



Newsletter



OIC RESEARCH CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC HISTORY, ART AND CULTURE

In this issue

IRCICA's participation in the Tenth Session of the COMIAC
Dakar, 28-30 April 2015

Director General's official visit to Guinea-Bissau
29-30 April 2015

IRCICA's Governing Board on its 30th session
IRCICA, 12-13 March 2015

Cultural heritage

- "Al-Quds in The Memory": Exhibition of historical photographs opened in Ramallah
4 January 2015
- Al-Turath, IRCICA & Jeddah Municipality Islamic Urban Heritage Program 2015: Historic Preservation Spring Training Program
Jeddah, 21-27 March 2015
- The city of Edirne, Turkey: Exhibition of historical photographs
8-15 April 2015

The art of calligraphy

Tenth International Calligraphy Competition launched,
in the name of Calligrapher Hafiz Othman (1642-1698)

Scholarly congresses

- International Symposium on "Science and Technology in Islamic Civilization" organized by IRCICA and Khazar University in Baku
20-22 February 2015
- Second International Congress on "China and the Muslim World: Cultural Encounters" organized jointly with the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CASS) at IRCICA
3-4 February 2015

Meetings, cooperation

Newsletter



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Editor in Chief

Halit Eren

Editorial Board

Zeynep Durukan
Fayçal Benaissa

Address

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

Tel. (+90 212) 258 17 42
Fax (+90 212) 258 43 85

www.ircica.org
ircica@ircica.org

Graphic Design

Said Kasımoğlu

Printing

Ultra Grafik
info@ultramtbaa.com

In this issue

2

IRCICA's participation in the Tenth Session of the COMIAC

Dakar, 28-30 April 2015

3

Director General's official visit to Guinea-Bissau

29-30 April 2015

4

IRCICA's Governing Board on its 30th session

IRCICA, 12-13 March 2015

7

Cultural heritage

- "Al-Quds in The Memory":

Exhibition of historical photographs opened in Ramallah

4 January 2015

- Al-Turath, IRCICA & Jeddah Municipality Islamic Urban
Heritage Program 2015:

Historic Preservation Spring Training Program

Jeddah, 21-27 March 2015

- The city of Edirne, Turkey:

Exhibition of historical photographs

8-15 April 2015

14

The art of calligraphy

Tenth International Calligraphy Competition launched,
in the name of Calligrapher Hafiz Othman (1642-1698)

15

Scholarly congresses

- International Symposium on

"Science and Technology in Islamic Civilization" organized by
IRCICA and Khazar University in Baku

20-22 February 2015

- Second International Congress on

"China and the Muslim World: Cultural Encounters"
organized jointly with the Chinese Academy of Sciences
(CASS) at IRCICA

3-4 February 2015

- Panel: "IRCICA Library from the viewpoint of technological
advancements in librarianship"

IRCICA, 3 April 2015

20

Meetings, cooperation

25

IRCICA publications

Editorial

This issue gives brief news on IRCICA's activities implemented during the first four months of 2015. In this message to our readers I wish to refer first to the tenth session of the COMIAC (OIC's Standing Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs) which was held in Dakar, Senegal, at the end of April. To this meeting we presented a report on IRCICA's projects carried out since the COMIAC's last session in 2010, many of them newly initiated. On that occasion I was honoured to present a major publication by IRCICA to the President of the Republic of Senegal H.E. Macky Sall. From Dakar, I proceeded to Guinea-Bissau, where I was received by the President of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau H.E. Jose Mario Vaz, and also by the Speaker of the Guinea-Bissau National Assembly and the Prime Minister of Guinea-Bissau. Furthermore, the meetings I have had with ministers in both Guinea-Bissau and Senegal were excellent occasions to exchange views on existing and potential cooperation around IRCICA's activities. It was affirmed that the latter's work focusing on Islamic history and cultural heritage in Africa was contributing sensibly in promoting research and enhancing academic cooperation in those areas. Examples of activities having served this purpose are: the symposium on Islamic Civilization in West Africa, co-organized with the Institut Fondamental d'Afrique Noire Cheikh Anta Diop, University of Dakar (Dakar, 1996), the symposium on Islamic Civilization in Eastern Africa, with the Islamic University of Uganda (Kampala, 2003), the congress on Islamic Civilisation in Southern Africa, with the University of Johannesburg and the National Awqaf Foundation of South Africa – Awqaf SA, (Johannesburg, 2006), and the congress on the History of Islamic Civilization in East Africa, with the National Records and Archives Authority of the Sultanate of Oman and the State University of Zanzibar (Zanzibar City, 2013). Papers presented at these congresses were published by IRCICA. This year a second congress on Islamic Civilization in Southern Africa is in preparation, to take place in November 2015 and to be organized jointly with the University of Kwazulu Natal and Awqaf SA, in Durban.

The present issue has outlines of two congresses held recently on themes different than the above. One of them was devoted to Science and Technology in Islamic Civilization. The other

one was the second congress on China and the Muslim World: Cultural Encounters, jointly organized with the Chinese Academy of Sciences, on IRCICA's premises. The first congress on this theme, which was held in Beijing, 2012, was covered in no. 88 of the Newsletter (May-August 2012).

Another permanent activity program of IRCICA that saw progress during the period under review is for "Preservation of Architectural Heritage". In March, Al-Turath Islamic Heritage Foundation (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) and IRCICA, in conjunction with the Municipality of Jeddah, have organized their seventh short-term program in a series, under the title "Islamic Urban Heritage Program 2015: Historic Preservation Spring Training Program".

As is known to regular readers, IRCICA has a special program of studies on the Islamic architectural heritage of Al-Quds. In this context, a documentary exhibition was organized in Ramallah in January titled "Al-Quds in the Memory". The exhibition was opened by the Palestinian President H.E. Mr. Mahmoud Abbas and the Secretary General of OIC H.E. Mr. Iyad Ameen Madani. Historical photographs selected from IRCICA's collections evoked images of al-Quds' Islamic history while opening statements pointed to the continuing plight of al-Quds and Palestine under Israeli occupation and the OIC's efforts in support of their cause.

