



Newsletter



OIC RESEARCH CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC HISTORY, ART AND CULTURE

Presidential visits to IRCICA

H.H. Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani,
Emir of the State of Qatar, visited IRCICA

H.E. Malal Bacai Sanha, President of Guinea-Bissau, at IRCICA

Philippines President H.E. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
visited IRCICA

The Twenty-fourth Session of IRCICA's
Governing Board held in Istanbul

Message of President Abdoulaye Wade, President of Senegal,
Chairman of the 11th Islamic Summit
and Chairman of the COMIAC
on the occasion of the Governing Board meeting

Ircica Activities

Congresses organised by IRCICA

*"The Maghreb and Western Mediterranean
during the Ottoman Period", Rabat*

"Yemen during the Ottoman Era", Sana'a

Participation in international forums

Council of Europe symposium on

"The Image of the Other in History Teaching", Athens

Conference on "Russia and the Muslim World", Moscow

Meetings, cooperation

Book Survey

Newsletter



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

September - December 2009, No. 80

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 the Islamic Conference

Editor in Chief

Halit Eren

Editorial Board

Zeynep Durukal
Mohammed Tamimi
Semiramis Çavuşoğlu
Mihir Lugal
Fayçal Benaissa

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 Kasimoğlu

In this issue

2

Presidential visits to IRCICA

H.H. Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani,
Emir of the State of Qatar,
visited IRCICA

H.E. Malal Bacai Sanha, President of Guinea-Bissau,
at IRCICA

Philippines President H.E. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
visited IRCICA

The Twenty-fourth Session of IRCICA's Governing Board
held in Istanbul

Message of President Abdoulaye Wade,
President of Senegal,

Chairman of the 11th Islamic Summit
and Chairman of the COMIAC
on the occasion of the Governing Board meeting

9

Ircica Activities

Congresses organised by IRCICA

"The Maghreb and Western Mediterranean
during the Ottoman Period", Rabat

"Yemen during the Ottoman Era", Sana'a

Participation in international forums

Council of Europe symposium on
"The Image of the Other in History Teaching", Athens

Conference on "Russia and the Muslim World", Moscow

Meetings, cooperation

20

Book Survey

Editorial

Dear readers, I would like to begin by wishing you a happy and successful New Year. May times ahead bring peace and prosperity to peoples of the world and offer new possibilities of mutual understanding, friendship and cooperation between them.

As IRCICA completes its 2009 work program, I am happy to note that this year was full of memorable events, including the visits and the expressions of support IRCICA was honoured to receive from the heads of state of some countries. The Twenty-fourth session of the Governing Board of IRCICA held early November was opened with the Message of H.E. Maître Abdoulaye Wade, President of Senegal, Chairman of the 11th Islamic Summit Conference and Chairman of the OIC Standing Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs (COMIAC). The Governing Board session coincided with the Economic Summit conference marking the twenty-fifth anniversary of the COMCEC (OIC Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation) which was held in Istanbul under the chairmanship of H.E. Abdullah Gül, President of Turkey. During this period H.H. Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, Emir of Qatar, and H.E. Malal Bacai Sanha, President of Guinea-Bissau, paid visits to IRCICA. Earlier, in September, we were honoured to receive the President of the Philippines H.E. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

The Governing Board of IRCICA is composed of specialists in areas related to the Centre's activities who are appointed by the Member States. The Board supervises the Centre's work by examining and approving its proposed work plans and proposed budgets. The present Newsletter gives the highlights of the Board's twenty-fourth session whose recommendations will be submitted, together with IRCICA's activity reports, to the Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC Member States at its Thirty-seventh session to meet in May 2010 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

A glimpse at the 2009 activities also shows that one of our Centre's successes this year was the publication of some books of special importance in the context of its objectives. Among them are two major publications relating to the history and the Islamic heritage Al-Quds, subjects of central importance for the OIC and IRCICA. The first one is the annotated album Al-Quds/Jerusalem in Historical Photographs which appeared in English, Arabic and Turkish editions. The second one is the 2008 report of IRCICA's architectural program "Al-Quds/Jerusalem 2015" which contains highly informative current research on urban life conditions and protection of Islamic heritage in the historic city. Another important publication resulted from IRCICA's research program on the copies and the translations of the Holy Quran which covers the copies that are in both printed and in manuscript form and found in collections all over the world. In the context

of this program, we published this year the second book in a series of facsimile editions, accompanied by technical scholarly studies, of the copies of the Quran that are known to be dating from the period of Caliph Othman and located in main cities around the world. Thus after the first book, which was related to the copy at Topkapı Palace Museum in Istanbul, we published the book concerning the copy of Mashhad Imam Husaini in Cairo. In 2010 we shall start the preparation of a third book in the series which will be related to the copy located in Sana'a and dating from the same period; the President of Yemen H.E. Mr. Ali Abdullah Saleh gave his approval to the project when he received me at the Presidential office during the history congress we organised in Sana'a. I would like to recall in passing that before this series of facsimile editions and studies, IRCICA had printed editions of two other historical copies of the Quran: the first one was the copy known as the "Fazıl Pasha Mushaf", written in the name of the Seljukid Sultan Tugrul Bey in the year 1186 and kept in Gazi Hüsrev Bey Library in Sarajevo, which was published by IRCICA in a facsimile edition. The second one was the reprint of the first Quran copy printed in the Muslim world, that is, the copy printed in Kazan, Tatarstan, in 1803; this copy was reprinted in Istanbul in 2005 at the initiative of the Municipality of Kazan, on the occasion of the millennium of Kazan City, following a technical revision by IRCICA in preparation for printing. Last but not the least among the IRCICA publications in 2009, I would also like to mention the four-volume bibliography concerning medical sciences, part of the series on the history of scientific literature in the Muslim world; the earlier volumes were related to astronomy, mathematics, geography, musical sciences, military arts, and natural sciences. During 2009 we completed and put to press still other publications to come out at the beginning of 2010.

In this issue you will find outlines on two congresses that we organised in cooperation with state authorities and cultural institutions, in Rabat on the history of the Maghreb and Western Mediterranean, and in Sana'a on the history of Yemen. We also report on IRCICA's participation in two meetings convened by other organisations: a meeting of the Council of Europe, held in Athens, and a meeting on relations between Russia and the Muslim world, held in Moscow.

Finally, I would like to mention that in addition to IRCICA's website covering its activities in general, a website devoted exclusively to its "Al-Quds/Jerusalem 2015" architectural program is opened: www.alqudsjerusalem2015.com. The website is launched in connection with the January 2010 meeting organised within the framework of this program. We shall cover the meeting in our next issue.

Dr. Halit Eren

The visit of His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, to IRCICA

(9 November 2009)

IRCICA was honoured by the visit of His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, at its headquarters on 9 November 2009. His Highness the Emir was in Istanbul to participate in the Economic Summit of the OIC convened on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the COMCEC (OIC's Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation). His Highness the Emir was accompanied by H.H. Hamad bin Jassim bin Jaber Al-Thani, Prime Minister, H.H. Sheikha Hind bint Hamad Al-Thani, the Emir's daughter and chief of staff, ministers and officials from the Qatari Government.

At the visit to the Centre, His Highness the Emir was accompanied by H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the OIC. The guests were met at the entrance of the Palace by the Director General of IRCICA Dr. Halit Eren. They were invited to the Library of IRCICA at Silahhane Building, where a display of books was prepared on the occasion; it comprised samples from the various collections of the library arranged according to subject area, and the publications of IRCICA. Dr. Eren briefed His Highness the Emir on the research and collaborative projects associated with each publication, citing, in particular, the edition of the Mushaf (Quran copy) of Qatar which was produced after a competition that was coordinated jointly by IRCICA and the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs of Qatar to select the calligrapher; it was then published by the Ministry under the technical supervision of the Centre. He also mentioned the facsimile editions of Quran copies attributed to the time of Caliph Othman which are accompanied by scholarly studies



A work of calligraphy was presented to H.H. the Emir by the OIC Secretary General Prof. İhsanoğlu and IRCICA Director General Dr. Eren as a souvenir of the visit (calligraphy by Hasan Çelebi, Istanbul)

on these copies. The Director General also briefed His Highness the Emir on the project titled «Al-Quds/Jerusalem 2015» being implemented by the Centre.

His Highness the Emir of Qatar praised the work conducted by IRCICA and expressed his appreciation of the achievements.

His Highness re-affirmed his support of the Centre's activities, which found a most eloquent expression in his donating five million US Dollars in contribution towards development of the Centre's activities, particularly some of the many varied projects within the framework of the «Al-Quds/Jerusalem 2015» program.

His Highness the Emir also requested Dr. Abdulaziz Turki Subaie from Qatar, Chairman of the Board, to work out an appropriate formula for the distribution of the publications of IRCICA to universities within and outside the Muslim world.



A short documentary film on the Centre's activities was presented to His Highness the Emir

His Excellency Malal Bacai Sanha, President of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, at IRCICA

IRCICA was honoured by the visit of H.E. President Malal Bacai Sanha, President of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, to its headquarters on 8 November 2009. The President attended the opening ceremony of the 24th session of IRCICA Governing Board being held on that day. President Sanha and the accompanying governmental delegation were in Istanbul in that period to participate in the Economic Summit of the OIC convened on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the COMCEC, the OIC's Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation, a committee chaired by the President of Turkey H.E. Abdullah Gül.

This was an excellent opportunity for the Director General of IRCICA Dr. Halit Eren to brief President Sanha on the programs and projects, the library and the related expansion and development project, and the Centre's publications.



President Sanha was presented with a facsimile edition published by IRCICA of one of the earliest copies of the Quran

Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, President of the Philippines, visited IRCICA

IRCICA was honoured to receive on its premises the President of the Philippines Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, on 18 September 2009, during the period of the President's state visit to Turkey. The visit to IRCICA followed President Arroyo's meeting with OIC Secretary General Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu in Istanbul earlier that morning.

President Macapagal-Arroyo was visiting Turkey starting from 16 September upon the invitation of Turkish President Abdullah Gül. Following her meeting with President Gül in the capital city Ankara, she proceeded to Istanbul. President Macapagal-Arroyo's meeting with Prof. İhsanoğlu focused on the progress of the Mindanao peace process which the Philippines Government is pursuing with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). In this context, the second session of the Tripartite Meeting among the OIC, the Government of the Philippines and the MNLF was held at IRCICA premises in Istanbul, on 14-16 February 2008.



President Macapagal-Arroyo visited the library and the research departments

At IRCICA, President Arroyo was briefed by Director General Dr. Halit Eren on the Centre's activities. Then, the President, together with OIC Secretary General Prof. İhsanoğlu, visited the Centre's library, where she received information on the recently completed expansion and development of the library. Dr. Eren briefed the President on the nature and the number of the library's holdings, the rare books and early prints. President Arroyo expressed her admiration of the library and its rich collections of books on the cultures of all peoples and countries of the world.

The Twenty-fourth Session of IRCICA's Governing Board held in Istanbul

8-9 November 2009

Message of His Excellency President Abdoulaye Wade, President of Senegal, Chairman of the 11th Islamic Summit and Chairman of the COMIAC on the occasion of the Governing Board meeting

The Twenty-fourth Session of the Governing Board of IRCICA was held at the Centre's premises on 8-9 November 2009. His Excellency Maître Abdoulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal, Chairman of the 11th Islamic Summit Conference, and Chairman of the Standing Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs (COMIAC) have sent a Message on this occasion.

