&D as part of institutional framework for science, technology and innovation, national strategies for science and technology, conducting STI Foresight Studies, encouraging private sector participation in R&D, promoting emerging technologies such as nanotechnology and biotechnology and enhancing of quality education. The Summit recalled the decision of the 4th Extraordinary Session, held in Makkah on 14-15 August 2012, to adopt clearly defined measures to promote scientific and technological development, innovation and higher education. It mandated the Secretariat of the Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) to study and take necessary measures to propose an Islamic Summit on Science and Technology under its auspices. The Summit welcomed the convening of the 19th International Conference of Islamic World Academy of Sciences (Dhaka, Bangladesh on 6-9 May 2013) with a view to forging greater cooperation among the scientists for socio-economic development of Member States.

The Summit lauded the increasing interest of the Member States in the "OIC Educational Programme: Solidarity through Academia in the Muslim World" being pursued by the General Secretariat. It invited the Member States to generously support the initiative and actively participate in the Educational Exchange Programme. The Summit called upon all Member States to continue their efforts for quality education that promotes creativity, innovation and research and development, and in this regard promote collaboration, academic interaction and exchange of knowledge between their academic institutions. It invited the Member States and financial institutions to assist in the efforts of the OIC universities - the Islamic University of Technology (IUT), Bangladesh, the Islamic University in Niger (IUN), the Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU) and the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), for the development of quality education, human resources and physical infrastructure, including appropriate facility for female students. It underscored the importance of non-discrimination between

members of the native academic staff and those from other Member States in the universities of the OIC.

Considering issues of public health, the Summit expressed its resolve to accord high priority to the health sector and take steps for the mainstreaming of health issues in national planning. It endorsed the recommendations and decisions of the 3rd Islamic Conference of Health Ministers held in September-October 2011 in Astana, Kazakhstan, and called for the early finalization of the OIC Strategic Health Programme of Action 2013-2022 which will provide a framework for more collaborative efforts and international cooperation for addressing the various health challenges facing the OIC Member States. The Summit urged the OIC General Secretariat to further strengthen its cooperation with the WHO, Global polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, UNICEF, UNFPA and other international partners.

Concerning questions related to environment and climate change, it underscored the need for robust global cooperation, especially for countries vulnerable to adverse consequences of climate change, including adequate financing and transfer of technology, capacity support from developed to the developing countries, particularly to the least developed and the most vulnerable countries, under the UN Convention on Climate Change. The provision of finance should be in addition to the existing commitments for official development assistance. The Summit welcomed the adoption of the OIC Water Vision by the Conference of Ministers Responsible for Water held in Istanbul in March 2012. It invited the Member States to cooperate for the implementation of the Water Vision including cooperation to ensure access to safe drinking water and sanitation. It also invited the COMSTECH to accord special attention to the promotion of cooperation among OIC Member States in areas such as renewable energy and green technology and effective utilization of the existing expertise in the Member States in such fields. The conference emphasized the need to actively engage in preparation of EXPO-2017 exhibition in Astana, Kazakhstan, with a view to explore possibilities for the mutual cooperation in area of environment, renewable energy, and transfer of green technologies. It welcomed the initiative of Tajikistan adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on designating 2013 as the UN International Year of Water Cooperation and called upon the OIC Member States to effectively participate in the event of this International Year.

It was decided that the next, 13th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference be held in 2016 in the Republic of Turkey at a date to be determined in coordination with the OIC General Secretariat.

IRCICA was represented at the Summit Conference by Dr. Halit Eren, Director General and Dr. Nezih Maruf, Head, Crafts Development Program.

International Conference “Taking stock of the post-2005 reform process at the OIC: achievements, challenges and future prospects” held in Istanbul

28 April 2013

An international conference on “Taking stock of the post-2005 reform process at the OIC: achievements, challenges and future prospects” was organized jointly by the OIC General Secretariat and IRCICA on 28 April 2013. The conference was convened with participation from diplomatic and academic circles around the world. The conference hall was offered by Yıldız Technical University in its Presidency building.

In his welcoming address, IRCICA Director General described the thematic context and objectives of the conference. He recalled that from its establishment in 1969 onwards the OIC had evolved with an expanding membership and an enlarging agenda aiming to respond to the conditions and requirements facing in its Member States and help them achieve their aspirations for development and welfare. But at the beginning of the 21st century the OIC came to face the many new challenges imposed by the transformations and changing circumstances in the global environment in all areas while it continued to help promote cooperation among its member states for the aforementioned objectives. It had to adopt new lines of action in order to voice the causes and concerns of its member states and help them participate in global politics and economy as members of world community. Therefore the

OIC had come to a point where it needed reform, renewal, revision and modernization. This need was felt not only due to the emerging challenges of the time, but also in order to strengthen the organization, increase its efficiency and impact, rationalize and optimize its operations and those of its subsidiary and specialized organs. At that juncture, as of 1st January 2005, Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu took the office as the 9th Secretary General of the OIC and first to be elected by vote (by the OIC's Foreign Ministers Conference in 2004). Afterwards, a comprehensive reform and renewal plan was put to implementation with the initiatives of the Secretary General. Dr. Eren said that this process is still on and has already given tangible outcomes. He recalled that apart from the improvements brought in methods of work and the internal structures of the OIC, the vision of the OIC was reformulated, its charter was revised, its name was changed, a ten-year program of action to face the challenges of 21st century was launched and is still under implementation. As the reforms became operational, major political and economic powers of the world started to express interest in developing relations with the OIC. These innovations brought in the vision and the operations of the organization altogether aimed to give greater visibility to the Organization and to strengthen its impact within and outside the Muslim world. He said



The conference on “Taking stock of the post-2005 reform process at the OIC: achievements, challenges and future prospects”

that this conference convened jointly by the OIC General Secretariat and IRCICA aimed to generate a reflection and an evaluation as regards the achievements, challenges and future prospects of the OIC on the basis of observations relating to the present post-reform period. As an intellectual think-tank it would reflect the OIC's image in the minds of academia and public opinion; it might bring out ideas and suggestions useful for the Organization's future development.

Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the OIC, addressed the conference with a synopsis of the objectives, modalities and implementation of the post-2005 reform. He outlined the aims of the process which was altogether geared towards strengthening the OIC, increasing its efficiency and position as an international organization representing the Muslim world.

The session themes of the conference and the speakers and discussants are listed below. During the discussions, Prof. İhsanoğlu gave information and answered comments on issues relating to the diverse subjects on the OIC agenda. What the OIC aimed to do, what it did achieve, what were the impediments and shortcomings in dealing with political problems, including conflicts involving its Member States, issues of the Muslim communities living outside the Muslim world, etc. and with the various economic and development issues on its agenda. He also gave explanations on the institutional improvements applied in the structure and the operations of the OIC: The staff of the OIC was enlarged and its qualifications improved; with the diverse measures taken its budget was increased in order to enable it fulfill its tasks with flexibility and effectively.

Session 1. "The OIC as a global actor: Legacy of the past and prospects for the future"

Chair: Amb. Numan Hazar - Ambassador (R), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Turkey

Speakers:

Cheikh Tidiane Gadio - Former Foreign Minister, Republic of Senegal

Prof. Abdullah Al Ahsan - Professor, International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization (ISTAC), International Islamic University Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur

Prof. Mustafa Tlili - Founding Director, Centre for Dialogues, New York, USA

Amb. Veniamin Popov - Ambassador at Large, Special Envoy to the OIC, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation

Prof. Shahram Akbarzadeh - ARC Future Fellow, Professor of Asian Politics, Deputy Director of the National Centre of Excellence for Islamic Studies & Asia Institute, The University of Melbourne, Australia

Discussants:

Prof. Ziya Öniş - Professor of International Political Economy, Department of International Relations and Director of the Center for Research on Globalization and Democratic Governance, Koç University, Istanbul

Prof. Zeynep Özden Oktav - Professor of International Relations, Department of Political Science and International Relations, Yıldız Technical University, Istanbul

Assoc. Prof. Sadık Ünay - Associate Professor of International Relations and Senior Researcher, IRCICA, OIC

Mr. Naveed Ahmad - Editor & Managing Director of Silent Heroes, Invisible Bridges, International OpEd & Feature Service, Islamabad, Pakistan

Session 2. "Universal conception of human rights and the OIC"

Chair: Prof. Birol Akgün - Professor of Political Science and Deputy Rector, Konya Necmettin Erbakan University, Konya, Turkey

Speakers:

Amb. Ufuk Gökçen - Permanent Observer of the OIC to the United Nations, New York-USA

Dr. Marie Juul Petersen - Project Researcher, Danish Institute for Human Rights, Copenhagen, Denmark