Finally, we have the pleasure of announcing IRCICA's Tenth International Calligraphy Competition and inviting calligraphers to register by 31 October 2015. Since the first one held in 1986, each round of the competition was dedicated to one of the acknowledged masters in the history of this art. The present is dedicated to the memory of Hafiz Othman (1642-1698). This competition program has expanded its scope over the past years and allowed thousands of calligraphers to participate in it from within and outside the Muslim world. We hope that the tenth round will similarly record a high rate of participation from different corners of the world.

*Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren
Director General, IRCICA*

IRCICA's participation in the 10th Session of the OIC's Standing Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs (COMIAC)

Dakar, 29-28 April 2015

The OIC's Standing Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs (COMIAC), chaired by H.E. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal, held its Tenth Session in Dakar, on 28-29 April 2015. IRCICA is one of the OIC's institutions whose mandate comes within the context of the COMIAC, which is one of the three Standing Committees each chaired by a head of state of a Member State of the OIC.

A progress report on IRCICA's activities was presented to the COMIAC session by Dr. Halit Eren. During the opening of the session, Dr. Eren presented to H.E. Macky Sall, President of Senegal, the major album of historical photographs of Makkah al-Mukarramah and Madina al-Munawwara which was published by IRCICA in 2013.

During the period of the COMIAC Session, Dr. Halit Eren met with the Minister of Culture and Communication of Senegal H.E. Mr. Mbagnick Ndiaye. The talks evaluated in detail existing and potential areas of cooperation between Senegal and IRCICA. Among the subjects of emphasis were: continuation of the joint scholarly activities relating to el-Haj Moussa Kamara and his work Zuhur al-Basatin, organization of a cultural event on traditional music, and technical cooperation for restoration of cultural heritage assets of Senegal including Islamic manuscripts.



Presentation of the album of historical photographs of Makkah and Madina to H.E. Macky Sall, President of Senegal by H.E. Mr. Iyad Ameen Madani, Secretary General of OIC and Dr. Halit Eren, IRCICA Director General

IRCICA Director General's official visit to Guinea-Bissau

29-30 April 2015

IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren visited the Republic of Guinea-Bissau from 29-30 April 2015, following his participation to the Tenth Session of the OIC's Standing Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs (COMIAC) in Dakar, Senegal.

In the capital Bissau Dr. Eren was received by H.E. Jose Mario Vaz, President of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau. Dr. Eren briefed the President on the activities of the Centre and reaffirmed IRCICA's interest in developing further its ongoing cooperation with the cultural authorities and institutions of Guinea-Bissau. The President expressed his support of the Centre's activities and development of the cooperation.

Dr. Halit Eren was then received by H.E. Mr. Domingos Simoes Perreira, Prime Minister of Guinea-Bissau. The extensive meeting revolved around the areas of cooperation and technical assistance by IRCICA to cultural, scholarly and heritage preservation works in Guinea-Bissau.

In Bissau Dr. Eren met with H.E. Mr. Cipriano Cassama, Speaker of the National Assembly of Guinea-Bissau. Mr. Cipriano Cassama had visited IRCICA recently, on 17 January 2015, during the period of his participation in the 10th session of the OIC's Parliamentary Union of Islamic Countries - PUIC held in Istanbul.

Within the framework of his official contacts Dr. Eren was received by the Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Mr. Mario Lopes Da Rosa. Another main meeting was with the Minister of Communications H.E. Mr. Agnelo Regala. Each of the meetings appraised past and present cooperation between IRCICA on one hand and the governmental authorities and cultural institutions of Guinea-Bissau on the other.



H.E. Jose Mario Vaz, President of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau



H.E. Mr. Domingos Simoes Perreira, Prime Minister of Guinea-Bissau, received Dr. Eren

Dr. Eren also met with Mr. Mamadou Isaia Djalo, Advisor to the President of Guinea-Bissau.

Another meeting of the Director General was with Mr. Fali Embalo, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Meeting with the Minister of Communications H.E. Mr. Agnelo Regala received Dr. Eren



Meeting with H.E. Mr. Cipriano Cassama, Speaker of the National Assembly of Guinea-Bissau, received Dr. Eren



The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guinea-Bissau H.E. Mr. Mario Lopes Da Rosa received Dr. Halit Eren

IRCICA's Governing Board

on its 30th session

IRCICA, 12-13 March 2015

The Governing Board IRCICA held its 30th session at the Centre's headquarters at Yıldız Palace in Istanbul, on 12-13 March 2015. The following Board members were present: Dr. Abdulaziz Alsebail, Director General of the Cabinet of the Secretary General of OIC and Director General of Cultural, Social and Family Affairs representing H.E. Mr. Iyad Ameen Madani, Secretary General of OIC; Dr. Abdul Aziz Abdullah Turki al-Subai (State of Qatar), Chairman of the Board; Dr. Halit Eren, Director General, IRCICA; Dr. Saad Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Rashid (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia), Vice-Chairman; Ambassador Sayyid Qassim al Masry (Arab Republic of Egypt); Prof. Meruvert Abusseitova (Republic of Kazakhstan); Mr. Khalaf M. Alezainah (State of Kuwait); Prof. Dato' Dr. Mohamed Najib Ahmad Dawa (Malaysia); Prof. Amadou Cissé Ndiéguène (Republic of Senegal); Prof. Mehmet İpşirli (Republic of Turkey); Mr. Mohammed Ahmed Al-Murr (State of the United Arab Emirates).

The members of the Executive Board of IRCICA participating in the session were Dr. Salih Sadawi, Assistant Director General, Mrs. Zeynep Durukal and Dr. Nazih Marouf.

Dr. Halit Eren welcomed the Board members; he spoke of developments recorded and activities conducted by IRCICA and events in which the latter participated since the preceding session of the Board which was held on 20-21 March 2014.