The opening ceremony on Sunday 8 November 2009 at the Centre's headquarters in Yıldız Palace was held in the presence of President Malal Bacai Sanha, President of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, who was in Istanbul in that period to participate in the Economic Summit of the OIC convened on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the COMCEC (OIC's Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation). The Secretary General of the OIC Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu was present at the ceremony. Ministers from the Member States participating in the Economic Summit were also present: the Minister of Commerce of Senegal Mr. Amadou Niang, and the Minister of Commerce of the Palestinian Authority Mr. Hassan Abu Labda. It was at the same time an occasion for IRCICA to brief the guests on the activities.

The Message of President Abdoulaye Wade was read on behalf of the President by Mr. Amadou Niang, Minister of

Commerce of the Republic of Senegal. The message pointed to the particularly significant results obtained by IRCICA in the various fields covered by its activities and underlined the importance of the essential guiding lines of the mission of IRCICA in the present time.

The ceremony started with the presentation of a brief documentary on the Centre's activities. Then, IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren gave a welcoming address, first expressing gratitude for the support extended by Heads of State and Government of the Member States which helped it achieve its present status with many authentic works on its record all responding to the objectives set for it. He said that furthermore, in its orientations and initiatives IRCICA benefited immensely from the guidance and the liaisons provided by its Governing Board members. He said: "Based on these solid foundations, IRCICA drew from the inexhaustible sources and legacy of Islam over its vast geography. It promoted research and learning on this history, on its heritage that is living in the cultures, the languages, the cities, the arts and sciences of so many peoples and communities across the world." Dr. Eren said that in disseminating the results of its studies the Centre addresses multiple audiences within and outside the Member States including governments and NGOs, academic platforms, the media and public opinion. Thus over the past twenty-nine



The opening ceremony

years, networks of interested individuals and institutions from within and outside the Member States were formed around IRCICA in relation with its various areas of activity. He went on “This is in conformity with the overall vision of IRCICA, because reaching receptive and functional public audiences far and near is all the more important for institutions like IRCICA which respond to actual current issues, most of universal scope. Surely, a foremost issue of concern for us is to enhance the true image of Islam around the world, promote its principles of tolerance and coexistence of cultures. We care very much to deploy scholarly efforts to promote respect of the different faiths within non-Muslim communities of the world, especially in the West. We sadly recall in particular, the defamation and negative stereotyping which has been directed to Islam and Muslims by some Western circles in the last couple of years through the denigrating publications against the sacred values of Islam. Moreover, all Muslims are hit deep in their hearts upon the attacks directed by extremist Israelis at Masjid Al-Aqsa. These outrageous acts are renewed expressions of deep-rooted fanaticism and hatred directed in this case against Muslims. In dealing with such issues of deep concern for Muslims our Centre is working from within the field of its own mandate by organizing intergovernmental collaboration, research programs and field studies, producing reports and references aiming to raise awareness in public opinions.” Dr. Eren gave examples of the Centre’s projects reflecting these guidelines of its objectives.

Dr. Abdulaziz Turki Subaie, member of the Governing Board of IRCICA representing the State of Qatar, ex-Minister of Education, spoke on behalf of the Governing Board. He expressed gratitude to the host country the Republic of Turkey for the patronage and the support extended to IRCICA. He also expressed gratitude to the Secretary General of the OIC for the continuous support accorded to the Centre’s activities. He expressed thanks and appreciation to the Director General of the Centre for the latter’s achievements. Dr. Subaie commended the library expansion project and setting up of a digital library and expressed the Governing Board’s appreciation of the support extended to such projects by leaders of the Muslim world.

The Secretary General of the OIC His Excellency Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu addressed the ceremony. The Secretary General recalled that the whole Muslim world is celebrating these days the 40th anniversary of the OIC, that they were in Istanbul to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the COMCEC, and that at the same time IRCICA was nearing completion of its 30th year. The Secretary General said that IRCICA proved to be one of the most successful research institutions and one of the cultural wings of the OIC. He said he is particularly proud to be associated with it not only because of being associated with it from day one, but also as a scholar and in his capacity as Secretary General. “I feel that the Muslim world and the world of learning at large, is in need of IRCICA and its publications. I don’t think any library in the world which deals with Islamic studies can do without the publications



Mr. Amadou Niang,
Minister of Commerce of Senegal

of IRCICA. I don’t think that our knowledge of the Muslim world culture and civilization, art, architecture, is the same as it was before the establishment of IRCICA. I think there has been a change, a tremendous positive change in what we know now about Islam, starting from studies on copies of the Holy Book – the Mushaf, going through the art of calligraphy, architecture, science, and handicrafts, and of course, history, history of our nations, history of our cultures, history of our common civilisation, in particular what has been known as the periphery of the Muslim world. One of the most viable and successful projects of this institution was to focus on the history of culture of the Muslim nations in what was called the periphery of the Muslim world, that is to say, Southeast Asia, South Asia, the Balkans, Volga-Ural; these areas were not known to the common Muslim people and they were not known even to scholars; few lines in books of general nature like the Cambridge History of Islam or the Encyclopedia of Islam were about these. Now with the Centre and its activities, we have great references about those parts of the world.” The Secretary General said “now with its second Director General you have seen that it has expanded its horizons and gained a new dynamism. This work would not be possible without the work, the dedication and the sacrifice of the people working here; it would not have been possible without the help of the members of the Governing Board, and without the support of the Member States, their scholars, universities, and the public opinion. IRCICA has proved to be an institution that won their appreciation.” The Secretary General of OIC expressed his appreciation to H.E. Malal Bacai Sanha, President of Guinea-Bissau, saying that the President’s presence was an expression of how his country value IRCICA. The latter has implemented many projects in Africa; it organised three symposia, among others, and of course this goes back to the eighties; from day one of its establishment, studies on Africa was in the heart of the interest of this Centre.” The Secretary General then said there are some secrets of the Centre’s success: in this regard he underlined the hard work and commitment of its staff, the conduct of long-term programs – not having big names, big lines and then nothing behind, but real work: at IRCICA there were many examples of a book which took twenty years to prepare, a project which ran for ten years, such as the Mostar

project which ran through 1994-2004 where the Centre restored and rebuilt monuments and published books on the history of Muslims in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He recalled that the Centre now runs a similar project for Al-Quds.

H.E. Mr. Amadou Niang, Minister of Commerce of the Republic of Senegal, read the Message of H.E. President Abdoulaye Wade, to the audience. The message pointed to the particularly significant results achieved by IRCICA in the various fields covered by its activities. It underlined and affirmed the importance of the essential guiding lines of the mission of IRCICA in the present time. In its noble mission aimed at highlighting eternally the image of the Islamic religion and culture, the Centre had taken care not to neglect anything of that culture and this religion; it had also taken care to expand its research activities to all parts of the world. The President underlined the common task of the Centre and all Muslims consisting of re-establishing the beauty of the Islamic culture by showing, to the entire world, its writings, its monuments, its immeasurable literary and artistic heritage, the diversity of handicraft works it inspires, and, above all, its universal dimension based on solidarity, sharing and peace. President Wade also indicated that the activities undertaken



Dr. Abdulaziz Turki Subaie spoke on behalf of the Governing Board

by IRCICA in Al-Quds “reflect the concern to restore the great works, but they especially have, as founding grounds, the protection of a message of mutual acceptance in this High Place where different civilisations meet, mix, but unfortunately, sometimes clash.”



Ambassador al-Masry, advisor to the OIC Secretary General



Mr. Mohammed A. al-Murr, U.A.E.



Dato Haji A. Aziz Bin Deraman, Malaysia

The Governing Board held its working sessions from the afternoon of the same day until the end of next day, that is, during 8-9 November 2009. It examined the activity report on the implementation of the 2009 work plan. It examined and finalised the proposed work program for 2010 before it is submitted to the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers through the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs (the General Assembly of the OIC subsidiaries) for adoption.

During its working sessions and in its Final Report, the Governing Board of IRCICA expressed its deep gratitude to H.E. Maître Abdoulaye Wade, President of Senegal, Chairman of the 11th Islamic Summit Conference, and Chairman of the Standing Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs (COMIAC) for the significant and comprehensive Message addressed to IRCICA.

The Governing Board conveyed its profound gratitude to His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, for having visited the Centre and given encouragement to its activities, and especially, for extending a generous donation to IRCICA which is an expression of His Highness' wish to extend support to activities and projects aimed at promoting the Islamic heritage and preserving it for the benefit of the Muslim peoples and the world at large.

The following members of the Board were present: Dr. Abdulaziz Bin Abdulla Bin Turki Al-Subaie, Qatar (Chairman); Dr. Saad Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Rashid, Saudi Arabia (Vice-Chairman); Prof. Dr. Mehmet İpşirli, Turkey; Dato Haji A. Aziz Bin Deraman, Malaysia; Mr. Mohammed Ahmed Al-Murr, United Arab Emirates; Prof. Amadou Cissé Ndiéguène, Senegal; Dr. Mutlaq Rashid Al-Qarawi, Kuwait, Dr. Halit Eren, Director General, IRCICA. The Secretary General of OIC and the Director General of IRCICA are ex-officio

members of the Board. During the working sessions which followed the opening ceremony, Secretary General Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu was represented by Ambassador Sayed Kassem Al Masry, Advisor to the Secretary General of OIC.

During the session the Governing Board members and the Director General of IRCICA recalled with gratitude and paid tribute to H.R.H.



Prof. Amadou Cissé Ndiéguène, Senegal



Dr. Saad A. Al-Rashid, Saudi Arabia



Dr. Mutlaq R. Al-Qarawi, Kuwait



Prof. Dr. Mehmet İpşirli, Turkey

Ambassador Dr. Wijdan Al-Hashimi, former Chair of the Board, for her excellent conduct and guidance of the work of the Board for many years

**Message to the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA)
read, on behalf of His Excellency President Abdoulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal, Chairman
of the 11th Islamic Summit Conference, and Chairman of the Standing Committee for Information and
Cultural Affairs (COMIAC), by Mr. Amadou Niang, Minister of Commerce**

Mr. President of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau,
Mr. Secretary General of the OIC,
Mr. Director General of IRCICA, Messrs. Members of
the Governing Board of IRCICA, distinguished guests,

It is a distinct honour given to me, today, to address to the hosts of your illustrious institution, on the occasion of the commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the COMCEC, a message of friendship and support, on behalf of His Excellency Maître Abdoulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal, President of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference and the Standing Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs (COMIAC).

It is with real pleasure that I assume this task, given the particularly significant results achieved by IRCICA in the various fields covered by its activities:

- congresses and symposiums which became almost an everyday mission;
- organisation or participation in festivals;
- symposiums for the promotion of intercultural relations;
- implementation of programs such as those aiming to record historical sites and monuments;
- re-printing and publication of historical copies of the Holy Quran.

In sum, your noble mission being aimed at highlighting eternally the image of our religion and our Islamic culture, you have endeavoured not to neglect anything of this culture and this religion. With the belief that Islam has reached all the continents for many centuries now, you also endeavoured to extend your research activities to all parts of the world. Beyond these researches, your task, our task, is to re-establish the beauty of the Islamic culture by showing clearly to the world

- its writings, in the depth of the thinking of those who authored them;
- its monuments which stand against time and adversities

- its immeasurable literary and artistic heritage
- the diversity of the craft works it inspires
- and above all, its universal dimension, based on solidarity, sharing, and peace.

The energetic actions you undertook in Jerusalem reflect the care taken to restore the great works but they carry especially, at their basis, the perpetuation of a message of mutual acceptance in this elevated place where different civilisations meet, come into contact but unfortunately, sometimes collide with each other.