Assoc. Prof. Turan Kayaoğlu - Associate Professor of



International Relations, University of Washington at Tacoma, Department of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences, Tacoma, Washington, USA

Assoc. Prof. Gökhan Bacik - Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Political Science and International Relations, Gaziantep Zirve University, Gaziantep, Turkey

Prof. İbrahim Kaya - Professor of International Law, İstanbul University, Faculty of Law, İstanbul

Discussants:

Prof. Kamer Kasım - Professor of International Relations and Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences, Abant İzzet Baysal University, Bolu, Turkey

Prof. Tayyar Arı - Professor of International Relations and Head of the Department of International Relations, Uludağ University, Bursa, Turkey

Prof. Mehmet Efe Çaman - Professor of International Relations, Department of Political Science and International Relations, 29 Mayıs University, İstanbul

Assoc. Prof. Hasan Kösebalaban - Associate Professor of International Relations, Department of Political Science and International Relations, İstanbul Şehir University

Assist. Prof. Murat Yeşiltaş - Assistant Professor of International Relations at Sakarya University and Advisor to the Strategic Research Centre (SAM), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Turkey

Session 3. "The role of the OIC in conflict resolution and improving socio-economic relations among Muslim countries"

Chair: Amb. Ömür Orhun - Advisor and Special Envoy of the OIC Secretary General

Speakers:

Mr. Cenk Uraz - Advisor to the Secretary General of the OIC, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

Dr. Shaher Awawdeh - Consultant, Palestine Department, OIC General Secretariat, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

Assoc. Prof. Veysel Ayhan - Associate Professor of International Relations, Department of International Relations, Abant İzzet Baysal University, Bolu, Turkey

Dr. Hassan Abedin - Consultant, OIC General Secretariat, Department of Muslim Minorities, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

Prof. Muzaffer Ercan Yılmaz - Professor of International Relations and Head, Department of International Relations, Balıkesir University, Bandırma, Balıkesir, Turkey

Discussants:

Prof. Nurşin Ateşoğlu Güney - Professor of International Relations and Head of the Department of Political Science and International Relations, Yıldız Technical University, İstanbul

Assoc. Prof. Selçuk Çolakoğlu - Associate Professor of International Relations, Department of International Relations, Yıldırım Beyazıt University, Ankara, and Strategic Research Centre (SAM), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Turkey, Ankara

Assist. Prof. Ramazan Taş - Assistant Professor of International Relations, Department of International Relations, Turgut Özal University, Ankara

Assoc. Prof. Ahmet Uysal - Associate Professor of International Relations, Eskişehir Osmangazi University, Department of International Relations, Eskişehir, Turkey

The closing session consisted of a roundtable discussion and formulation of policy proposals.

A book launching ceremony took place during the conference, at the beginning of the afternoon sessions, for the newly published book *Yeni Yüzyılda İslam Dünyası: İslam Konferansı Teşkilatı, 1969-2009*, İstanbul: Timaş, 2013 which is the Turkish version of *The Islamic World in the New Century: The Organization of the Islamic Conference, 1969-2009*, New York: Columbia University Press, 2010 written by Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu.



The Ninth International Calligraphy Competition in the Name of Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu

results announced (30 April 2013)

The Ninth International Calligraphy Competition organized by IRCICA, held in the name of Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, is finalized. Its results were announced at a ceremony held on 30 April 2013 in the Centre's conference and exhibition hall at Çit Qasr, Yıldız Palace. An exhibition of the winning plates was arranged in the Palace courtyard simultaneously with the announcements. The ceremony was a composite event reflecting several aspects of the activities undertaken by IRCICA to promote the art of Islamic calligraphy. The announcement of the competition results was followed by a second part of the ceremony whereby 35 calligraphers from 11 countries having completed their training with masters of this art received their İjaza – licenses in the art of calligraphy. The İjaza were given by masters from Turkey and the USA.

Mr. Hayrettin Ahmet Sun, Deputy Governor of Istanbul, represented the Governor of Istanbul Mr. Hüseyin Avni Mutlu on this occasion. Ms. Gamze Ayrım, Deputy Director General for Fine Arts, Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey, was present. Members of the diplomatic and consular circles in Turkey were present on the occasion, including the Ambassador of the USA in Ankara, Consul Generals and Consuls of the Member States. Governors of various districts of Istanbul, faculty members from art departments of universities, artists and art lovers attended the ceremony.

The ceremony heard opening addresses by OIC Secretary General Prof. İhsanoğlu, the Deputy Governor of Istanbul Mr. Sun and IRCICA Director General Dr. Eren. In his opening address Dr. Eren outlined the objectives and outcomes of the series of calligraphy competitions conducted by IRCICA. He said that with the help of these competitions which were launched almost 30 years ago by Prof. İhsanoğlu, the art of



calligraphy was promoted over a large area, from Africa to Eastern Asia. Calligraphers from all over the world received awards over the years. After the eighth competition the Jury had decided to dedicate the ninth competition to Prof. İhsanoğlu, in recognition of his patronage and promotion of this art by instituting diverse programs and activities.

The Deputy Governor of Istanbul Mr. Sun conveyed the greetings of the Governor of Istanbul Mr. Mutlu to the audience. He referred with appreciation to the various activities undertaken by IRCICA since its establishment to enhance the arts and culture on global scale. He lauded the important initiatives taken by Prof. İhsanoğlu in these areas and praised IRCICA's recognition of Prof. İhsanoğlu's contributions by organizing the competition in his name.

Prof. İhsanoğlu reviewed, in his address, the salient features marking this competition as an authentic event. He shared with the audience his memories of how the concept of the competition was shaped at the very beginning, in the early years of the Centre. At the time, based on his own interest in

and knowledge of this art, he had thought that activities aiming to revive and promote it should be included in the work programs of IRCICA. He was convinced that this could best be done through an international event. The competition's modalities were evolved pragmatically since there was no precedent for this competition. He recalled with gratitude the efforts and contributions of all Jury members and specialists who had participated in this effort over the years including those who passed away namely Prof. Ali Alparslan, Mr. Emin Barın and Mr. Mustafa Abdulkadir. Prof. İhsanoğlu also spoke of the calligraphers who had won awards in the early competitions and later became masters of calligraphy and promoted



The opening session

this art in their respective countries and in various parts of the world by setting up schools and courses.

After the opening speeches, Dr. Halit Eren declared the winners. Their award-winning works were shown on the screen as their names were announced.

IRCICA holds the calligraphy competition once every three years within the framework of its activities aiming to preserve and promote the Islamic artistic heritage. The objective of the competition is to preserve, revive and promote the classical art of Islamic calligraphy and encourage young artists to ensure its continuation in accordance with its traditional rules and principles by protecting it from trends emerging outside the original and authentic classical art under influences from outside the Islamic culture.

Until the present one, each competition was dedicated to one of the masters of this art. The following competitions were organized before the present one:

- The first, dedicated to Hamid Al-Amidi (1891-1982), in 1986
- The second, dedicated to Yaqut Al-Mustasimi (?-1298), in 1989
- The third, dedicated to Ibn Al-Bawwab (?-1022), in 1992, on the millennium of his death
- The fourth, dedicated to Sheikh Hamdullah (1429-1520), in 1997
- The fifth, dedicated to the Egyptian calligrapher Sayyid Ibrahim (1897-1994), in 2000
- The sixth, dedicated to the Iranian calligrapher Mir Imad al-Hassani (1554-1615) on the 400th year of his death
- The seventh, dedicated to the Iraqi calligrapher Hashim al-Baghdadi (1917-1973), in 2007
- The eighth, dedicated to the Syrian calligrapher Muhammad Badawi al-Dirani (1894-1967)

The ninth competition is dedicated to Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, a patron and promoter of the art of calligraphy, in acknowledgement of his seminal contributions to the preservation and development of this art. Some of Prof. İhsanoğlu's activities in this area are the following:

- he instituted IRCICA's calligraphy competition program in 1985 when he was Director General of IRCICA
- he organized multiple exhibitions of major contemporary calligraphers and had them staged in different parts of the world. He mentored young calligraphers from different countries, organized training courses for them, revived the tradition of Ijaza "Certification" awarding
- he oversaw the preparation of a reference book on the art of calligraphy and had it published in English, Turkish, Arabic, Japanese and Malay. He also published masterpieces of calligraphy, as well as calligraphy exercise books (mashqs)

crafted by leading calligraphers

- he supervised the production of two documentary films, on Hamid al-Amadi (Aytaç), a prominent calligrapher of the 20th century, and two among the leading artists in gilding and ornamentation, namely Prof. Tahsin Demironat and Ms. Rikkat Kunt.