Dr. Abdul Aziz Abdullah Turki al-Subai, Chairman of the Board, delivered an address in which he observed that since the previous meeting of the Board the Centre had undertaken diverse programs and activities comprising research, conferences, exhibitions which were all successful. He praised among others the large-scale cultural event which was organized in September 2014 in Istanbul titled "IRCICA International Gathering on the Art of Calligraphy". The Chairman stated that the Centre was assuming its tasks and responsibilities in an efficient manner, proving its capacity in all fields including research, publication, recording of data and information on the subjects of history of Islamic civilization and the arts and sciences of the Muslim world. He hailed the exceptional efforts made by the Centre towards protection and preservation of Islamic heritage, notably its large and ambitious project concerning the preservation of monuments and other structures of al-Qods whose identity and heritage are under the threat of destruction daily. Dr. al-Subai evoked the generous donation which was made by His Highness Cheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani to support the Centre's projects. He conveyed his gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Turkey, host country of the Centre. He expressed his gratitude to H.E. the Secretary General of OIC Mr. Iyad Ameen Madani for his keen interest and support extended to the Centre's activities. He thanked the members of the Governing Board and the



From left: Dr. Abdulaziz Alsebail, Director General of the Cabinet of the Secretary General of OIC; Dr. Abdul Aziz Abdullah Turki al-Subai (Qatar), Chairman of the Board; Dr. Halit Eren, Director General, IRCICA

Centre's staff for the noble responsibilities assumed towards realizing the Centre's activities.

Then, H.E. Dr. Abdulaziz Alsebil greeted the Board on behalf of the Secretary General. Dr. Alsebil expressed thanks to the Government of Turkey for its hospitality as the Centre's host country and its continuous support of the latter's activities. Dr. Alsebil said that the General Secretariat will continue to work in close collaboration and coordination with IRCICA in order to help it achieve its objectives, given the important role the latter assumes in strengthening cultural development and cooperation among the OIC Member States and reaching larger audiences». H.E. Dr. Alsebil conveyed his thanks to the Member States for their support of the Centre. Dr. Alsebil underlined the need of giving priority to al-Qods and in this regard he evoked the important contributions of the State of Qatar. Dr. Alsebil referred to the problem of Islamophobia and called upon the Centre to contact world's institutions concerned in order to work together towards a tolerant world where friendship, love and peace would dominate.

During the first working session, the Governing Board heard the activity report of the Centre for 2014, discussed and adopted it. The members made remarks and observations. Dr. Saad Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Rashid, Vice-Chairman of the Board, underlined the need for the Centre to double its efforts with regard to the cultural heritage of the Muslim world. He recalled the sad situation going on in Syria and the climate of destruction prevailing there. In this regard he stated that the Centre must develop an emergency plan to register the events going on with respect to destruction of heritage. "It must take the initiative and endeavour further together with international organizations, since the Centre represents a mirror of sincerity on this issue». He then referred to the IRCICA Journal, which should be, he said, a gate open to cultural action and communication with the world by the intermediary of the living languages. Addressing the session, Mr. Mohammed Ahmed Al-Murr affirmed "We firmly support the employees of this Centre in all their international-scale activities such as conferences and congresses, among others." Mr. Al-Murr, joined by other Board members, expressed grief over the sad events happening in the Muslim world especially the emergence of terrorist organizations that interpret religion literally and drawing from this, attack the cultural and spiritual heritage in Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq and other regions. They said that the Centre should condemn such terrorist acts irrespective of whether they targeted Islamic or pre-Islamic monuments. Ambassador Sayyid Qassim al Masry said «In my opinion it is important to agree over the concept of "Islamic heritage", i.e. to clear it from erroneous



Dr. Saad Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Rashid
(Saudi Arabia)



Mr. Mohammed Ahmed Al-Murr
(United Arab Emirates)



Ambassador Sayyid Qassim al Masry
(Egypt)



Prof. Dato' Dr. Mohamed Najib Ahmad
Dawa (Malaysia)



Prof. Meruvert Abusseitova
(Kazakhstan)



Prof. Amadou Cissé Ndiéguène
(Senegal)

interpretations.» He underlined the need to follow the guidelines in the "Cultural Strategy for the Muslim World" which was adopted by the Sixth Islamic Summit held in Dakar (1991) and particularly its two articles that read:

- To undertake a critical study on Islamic heritage in order to clear it from defects, erroneous and unacceptable concepts and not to sacralize it since what is sacred is Revelation only and all the rest depends on human judgment



Mr. Khalaf M. Alezainah (Kuwait)



Prof. Mehmet İpşirli (Turkey)

- To rewrite the history of Islam since it is not confined to wars and conquests but also includes contributions by Islamic civilization in all fields.

The Chairman of the Board Dr. al-Subai added that the issue needed urgent action in order to counter what is happening currently. M. Khalaf M. Alezainah and Prof. Dr. Amadou Cissé Ndiéguène expressed their agreement with these opinions. Prof. Ndiéguène said he had touched upon this question earlier with reference to what had happened in Mali, and unfortunately the calamity expanded today to reach the whole Muslim world and darken the image of Islam. He said it is high time to take action. Similarly, Dr. Abdulaziz Alsebil underlined the need to take action and alert decision-makers on the dangers faced in the present difficult times. Prof. Dato' Dr. Mohamed Najib joined the previous speakers in their remarks. He recommended that the Centre invite more participation from the Member States in its activities. In his explanations with regard to the Board members' remarks, Dr. Halit Eren said that what was going on in the Muslim world cost it thousands of losses of lives and hundreds of destroyed monuments.

The next document examined and adopted by the Board was the work program proposed for 2016. The Board members asked for explanations and commented on subject-wise and methodological aspects of some of the research and publications. Regarding the arts, the usefulness of IRCICA's training programs in calligraphy was underlined. The possibility of sending teachers to the member countries upon their request was affirmed. The work program proposed for 2016 and the accompanying budget proposal were adopted. For a wider dissemination of the outcomes of IRCICA's activities, the Board members requested the Centre to put some of its publications on line and to take part in more international book fairs.

The activity report for 2015 and the work program proposal for 2016 thus finalized by the Board were later approved by the General Assembly of the OIC's subsidiary organs (the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs) in its 38th session (Jeddah, 31 March-2 April 2015). These documents will then be adopted for implementation by the 42nd Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers to be held in Kuwait City on 27-28 May 2015.