In the same vein and in the same spirit, we have already completed construction, at the heart of Dakar, of large infrastructural works which were done with the participation of many groups of craftsmen, artists and cultural actors from various specialties. The message these works carry is also a message of peace and call for dialogue of religions, cultures and civilisations.

Mr. Director General,
Realisation of the broad vision that IRCICA brings to Islamic progress calls for an engagement of diverse and varied entities, each one more determining than the other: governments, religious experts from all faiths, universities, architects, men of culture, etc. Based on this vision, you have already opened numerous workshops everywhere around the world. No doubt, the Organisation of the Islamic Conference will be the launching pad for fast realisation of these works. Insha'allah it will build, in the months and years to come, the economic, social and cultural capacities that will further reinforce this Centre...."

*Istanbul, 8 November 2009
(Original: in French)*

which contributed greatly to the success of the activities. They praised with gratitude the constructive role played by Dr. Abdul Hafiz Helmy Mohammad (representing Egypt), Vice-Chair, in the proceedings of the Board, and praised the efforts and contributions of Dr. Walid al-Fadil, who represented Kuwait in the previous term. The Board elected Dr. Abdul Aziz Abdullah Turki Al-Subaie as Chairman, and Dr. Saad Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Rashed, Vice-Chairman. The Chairman of the Board affirmed his commitment to continue to work for the development of IRCICA, in cooperation and

in consultation with the directorate of the Centre and the members of the Board.

In his report to the Board, Dr. Eren outlined the activities realized by the Centre since the last session one year before, referring in particular to the history congresses held in Bashkortostan, Bangladesh, Syria, the congress in Tunisia relating to the use of traditional industries in modern architecture, and the symposium on the Image of the Other in history education organized by the Centre in Istanbul in cooperation with the Council of Europe. He cited the books

published, among others, the album of historical photographs of Al-Quds in its Arabic, English and Turkish editions; the edition of the Quran copy attributed to the time of Caliph Othman and located in Cairo; the second volume, concerning translations in Urdu, in the series of bibliographies of manuscript translations of the Quran, and, the proceedings of the congress held in Isfahan relating to the Arts and Crafts of the Muslim World. After describing the progress achieved in the context of some programs such as the architectural program “Al-Quds/Jerusalem 2015”, Dr. Eren declared that the project concerning the Prince Sultan bin Salman Islamic Architectural Heritage Database came to a stage where the Member States’ providing information to the Centre on their archeological sites and monuments is necessary in order to load this information in the database. He also recalled the developments related to the Centre’s library. After the activity report, the Director General presented the proposed work program and the proposed budget for 2010. Prof. Amir Pasic, Head of the Department of Architecture, made power-point presentations on the “Al-Quds/Jerusalem 2015” program and the Islamic Architectural Heritage Database.

The Board examined the report of the Director General and expressed its satisfaction of the results obtained by the Centre in various fields, including research, publications, studies in various areas, holding of seminars, conferences and exhibitions in its fields of competence, at its headquarters or in the Member States. The Board also noted with satisfaction that the Centre completed a number of projects in cooperation with academic and cultural institutions in the Member States and elsewhere. The Board members underlined the pertinence of the Centre’s continuous efforts to define new perspectives for its future activities. The Board approved the activity report and the work program and formulated recommendations:

- The Board expressed its satisfaction of the arrangements made in the Silahhane building which was allocated by the Government of Turkey for the library, and, the preparations made for the digital section thanks to the support extended by H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Emir of Dubai.
- Referring to the presentation and the report published in book form concerning the “Al-Quds/Jerusalem 2015”

program, it recommended that the Centre distributes this report to all parties concerned around the world and invited all the Member States to support this program.

- The Board recommended that the photograph album on Al-Quds published by IRCICA be distributed to policy makers in the Member States of the UN Security Council and the Member States of the OIC and that traveling exhibitions of books be organised in Europe, America, and the Muslim world, in order to reinforce public awareness on this matter and draw assistance to the project.
- It underlined the importance of publishing the proposed journal of the Centre twice a year and distribute it on a large scale.
- It recommended that a website be designed on Islamic arts and Islamic civilisation and be annexed to the Centre’s site.
- The Board recommended to send the Centre’s publications to libraries and universities around the world and to display them in book fairs.
- The Board lauded the Centre’s initiative to organise a conference on “Libraries in the Muslim world, past and present”.
- It expressed its appreciation of the contribution of the Turkish Promotion Fund affiliated to the Prime Ministry of Turkey for the printing of the Turkish edition of the album of historical photographs of Al-Quds, the contribution of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs of Qatar to the English version of the same album, and the contribution of H.E. Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani in support of the publication of its Arabic version.
- The Governing Board paid tribute to H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the OIC, for the continuous support and valuable assistance extended to the Centre in various areas and at international level, and expressed its appreciation of his scholarly supervision of the long-term programs of the Centre.
- The Board lauded the efforts of Dr. Halit Eren, Director General, for the clear progress recorded until now; it also expressed its thanks and appreciation to all the staff of the Centre for their remarkable efforts towards the objectives of the Centre, which is one of the most important cultural centers of the Muslim world.



IRCICA ACTIVITIES

Congresses organised by IRCICA:

Congress on “THE MAGHREB AND WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN DURING THE OTTOMAN PERIOD” held in Rabat

Under the patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, IRCICA and the Royal Institute for the History of Morocco (IRRHM, Rabat), jointly implemented an international congress on “The Maghreb and Western Mediterranean during the Ottoman Period”, held in Rabat, Morocco on 12-14 November 2009.

The congress aimed to promote research on the history of the Maghreb and the Western Mediterranean region during the period of the Ottoman State by exploring the existing and new directions of research and offering scholars and specialists an opportunity to present their findings and share information. The Ottoman presence in part of the region under study had varying degrees and spheres of influences and relations with the entire region. A total of 39 historians – twelve from Morocco, nine from Turkey and thirteen from other countries – participated in the congress. The sessions spread over three days were followed by the Moroccan press and broadcasting organisations.

Two exhibitions accompanied the congress: an exhibition of documents selected from the Turkish Prime Ministry's Ottoman Archives and reflecting relations between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Ottoman State; and, an exhibition of the publications of the Faculty of Letters, Mohammed V University.

The first session, titled “Discovering The Other”, received contributions studying the geographers and travelers and their travelogues as to how peoples of the Maghreb and the Ottoman world came to know each other through

these sources. Among the texts studied were the works of illustrious Ottoman scientists-geographers such as Piri Reis and Katip Çelebi about Morocco and the writings emanating from Moroccan ambassadorial missions and Moroccan travelers about Ottoman lands. The papers presented were: “The Coasts of the Maghreb in the Book on the Things of the Sea by Piri Reis” (Jean-Louis Bacqué-Grammont, Jean-Charles Ducène), “Knowing Other Geographies and Cultures in 17th Century: Katip Çelebi's Narration of North Africa in his Tuhfetü'l-Kibar Fi Esfari'l-Bihar” (Seyfi Kenan), “Mediterranean Challenges of Moroccan Embassies during the Reign of Sultan Mehmed III” (in Arabic, Mohamed Boukbout), “Moroccan Waqfs in Cairo during the Ottoman Period” (in Arabic, Mohammed Afifi), “The Moroccan Travel to the East and the Mediterranean Basin: the Situation in the 19th century: the Great Transformations in the Mediterranean” (in Arabic, Mostafa al-Ghachi).

Two sessions were devoted to the theme “Maghrebians and Ottomans”. The studies presented were mostly based on Ottoman archive documents, the “Muhimme” documents in particular: “The Ottoman State and the Maghreb: from Unity to Conflict” (in Arabic, Nafisa al-Dhahabi), “Morocco and the Ottoman State: from Symbolic Unity to Unity of Solidarity” (in Arabic, Djaafar Ibn al-Hajj al-Silmi), “Political Relations between the Ottoman State and Morocco: the Period of al-Saadi as an example” (in Arabic, Fazil Bayat), “The First Modern Constitution in the Ottoman Muslim World: the Tunisian Constitution of 1861 (Law of the Tunisian State) and the Ottoman Constitution of 1876: Comparative Study” (in



The opening: from left to right, Prof. Abderrahmane el-Moudden (from the Dept. of History, Mohammed V University, Rabat; member of IRRHM), Dr. Halit Eren (IRCICA Director General), Prof. Abderrahim Benhadda (Dean, Faculty of Letters and Humanities, Mohammed V University, Rabat), Dr. Mohamed Kably (Director, IRRHM)

Turkish, Ayhan Ceylan), "Moroccan-Ottoman Relations and the Caliphate Conflict at the Beginning of 20th Century" (in Arabic, Abdallah al-Targhi), "The Arabs of the Altin Region, Sign of Rapprochement between the Albanian Coast and the Coasts of North Africa during the Ottoman Period, 1571-1880" (in Arabic, Mohammed Arnaout), "From Turkish to Moor: False Friends of Modern Europe?" (in French, Joslyne Dakhli), "The 'Maghreb Caliphate' between Colonialism and Panislamism" (Nurullah Ardiç), "The Local Social and Political Dimensions of Turkish-Ottoman Presence in the Great Maghreb during the 16th Century" (in Arabic, Abdelhamid Houneyya).

The session relating to economy and architecture comprised papers on various aspects of commerce in the region; the papers on architecture studied the effect of Ottoman architecture in the region and new themes in Maghrebian architecture during the period. The papers were: "Book Prices in Algiers during the Ottoman Period" (in Arabic, Khelifa Hammache), "French Merchants and Ottoman Law in the Western Mediterranean. The Evidence of a Manuscript from Bibliothèque Nationale de France" (Viorel Panaite), "German Trade in the Mediterranean According to German Archives: Challenges and Obstacles to Development" (in Arabic, Abdulaouf Sinno), "Ottoman Influence on the Architecture of North Africa" (in Turkish, Selçuk Seçkin), "New Perspectives of Research on Maghrebian Architecture in the Ottoman Period" (in French, Ahmed Saadaoui).

The papers of the congress session on "Western Mediterranean between Confrontation and Communication" focused on several specific subjects, including navies, slavery, and Muslim pilgrims. The papers were: "Moroccan-Algerian Maritime Relations (16th-18th centuries): between Complementarity and Competition" (in Arabic, Hassan Emili), "Christian Prisoners in North Africa during the Ottoman Period According to the French Press" (in Arabic, Wafa Masmoudi), "From the Slave Markets in the Maghreb to the Esir Pazarlari of Turkey: Reflections on Slavery in the Mediterranean" (in French, Frédéric Hitzel), "Maghrebian Pilgrims during the Ottoman Era and the Egyptian Pilgrims Caravan" (in Turkish,

Özen Tok), "The Maghreb of Djaouan' and the Rulers of the Maghreb during the Ottoman Period" (in Arabic, Nouzha Akili), "The Navies of Maghrebian Wilayas and the Ottoman Navy" (in Arabic, Abdelhafed al-Tabaili).

The session titled "Between Localism and Centralism" received the following contributions: "Different Readings of the Epistle of Natives of Andalusia to the Ottoman Sultan" (in Arabic, Faisal Abdullah al-Kandari), "The Algerian Question in Moroccan-Ottoman Relations between the 16th and 18th Centuries" (in Arabic, Abderrahim Benhadda), "Strengthening a Provincial Power and an Imperial Supervision. The Mamluks of the Beys of Tunis Sent on Mission to Istanbul – Second Half of the 18th Century and First Half of the 19th Century" (in French, M'hamed Oualdi), "The Ottoman Empire, the Maghreb and Hungary" (in French, Lazlo Nagy), "Algeria at the Beginning of the 19th Century According to French Documents" (in Arabic, Mohammed Kheddari).