The ninth competition was conducted in ten main styles of writing, namely jaly thuluth, thuluth, naskh, jaly taliq, taliq, jaly diwani, diwani, qufi, riqa and maghribi. 900 works were submitted to this competition by 672 participants from 39 countries.

The Jury of the Ninth Calligraphy Competition met from 15-25 April 2013 at IRCICA's headquarters. The Jury members were:

- * Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, Chairman of the Competition Organizing Committee,
- * Mr. Mus'ad Khudair Al-Borsaidi, Professor of Calligraphy, Egypt;
- * Mr. Ubaida Muhammad Al-Banki, Professor of Calligraphy, Syria;
- * Mr. Belaid Hamidi, Professor of Calligraphy, Morocco;



The exhibition of the winners' works: OIC Secretary General Prof. İhsanoğlu and Deputy Governor of Istanbul Mr. H. A. Sun hearing Master Calligrapher Mr. Hasan Çelebi's remarks on the works



While announcing the results, Dr. Eren invited the Jury members to the stage

- * Dr. Abdul Reza Bahia, Professor of Calligraphy, Iraq;
- * Mr. Jelil Rasouli, Professor of Calligraphy, Iran;
- * Mr. Fuat Başar, Professor of Calligraphy, Turkey;
- * Mr. Davut Bektaş, Professor of Calligraphy, Turkey.

The Jury's honorary members, Master Calligrapher Mr. Ahmet Ziya İbrahim and Master Calligrapher Mr. Hasan Çelebi were also present. Mr. Said Kasımoğlu, Secretary of the Competition also participated in the meeting. In his opening speech of the Jury meeting, Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA and Chairman of the Competition Organizing Committee, recapitulated the preparatory activities undertaken by IRCICA throughout the last three years in order to realize this competition on a wide international scale.

The Jury proceeded in stages of selections, taking into account the rules and conditions of the competition and the minimum quality standards that would be required in an international competition of this scope, until it came up with the best works corresponding to the number of prizes allocated in each category.

The Jury discarded entries reflecting trends and practices that stand outside the classical art of calligraphy. It took into account criteria such as conformity with the rules of calligraphy, creativity in composition, and observance of the conditions of the competition, disregarding negligibly small deficiencies. The Jury noted that the level of performance in jaly taliq style was not satisfactory and decided to withdraw the first and second awards and the mentions in this category. On the other hand, taking into consideration the high level of some works in the jaly thuluth, thuluth, naskh and diwani styles, the Jury decided to allocate mentions US\$750 each in these styles. As seen in the attached lists, the competition allocated 28 awards, 26 mentions and 23 incentive prizes, i.e. a total of 77 awards and mentions, amounting to US\$ 129.750 in total, distributed to participants from 23 countries. The awards and mentions distributed are listed herewith.

A catalogue of the winners' works will be published by IRCICA, as was done at the end of earlier competitions. These catalogues constitute a valuable reference for those studying and practicing calligraphy.



Plaques of gratitude were presented to the members of the Jury in appreciation of their valuable contributions to the success of the competition

AWARDS

Jaly Thuluth

		Name, Surname	Country Origin
1st Award	7.500 \$	Seyit Ahmet Depeler	Turkey
2nd Award	5.000 \$	Nuria Garcia Masip	Spain
3rd Award	2.500 \$	Resul Afşın Okur	Turkey
Mention	1.000 \$	Ömer Nur Fuat	Egypt
Mention	1.000 \$	Muhammad Noor Amjad	Saudi Arabia Pakistan
Mention	1.000 \$	Ali Mamduh Abd al-Halim	Egypt
Incentive Award	750 \$	Jassim Muhammad Miraj	Kuwait
Incentive Award	750 \$	Muhammad Ali Zahid	Pakistan
Incentive Award	750 \$	İbrahim Halil Umuç	Turkey



Thuluth

		Name, Surname	Country Origin
1st Award	7.500 \$	Abdah Muhammad al-Jamal	Egypt
2nd Award	5.000 \$	Muhammad Jabir el-Sayyid	Egypt
3rd Award	2.500 \$	Mahfuz Dhannun Yunus	Iraq
Mention	1.000 \$	Abd al-Razzaq Qaraqash	Turkey Syria
Mention	1.000 \$	Mahmud Muhammad al-Dalil	Egypt
Mention	1.000 \$	Hob al-Husayn Najafi	Iran
Incentive Award	750 \$	Ziyad Haydar Abdullah	Iraq
Incentive Award	750 \$	Cemali Gündoğdu	Turkey
Incentive Award	750 \$	Erol Balcı	Turkey
Incentive Award	750 \$	Sami Zayn Said	Oman



Naskh

		Name, Surname	Country Origin
1st Award	7.500 \$	Ihab Ibrahim Thabit	Palestine
2nd Award	5.000 \$	Abd al-Rahman A. al-Abdi	Syria
3rd Award	2.500 \$	Moulay Abd al-Rahim	Algeria
Mention	1.000 \$	Safar Bati Mhammed	Algeria
Mention	1.000 \$	Sirwan Kamal Ali	Iraq
Mention	1.000 \$	Khalil Omar Dabah	Syria
Incentive Award	750 \$	Saman Kake Diwana Husayn	Iraq
Incentive Award	750 \$	Ahmed Ibrahim Eid	Turkey Egypt
Incentive Award	750 \$	Osman Çiçek	Turkey

Jaly Taliq

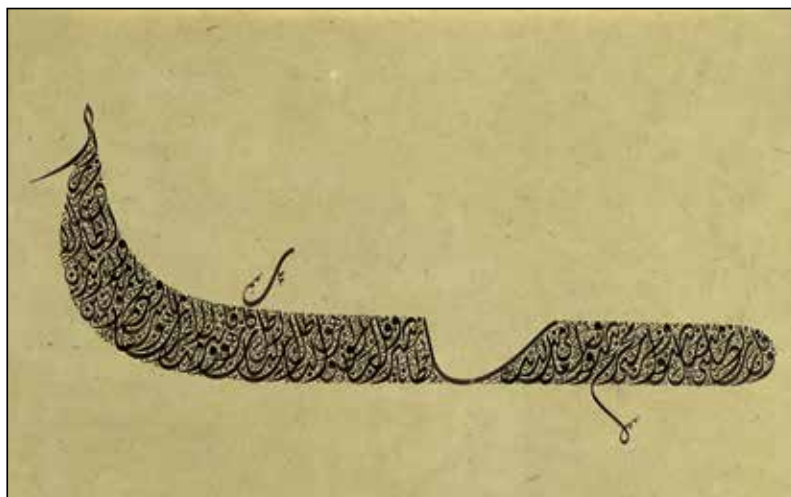
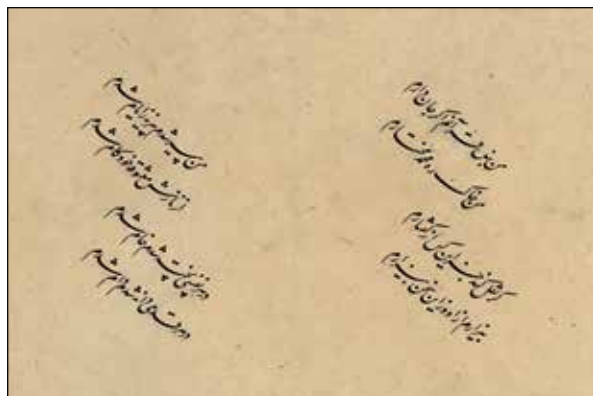
		Name, Surname	Country Origin
3rd Award	2.000 \$	Hanife Alpaydın	Palestine
Incentive Award	750 \$	Farhad Yasin Nadir	Iraq
Incentive Award	750 \$	Ayman Hassan	Turkey Egypt

Jaly Diwani

		Name, Surname	Country Origin
1st Award	5.000 \$	Abd al-Razzaq M. Mahmud	UAE Syria
2nd Award	3.000 \$	Abdurrahman Depeler	Turkey
3rd Award	2.000 \$	Abd al-Samad Mihfaz	Morocco
Mention	1.000 \$	Hadi Salih	Turkey Iraq
Mention	1.000 \$	Muntasir Fathi al-Hamdan	Jordan
Incentive Award	750 \$	Khalid Mahmud al-Nafisi	UAE Pakistan
Incentive Award	750 \$	Jamal Naja	Lebanon
Incentive Award	750 \$	Hüseyin Hüsnü Türkmen	Turkey