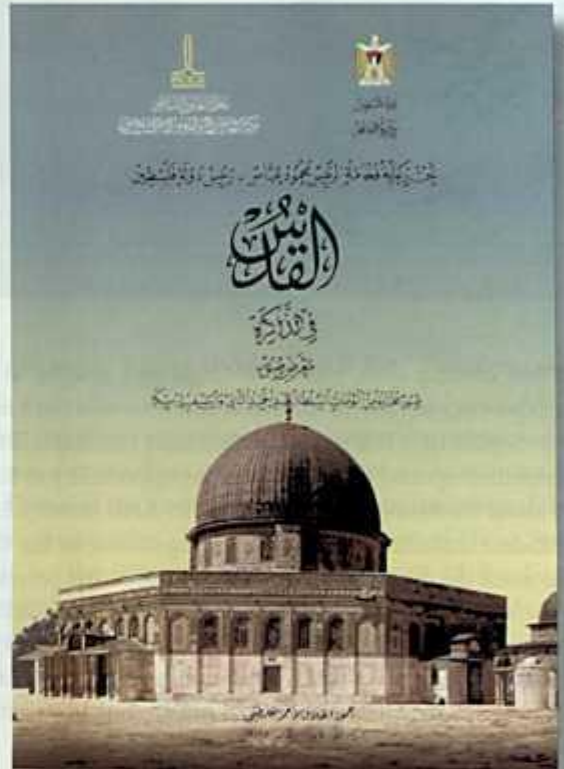
Islamic cultural heritage

“Al-Quds in The Memory” Exhibition of historical photographs opened in Ramallah

4 January 2015

An exhibition of more than 100-years old photographs of Al-Quds titled “Al-Quds in The Memory” was opened in Ramallah on 4 January by the President of the State of Palestine H.E. Mr. Mahmoud Abbas and the Secretary General of OIC H.E. Mr. Iyad Ameen Madani. The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Culture of Palestine Dr. Ziyad Abu Amru and the Director General of IRCICA Dr. Halit Eren were present at the opening. The exhibition, prepared by IRCICA with 40 photographs selected from its archives, was organized with the cooperation and coordination of the Ministry of Culture of Palestine, in the hall of Palestine Red Crescent Society, Ramallah. It is planned to travel to other cities of Palestine.

Addressing the opening ceremony, the Secretary General of OIC Mr. Iyad Ameen Madani touched upon issues relating to the cause of al-Quds and Palestine and the OIC’s engagement in this regard. He said that a formula had to be found for Palestinian and Jordanian tourism agencies in order to allow Muslims who wish so to visit al-Quds and Palestine, as is done in Saudi Arabia for Umra and Hajj. “... We are telling those who are afraid of visiting al-Quds and al-Aqsa because these are under Israeli occupation, that coming here confirms the right all of us to al-Quds and al-Aqsa, and that whatever the



Opening Ceremony



Opening of the exhibition

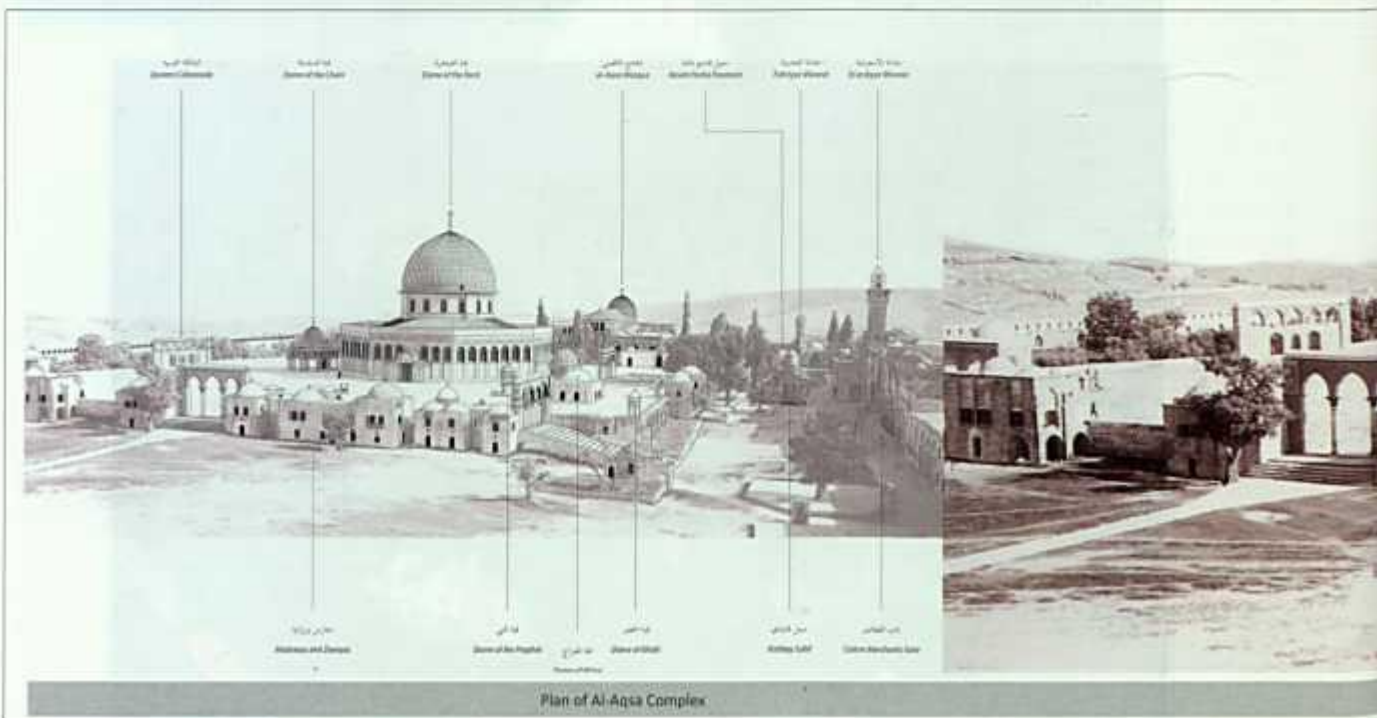


H.E. Mr. Iyad Ameen Madani, Secretary General of OIC, presented H.E. Mahmoud Abbas, President of the State of Palestine, the plate announcing Al-Quds as the 2016 Islamic Tourism Capital as adopted by the OIC

obstacles, coming here, visiting al-Qods and praying at al-Aqsa expresses our right to this place, and we would not accept anyone deprive us of this right." The Secretary General said that the exhibition opened that day offered an opportunity to learn more about the history of al-Quds with its Arab identity. H.E. Mr. Madani underlined that the founding motive of the OIC was to assist the cause of al-Quds and Palestine. The Secretary General outlined recent activities conducted at the OIC in this regard, among others the four meetings held to assess the evolution of events. He said that the ministerial committee which explores modalities of support to Palestine in its action

aiming to apply to international bodies was monitoring Israel's aggressions on Palestinians and violations of international law.