As to the session on "Maghreb in World History", it highlighted various aspects of diplomatic relations during the different centuries, and the Ottoman sources on the histories of the Maghreb and the Western Mediterranean. The papers were titled: "Protection of the Refugee Emir: a Mediterranean Diplomatic Asset in the 16th and 17th Centuries" (in Arabic, Abderrahmane el-Moudden), "New Axes in World History: Incorporating the Maghrib and Western Mediterranean into the Historical Narrative of the Ottoman Period" (Gavin Brockett), "Inter-Muslim Relations in the Face of Globalisation of Conflicts: Ottoman-Moroccan Relations during the First World War" (in French, Odile Moreau), "The Ottoman Caliphate, German and Maghrebian Activists – 1914-1918" (in Turkish, Mehmet Suat Mertoglu).

A communiqué was issued by the participants at the closing session, recommending that meetings such as this conference be held periodically, that the proceedings of this conference be published as soon as possible, and that cooperation among researchers of the field be promoted. (Report by Dr. Cengiz Tomar, IRCICA)



"YEMEN DURING THE OTTOMAN ERA" Congress, Sana'a

Under the patronage of the President of Yemen H.E. Ali Abdullah Saleh, IRCICA and the National Archives of Yemen have jointly organised an international congress on "Yemen during the Ottoman Era" which took place on 16-17 December 2009 in the capital city Sana'a. Twenty-eight participants, fourteen from Yemen and fourteen from Turkey, presented papers.

The congress was opened by the Prime Minister of Yemen H.E. Mr. Ali Mohammed Mujawar, with words of appreciation of the academic cooperation being developed between countries. The Prime Minister underlined the importance of studies in history based on archive documents. He dwelt on the issue of the approach adopted in studying history, emphasizing the importance of objective and positive approaches.



Presentation of a publication of IRCICA to the Prime Minister of Yemen
Mr. M. Ali Mujawar

Then, Mr. Ali Ahmed Abu Rijal, Director General of the Yemen National Archives, co-Chairman of the congress organising committee, spoke of the Ottoman-Yemen experience of co-existence and its continuing traces. He informed the audience on the active cooperation between the National Archives of Yemen, IRCICA, and the Turkish Prime Ministry's Ottoman Archives. He said that the history of Yemen during the Ottoman period has to be re-written.

Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, co-Chairman of the organising committee, delivered an address in which he spoke studies in history in general and IRCICA's activities in particular.

The opening ceremony was attended by Mr. Abdulkarim Iryani, political advisor to the President of Yemen, Mr. Abdulaziz Makalli, cultural advisor to the president of Yemen, the Minister of Information Mr. Hasan Ahmad al-Lawzi; the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Mr. Salih Ali Ba Sura; the Minister of Religious Endowment and Islamic Affairs, Mr. Hamud Abd al-Hamid al-Hitar; the

Minister of Finance, Mr. Numan Salih Suhaybi, the Minister of Industry and Trade, Mr. Y. Yahya al-Mutawakil; the Minister of Culture, Mr. M. Abu Bakr al-Maflahi; the Ambassador of Turkey Mr. Mehmet Dönmez, the Ambassador of Lebanon Mr. Hasan Abu Kir, and ambassadors of other countries accredited in Sana'a.

The first paper, by the Minister of Higher Education of Yemen Dr. Salih Ali Ba Sura, dealt with "Documentation of the Ottoman presence in Yemen", underlining the important role played by the National Archives of Yemen and the Turkish Prime Ministry's Ottoman Archives in providing the sources for these studies. Then, Prof. Ahmet Kavas from Istanbul University spoke of the relations carried out by the Ottoman Empire with the Indian Ocean and Southern Asia passing from Yemen. Dr. Abdulkarim Hijri from the University of Sana'a dealt with the Ottoman administration in Yemen in its early phase under Jafar Pasha. Dr. Mohammed Said Dawud from Hadramout University spoke of the beneficial consequences of Ottoman administration in Yemen including protection from foreign colonisation. Dr. Idris Bostan, historian of navigation from Istanbul, presented a paper on the role played by the Suez and Moha ports in the Ottoman-Portuguese armed conflicts.

In the second session, Prof. S. Mustafa Salim from Sana'a University reviewed, on the basis of Sayyid Fadl Alawi's letter to the Sublime Porte, attempts of integration directed at the Arabian peninsula. Prof. Mehmet İpşirli from Fatih University (Istanbul) examined, in his paper, Ebu Said Ahmed Raşid's work titled *Tarih-i Yemen ve Sana'a*; another study of a source was by Dr. Mustafa Küçükbaş, on Qutb al-Din al-Nahrawali al-Makki and his



Drafting of the recommendations: Dr. Halit Eren, M. Abu Rijal,
Dr. Cengiz Tomar, M. Yasin Ahmed el-Tamimi

work *al-Barq al-Yamani fi'l-Fath al-Uthmani*. Dr. Mustafa Bilge (Istanbul) spoke of agriculture in Yemen during the period.

The third session of the congress heard Dr. Önder Bayır, Head of the Ottoman Archives Department in Istanbul, on “The importance of the Ottoman Archives with respect to the history of Yemen”. Then, Mr. Ali Said Tawaf, Deputy Director General of the National Archives of Yemen, spoke of the “Conservation of documents on Yemen during the Ottoman period”. The paper by Dr. al-Ghaffur al-Emir from Sana’a University was on the “Reform attempts of the Governor of Yemen Huseyin Hilmi Pasha”. Mr. Hasan Abu Kir, Ambassador of Lebanon in Yemen, presented a study on the life of Yusuf Bey, the Mutasarrif of Hudaida, and his efforts in Yemen.

The following session heard Prof. Dr. İsmail Erünsal from Marmara University (Istanbul) on “Yemen in Turkish Literature”, Prof. Huseyin Abdullah al-Amri on “Thoughts on administrative reforms in the Ottoman province of Yemen”, Dr. Mesut Ergin from Dicle University (Diyarbakır, Turkey) on “Yemeni poets during the Ottoman period”.

Then next session heard the studies and observations of Prof. Ahmed b. Mohammed b. Burayq on Imam Yahya’s relations

with the Ottoman State, Prof. Dr. Hulusi Yavuz on Yemen during the reign of Abdulhamid II, Prof. Dr. Azmi Özcan on Yemen in Ottoman foreign policy, and Dr. Fuad Abdulwahab al-Shami on Yemeni deputies in the Ottoman parliament.

These were followed by the presentations of Prof. Dr. İhsan Süreyya Sırma on the contributions of Ottomans to Yemen geography in the 19th century, Prof. Dr. Zekeriya Kurşun on the observations of the district governor of Kataba Mustafa bin Mustafa about Yemen, Dr. Abdulkirim al-Aziz on the reforms in Yemen during the governorship of Ahmed Muhtar Pasha, and Dr. al-Malik al-Sawr on the complaints of the shaikhs of the sanjak of Taiz submitted to Abdulhamid II.

The papers of the last session were by Dr. Arif al-Rawi on the situation of the city of Ibb at the beginning of the 20th century, by Cevad Ekici on the construction of cable lines in Yemen, and by Prof. Said Salam Qasim on Ottoman administration in Yemen during the period of 1849-1918. The participants formulated recommendations calling for more cooperation between historians working on this period, exchanges of teachers and students, programs to teach Turkish and Ottoman to Yemeni students, and holding of the congress periodically. An exhibition of archive documents on Yemen accompanied the congress.



The President of Yemen Mr. Ali Abdullah Saleh received from Dr. Eren the facsimile edition of the Quran copy preserved at Topkapı Palace and attributed to the time of Caliph Othman

The President of the Republic of Yemen H.E. Ali Abdullah Saleh received IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren on 16 December, after the opening ceremony of the congress. The audience was given in the Presidential office at the “Urdu” complex. During the meeting, President Saleh was briefed by Dr. Eren on the activities of IRCICA in numerous areas, especially the researches, and the congresses organised, on subjects relating to the history and cultures of the different regions of the world where Islam flourished over the centuries and left its heritage. The talks focused in particular on IRCICA’s studies on copies of the Holy Quran (“Mushafs”) and translations and exegeses of the Holy Quran which constitute important contributions by the Centre to this area of study. Dr. Eren mentioned in particular the facsimile editions of the copies of the Quran attributed to the time of Caliph Othman which were published by IRCICA together with scholarly and comparative studies: the editions of the copy located at Topkapı Palace Museum in Istanbul and the Mashhad Imam Hussein copy in Cairo, respectively. With President Saleh’s approval, the Mushaf which is attributed to the period of the fourth Caliph Ali bin Abu Talib and located in Sana’a will also be published by IRCICA in a facsimile edition to be accompanied, similarly, by a study. During the meeting President Saleh also expressed his interest and appreciation of the Centre’s activities in general as well as of the cultural cooperation that had developed between the Government of Yemen and IRCICA.

First International Congress for “URBAN HERITAGE IN ISLAMIC COUNTRIES” to take place in Riyadh, 2010

IRCICA is one of the co-organisers of the First International Congress for Urban Heritage in Islamic Countries which will take place in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 18-23 April 2010. The Congress, placed under the patronage of H.M. King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, is organised at the initiative of the Supreme Commission for Tourism and Antiquities, jointly with IRCICA, the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs of Saudi Arabia, the Ministry of Finance of Saudi Arabia, King Saud University, and the Heritage Foundation of Saudi Arabia.

The Conference is planned as a large-scale event to comprise the following sections: Country Reports; Studies of Islamic Urban Heritage (Education, Training, Research); Realised Urban Heritage Preservation Projects. Exhibitions will be held, reflecting the experiences of countries as to: Studies in the field of urban heritage, Realised Projects in the Preservation and Development of Urban Heritage, Demonstrations of Craftsman on crafts related to urban heritage buildings.

The Country Reports, to be contributed by the participating Member States, are expected to outline the following: history of the urban heritage and its preservation, laws and regulations protecting urban heritage and surrounding areas, national registers of urban heritage (documentation and classification), economic aspects of the preservation and development of urban heritage (state mechanisms for financing urban heritage projects, government funds, private investment, employment), tourism and urban heritage, urban heritage and education, the role of the media, successful examples of utilisation of urban heritage, rehabilitation of urban heritage villages, historic town center development projects, heritage hotel projects, traditional market development projects, handicrafts and architecture, etc. As to Studies of Islamic Urban Heritage, they are expected to cover subjects relating to urban heritage in educational curricula, originality and creativity in the development of urban heritage, modernisation of Islamic cities, use of technology in developing building materials for urban heritage, modern processes in restoration, maintenance, preservation and rehabilitation, educational programs for different levels of education, development of craftsmanship, utilization of elements of urban heritage in modern architecture, role of the media in raising awareness and educating the public on urban heritage. The third section, on Realised Projects in the Preservation and Development of Urban Heritage, will be related to: environmental factors affecting urban heritage, mechanisms to deal with environmental variables affecting urban heritage buildings, the role of government, private sector initiatives regarding the protection, maintenance and restoration of urban heritage, feasibility of modern alternatives for natural materials used in the restoration and maintenance of urban heritage buildings.

Some of the planned exhibitions will highlight various country experiences besides presentations on projects and studies of institutions concerned with urban heritage.