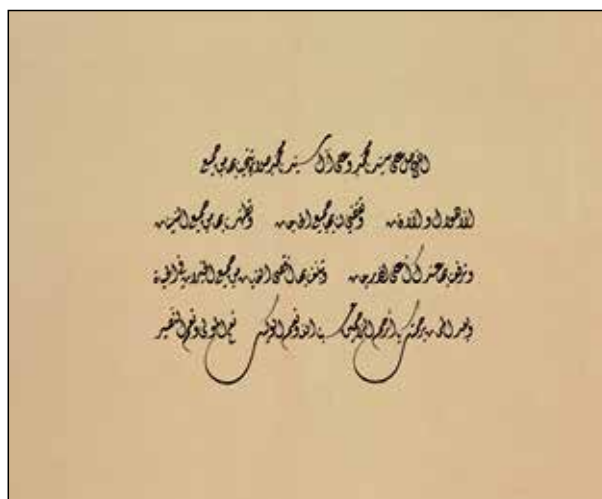
Nastaliq

		Name, Surname	Country Origin
1st Award	5.000 \$	Habib Ramazanpour	Iran
2nd Award	3.000 \$	Babak Hejazi	Iran
3rd Award	2.000 \$	Seyed Ali Fakhari	Iran
Mention	1.000 \$	Muhammad Reza Pajand	Iran
Mention	1.000 \$	Ali Khayri Habib Abadi	Iran
Mention	1.000 \$	Muhamadreza Rahimpour	Iran



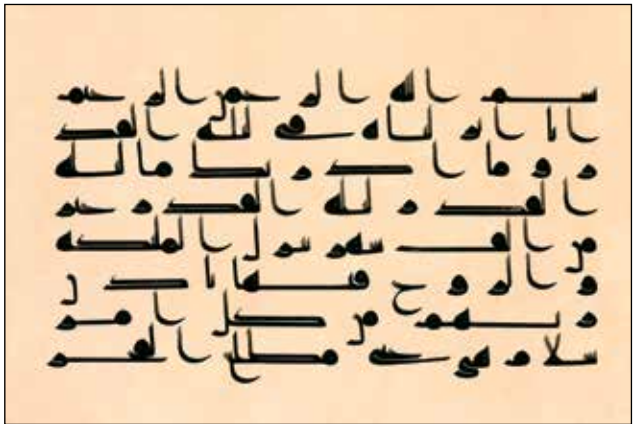
Diwani

		Name, Surname	Country Origin
1st Award	3.000 \$	Abd al-Samad Mihfaz	Morocco
2nd Award	2.000 \$	Ahmad Faris Rizq	Egypt
3rd Award	1.000 \$	Abd al-Razzaq M. Mahmud	UAE Syria
Mention	1.000 \$	Wadah Yunus Mahmud	Syria
Mention	1.000 \$	Ali Hasan Abd al-Qadir	Libya
Mention	1.000 \$	Muhannad al-Sai	Syria
Incentive Award	750 \$	H. Muhammad Mukhtar	Egypt
Incentive Award	750 \$	Abd al-Aziz M. al-Hamad	UAE Syria
Incentive Award	750 \$	Muhamad Qusi al-Shamali	Syria



Qufi

		Name, Surname	Country Origin
1st Award	2.000 \$	Sabir Safai	Iran
2nd Award	1.500 \$	Farhad Yasin Nadir	Iraq
3rd Award	1.000 \$	Othman Hamid Hassan	S. Arabia Egypt
Mention	1.000 \$	Muhammad Ashraf Hira	Pakistan
Mention	1.000 \$	Muhammad Qina	Syria
Mention	1.000 \$	Rasha Qasim Abdah	Egypt
Incentive Award	750 \$	Muhammad Abd al-Rahim M.	Bangladesh
Incentive Award	750 \$	Othman Hayat	Bangladesh



Rika

		Name, Surname	Country Origin
1st Award	2.000 \$	Abdah Muhammad Hasan al-Jamal	Egypt
2nd Award	1.500 \$	Mahmud Abd al-Latif Doshu	Syria
3rd Award	1.000 \$	Insaf Muhammad Abd Rushdan	Palestine
Mention	1.000 \$	Ahmad Hassan al-Hawari	Egypt
Mention	1.000 \$	Muhamad Hassan Ahmad Atta	Egypt
Mention	1.000 \$	Feri Budiantoro Feri	Indonesia
Incentive Award	750 \$	Muhamad Munir al-Suyufi	Qatar Syria
Incentive Award	750 \$	Muhammad Ahmad Tijjani	Egypt Nigeria

Maghribi

		Name, Surname	Country Origin
1st Award	2.000 \$	Nur Khamidiyah	Egypt Indonesia
2nd Award	1.500 \$	Alim Gema Alamsyah	Indonesia
3rd Award	1.000 \$	Muhammad Tafrant	Morocco
Mention	1.000 \$	Ridwan Saybar	Morocco
Mention	1.000 \$	Mustafa Quadri	Algeria
Mention	1.000 \$	Wang Qi Fei	Egypt China
Incentive Award	750 \$	Al-Jilani al-Gharbi	Tunisia



35 trainees received their *Ijaza* – licenses in the art of calligraphy

During the ceremony of the Ninth International Calligraphy Competition in the Name of Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu which was held at IRCICA on 30 April 2013, 35 calligraphers from China, India, Libya, Morocco, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Syria, USA, Turkey and Yemen received their *Ijaza* (licenses in calligraphy) from their teachers Fuat Başar, Davut Bektaş, Hasan Çelebi, Levent Karaduman, Efdaluddin Kılıç, Ferhat Kurlu, Ayten Tiryaki (from Turkey) and Mohamed Zekeria (from the USA).

Within the framework of its efforts to promote the classical Islamic arts, since the 1980s IRCICA has coordinated training courses in the art of calligraphy, leading to *Ijaza* in accordance with traditional practice. These courses are organized on request and on individual basis, with an emphasis on the main styles that are widely used in the Muslim world. Until this year 76 calligraphers from 28 countries received their *Ijaza*, some in more than one style. Since October 2012 a new training program is being conducted at IRCICA; while coordination of the above courses continues, a training program of regular character with specific curricula has been instituted. The program continues with two days of courses per week taught by master calligraphers Mr. Ferhat Kurlu and Mr. Mümtaz Seçkin Durdu. Calligraphers from Egypt, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Yemen have participated in the first program.

The first *Ijaza* awarding ceremony held at IRCICA was in 1988, for today's well-known master of calligraphy and distinguished friend and collaborator of IRCICA, Mr. Mohamed Zakaria. Among the calligraphers receiving their *Ijaza* at the ceremony on 30 April 2013, there were students trained by Mr. Zakaria, as seen in the attached list.

Ijaza presented on 30 April 2013

Name of the calligrapher	Master of calligraphy giving the <i>Ijaza</i>	Style of writing	Country
Abdurrahman Amjad	Hasan Çelebi- Ahmet Ziya	Thuluth-Naskh	Saudi Arabia
Mohammed Amjad	Hasan Çelebi- Ahmet Ziya	Thuluth-Naskh	Saudi Arabia
Ali Hasan	Hasan Çelebi- Fuat Başar	Jaly Diwani	Libya
Mohammed Süleyman Hube	Hasan Çelebi	Thuluth-Naskh	South Africa
Muhtar Ahmed	Hasan Çelebi	Thuluth-Naskh	India
Mohammed Hüseyin	Hasan Çelebi	Thuluth-Naskh	Syria
Hanife Kaldırım	Hasan Çelebi	Thuluth-Naskh	Turkey
Celal Akdemir	Hasan Çelebi	Thuluth-Naskh	Turkey
Mehmet Zeki Velioglu	Hasan Çelebi	Thuluth-Naskh	Turkey
Muhammed Mağ	Hasan Çelebi	Nastaliq	Turkey
Sıdkı Çoban	Hasan Çelebi	Rıqa	Turkey
Selim Hamidi	Hasan Çelebi	Jaly Diwani-Diwani	Morocco
Aishah Holland	Mohamed Zakaria	Thuluth-Naskh	USA
Manzar Moghbeli	Mohamed Zakaria	Nastaliq	USA
Nihad Dukhan	Mohamed Zakaria	Nastaliq	USA
Musa Mahmoud Suleyman	Fuat Başar	Thuluth-Naskh	Libya
Aydın Köse	Fuat Başar	Thuluth	Turkey
Abdullah Sağlamer	Fuat Başar	Thuluth-Naskh	Turkey
Hilmi Karasakal	Fuat Başar	Thuluth-Naskh	Turkey
Faruk Erathı	Fuat Başar	Thuluth-Naskh	Turkey
Abubekir Altıok	Turan Sevgili - Fuat Başar	Thuluth-Naskh	Turkey
Fikret Şimşek	Davut Bektaş	Thuluth-Naskh	Turkey
Ali Sıdkı	Davut Bektaş-Hasan Çelebi	Thuluth-Naskh	Turkey
Samiye Aksan	Davut Bektaş-Hasan Çelebi	Thuluth-Naskh	Turkey
Aisha Naz Ahmed	Efdaluddin Kılıç	Thuluth-Naskh	USA
Tang Yunyu	Efdaluddin Kılıç	Rıqa	China
Meliha Saral	Efdaluddin Kılıç	Thuluth-Naskh	Turkey
Miraç Küçük	Ayten Tiryaki	Thuluth-Naskh	Turkey
Yushaa Abdullah	Ferhat Kurlu- Hasan Çelebi	Thuluth-Naskh	Turkey
Resul Afşın Okur	Ferhat Kurlu	Thuluth	Turkey
Safiye Bayuk	Ferhat Kurlu	Thuluth-Naskh	Turkey
Zeki Ali Hasan	Ferhat Kurlu	Thuluth-Naskh	Yemen
Arif Efendiler	Levend Karaduman	Thuluth-Naskh	Turkey
Zeynep Çolak	Levend Karaduman	Thuluth-Naskh	Turkey
Deniz Çimen	Gürkan Pehlivan	Thuluth-Naskh	Turkey