In his opening address, the President of Palestine Mr. Mahmoud Abbas said that for the cause of al-Quds and Palestine they will continue to refer to the UN Security Council until all their rights are acknowledged and to apply to all international bodies despite pressures to the contrary. He said they were endeavouring for a just and equitable solution which would put an end to the occupation and lead to the establishment of a State of Palestine within the borders of 1967 with al-Quds al-Sharif as its capital. He said that there was no



Plan of Al-Aqsa Complex



The Northern Facade Al-Aqsa Mosque



Al-Quds, panorama from Mount Scopus

substitute for Palestine but Palestine and no substitute for al-Quds but al-Quds as capital of Palestine and that neither peace, nor security and stability would be possible without al-Quds being the capital of Palestine. President Abbas welcomed the invitation formulated by the Secretary General of OIC for all Muslims to visit al-Quds and al-Aqsa Mosque which confirms Muslims' rights of access to sacred places and objects as well as to al-Quds.

The exhibition included views of the city taken from various spots, its walls and gates, buildings, streets and markets, people on different rituals or at work. The photographs, selected from

the albums of Sultan Abdulhamid II dating from the end of 19th-early 20th centuries and named "Yıldız Palace Albums", reflect the ethnic and religious diversity of the people and their shrines. Among them are photographs of: al-Aqsa mosque and the Dome of the Rock, ceremonies and rituals of the different faith communities, the railway station part of Hejaz Railway built by the Ottoman State, and the visit of the German Emperor Wilhelm II on his visit to al-Quds in 1898, among others.



General View of Al-Aqsa Complex

Al-Turath, IRCICA & Jeddah Municipality Islamic Urban Heritage Program 2015: Historic Preservation Spring Training Program

Jeddah, 21-27 March 2015

Al-Turath Islamic Heritage Foundation (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) and IRCICA are carrying out a program titled "Islamic Urban Heritage, Research, Preservation and Management" since 2011. The program consists of specialized short-term architectural preservation schools (one spring school and one summer school every year) for graduate students and junior professionals who are engaged in restoration and preservation of architectural heritage. The seventh school within this framework was implemented in

Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 21-27 March 2015. It was organized with the collaboration of Jeddah Municipality, from 21-27 March 2015.

"Al-Turath, IRCICA & Jeddah Municipality Islamic Urban Heritage Program 2015: Historic Preservation Spring Training Program" was comprised of four sections:

- Section 1: Survey methodology of historic buildings from external and internal part and database



A view of the historical part of Jeddah.

The art of calligraphy

- i. Section 2: Conservation methodology of historic coastal architecture. Case studies were conducted on the structures named Beit Zenal, Bab al Bunt (future Hajj museum), and Ain al-Qausiya.
- ii. Section 3: Build up of database for the historical monuments.
- iii. Section 4: Compiling a manual for restoration and rehabilitation.

Although the coastal settlement of Jeddah dates back to pre-Islamic times, the foundation of this city as the port of the holy city of Makkah and as a commercial capital was laid by Caliph Uthman (R.A.) in 26 H./646 AD). There are many types of historical buildings in Jeddah including religious buildings (mosques), houses of well-known personalities, buildings housing government departments and consulates, schools and charity houses, trusts, waqfs and ribats, and historic landmarks.

The program was coordinated by Dr. Osamah al Gohary for Al-Turath Foundation and Prof. Arch. Amir Pasic for IRCICA.

The preceding program, namely the 2014 Summer School, was held in six Balkan countries, namely Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia and Montenegro during the period from 5-26 August 2014.



The city of Edirne, Turkey: Exhibition of historical photographs

8-15 April 2015

An exhibition of historical photographs of the city of Edirne, Turkey, was opened on 8 April 2015. The exhibition was prepared by IRCICA and organized jointly with the Governorate of Edirne, the Municipality of Edirne, and Thrace Development Agency. The opening was officiated by the Governor of Edirne Mr. Dursun Ali Şahin, the Mayor of Edirne Mr. Recep Gürkan, the Rector of Thrace University Prof. Yener Yörük, the Secretary General of Thrace Development Agency Mr. Mahmut Şahin. The speeches delivered at the opening underlined the importance of Edirne in history and as a repository of cultural and architectural heritage.

Edirne, which is located in Thrace, northwest Turkey, was the capital of the Ottoman State from 1365 to 1453, succeeding in this status to Bursa and preceding Istanbul. Even after that Edirne continued to be important for the Ottoman State. Mosques, palaces, waqfs, administrative and cultural buildings, khans and public baths continued to be built in Edirne to meet the needs of its growing population. Selimiye

Mosque built by Architect Sinan is one of the masterpieces of world architectural history and a symbol of Edirne. Edirne suffered foreign occupation twice during the 19th century, in 1829 and 1878 respectively, and two more times in 1913 and 1920. Finally, on 25 November 1922 Edirne officially became a province of the Republic of Turkey. Throughout its history Edirne underwent not only occupations but also natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes and fires. Among such times of calamity for Edirne were the 1745 and 1905 fires and the 1752 earthquake. Almost all the buildings extant and still serving public functions today were built during the reign of Sultan Abdulhamid II, in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The photographs shown at the exhibition were selected from the "Yıldız Palace Albums" which contain a total of 38000 photographs collected during the reign of this Sultan. From among the 230 photographs (including duplicates) of Edirne contained in these archives, 68 were selected for this exhibition. An annotated catalogue of these photographs was published.