The congress aims to issue a set of recommendations for the consideration of countries, international and regional organisations.

A meeting of the Scientific Committee was held in Riyadh on 20 December, under the chairmanship of H.R.H. Prince Sultan bin Salman, Secretary General of the Supreme Commission for Tourism and Antiquities. Dr. Halit Eren, IRCICA Director General, and Prof. Amir Pasic, Head of IRCICA's Department of Architecture, attended the meeting.

“ISLAMIC CIVILISATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN” symposium to be jointly organised with Near East University, Nicosia

IRCICA and the Institute for Islamic Research and Intercultural Dialogue, Near East University (Lefkoşa/Nicosia, North Cyprus) will jointly organise an international conference on “Islamic Civilisation in the Mediterranean” to be held at Near East University, in February 2011. The symposium aims to highlight the role and significance of Islamic civilisation in the process of evolution of Mediterranean civilisation. Its themes will be:

- I. History of expansion of Islamic civilisation in the Mediterranean: political administration, inter-state and inter-regional relations
- II. The role of Islam in civilisational process: theological and philosophical aspects, relations with other religions in the Mediterranean
- III. Science and technology in Islamic civilisation in the Mediterranean
- IV. Architecture and urbanism in Islamic civilisation in the Mediterranean
- V. The development of Islamic arts in the Mediterranean and relations with the arts of other cultures
- VI. “Islamic civilisation in the Mediterranean” as an area of research and teaching: promoting the studies and sources

Prospective paper presenters are requested to send a brief CV along with an abstract of 200 words in English, Turkish or Arabic by 2 April 2010. Deadlines: i) Submission of paper abstract proposal by 2 April 2010. ii) Notification of acceptance of abstracts by 2 May 2010. iii) Submission of full paper by 2 September 2010.

The Institute for Islamic Research and Intercultural Dialogue, Near East University, has the objective of studying of Islam and its relationship with other religions in order to promote

a closer understanding between them. The Institute is located in Cyprus, which historically has been a cradle of Mediterranean as well as Islamic civilisation.

Correspondence and abstracts should be addressed to:

Conference on Islamic Civilisation in the Mediterranean,
IRCICA, e-mail: ircica@ircica.org

or

Organising Committee

Conference on Islamic Civilisation in the Mediterranean,
Near East University

Institute for Islamic Research and Intercultural Dialogue
e-mail: irid@neu.edu.tr

International Exhibition on Ceramics and Porcelain within the Fourth Kuwait International Forum on Islamic Arts

Kuwait Center for Islamic Arts and IRCICA are jointly organising an international exhibition on Ceramics and Porcelain to take place within the Fourth Kuwait International Forum on Islamic Arts, in Kuwait City, on 4-10 January 2010.

Artisans of ceramics and porcelain from around the world will participate in the event. Daily workshops will present artisans at work.

Participation in international forums:

Participation in the Council of Europe symposium on "THE IMAGE OF THE OTHER IN POST-CONFLICT SITUATIONS", Athens

A symposium on "The image of the Other in post-conflict situations: learning different histories as a mean of rebuilding trust" was organised by the Council of Europe on 26-27 November 2009 in Athens, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education of Greece. The symposium is third in the series of annual symposiums held in the context of the Council of Europe project "The Image of the Other in History Teaching" each devoted to a different aspect of the general theme. The first symposium, on "Learning history to understand and experience cultural diversity today", took place in Strasbourg in October 2007 and the second symposium, on "Globalisation and Images of the Other: challenges and new perspectives for History Teaching in Europe" was organised jointly by the Council of Europe and IRCICA at the Centre's premises in Istanbul in November-December 2008.

The project "The Image of the Other in History Teaching" upholds the objective of history teaching as stressed in Recommendation 15 (2001) of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe: "helping to produce citizens capable of thinking for themselves in a democratic, multicultural society, who have critical analysis and research capabilities and are able to take part in dialogue with an open attitude not only to cultural diversity but also to the various views and conceptions of history." The Athens symposium took into consideration the recommendation 1880 (2009) on history teaching in conflict and post-conflict situations which was adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, mainly based on the lessons learned from the activities of bilateral and regional co-operation on history teaching led by the Council of Europe.

The project "The Image of the Other in History Teaching" has three aims (Source: Council of Europe, History Education Division):

- to propose general guidelines for policies on history teaching within the framework of intercultural dialogue;
- to propose strategies, methods and instruments which can be used to turn these general guidelines into specific projects;
- to make proposals on the training, not just of history teachers, but of all those involved in the history learning process.

IRCICA Director General participated in the Athens symposium. In his speech at the opening session, he affirmed his belief, based on his experience in coordinating international projects towards promoting affinities between peoples through cultural activity and academic study, in the power of history education as a major medium in building confidence between peoples. He said that IRCICA's experience in inter-cultural and regional history projects has shown that encouraging research and teaching of the different histories is by itself an effective means to facilitate multi-perspectivity and recognition of The Other. "This observation is at the very basis of the role we expect history teaching can play as a tool towards trust building, if managed properly." He then made some observations with regard to making a good use of this tool: first, the environment surrounding education is a determinant of success; it includes governments and other agents involved in post-conflict peace-building such as NGOs and international agencies. Secondly, revision of curricula and of textbooks and provision of materials

which have to be done in a way to address the root causes that had led to conflict and provide long-term results. In this regard he mentioned the question of perspective: in many cases if not all, the same historical sources can be interpreted differently where more than one interpretation can be justifiable. Furthermore, different interpretations can emanate from equally justifiable viewpoints. This open but critical perspective is all the more important in post-conflict context. He also argued on the concept of conflict itself, to be seen as not unsolvable and not unavoidable. He also discussed the matter of coverage: in dealing with relations having taken place between the peoples involved, subjects or periods of agreement or positive interaction must be given as much space as subjects or periods of conflict.

The symposium dealt with the following sub-themes:

1. The role of education and of history education in the process of rebuilding trust: what lessons can be drawn from experiences in the world and in Europe? What are consequences of the evolution of the nature of conflicts in the global and European context? What have been, in particular, the consequences of this conflict upon youth and how could these consequences be taken into account within the education system?
2. Strategies that could be developed concerning history teaching in post-conflictual contexts: the political context, implication of national authorities, the role of other actors of history education (non-governmental organisations, youth movements, local community, families, medias, museums, etc); the potential and limits of the setting up of coherent partnerships.
3. Methods and pedagogy of history teaching in post-conflict situations: how could multiperspectivity be implemented in post-conflict situations? Which pedagogy to implement: what are the conditions for an interactive pedagogy aiming at acquisition of critical thinking? Where is the balance between learning contents and acquisition of attitudes and competences leading to tolerance and mutual respect? How to deal with sensitive issues? How to utilise sources, what is the role of history textbooks and other pedagogical support, how to use the possibilities offered by new technologies? Which specific training adapted to post-conflictual situations for the history teachers, pedagogical materials authors and other professions involved (psychologists, documentalists, administrators, etc)?

Teachers' trainers, experts involved in programmes of history teaching in post-conflict situations, and representatives of different actors of history teaching (Source: Council of Europe, History Education Division).

Participation in the International Conference on "RUSSIA AND THE MUSLIM WORLD: PARTNERSHIP FOR THE SAKE OF STABILITY" held in Moscow

A large international conference on "Russia and the Muslim World: Partnership for the Sake of Stability" was opened in Moscow on 24 September 2009. It was held under the patronage of the President of the Russian Federation Dmitry Anatolyevich Medvedev and organised by the Russia Mufties Council. Many statesmen, ministers, mayors, representatives of different faiths from cultural and religious circles in the Muslim countries and Russia, and international Muslim unions, from over forty countries, participated in the conference. The conference was supported by the OIC, the Council of Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia. Official partners in the organisation of the conference were the Islamic Cultural Centre of Russia, the Fund for Support of Islamic Culture, Science and Education (Russia), the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs of the State of Kuwait, the Administration of Makhachkala city, and the Regional Fund named after the President of the Chechen Republic and hero of Russia Ramzan Ahmatovic Kadyrov.

The objective of the conference was: to widen and deepen cooperation between Russia and the countries of the Muslim world as well as the Muslim communities of Europe and America in the spheres of science, culture and economics. Significant attention was paid to the role of religious boards of Muslims and the Russia Mufties Council in developing and strengthening ties with Muslims from other countries.

The topics of the sessions were: enhancing of international cooperation between Russia and the Muslim countries as well as the Muslim communities of Europe and America; the answer of the Muslim communities in different countries to the political threats and economic imbalances; Russian-Islamic cooperation in the sphere of economics and overcoming the consequences of the financial crisis; partnership of the Muslim states and communities with the leading countries of the world for the sake of creation of sustained financial system; Russia and the Islamic world: partnership in the spheres of science, culture and education; development and harmonization of the Islamic educational system; role of Muslim religious organisations in development of international cooperation between Russia and the Islamic world.

At the opening ceremony, messages of greeting were read in the name of the President of the Russian Federation H.E. Dmitry Anatolyevich Medvedev, the Emir of Kuwait H.H. Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah, and the Secretary General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu.

In his message, Prof. İhsanoğlu said that the patronage extended by H.E. Dmitry Anatolyevich Medvedev, President of the Russian Federation, to the conference, marked the continuation of a process of mutually beneficial engagement between the Russian Federation and the OIC that was initiated in 2003, at the Tenth Islamic Summit Conference held in Malaysia, when President Vladimir Putin became the first leader outside the Muslim world to address the OIC. "Russia's relations with Islam and the Muslim world are deep seated and rooted in geography and history. Some of the most important chapters of Islamic history were contributed in this part of the world. The geographical proximity and even contiguity with a number of OIC Member States has resulted in an interwoven network of links ranging from demography, to culture and economy. Five OIC Member States were a part of the former Soviet Union and vast areas in the southern parts of the Russian Federation and in the Caucasus are predominantly Muslim populated. In fact Muslims form significant component of the population in the Russian Federation. All these facts contribute towards the promising prospects and vast potential attributed to the future of relations between Russia and the Islamic world that form the subject of this important and timely conference." The Secretary General pointed out that the observer status enjoyed by the Russian Federation at the OIC indicates a positive development that will underwrite a bright future for strong relations between Russia and the Islamic world based on mutual benefit and rich political, economic and cultural content.

Mr. Sergey Mikhaylovich Mironov, Chairman of the Council of Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation said, in his address at the ceremony, that "The realities of the present day demand for the widening of international cooperation between Russia and the Muslim countries in different life spheres. This would contribute to further deepening of mutual understanding among peoples of our countries, establishment of a favourable international climate, and strengthening stability in the world." Mr. Mironov underlined the importance of cooperation between religious scholars of all faiths and various countries in combating terrorism and extremism. He said "We deeply esteem the high moral values of Islam that are reliable regulators of the relations between people. We are thankful to all the Russian muftis and personally mufti Sheikh Ravil Gaynutdin for the significant contribution into the creation of favourable social climate in our country, contributing to settlement of acute variances. With our everyday activities you, dear mufti stand for consent, tolerance, good neighborliness, kindheartedness and justice.