Presentation of the Ijaza by the professors to their students



By Hasan Çelebi to Abdurrahman Amjad
(Saudi Arabia)



By Hasan Çelebi to Ali Hasan (Libya)



By Hasan Çelebi to Mohammed Suleyman Hube
(South Africa)



By Hasan Çelebi to Mukhtar Ahmed
(India)



By Hasan Çelebi to Mohammed Hüseyin (Syria)



By Hasan Çelebi to Hanife Kaldırım (Turkey)



By Hasan Çelebi to Celal Akdemir
(Turkey)



By Hasan Çelebi to Mehmet Zeki Velioğlu (Turkey)



By Hasan Çelebi to Muhammed Mağ (Turkey)



By Hasan Çelebi to Sıdkı Çoban
(Turkey)



By Hasan Çelebi to Salim Hamidi (Morocco)



By Mohamed Zakaria to Aishah Holland
(USA)



By Mohamed Zakaria to Manzar Moghbeli (USA)



By Mohamed Zakaria to Nihad Dukhan (USA)



By Fuat Başar to Musa Mahmoud Suleyman (Lybia)



By Fuat Başar to Aydın Köse (Turkey)



By Fuat Başar to Abdullah Sağlamer (Turkey)



By Fuat Başar to Hilmi Karasakal (Turkey)



By Turan Sevgili to Abubekir Altıok (Turkey)



By Fuat Başar to Faruk Eratlı (Turkey)



By Davut Bektaş to Fikret Şimşek (Turkey)



By Davut Bektaş to Samiye Aksan (Turkey)



By Efdaluddin Kılıç to Aisha Naz Ahmed (USA)



By Efdaluddin Kılıç to Tang Yunyu (China)



By Efdaluddin Kılıç to Meliha Saral (Turkey)



By Ayten Tiryaki to Miraç Küçük (Turkey)



By Ferhat Kurlu to Yushaa Abdullah (Nigeria)



By Ferhat Kurlu to Resul Afşın Okur (Turkey)



By Ferhat Kurlu to Safiye Bayuk (Turkey)



By Ferhat Kurlu to Zeki Ali Hasan (Turkey)



By Levend Karaduman to Arif Efendiler (Turkey)



By Levend Karaduman to Zeynep Çolak (Turkey)



By Gürkan Pehlivan to Deniz Çimen (Turkey)

Expressions of appreciation



A plaque of appreciation to Mr. Mohammed Tamimi, who was the Secretary of the Competition from its first to its eighth round inclusive, presented by OIC Secretary General and IRCICA Director General



Mr. Jelil Rasouli (Iran), member of the Jury, had written OIC Secretary General Prof. Ihsanoğlu's name in a beautiful calligraphic composition



Mr. Mohammed Mandi, calligrapher from the U.A.E., presented a portrait he had drawn with calligraphic writings of Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu's name

Preservation of cultural heritage:

IRCICA & Al-Turath Islamic Urban Heritage Program: 2013 Winter School focused on the historical area of Jeddah (21-29 March 2013)

A “winter school” on urban heritage has been organized jointly by Al-Turath Islamic Heritage Foundation, Saudi Arabia and IRCICA, within the framework of their joint program titled “Islamic Urban Heritage. Research, Preservation and Management”. The program was conducted from 21 to 29 March 2013 under the supervision of Dr. Osamah al-Gohary, Director of Al-Turath and Prof. Amir Pasic, Head of the Department of Architecture and Heritage Preservation, IRCICA. Its curriculum addressed theoretical and practical aspects of the theme with a focus on the urban heritage of Jeddah as a case study.

As will be recalled, previously the IRCICA & Al-Turath Islamic Urban Heritage Program featured two summer schools, in 2011 and 2012 respectively. This first winter school had 42 participants from Saudi Arabia and 10 from Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Italy and Turkey.

The first three days of the school were devoted to the exploration of the site and field work sessions. This part of the program featured daily reports by the participants. On 24 March, panel sessions were organized on the following topics:

- The historical area of Jeddah: its authenticity, its distinguished planning, and its unique architecture
- Comparison with other similar areas
- Historic area and modern development of the city
- Importance of its location; relation with Mecca and Medina, and international experience.

Among the speakers at the panels, there were Mr. Sami Nawar (Municipality of Jeddah, Director for Heritage), Dr. Alaa al-Habashi speaking on the urban development project in Manama, Bahrain, Dr. Livio Sacchi from “Tectura”, Rome, speaking on Al-Balad Rehabilitation Project (the Jeddah development Project), Dr. Hisham Murtada from King Abdulaziz University, Dr. Sami Angawi (Saudi Arabia), Prof. Amir Pasic (IRCICA). The same day, a special session of the program brought the participants together with H.R.H. Prince Sultan bin Salman, Chairman of Al-Turath, Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of OIC and Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA. H.R.H. Prince Sultan bin Salman gave a comprehensive talk

on questions relating to the study, conservation and re-use of architectural heritage under their local and international, historical and contemporary dimensions. Dr. Halit Eren addressed the session underscoring and explaining the reasons for the growing importance of heritage preservation in today’s global environment and international relations. He outlined the activities undertaken by IRCICA in this field and recapitulating those being implemented in cooperation with Al-Turath. Among the latter he recalled in particular the Prince Sultan bin Salman Islamic Architectural Heritage Database established at IRCICA, the Conference on Tourism and Traditional Crafts which was held jointly by the Supreme Commission for Tourism and Antiquities chaired by His Royal Highness, and IRCICA (Riyadh, 2006), the Conference on Architectural Heritage in Muslim Countries (Riyadh, 2010) and the cooperation on the occasion of the Conference on Saudi National Heritage (Jeddah, 2011). He said that most of these activities are authentic and fill gaps because they are planned and implemented by taking into consideration the needs of research, education and professional work in this field in a way to meet these needs with the methods most appropriate in each case.

From 25 to 27 March inclusive, the participants worked on “Selected Buildings’ Examples” with field works and daily entries to the competition reports. The program was concluded with the presentation of Final Reports by five teams.

The Islamic Urban Heritage Program will continue with the summer school to take place in June-July 2013.



The professors, specialists and experts contributing to the programme together with H.R.H. Prince Sultan bin Salman, Chairman of Al-Turath, Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of OIC and Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, Dr. Osamah al-Gohary, Director of Al-Turath and Prof. Amir Pasic, Head of the Department of Architecture and Heritage Preservation, IRCICA

Conference on “The Importance of Cultural Heritage and its Preservation: the Islamic Vision of Cultural Heritage” (Cairo, 31 January 2013)

An international conference was organized under the title “The Importance of Cultural Heritage and its Preservation: the Islamic Vision of Cultural Heritage” jointly by the Egyptian Ministry of State for Antiquities, the OIC General Secretariat and IRCICA. The conference was held in Cairo, on 31 January 2013. Authorities, specialists and experts working for the preservation of cultural and architectural heritage were invited to contribute towards the aim of devising a strategy of action to protect the ancient monuments of the Muslim world from destruction. The Egyptian Minister of State for Antiquities Dr. Muhammad Ibrahim, the Secretary General of the OIC Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, and the Director General of IRCICA Dr. Halit Eren were present.