Opening, by METINDEN ALINACAK KISIM, virgül, and IRCICA Director General Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren

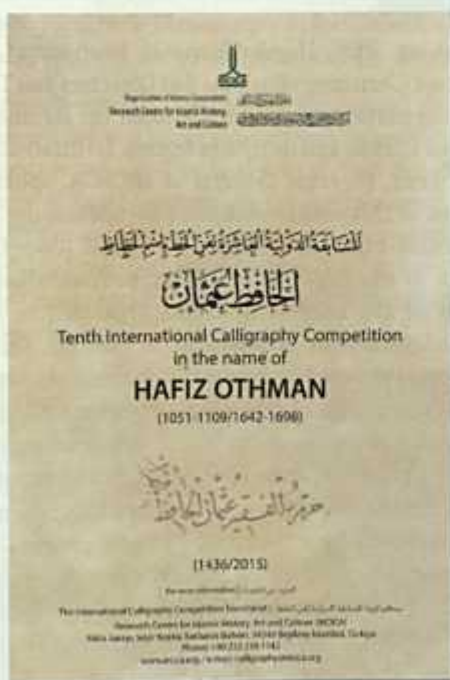
The art of calligraphy

Tenth International Calligraphy Competition launched, in the name of Calligrapher Hafiz Othman (1642-1698)

IRCICA launches its Tenth International Calligraphy Competition. In line with IRCICA's tradition of dedicating each of its competitions to the memory of an exemplary master of this art, the tenth competition is organized in the name of Hafiz Othman (1642-1698).

The purpose of this international competition is to revive and promote the classical art of Islamic calligraphy. Thus, it aims to encourage artists of Islamic calligraphy to produce works that are in conformity with the traditional rules and principles. IRCICA's series of competitions have created opportunities of communication and cooperation for artists of the field and promoted their exchanges of knowledge and experiences. This competition will contribute in the same direction and help development of a commonly appreciated artistic taste for the classical art among interested people around the world.

The competition will be held in the following 11 categories of writing styles: Jaly Thuluth, Thuluth, Naskh, Muhaqqaq-Reyhani, Jaly Ta'liq, Ta'liq, Jaly Diwani, Diwani, Kufi, Rik'a and Maghribi. Awards totaling US\$ 137,000.- will be distributed to a total of 66 prizes and mentions.



Launched in April 2015, the competition will be finalized in May 2016. The deadline for registration is 31 October 2015 and the deadline for submission of the entries, 29 February 2016. The Terms and Conditions booklet comprising the Participation Form is available in the English, Arabic and Turkish languages separately. It can be requested from:

Calligraphy Competition Secretariat, IRCICA, Yıldız Sarayı, Seyir Köşkü, Barbaros Bulvarı, Beşiktaş 34349 İstanbul, Turkey, or email: calligraphy@ircica.org.

The jury members of the competition are: Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA and Chairman of the Organising Committee; Dr. Abdulridha Baheya Al-Farjavee, Iraq; Mr. M. Jalil Rasuli, Iran; Mr. Fuad Başar, Turkey; Mr. Mossad M. M. Khodeir, Egypt; Mr. Obida M. S. Al Banki, Syria; Mr. Belaid Hamidi, Morocco; Mr. Davut Bektaş, Turkey. Its honorary members are: Mr. Ahmed Ziya İbrahim, Saudi Arabia; Mr. Hasan Çelebi, Turkey; Prof. Dr. Hüsrev Subaşı, Turkey; Dr. Mohammed Cherifi, Algeria.

Commemorating the masters of this art:

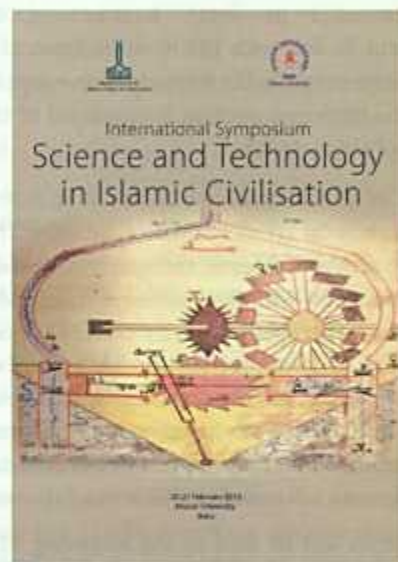
IRCICA had organized the first international competition (1986) in the name of Hamid al-Amidi (1891-1982); the second (1989), Yaqut al-Mustasimi (d. 1298); the third (1992), Ibn al-Bawwab (d. 1022); the fourth (1997), Sheikh Hamdullah (1429-1520); the fifth (2000), to Sayyid Ibrahim (1897-1994); the sixth (2003), Mir Imad al-Hasani (1554-1615); the seventh (2006), Hashim Muhammad al-Baghdadi (1917-1973); the eighth (2010), Muhammed Badawi al-Dirani (1894-1967), and the ninth (2013), Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu.

Hafiz Othman (1642-1698), to whose memory the tenth competition is dedicated, lived and died in İstanbul. He studied calligraphy with eminent masters of his time and later introduced innovations of his own. Among his works are 25 *mushafs* (copies of the Holy Quran), parts of the Holy Quran, the book *Dala'il al-khayrat* which is a book of prayers and sayings in praise of the Prophet first collected and arranged by Shaykh Sulayman al-Jazuli (d. c. 1470). Numerous copies of this book began to appear early 18th century. Hafiz Othman was the first calligrapher to write the description of the qualities of the Prophet in the form of a plate, called a *Hilya al-Sharif*.

International Symposium on “Science and Technology in Islamic Civilization” held in Baku, Azerbaijan 20-22 February 2015

An International Symposium on the theme “Science and Technology in Islamic Civilization” has been organized jointly by IRCICA and Khazar University, Baku, Azerbaijan. The symposium was held in Baku on 20-22 February 2015.

The symposium’s main aim was to contribute to studies on the history of civilizations by encouraging objective research on the scientific activity carried out in the Muslim world throughout history and the achievements of scientists of this world in various sciences, thus giving the peak period of “Islamic sciences” its rightful place in the world history of science and, on a broader level, throwing light on a lesser known phase of the evolution of civilizations. Scientific activities carried out in the Islamic world resulted in contributions to world science which were in turn transferred to other cultures and civilizations, including the European, and thus played a role in the development of the sciences and technologies that reached our time. Presentations at the symposium underscored this role by contributions of Islamic sciences. The sub-themes were: Science in Islam, Astronomy, Geography, Geometry, Physics, Optics, Medicine, Chemistry, Natural sciences, Mechanics, Architectural technology, Navigation, War technology.