Mufti Sheikh Ravil Gaynutdin, Chairman of the Russia Mufties Council and Chairman of the Religious Board of Muslims of the European Part of Russia said that for many centuries Russia as a Eurasian state has been interconnected with the Islamic world with traditional natural ties. "Millions of Muslims have traditionally lived in our country and they believe Russia to be their motherland." Mufti Gaynutdin

said that earlier, in June, the President of Russia Dmitry Medvedev speaking in Cairo at a meeting with permanent representatives of the member states of the League of Arab States had explained the deep strategic reasons behind the relations between Russia and the Islamic world. President Medvedev had said "Islam is an indispensable part of Russian history and culture. Respect for the faith and traditions of our people lays the basis of the civil peace in our country. I can formulate it straightforward – Russia does not have to seek friendship with Muslim world. Our country itself is an organic part of this world, because Russian Muslims are 20 million of our people ... That is why we value our ever broadening cooperation with the Organisation of Islamic Conference." In the same vein, Mufti Gaynutdin said that for their part Russian Muslims had done their utmost within the framework of religious diplomacy to promote Russia's successful relations with the OIC and bring Russia and the Islamic world closer to each other. Many programs of economic and other cooperation are under way. The Russian-Arab Business Council and its bilateral commissions successfully function in Moscow. "Together with the Islamic Bank of Development we are studying the possibility of practical application of the Islamic banking in Russian financial system. The Council of Muftis of Russia has worked out a program of studying the elements of Islamic financial institutions with the aim of implementing them in Russian banks."

Among the speakers who were invited to address the ceremony, Director General of IRCICA Dr. Halit Eren highlighted the main cultural aspects of relations between Russia and the Muslim world in historical perspective and pointed to areas of reflection and cooperation that can help further improve mutual understanding between peoples of the two worlds. He said that the understanding and applications of Islamic thought among Muslims in Russia are a major component of their cultural experience and heritage: this heritage constitutes the objective frame of reference for Muslims to rely upon in order to assume and realise their faith and culture in true sense, authenticity and moderation. He also referred to Russia's and Russian Muslims' experience of multi-faith and multi-cultural coexistence. In a considerably long part of this history Muslim populations have been present in the lands of Russia and the neighbouring areas together with peoples of all other faiths. "Today, Muslims nations of the Russian Federation and the Muslims in Russia form, in a way, an organic cultural bridge between Russia and the Muslim world, a bridge that transmits the shared and the divergent elements of cultural experiences from past to present. ... Given the respective experiences of Russia and the Muslim world as multifaith and multicultural communities this cooperation can contribute towards cultural dialogue between the Muslim world and the Christian world. It can open new avenues in addition to complementing the existing dialogue efforts with Europe, the USA and other regions of the world."

MEETINGS, COOPERATION

Visit of IRCICA Director General to Macedonia: focus on academic cooperation

IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren visited the Republic of Macedonia on 22-23 November 2009.

H.E. Gjorge Ivanov, President of the Republic of Macedonia, received the Dr. Eren at the Presidential Office on 23 November 2009. During the meeting Dr. Eren gave information to the President on the activities of IRCICA in general and those relating to the cultural and architectural history and heritage of Macedonia and its region in particular. President Ivanov expressed his appreciation of the works undertaken and channels of international cultural cooperation established by IRCICA. During the talks, which lasted more than an hour, the importance of studying the multicultural history of the Balkans, particularly the four centuries of the Pax Ottomana, was underlined; the President said that this long period of peace in the Balkans was made possible thanks to tolerance, whereby peoples of all faiths lived together peacefully.



President Ivanov received Dr. Eren



A plaque of IRCICA presented to
Prof. Georgi Stardelov, President of MANU

The President graciously accepted to extend his patronage to the congress on “Islamic Civilisation in the Balkans”, fourth of IRCICA’s series on this theme, to be organised in the capital city Skopje jointly with the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts (MANU). The congress will be held in the second half of October 2010.

President Ivanov is a political scientists, educationist, and specialist of studies on “civil society”, and served as professor of political science before assuming the office.

Prof. Georgi Stardelov, President of the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts, and Prof. Vlado Kambovski, Vice-President, and Chairman of the Centre for Strategic Studies of the Academy, were present at the meeting. Dr. Numan Yusuf Aruç from MANU, and Dr. Cengiz Tomar from IRCICA, were also present.

Visit of a Guinea-Bissau Governmental delegation

A delegation from the Republic of Guinea-Bissau comprised of H.E. Mrs. Helena M.J. Nosolini Embalo, Minister of Economy, Planning and Regional Integration, H.E. Mr. José Mário Vaz, Minister of Finance, and H.E. Mr. Joao Alage Mamadu Radia, Director General, Central Bank, visited IRCICA on 7 October 2009. The delegation was participating in the World Bank and International Monetary Fund



Meeting with the Guinea-Bissau delegation

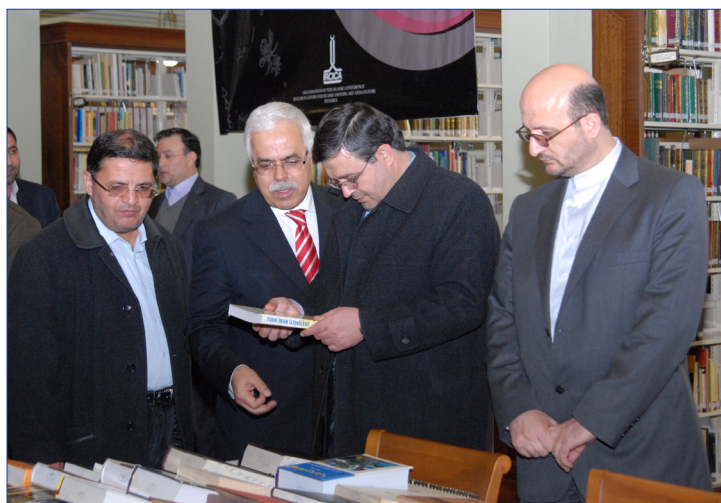
annual meetings being held on 6-7 October 2009 in Istanbul. During their visit to IRCICA, the guests saw the premises, in particular the library, and received information on some main research programs of the Centre. Talks held in the office of the Director General centered around the areas of cooperation and participation from Guinea-Bissau in IRCICA activities.

The Minister of Economy, Planning and Regional Integration Mrs. Nosolini Embalo recorded her impressions in the Visitors' Book (original: Portuguese): "We have the great pleasure of paying a visit to IRCICA. We are impressed by everything we saw here, the library and the other departments. This has been a moment of special significance for us. Our wish is to develop our cooperation which will also strengthen further our friendship. ... We hope that this Centre will continue to fulfill its dynamic leading role in the Muslim world."



Visit of a parliamentary and governmental delegation from the Islamic Republic of Iran

On the occasion of the 2009 Turkey-Iran Culture Year, Topkapı Palace Museum in Istanbul hosted an exhibition titled "Ten Thousand Years of Iranian Civilisation, Two Thousand Years of Common Heritage". The exhibition was organised jointly by the General Directorate of Cultural Assets and Museums, Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey, and the Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organisation, Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Iran, with contributions from the Istanbul 2010 European Capital of Culture Agency. It featured 295 artifacts from the collections of Topkapı Palace Museum, the Military Museum, Archeology Museum, Sadberk Hanım Museum (Istanbul) and the Iranian National Museum, highlighting Iranian civilizations in the pre-Islamic and post-Islamic eras. The exhibition was opened on 1 December under the patronage and in the presence of H.E. Mr. Hamid Baghaei, Vice-President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Chairman of the Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organisation, and H.E. Mr. Ertuğrul Günay, Minister of Culture of Turkey.



The day before the opening of the exhibition, IRCICA had the pleasure of receiving a group of guests from among the Iranian delegations present on this occasion: parliamentarians and officials from the Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organisation. Dr. Eren guided the guests to the different departments of the Centre.

The Ambassador of Australia in Ankara Mr. Peter Doyle visited IRCICA

Mr. Peter Doyle, the Ambassador of Australia in Ankara, Turkey, visited Dr. Halit Eren at IRCICA on 9 October. The Director General gave information to Ambassador Doyle about the activities of the Centre and guided him on a short tour of the various research departments of the Centre and the library recently put to function at Silahhane Building. Talks were held on international cultural and educational issues relating to the Centre's areas of interest, cooperation with universities and cultural institutions and



possibilities of collaboration with Australian universities; dissemination of the Centre's studies on the cultures and arts of OIC member countries to interested audiences around the world. Mr. Doyle recorded the Australian Government's keen interest in the Centre's work.

The Ambassador of Switzerland Mr. Kunz at IRCICA

Mr. Raimund Kunz, Ambassador of Switzerland in Ankara, along with two of his colleagues from the Embassy, visited IRCICA on 22 October 2009. Dr. Eren informed Ambassador Kunz on the objectives and activities of the OIC and its subsidiary IRCICA. Expectedly, the public initiative on banning of minarets in Switzerland, which was going to be submitted to a referendum (29 November), was also part of the talks. Mr. Kunz said that arguments for and against this initiative were continuing; he mentioned that the Muslim population in Switzerland was around 500,000 out of a total population of 7.5 million. Switzerland is a nation of will: the country does not have one culture, one language, and the leaders of the initiative came from various groups in society. Professor Amir Pasic from IRCICA, who was present at the meeting, linked the issue with the fact that minarets are a symbol of Islam; he gave the example of the 1992-1995 war in Bosnia and Herzegovina where Serbs were mainly bombing and destroying the minarets of the mosques. Dr. Eren expressed the wish that gradually tolerance and understanding will grow in Europe towards the different faiths and their adherents.



The Mayor of Istanbul Arch. Dr. Kadir Topbaş visited IRCICA

The Mayor of Istanbul Arch. Dr. Kadir Topbaş visited IRCICA on 3 December 2009. Dr. Halit Eren gave information to Mr. Topbaş on recent progress of the work, including the developments relating to the library: Mr. Topbaş was present at the official ceremony for the library's re-opening by the Prime Minister of Turkey H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in its new premises in the Silahhane building, on 17 May 2009.

Mr. Topbaş wrote his observations and signed the Visitors' Book (original in Turkish): "I would like to express my pleasure to see how excellent in a way the Directorate General of IRCICA is carried out by my distinguished friend Dr. Halit Eren. It is a source of pride that with modest resources IRCICA achieves great successes around the world and particularly in the Muslim countries. I thank my brother Dr. Halit Eren for his efforts towards revival of many monuments and maintenance of rich archives and a rich library."



The Mayor of Istanbul received information on the activities of the Department of Architecture

Book Survey

»»» Recent acquisitions by IRCICA Library

■ **Islamic Art and Architecture in the European Periphery: Crimea, Caucasus, and the Volga-Ural Region,**

Edited by Barbara Kellner-Heinkele, Joachim Gierlichs, and Brigitte Heuer, *Abhandlungen für die Kunde des Morgenlandes*, Bd. 63, Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2008, Paperback, 284 pp., 5 black-and-white illustrations, 139 coloured illustrations, 24×17 cm.

(to order: <http://www.harrassowitz-verlag.de/>)

An important publication: this edited volume is the first to deal comprehensively with the Islamic art, architecture and archeology of the eastern European periphery. It is a collection of current research on the northern littoral of the Black Sea, the Crimea, the Caucasus, and the Volga-Ural regions, covering the time span from the Seljuk period to the twentieth century. The majority of the articles contained in the book were presented as papers at the international symposium on “Crimea, Caucasus, and the Volga-Ural Region: Islamic Art and Architecture in the European Periphery” which was organised by the editors of this book in Berlin, 2004. The symposium aimed, as explained in the editors’ Preface, to give a voice to historians of art and architecture, archeologists, curators of museums etc. from the region and initiate a dialogue with their colleagues in Western Europe in the study of the art and architecture of the Black Sea area, the Caucasus and Volga-Ural region. The resulting book will further contribute towards this aim: it brings together a large number of research articles by specialists from those regions including those that were obtained after the symposium. It has thus been possible to cover more of the different parts of the vast geographical area and the long time period under study. The editors note that at the same time, however, many other aspects of the subject could not be covered. Thus through the symposium and the book, it has been possible to assess the state of the art and to pinpoint the topics that need to be taken up in future research. Joachim Gierlichs’s article “Neglected Research Topics – Some Remarks” at the beginning of the book addresses the latter.