The conference’s purview document underlined that the Muslim world is full of priceless treasures consisting of material works produced by human civilization; besides the monuments of the Islamic heritage, there are also cultural monuments of pre-Islamic nations. It emphasized that preserving this heritage is a legitimate and laudable action that religion does not prohibit but rather encourages. It warned against the damage and destruction of Islamic cultural heritage in Egypt, Tunisia and Libya during the revolutions in these countries, during the ongoing war in Syria, the conflicts in Mali, and earlier in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq, and most seriously, what has been done for decades by Israel in the territories it occupies.

Following the presentations by the participating specialists and the discussions conducted, the conference adopted the “Cairo Declaration” which expressed deep concern over the grave situation in some parts of the Muslim world as far as



The opening session of the conference

cultural heritage is concerned. The Declaration noted that this risk is reflected in the hostilities, violations, destruction, and desecration to which the architectural, archeological and intellectual heritage is subjected. It indicated that religious intolerance is the reason behind these acts because it drives some parties to call for the destruction of monuments for political reasons or on the claim that they are alien to Islam; extremism, occupation and eradication policies are the reason for the destruction of Islamic heritage in occupied Palestine. The Declaration stressed the need for scholars and specialists to take measures to address the risks facing cultural heritage in the Muslim world. The Declaration, further, pointed out that the preservation of cultural heritage is not limited to the physical continuity of the buildings but it should also ensure the continuity of non-material aspects of culture, including heritage conservation.

The Cairo Declaration underlined the need to preserve the heritage in accordance with the principles and policies set forth in international and Islamic conventions and declaration in force; in particular, among the latter, the Riyadh Declaration issued by the International Conference on Architectural Heritage in Muslim Countries held in May 2010. It stressed that all states and authorities are required to take measures to stop any aggression or destruction that affects heritage irrespective of its source or location. The Declaration also demanded that the preservation of cultural heritage be part of development policies, and also of educational and media policies. The Declaration recommended that the OIC and its subsidiary IRCICA issue a charter to preserve heritage based on Islamic principles reflecting a clear vision as regards the protection of heritage, and strive to have it approved by the international institutions working in this field.



A view of the working sessions

Libraries and archives:

Conservation of old books: specialists from Mali complete training program in Istanbul

IRCICA organizes training programs for librarians, archivists and conservation specialists from all over the world on the restoration and conservation of old books and archival documents. These programs have become a regular activity of the Centre. Meanwhile, another series of training courses are also coordinated by IRCICA jointly with Süleymaniye Library in Istanbul, with the contributions of the Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TİKA). In the latter case the programs are conducted in the “Book Hospital” of the historical Süleymaniye Library which was rearranged and developed through a joint project of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey, UNESCO and IRCICA.

Recently, Mr. Traore Garba and Mr. Kone Harouna, two conservation specialists from the Republic of Mali, received certificates from IRCICA and from Süleymaniye Library, having completed a joint program that was conducted from 21 January to 14 February 2013. The program covered the following specializations:

- Casting holes with re-moistenable tissue and mending breaches with Japanese paper; training at the Department of Conservation and Restoration of Manuscript Works, Süleymaniye Library
- Digitization of old books and manuscripts; training at the Digital Library Section, IRCICA Library.

Mr. Traore Garba and Mr. Kone Harouna received the certificates issued by IRCICA, titled “Certificate of Technical Training in Restoration, Conservation and Digitization of Old Books and Manuscripts”, from Director General Dr. Halit Eren on 14 February 2013, at IRCICA headquarters.



IRCICA's participation in the Cairo International Book Fair (23 Jan. – 5 Feb. 2013)

The 44th Cairo International Book Fair took place from 23 January-5 February 2013. IRCICA participated in this major cultural event, displaying over one hundred of its publications resulting from its studies and academic congresses on various themes.

The Cairo International Book Fair is one of the largest events of its kind in the world. It draws hundreds of book sellers from all continents; the number of visitors for this year's fair was estimated at about three million. As a tradition, each year's fair has a state as “guest of honour” whereby that country's arts and culture are introduced to visitors through varied events and activities. Libya was the guest of honour of this year; last year's was Tunisia.

The book fair was inaugurated by the Egyptian President H.E. Mohamed Morsi, who later visited the stands. OIC Secretary General Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu visited the book fair during the period of his participation in the 12th Islamic Summit Conference. During the same period, IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren visited the stands and met with a number of publishers. Dr. Eren also gave a live interview to the Egyptian National Television, introducing IRCICA and its publications, sharing his views and expressing his appreciation of the excellent opportunities provided by the

Cairo International Book Fair for the participating countries and publishers to establish working relations and exchange information on developments in world publishing activity.

IRCICA was represented at the 44th Cairo International Book Fair by Mr. Abdullah Topaloğlu, Head of the Library and Archive Department of IRCICA, and Mr. Mustafa Şahidi Örnek, Advisor in the same department. Throughout the period of the fair Mr. Topaloğlu and Mr. Örnek visited the countries' and publishers' stands, met with their authorities, and acquired new books to replenish IRCICA library's collections.



Meetings, Cooperation

Dr. Hisham Kandil, Prime Minister of Egypt, received Dr. Halit Eren

Dr. Halit Eren, IRCICA Director General, paid a courtesy visit to Dr. Hisham Kandil, Prime Minister of Egypt, at the Prime Ministry in Cairo on 7 February 2013, during Dr. Eren's visit to Cairo on the occasion of the 12th Islamic Summit Conference. Dr. Eren was accompanied by Dr. Nazih Maruf, Head of the Craft Development Program at IRCICA. It was an excellent opportunity for Dr. Eren to brief the Minister on the Centre's activities and introduce some of its publications. The Prime Minister expressed his appreciation of the wide scope of the work undertaken by IRCICA and the diverse subjects it highlights in the context of studies on Islamic civilization.



Dr. Eren visited Mr. Ömer Çelik, Minister of Culture and Tourism of Turkey

Dr. Eren paid a courtesy visit to Mr. Ömer Çelik on his appointment as Minister of Culture and Tourism of Turkey as of 24 January 2013. Mr. Hakan Çavuşoğlu, member of the Turkish Parliament, was also present at the meeting. Congratulating the Minister on this occasion, Dr. Eren gave him information on the Centre's activities. The Minister reaffirmed his Ministry's support to IRCICA and his looking forward to fruitful collaboration between his Ministry and the Centre.



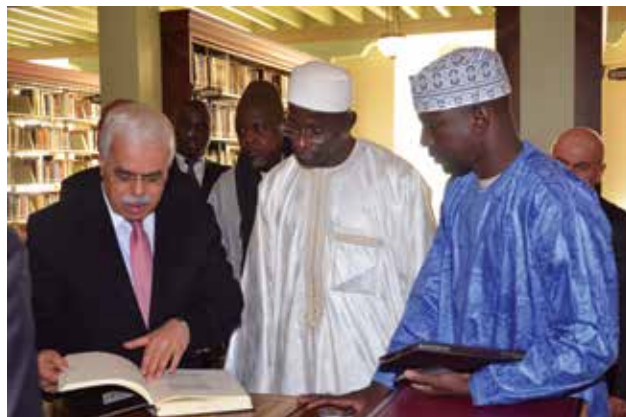
The visit of Mr. Rafet Husović, Deputy Prime Minister of Montenegro

IRCICA was honoured to receive Mr. Rafet Husović, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Montenegro, on 10 April 2013. The Deputy Prime Minister was first received by Dr. Halit Eren at the Directorate General. During the talks, Dr. Eren gave information to the Minister on the Centre's activities. Afterwards he guided Mr. Husović and the accompanying delegation to the library, giving information on its collections and its services, and to some research departments. Issues of cultural cooperation between Montenegro's governmental and academic institutions on one hand and IRCICA on the other were highlighted. Some months earlier, on 19 October 2012, Mr. Rafet Husović had addressed the opening of IRCICA's history congress on "The Balkan Wars (1912-1913) on their Centenary" together with Ministers from four other Balkan countries.



Dr. Yacouba Traoré, Minister of Religious Affairs and Faith of the Republic of Mali visited IRCICA

Dr. Yacouba Traoré, Minister of Religious Affairs and Faith of the Republic of Mali visited IRCICA on 8 March 2013 within the framework of his visit to Turkey as the official guest of the Turkish Prime Ministry. The meeting with Dr. Halit Eren, Director General, IRCICA, revolved around the existing relations between the governmental and cultural institutions of Mali on one hand and IRCICA on the other, and possible ways of realizing a more intensified cooperation that would lead to joint cultural and academic projects. Dr. Eren affirmed that IRCICA gives importance to studies on the history and cultural heritage of Mali, which is one of the centers of Islamic culture and civilization in Africa. He recalled in this regard the project to hold a congress on the theme of Islamic civilization in West Africa which IRCICA and the Government of Mali are envisaging jointly. After the talks, Dr. Eren guided the Minister and the accompanying delegation to the library and some of the research departments.