Participants from Azerbaijan, China (Hong Kong), Egypt, Malaysia, Pakistan Tajikistan, and Turkey contributed papers to the symposium.

At the opening, Prof. Hamlet Isahanli, Founder of Khazar University and Chairman of its Board of Directors and Trustees, welcomed the participants and underlined the significance of the history of science and its role in Islamic civilization. Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, spoke about the activities of this centre dedicated to researching various aspects of Islamic culture. Ambassador Ismail Alper Coskun, Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to Azerbaijan, noted that among all the interesting events organized in support of the development of scholarship in Khazar University, this symposium devoted to science in the Islamic world was particularly significant. Addressing the opening, Academic Vasim Mamadaliyev spoke about Islam’s contributions to world cultural history and expressed his belief that the conference would help further develop studies in this field in Azerbaijan. Ms. Raziya Isayeva, Khazar University’s Development Director, made a presentation about Khazar University. A concert program followed, including performances by university students and staff, led by Prof. Zulfıyya Sadigova, Head of the Department of Music and Fine Arts.



Presentation of the plate bearing Verse 49/13 of the Holy Quran adopted as IRCICA’s motto, to Prof. Hamlet Isahanli



The first working session, moderated by Dr. Farda Asadov, Vice President of Khazar University, heard the following studies: "Alchemy of the Muslim Period between Egyptian-Greek-Roman-Chinese Alchemy and European Chemistry" by H. Isahanli; "Scientific Manuscripts of Azeri Writers in the Middle Ages at Apostolic Library of Vatican" by Prof. Farid Alakbarli; "Mentality and the Dynamics of the Scientific Revolution in the Islamic Worl" by Prof. Mustafa Demirci; "Muhammad ibn Ahmad al-Khwarizmi and his Work Entitled Mafatih al-Ulum" by Prof. Mustafa Sabri Küçükaşçı.

The second session, moderated by Prof. Khurram Qadir, heard the papers titled "Islamic Sciences and their Effects on the West" by Prof. Cevher Sulul; "Islamic Science in the Late Abbasid Period (945-1258)" by Dr. Arshad Islam of Malaysia; "Astrology and astrologists during Safavid Period" by Dr. Zivar Huseynli; "Turkish Manuscripts on Natural Sciences in the Egyptian National Library" by Dr. Ahmed Abdullah.

The third session was moderated by Prof. Hasan Niknafs, Dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science, Khazar University. The presentations were titled: "The Contribution of Muslim Scholars of the Middle Ages to the Development of World Civilization" by Dr. Nusratolla Zakirov; "Education and Science in the Maraga Observatory" by Drs. Bilal Dadayev and Süleyman Saribaş; "Nasir al-Din al-Tusi's Two Works Related to Geometry and their Manuscripts in the Collections of Sultan Mehmed II" by Prof. Mehmet Rihtim and Dr. Yagub Aliyev.

At the fourth session, which was moderated by Dr. Javad Mehri, instructor at Khazar University School of Engineering, the presentations were "Nasir al-Din al-Tusi and His Place in the History of Exact Sciences" by Dr. Agil Shirinov; "A Sample on the Ottoman Military Technology Development: Light Firearms" by Prof. Feridun Emecen; "About the Role of the Scientific Center entitled 'Rabi-Rashidi' in the Islamic World" by Dr. Dilavar Azmli.



The fifth session, moderated by Prof. Feridun Emecen from Turkey, the papers were: "Ibn al-Haytham as a Muslim Researcher of Optical Problems" by Dr. Elvusal Məmmədov; "Al-Qur'an and Technology: From the Perspective of Approaches, Directions and Discoveries" by Prof. Erdoğan Baş; "Azerbaijani Scholars Contributing to Ottoman Science" by Dr. Elnur Nasirov.

As to the sixth session, it was moderated by Prof. Tayyar Altıkulaç of Turkey. Presentations were made on "Muslim Scholars' Contributions to the Exact Sciences" by Dr. Goshgar Salimli; "The Place of al-Jizra and a Scholar from al-Jizra Abu al-Iz Ismail al-Jazari in the History of Islamic Science" by Dr. İbrahim Baz; "Hubaysh al-Tiflisi as an Encyclopedic Scholar of the 12th Century" by Prof. Mohsin Naghisoylu.

The seventh session was moderated by Dr. Irada Khalilova, Head of the Khazar University Department of Biology. It heard papers on "The Tradition of Treatment during Prophet's Period and its Traces in Islamic Medicine" by Dr. Elnura Azizova; "Stem Cells Researches as a New Treatment Options in Medical Genetics: An Islamic Perspective" by Dr. Gunay Akbarova; "The Nature of Muslim Scientific Enquiry" by Prof. Khurram Qadir; "Abul-Qasim al-Zahrawi: The Great and Pioneer Muslim Surgeon and Inventor of Many Surgical Instruments" by Prof. Syed Minhaj ul Hassan.

Each session had a section for questions and answers. The sessions were followed by an audience composed of a large number of scholars and students from various universities of Azerbaijan.

Prof. Hamlet Isahanli, founder of Khazar University and Chairman of its Board of Directors and Trustees, and Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, gave closing remarks.



Second International Congress on “China and the Muslim World: Cultural Encounters” held at IRCICA

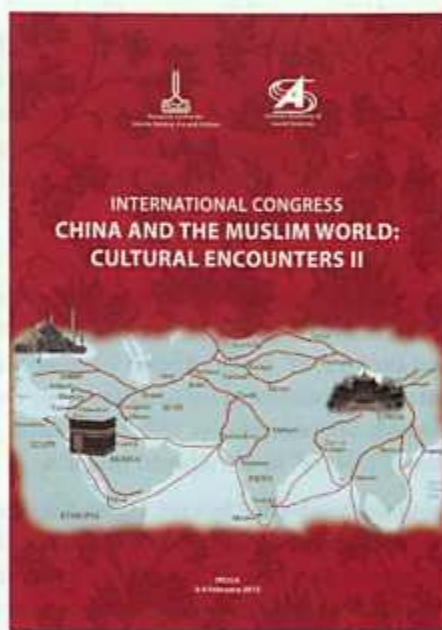
3-4 February 2015

IRCICA and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) have jointly organized the second congress on “China and the Muslim World: Cultural Encounters” on 3-4 February 2015 at IRCICA’s headquarters. The congress was opened with the message of H.E. Iyad Ameen Madani, Secretary General of the OIC, which was read by Dr. Hassan Abedin, Head, Minorities Department, OIC General Secretariat. Opening addresses were delivered by Prof. Zhuo Xinping, Director General, Institute of World Religions, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, and IRCICA Director General Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren. Papers were presented by 25 scholars and researchers from China, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates.