The authors are researchers and museum specialists from Georgia, Germany, the Russian Federation, Turkey, and Ukraine. A number of articles focus on recent archaeological excavations and ongoing restoration projects. Others deal with traditional applied arts and architectural decoration, as well as development of graphical arts, painting, and architecture in the modern period. A third group presents special museum collections in Berlin, Dresden, and Tbilisi, and discusses neglected research topics, such as medieval art in the Northern Caucasus and the Islamic heritage in Daghestan and Georgia. The 21 articles are accompanied by 139 unpublished photographs in colour.

This book will be of interest to historians of Islamic art, architecture, and archaeology, turkologists, specialists in Islamic studies, Iranian studies, and Caucasian studies, historians of Eastern Europe, archaeologists, and museum curators. The editors: Barbara Kellner-Heinkele is Professor of Turkic studies, Director of the Institut für Turkologie/Institute of Turkology at Freie Universität Berlin/Free University of Berlin until 2007, and co-editor of *Turkologischer Anzeiger*, Dr. Joachim Gierlichs is Lecturer in Islamic Art History at the Institute of Turkology, Free University of Berlin, currently working on a project on “Woodwork of the Timurid Period in Iran and Central Asia”, and since November 2007, Curator at the Museum of Islamic Art, Doha, Qatar; Brigitte Heuer is sociologist, academic collaborator in the research project “Language Reforms in the Ex-Soviet Muslim States” at the Institute of Turkology, Free University of Berlin, and Lecturer in Sociology in the MA program “Central Asia and Caucasus” at the Central Asian Seminar, Humboldt University of Berlin.

■ **Peter Schneider, Die-Rizk Moschee in Hasankeyf, Bauforschung und Baugeschichte,**

German Archaeological Institute, BYZAS 8, Ege Publications, Istanbul, 2008, 2 vols., XVII+268 p., 75 tables (in German)

This book is an extensive study on the Rizk Mosque in Hasankeyf which was built by the Ayyubid Sultan Sulaiman in 1409. The study is set against the background of the urban history and the architecture of northern Mesopotamia and southeastern Anatolia in the 15th century. The publication is another outcome of the importance attached to research on architectural history in Turkey and the cooperation between Turkey and Germany in this field.

Today the historical Rizk Mosque is faced with the danger of being flooded under the waters of a dam planned in the area. The position of the mosque has geographical and historical importance. It is situated at the intersection of the roads extending from Syria to Central Anatolia and Northern Persia. Throughout history, these routes established the connection in various directions.

This work, a serious contribution to the architectural and cultural history of Mesopotamia in the 15th century, fills important gaps of information. It gives a detailed description and analysis of architectural features of the mosque including its portals, iwan, minaret, decorative elements and

inscriptions. The architectural characteristics and decorations of the Mosque suggest that craftsmen from various parts of the region collaborated in its construction. Rizk Mosque reflects a synthesis of different traditions as regards to construction and decoration. The book includes a bibliography, list of abbreviations, and an index of photographs. The second volume comprises drawings of the Mosque.

- Larisa Usmanova, **The Türk-Tatar Diaspora in Northeast Asia, Transformation of Consciousness. A Historical and Sociological Account Between 1898 and the 1950s**, Rakudasha, Tokyo, 2007, XXXII+367 pp., compact disc

The transformations experienced in international relations since the end of the Cold War and termed as “globalisation” have considerably modified existing conceptions of many social phenomena, including migration and Diaspora, which necessitated a reconsideration of the definitions and methods used in the sciences of their analysis. This book is important since it contributes in developing the theoretical framework for understanding the processes of evolution of Diaspora’s communal consciousness, collective identity, leaders and their influences, linkages with homeland and host land, host countries’ policies, questions of adaptability of emigrants and acceptance by host countries, etc. This contribution comes through a historical and sociological study of the Tatar Diaspora in Southeast Asia, particularly in Japan, in Manchuria and in Korea. It aims to build a comprehensive conceptual base for understanding the characteristics of this Diaspora of the Turkic people who originated from Volga-Ural region, taking into consideration cases of identity construction in other parts of the world during the same period from the end of the 19th to the beginning of the 20th century and with comparisons between this Russian Muslim Diaspora especially with the Russian-speaking part of the Russian Emigration. This comprehensive work also comes in contribution to the progress recorded in recent years of research on the “Türk-Tatar Diaspora” as a subject to be studied separately from the Russian Emigration in general and on which publications began after 1990. The book is based on primary documents and periodicals, mainly the Milli Bairağ newspaper and journals, and personal histories. On this comprehensive study of the history of the Tatars in Northeast Asia, the author bases her own definition of the processes relating to their self-identification and communal consciousness. Another outcome of the research is a periodisation of this Diaspora’s history. The book resulted from the author’s doctoral dissertation at the University of Shimane, Japan, in 2006.

- **Encyclopedia of the Ottoman Empire**, editors: Gábor Ágoston and Bruce Masters, New York, 2009, Facts on File, xxxvi+650 p.

This collective work is an introductory-level encyclopedia on subjects relating to the Ottoman Empire, and first of its kind. The editors, Gábor Ágoston is associate professor at the Department of History of Georgetown University and Bruce Masters is the John Andrus Professor of History at Wesleyan University. The volume is intended for high-school and university students, and can also be a useful handbook for the general public. It provides information on the history, culture, economy and various aspects of civilisation in the Middle East, the Balkans, East and South-East Europe where the Ottoman lands extended. At the end of each entry one or more further reading is suggested. The 92 contributors, who are of varying degrees of seniority in their respective fields, are from universities in the USA, Europe, Turkey and Israel. Gábor Ágoston’s Introduction to the volume has a general review of views and perspectives that marked Ottoman studies and historiography in recent decades. It includes the editor’s views on the tendencies of these studies in Turkey and outside Turkey, the latter with limited glimpses at the studies in the USA, Europe, and the successor countries of the Ottoman empire in the Balkans and the Arab lands. The book includes an index, a chronology and a glossary. (*Book presentation by Dr. Semiramis Çavuşoğlu*)

- An Open Access Journal: **African Journal of Political Science and International Relations (AJPSIR)**

AJPSIR is an academic journal made available online without restriction for the use of researchers, educators, policy-makers and the general public. It has announced that it welcomes articles or proposals from all perspectives and on all subjects pertaining to Africa, Africa’s relationship to the world, public policy, international relations, comparative politics, political methodology, political theory, political history and culture, global political economy, environment.

Dr. John Mylonakis, Editor, AJPSIR, indicates that each issue will contain a mixture of peer-reviewed research articles, reviews or essays using a variety of methodologies and approaches. Proposed articles must be sent as e-mail attachment to ajpsir.acadjourn@gmail.com. AJPSIR editorial board makes an objective and quick decision on each proposal and informs the author within four weeks of submission. Following acceptance, the article is published online in the next issue.

All necessary information, and the current issue of the Journal, can be viewed at <http://www.academicjournals.org/AJPSIR>.

IRCICA PUBLICATIONS

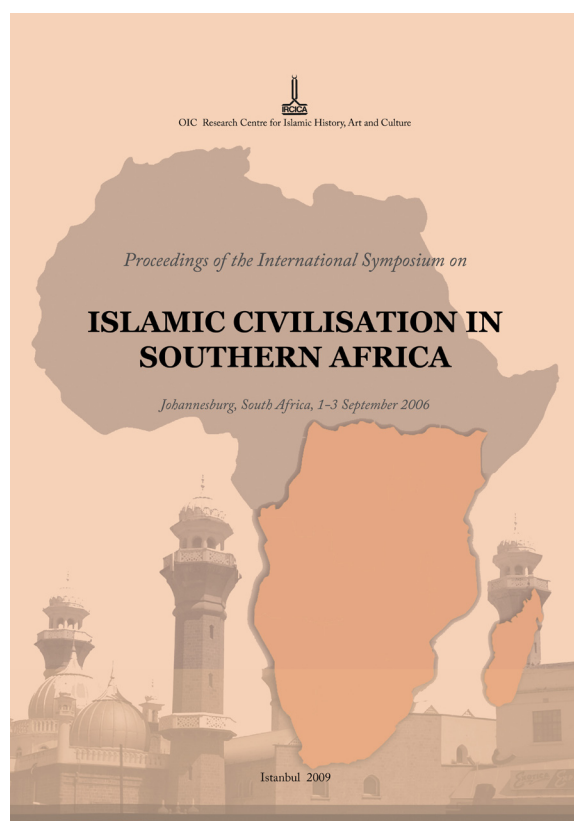
Proceedings of the International Symposium
ISLAMIC CIVILISATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA
Johannesburg, South Africa, 1-3 September 2006,

Editors: Mahomed Haroon, Suleman Essop Dangor, IRCICA, Istanbul, 2009

IRCICA has the pleasure to publish this first book relating to Islamic Civilisation in Southern Africa resulting from collaboration with institutions, universities and specialists of the region. The symposium on “Islamic Civilisation in Southern Africa” was held in Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa, on 31 August-3 September 2006. It was co-organised by IRCICA, Awqaf Foundation of South Africa (Awqaf SA) and the University of Johannesburg. The symposium was a landmark event, first to be co-organised by the OIC and IRCICA in the region. From the point of view of IRCICA; the symposium came in the context of its research programs on the general history of Islamic civilisation on one hand, and its regional cultural studies on the other. It was IRCICA’s third congress dealing with the history of Islamic civilisation in Africa, following the first two which were devoted to West Africa (Dakar, 1996) and Eastern Africa (Kampala, 2003) respectively.

The Johannesburg congress aimed, among others, to increase knowledge on the history and heritage of Islam in the OIC Member States and their neighbours in the region; make the religious and cultural heritage of Southern African Muslims better understood by themselves and other communities; promote dialogue amongst Muslim peoples in the region and with peoples of other faiths and cultures. The congress drew large academic and public interest and wide participation.

The book contains the opening addresses of OIC Secretary Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren, Dr. Essop Goolam Pahad, Minister at the Presidency of South Africa, Mr. Ebrahim Rasool, Premier. These are followed by the keynote article by Dr. Mahomed Haroon, titled “Southern African Muslim Communities in Context and Scholarship”. Then come six articles under the section title Historical Background, five articles under Challenge of Racism and Response in Politics, seven articles under Spiritual Culture and Learning, and seven articles under Miscellany. The papers have been edited and prepared for publication by Mahomed Haroon and Suleman Essop Dangor, specialists of Islamic history and culture in Southern Africa. The high quality and variety of the articles has allowed comprehensive coverage of the theme as reflected by the above section titles.