The Minister had started the Istanbul part of his visit to Turkey after completing his contacts in the capital Ankara, where he met with Deputy Prime Minister Bekir Bozdağ and Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu.

The visit of Mr. Hamrokhon Zarifi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan

Mr. Hamrokhon Zarifi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan visited IRCICA on 8 February 2013. Minister Zarifi was briefed by Dr. Eren on the Centre's objectives and activities; many of these activities fall within the areas of scholarship of the Minister, who is a specialist, historian and collector of arts and author of the comprehensive, instructive and amply documented and illustrated book *The Tajik Golden Heritage*. This book has been published in various languages: Tajik, Russian, Persian, Arabic, Chinese, English, French and German; other editions are forthcoming, including a Turkish edition. The book introduces the history and the contemporary development of the different branches of Tajik arts including miniatures, carpets, sculptures, woodwork, metalwork, pottery, musical instruments, costumes, among others, with 500 pictures altogether and descriptions of most representative artefacts of each art. This is done from a world-community perspective, with frequent references to mutual influences between the arts of the Tajik people and other, neighbouring or distant peoples, past and present. Minister Zarifi presented Dr. Eren with a copy of the French and German edition.



The talks were followed by a visit to the library of the Centre where the Minister saw IRCICA's publications and samples from its library collections. Some time later, on 20 February, the Ambassador of Tajikistan in Ankara Mr. Farruh Homodinovic Sharipov and the Consul General in Istanbul Mr. Ilhomjon Abdurrahmonov visited Dr. Eren which was an excellent opportunity to follow up on matters of cooperation between Tajikistan's Government and cultural institutions on one hand and IRCICA on the other which were evoked during Minister Zarifi's visit.

The Minister of Health of Turkey Mr. Mehmet Müezzinoğlu visited IRCICA

On 27 April 2013 Dr. Halit Eren received the Minister of Health of Turkey Mr. Mehmet Müezzinoğlu. He gave information to the Minister on the Centre's work and guided him to the library. The Minister showed interest in the activities and publications and expressed his appreciation while recording his impressions in the Visitors Book: "Today, together with Vice Minister Mr. Agah Kafkas, I visited my brother Halit Eren, the distinguished head of IRCICA. IRCICA's studies and publications covering our civilizational treasures are praiseworthy. I wish success to the distinguished Director General and his team."



Mr. Enver Hoxhaj, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kosovo, at IRCICA

Mr. Enver Hoxhaj, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kosovo, visited IRCICA on 29 April 2013. Dr. Halit Eren received the Minister in his office; talks were held on cultural cooperation at international level, highlighting the activities of IRCICA and the contacts and cooperation developed with the government and the cultural institutions of Kosovo. Dr. Eren guided the Minister to the different sections of the Centre. Minister Hoxhaj recorded his impressions in the Visitors Book, as follows: "It was a great pleasure to visit today this important centre of research in Istanbul and meet Professor Halit Eren, a big supporter of Kosovo. I hope to see here in the years to come more students coming from Kosovo and studying here, in order to promote the understanding between the peoples. Turkey is a great friend of Kosovo and we are grateful to its government and people for their support."



Visit of the Minister of Public Administration of Kosovo Mr. Mahir Yağcılar

On 4 April 2013, the Minister of Public Administration of Kosovo Mr. Mahir Yağcılar visited IRCICA. Director General Dr. Eren's meeting with Minister Yağcılar covered cultural topics relating to the Muslim communities in Europe and cultural issues in general. Mr. Mahir Yağcılar was one of the guest speakers at the academic congress on "The Balkan Wars (1912-1913) on their Centenary" which was organized by IRCICA on 19-21 October 2012.



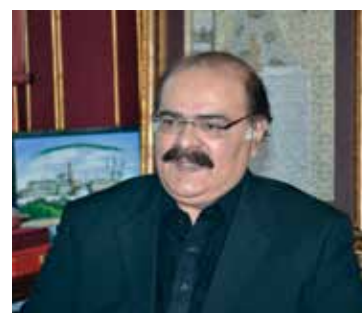
Mr. Kebba Satou Touray, Minister of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment of The Gambia visited IRCICA

Mr. Kebba Satou Touray, Minister of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment of The Gambia and the delegation accompanying the Minister on his official visit to Turkey, paid a visit to IRCICA on 11 March 2013. The Minister, and the delegation comprising the Head of the Chamber of Commerce and authorities in charge of foreign investments, were met by Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, at the Dr. Eren's office in Seyir Köşk, Yıldız Palace. The Director General briefed Minister Touray on the Centre's objectives and activities, describing its long-term programs in different areas including the congresses on the history of Islamic civilization and Muslim nations, the preservation of cultural and architectural heritage, the promotion of arts and handicrafts. He then guided the Minister to the other departments of the Centre, showing samples of the publications. Minister Touray expressed his interest and appreciation of the activities. The Minister and his delegation were visiting Turkey in the context of the growing economic cooperation between Gambia and Turkey; in the capital Ankara, Minister Touray met with Turkey's Minister of Economy Mr. Zafer Çağlayan. Minister Touray also visited various economic boards and establishments in Ankara, Istanbul and İzmir. Gambia has achieved macroeconomic stability and reached an economic growth rate of 5-6 % per year in recent years.



Mr. Makhdoom Jameel-uz-Zaman, the Minister of Inter-Provincial Coordination and Antiquities Department, Sindh, Pakistan, at IRCICA

On 12 February 2013, IRCICA received Mr. Makhdoom Jameel-uz-Zaman, the Minister of Inter-Provincial Coordination and Antiquities Department, Sindh, Pakistan. A politician by career, Minister Jameel-uz-Zaman is at the same time an academician, scholar in letters and Sindhi studies, and has published collections of poetry. Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, met with the Minister for extensive talks that were centered around international relations between peoples of different cultures and languages and the activities undertaken by IRCICA to promote and deepen these relations. Dr. Eren also guided the Minister to the Silahane building, where he briefed the Minister on the library collections and services as well as on the activities of the Centre's various departments.



Mr. Li Zhaoxing, Former Foreign Minister of China, visited IRCICA

Mr. Li Zhaoxing, Former Foreign Minister of China, visited IRCICA on 9 April 2013. The meeting with IRCICA Director General Dr. Eren touched upon various aspect of cultural cooperation and the channels available through this cooperation for introducing peoples to each other more intensively – specifically, how to strengthen cultural affinities between the OIC member countries and China. Dr. Eren gave examples from IRCICA's activities that serve this aim, including the congress on "China and the Muslim World: Cultural Encounters" which was organized by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and IRCICA in Beijing, in June 2012. After the meeting Dr. Eren guided Mr. Li Zhaoxing to some of the departments of the Centre.

Mr. Zhaoxing has been, since 2013, Chairman of the Research Center for National Soft Power at China's Foreign Affairs University and President of China's Public Diplomacy Association. Earlier, in 1993-95 he was Ambassador at China's Permanent Mission to the United Nations and in 1998-2001, Ambassador at the Chinese Embassy to the US.



Mr. Ancenio Djibril Balde, Chief Advisor to the President of Guinea-Bissau, at IRCICA

On 22 March 2013, Dr. Eren received Mr. Ancenio Djibril Balde, Chief Advisor to the President of Guinea-Bissau, in his office. The meeting addressed issues of cultural development and especially education; the Director General of IRCICA spoke of the Centre's approaches and efforts aiming to create opportunities for cultural and educational cooperation between the OIC Member States. Such schemes not only facilitate education opportunities for students from those countries where the sector's capacities are relatively limited but also promote cultural affinities between the countries. Some of the Centre's numerous other activities aiming to promote cultural exchanges were also recalled.



Mr. Hüseyin Avni Mutlu, Governor of Istanbul, visited IRCICA

The Governor of Istanbul Mr. Hüseyin Avni Mutlu visited IRCICA on 7 January 2013. The Governor met with Dr. Eren at the Directorate General of IRCICA where the Centre's recent activities and plans for the near future were mentioned as well as cultural subjects of common concern. Governor Mutlu has participated and given speeches in the opening sessions of some events organized by IRCICA in recent years and has always shown a keen interest in the Centre's work.