**Mushaf Al-Sharif Attributed to 'Uthman bin 'Affan
(The copy at al-Mashhad al-Husaini in Cairo)**

prepared for publication and Introduction by Tayyar Altıkulaç,

Foreword by Halit Eren, Istanbul, 1430/2009

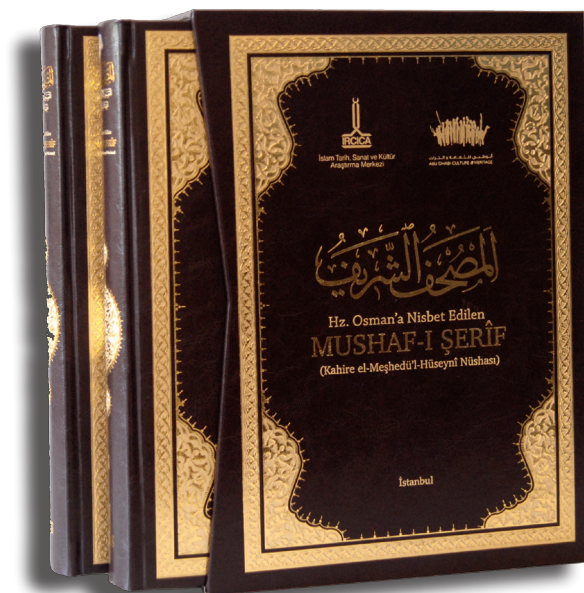
(Introduction in Turkish, English and Arabic)

This book contains the facsimile edition, accompanied by a scholarly study, of a copy of the Holy Quran which is located in Cairo and attributed to the time of Caliph Othman. Thus among the copies dating from that period, this one is known as the "Cairo Mushaf". It belonged to the collection of the Library of Imam Hussain in Cairo but it was later transferred to the Central Library of Islamic Manuscripts affiliated to the Ministry of Awqaf of Egypt for restoration purposes. The study of this copy, accompanying the facsimile edition, and its preparation for publication, have been done by a leading scholar in Quranic studies, ex-President of Religious Affairs in Turkey, Dr. Tayyar Altıkulaç.

This publication comes in the same line of editions the first of which was a facsimile edition of the copy attributed to the same period, that of Caliph Othman, and located in the library of Topkapı Palace Museum in Istanbul, accompanied, similarly, by a study by Dr. Tayyar Altıkulaç, published in 2007. A similar work, relating to the copy of the Quran attributed to the same period and kept at the Turkish and Islamic Arts Museum (Istanbul), by the same author, was published in 2008 by ISAM (Istanbul).

The study on the Cairo copy is a meticulous analysis of the copy comparing it to the other copies which date from the same period and are preserved in different cities of the world, namely the Topkapı copy, the Turkish and Islamic Arts Museum copy, the Tashkent copy (preserved at the Khazrati Imam Mosque in Tashkent, Uzbekistan) and the copy of the Great Mosque of Sana'a (Yemen).

IRCICA is thankful to the Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage for the financial contribution to the printing of the book and to the Ministry of Awqaf of Egypt for facilitating the work conducted on basis of the copy.

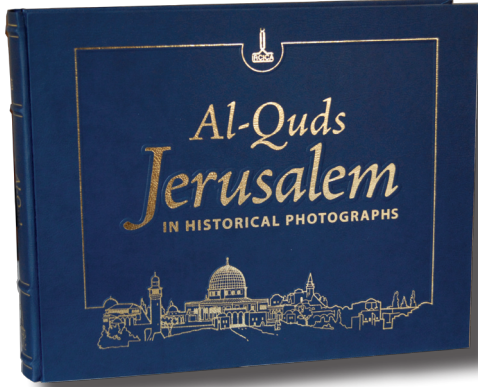


Earlier, IRCICA had published two other historical copies of the Quran. The first one was the copy known as the "Fazıl Pasha Mushaf", written in the name of the Seljukid Sultan Tugrul Bey in the year 1186 and kept in Gazi Hüsrev Bey Library in Sarajevo, which was published by IRCICA in a facsimile edition. The second one was the reprint of the first Quran copy printed in the Muslim world, that is, the copy printed in Kazan, Tatarstan, in 1803; this copy was reprinted in Istanbul in 2005 at the initiative of the Municipality of Kazan, on the occasion of the millennium of Kazan City, following a technical revision by IRCICA in preparation for printing.

Al-Quds

Jerusalem in historical photographs

Text: Kerim Balci, Foreword: Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Preface: Halit Eren, IRCICA,
2009, xxxi, 435 pp. (in English, Arabic and Turkish editions)



This publication resulted from a major project IRCICA devoted to the preservation of the multicultural architectural and urban heritage of Al-Quds/Jerusalem, “The” esteemed city of all the heavenly faith systems. The Centre placed the book within the framework of the 40th anniversary commemoration of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference.

Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, wrote the Foreword to the album. İhsanoğlu underlines the importance of Al-Quds/Jerusalem on universal scale, as a holy city for all three heavenly religions. For Muslims, Al-Quds is the third holy city after Makkah and Madina. Masjid al-Aqsa (“The farthest mosque”) is Muslims’ first qibla – the direction faced when praying. Throughout its history of several millennia the city has been the cradle of various faiths and cultures. It was always coveted by the main faith communities until modern times. The Secretary General then states that resolution of the conflict over Al-Quds and Palestine which is ongoing since mid-20th century was the founding motive of the OIC in 1969 and remains its foremost cause today. The OIC reiterated on all occasions its strong belief that the problem of Al-Quds is not just an Islamic issue but enjoys a wider religious dimension. İhsanoğlu underlines in this regard that preservation of the multicultural character of the city with due respect of the populations and the shrines of each faith is no doubt an indispensable part of any acceptable solution of the problem.

In the Preface, Dr. Halit Eren explains that in its capacity as the OIC’s research centre in charge of studies on history, culture and preservation of heritage, IRCICA carries out various activity programs relating to the urban, architectural and socio-cultural heritage of Al-Quds and Palestine. Eren refers to the history of Al-Quds/Jerusalem under the rule of successive states and refers to the major restorations

conducted on Al-Quds monuments during Ottoman times; the city was almost renewed during the reign of Suleyman the Magnificent with the restorations conducted at Qubbat as-Sakhra, the construction of walls, fountains, market places and the repair of water canals. Due to its special importance, also, Al-Quds/Jerusalem was visited and described by many travelers whose accounts provide information on various aspects of the city. European travelers’ books sometimes also contain engravings. Then, the region became the first place of interest of the pioneer photographers. The Ottoman Palace was among the first in the world to acquire photographs of the region. Due to the special importance Sultan Abdülhamid II gave to Al-Quds, the Yıldız photograph collection which was formed during his reign contains a large number of them. The collection also contains prints taken by Ottoman photographers.

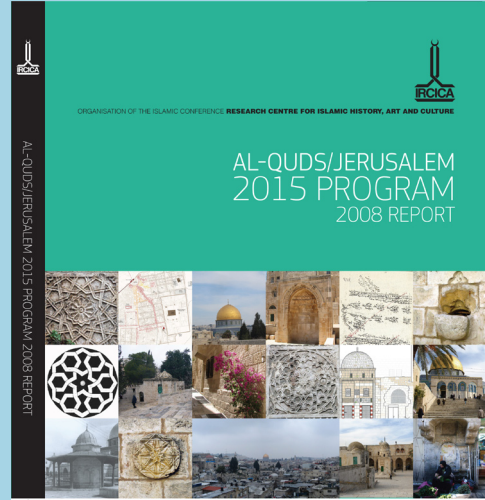
Mr. Kerim Balci, political scientist, specialist of the history of Al-Quds, reviews the developments in Jerusalem photography in the Introduction of the book. The voluminous collection of photographs contained in the book tells the history of the city during the last quarter of the 19th and the first quarter of the 20th century through the lenses of the pioneer photographers who traveled to the Holy Lands shortly after the invention of photography techniques in the second half of the 19th century. Mr. Balci gives instructive information on the activities of the photographers. They were either religiously motivated – looking for evidence from early Christianity, amateur explorers of the East, or rich westerners investing in images of the East for a growing market demand. Due to the steady pace of development of Jerusalem photography from those early years onwards, the images reproduced in the book reflect not only the city’s features that changed or remained unchanged over time but also the progress of techniques and artistic know-how during the decades that followed the invention.

The album contains the reproductions of 470 photographs gathered from IRCICA’s archive comprising the Yıldız Photograph Albums and several other collections. The sections are arranged under the following titles: Panoramic Jerusalem, Al-Aqsa Mosque, The City and Its People, Holy Sites, Jerusalem’s History on Its Doors and in Its Streets, Jerusalem Streets, Professional Classes and Human Faces from Ottoman Jerusalem, Kaiser Wilhelm II visits Jerusalem, Ottoman Soldiers in Jerusalem and the Defense of the City. The book ends with special photographs on various themes and existing hand-colored versions of some of the photographs. Researchers interested in various aspects of A-Quds, from economic and social life to architecture, will benefit from having this selected archival collection at hand’s reach.

“Al-Quds/Jerusalem 2015” Program, 2008 Report

IRCICA, Istanbul, 2009

The ten-year program of architectural studies and workshops “Al-Quds/Jerusalem 2015” is undertaken by IRCICA to make studies and produce reports on the urban and architectural situation of the Old City and its surroundings. These reports would serve as references during efforts to restore, preserve and improve the conditions and well-being of people in the area. The program as a whole will contribute to the protection and preservation of the historical and cultural heritage of Jerusalem, aid its positive urban development, and demonstrate the potential for cooperation among concerned professionals under challenging circumstances.



After having completed the ten-year program of workshops on the architectural heritage of Bosnia and Herzegovina titled “Mostar 2004” and held annually from 1994 to 2004, and drawing from the experience acquired in it, IRCICA undertook the present comprehensive program with contributions from universities around the world. The University of Al-Quds and a team of architects from various countries, are collaborating with the Centre. It is the first research and field-based architectural project of its kind.

The present report contains the results of the activities conducted by IRCICA’s Department of Architecture during 2008 together with reports contributed by the participating scholars and experts. It begins with the Project Overview, by Prof. Arch. Amir Pašić, Head of the Department of Architecture, IRCICA. This section outlines the fact-finding missions, field studies and seminars conducted during the year. It is followed by articles titled: “Old City of Jerusalem: Challenges for an Administration of Urban Function”, by Rassem Khamaisi; “Interpreting of the Urban Structure of Old Jerusalem”, by Cladio D’Amato, Attilio Petruccioli, Annalinda Neglia, Giuseppe Rociola, Claudio Rubini, Domenico Catania; “Collections of Extant and Registers in the Prime Ministry Ottoman Archives concerning Jerusalem”, by Cengiz Tomar, “Islamic Monuments in Al-Quds/Jerusalem, A General Assesment”, by C. İrem Yaylalı; “Ottoman Fountains in Al-Quds/Jerusalem”, by Işıl Çokuğraş; “The Birket Hammam al-Batrak (Pool of the Bath of the Patriarch)”, by J. Brooke Harrington; “The Typological Analysis of Mamluk Public Building in Jerusalem: The Ribat and the Madrasa, A Work in Progress”, by Cladio D’Amato, Attilio Petruccioli, Annalinda Neglia, Giuseppe Rociola, Claudio Rubini, Domenico Catania; “Turba of Turkân Khâtûn”, by Gül Ünal, Gülhan Kılınç; “Public Kitchen of Haseki Sultan within the Takiyya Complex in Al-Quds/Jerusalem”, Zeynep Ahunbay, Betül Ekimci, Füsün Ece Ferah, Umut Almaç, Duygu Göçmen, Burcu Akan; “Parametric Construction of Islamic Star Patterns/Rosettes: Jaffa Gate Rosette”, by M. Birgül Çolakoglu, Arman Yasa, Aydın Avunduk; “Modeling and Interactive Simulation of Historical City Al-Quds/Jerusalem for CIS: Case Study on Via Dolorosa”, by Togan Tong.