Cooperation agreement with the World Islamic Science and Education University (WISE University), Amman

Prof. Abdul Nasser Abu al-Basel, President of the World Islamic Science and Education University (WISE University), Amman, Jordan, visited IRCICA on 27 April 2013. IRCICA and the University had been in contact for some time now in view of joint scholarly activities. During the meeting, Dr. Halit Eren gave information to Prof. al-Basel on the Centre's research projects and congresses relating to the history of Islamic civilization and Muslim nations, the Islamic architectural heritage, the history of science in Islam, among others. As to Prof. al-Basel, he introduced his university, in particular its educational programs in the field of history and Islamic civilization. To work together for their common objectives, the two parties signed a Cooperation Agreement which foresees exchanges and collaboration generally in all fields and also, specifically and as a first joint activity, the holding of an International Conference on "Ottoman Architectural Heritage in Bilad al-Sham Between Past and Present", to take place at the end of 2013. The partners have already launched preparations to organize the conference.



Obituary note:

Professor Leila Sabbagh passed away

Leila Sabbagh, Professor of history, passed away on 6 February 2013. A graduate of the Department of History, Faculty of Arts, University of Cairo (1947), she obtained her MA and Ph.D. degrees on the history of the modern Arab world (1961). Leila Sabbagh returned from Cairo to Damascus in 1952 to work as a teacher and administrator in several public schools. Sabbagh also served at the Ministry of Education as an expert and inspector for the teaching in history and in geography. In 1966 she was assigned to work as visiting professor at the University of Algiers. From 1968-1971, she worked in the Directorate of Research of the Syrian Ministry of Higher Education. Then, she returned to teaching as professor of history at Damascus University. In 1993, she was visiting professor at Al-Ain University in the U.A.E.



In recognition of her efforts in education, in 2000 the Arab Academicians Committee appointed her as member in the Academy of Arabic Language in Damascus; she was the first woman to be admitted to the Academy. Professor Sabbagh has a number of publications. Damascus University and other Arab universities use her book *A Study in the Historical Research Methodology* as textbook for history students. Leila Sabbagh participated in some of IRCICA's congresses, lastly the international congress on "The Second Constitution of the Ottoman State on Ist Centenary" which was held in 2008. She was one of the five recipients of the IRCICA Award for Excellence in Research in the second term of the award (1997).

IRCICA Publications

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

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

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

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





Osmanlı Belgelerinde Arap Vilayetleri. Hicrî X-Miladî XVI. yüzyılın ortaları

(The Arab provinces in Ottoman documents. Mid-Xth century H-XVIth century AD), Vol. 2,
prepared by Fazıl Bayat, preface by Halit Eren, Muslim Countries in the Light of Ottoman Archive Documents Series no. 3,
IRCICA, Istanbul, 2011, xx+384+xix pp., images of the documents in CD

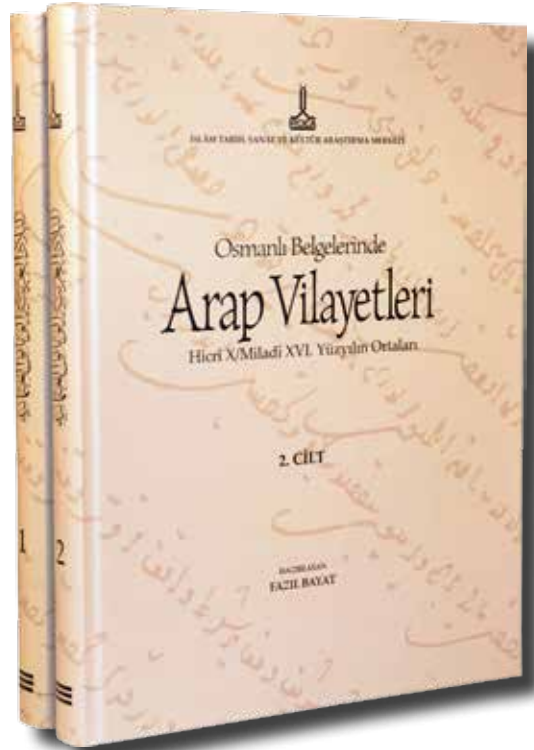
(in Arabic, introductory parts in Arabic and Turkish)

The Ottoman official documents, preserved at the Department of Ottoman Archives in Istanbul attached to the Turkish Prime Ministry, are invaluable sources for studies on the history of the countries which were once part of the Ottoman Empire. To render these references accessible to researchers, the Centre collects archive documents relating to the Arab provinces as to all aspects of their situation and their relations with the State and on administrative history, rural development, public works, public health, education, science and scholarship, press and publications, etc., and publishes their Arabic translations in volumes ordered according to the periods with their contents arranged thematically.

The first volume, containing Arabic translations of documents from Muhimme registers of the first half of 16th century, was published in 2011.

This second volume contains the selected re-prints, type-set texts in Ottoman, and Arabic translations of 107 Ottoman

documents pertaining to Arab countries. The documents were obtained from Muhimme registers and various other collections from the Department of Ottoman Archives and the Library of Topkapı Palace Museum some of which were collected and studied by



Dr. Fazıl Bayat (IRCICA) since years ago. The documents reproduced, transliterated and translated in this volume are classified under the subject headings of "General Situation", "Administrative Affairs", "Waqfs and Religious Affairs", "Emirs of Makkah al-Mukarramah and Pilgrimage", "Legal Affairs", "Economic Affairs", "Tribes and Bedouin Emirates", "Military Operations, Provision of Security and Order", "Miscellaneous Subjects". The series will continue; the third volume is in preparation.

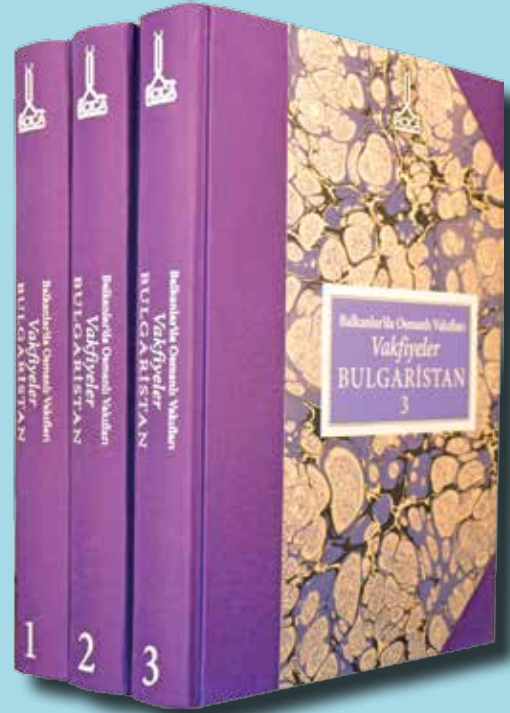
Ottoman Waqfs in the Balkans. Waqf Deeds. Bulgaria

3 vols., Prepared by: Halit Eren, Önder Bayır, Mustafa Oğuz, Zekai Mete,
Editor: Halit Eren, Ottoman Waqfs in the Balkans Series 1, IRCICA, Istanbul, 2012
(Turkish, English, Arabic)

This publication resulted from a large-scale research project IRCICA undertook on the subject of the waqf institution. The waqf as a type of foundation was born in the Muslim world; over the centuries waqfs were established all over the Muslim world to serve a variety of functions ranging from the provision of basic means of subsistence to education, from charitable deeds to building mosques. The waqf also served as a model and found application outside the Muslim world with certain adaptations.

In this research project IRCICA aims to collect the original sources on waqfs such as the establishment deeds, the documents resulting from their operations and if any, the reports on their functions, to study them and to make them available for researchers. Special consideration is given to the waqfs which are at present located outside the OIC member countries, in particular those addressing the Muslim communities and minorities. The project started with a focus on the waqfs dating from the Ottoman period in the Balkan countries. The first outcome is a three-volume publication devoted to the waqfs in Bulgaria.

In this project the Centre collected and transliterated the deeds of 290 waqfs established in Bulgaria and published these transliterations together with the reproductions of the original documents. The deeds of 10 of these waqfs are in Arabic and all others in Ottoman Turkish. In the book the texts of the deeds are grouped according to the cities or districts. A summary of each document is provided, to make it useful also for those who do not read the Ottoman language. Particularly useful will be the comprehensive table provided at the beginning of the book where all the waqfs are listed according to the districts they are located in, with the name



of their founder(s), the donation (which can be in cash and/or in kind, an estate, etc.) their aims, the language of their deeds and their reference in the archival registers. The Introduction gives historical information on the waqfs' legal procedures, systems of registration, modes of operation, sources of income, founders and also observations on the availability and the locations of the deeds and other pertinent registers. The introductory texts, the table and the summaries of the deeds are given in English, Arabic and Turkish.

The first two volumes contain the texts, the table and the transliterations with summaries, while the reproductions of the originals are provide in the third volume.