CASS and IRCICA had organized their first congress on “China and the Muslim World: Cultural Encounters” in Beijing, China, on 28-29 June 2012 (for a comprehensive report see IRCICA Newsletter no. 88, May-August 2012). The second congress adopted the same list of sub-themes as the first one, with “Encounters in economy” added to them taking into consideration that trade and economy had quite frequently come into focus during the 2012 congress in the context of some sub-themes.

The sessions’ sub-themes were: Historical encounters between China and the Muslim world; Encounters in Culture and Religion; Encounters in Culture and Arts; Encounters in Economy; Encounters in International Relations; Encounters

in Culture and Education. Closing remarks were given by Prof. Zhuo Xinping, Director General, Institute of World Religions, CASS and Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren. The following papers were presented, followed by question-and-answer discussions:



Prof. Zhuo Xinping, Director General, Institute of World Religions, CASS and the accompanying scholars, with Prof. Mehmet İpsirli (historian, IRCICA Governing Board member, Turkey) and IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren



Opening Session

Session I

Historical Encounters between China and the Muslim World
(Chair: Prof. Mehmet İpşirli, Turkey)

Prof. Li Jinxiu, Director, Institute of History, CASS: "A Brief Discussion of Taxation in the Western Regions under Tang Dynasty"

Prof. Ahmet Taşağul, Mimar Sinan University, Istanbul: "The Strategic Consequences of the Talas War"

Dr. Anwar Majed Eshki, President, Middle East Centre for Strategic and Legal Studies (MeSc), Saudi Arabia: "The Roots of Relations between China and Islam"

Prof. Merthan Dünder, Ankara University: "Formation of Knowledge in China on the Ottoman Empire: China in the 16th Century According to the Travel Notes of Seyfi Chalabi"



Session I

Session II

Encounters in Culture and Religion (Chair: Prof. Wang Lincong, Assistant Director-General, CASS)

Prof. Li Lin, Institute of World Religions, CASS: "How did Islam and Christianity Adapt to the Chinese Culture? Comparison, Problems and Prospects"

Assist. Prof. Wang Xi, Institute of World Religions, CASS: "The Translation and Commentary of Classic Five Chapters on the Subtleties of Nature and Principle"

Assoc. Prof. Li Weijian, Institute of World Religions, CASS: "Similar Stories, Different Legacies: a Comparative Study on Jihads in West Africa and Rebellions in Northwest China during 18th -19th Centuries"

Assoc. Prof. Giray Fidan, Gazi University, Ankara: "Chinese Muslim Scholar Yusuf Ma De Xin's Travel to Ottoman Empire: Diary of a Pilgrimage"



Session II

Session III

Encounters in Culture and Arts (Chair: Prof. Azmi Özcan, Rector, Bilecik University, Turkey)

Dr. Rosey Ma, Fatih University, Istanbul: "Chinese Islamic Art: Chinese Mosque Architecture and Calligraphy"

Ayşe Erdoğan, Director, Topkapı Palace Museum, Istanbul: "Porcelain Works in Topkapı Palace Imported From China"

Prof. Wang Yujie, Renmin University of China, Beijing: "Some Reflections on Early Islamic Sites in China"

Assist. Prof. İnci Erdoğan, Ankara University: "Women's Mosques in China"



Session III

Session IV

Encounters in Economy (Chair: Assoc. Prof. Sadık Ünay, IRCICA)



Session IV



Session V



Session VI

Dr. Wang Xu, Center for South Asian Studies, Peking University: "Afghanistan post-2014 and its Implications towards the Silk Road Economic Belt"

Assoc. Prof. Ali Akkemik, Kadir Has University, Istanbul: "History of Economic Relations between China and the Muslim World"

Dr. Altay Atlı, Boğaziçi University, Asian Studies Centre, Istanbul: "From 'Cina' to 'Tionghoa': The Political Economy of the Role of the Chinese Diaspora in Sino-Indonesian Relations"

Prof. Bi Jiankang, Director, Institute of World History, CASS: "Chinese Muslims and the Building of Silk Road Economic Belt"

Session V

Encounters in International Relations (Chair: Prof. Li Lin, CASS, Institute of World Religions)

Assoc. Prof. Tao Zan, Peking University: "An Alternative Partner to the West? China's Growing Relations with Turkey"

Prof. Selçuk Çolakoglu, Yıldırım Beyazıt University, Ankara: "Contemporary Silk Road and China's Opening to the Muslim World"

Prof. Wang Lincong, Assistant Director General, CASS: "Contemporary Value of Silk Road and Significance of China-Turkey Cooperation on Rebuilding the Silk Road"

Dr. Kadir Temiz, Bogazici University, Ataturk Institute: "China's New Foreign Policy Structure towards the Middle East"



Session VI

Encounters in Culture and Education (Chair: Assoc. Prof. Cengiz Tomar, IRCICA)

Dr. Shi Zhan, China Foreign Affairs University, Beijing: China and the Muslim World: Challengers or Creative Constructors of World Order?

Assoc. Prof. Ma Jing, Institute of World Religions, CASS: "Cultural Exchange between Chinese Muslims and Egyptians: a Case Study on Imam Abdurrahman Ma Songting's First Visit to Egypt"

Dr. Gürhan Kırilen, Ankara University: "Wang Kuan: A Muslim Reformer and His Contributions to the Modern Education in China"

Assist. Prof. Yan Qiongying, Institute of World Religions, CASS: "Islamic modernism in China and South Asia: A comparative study of Aligarh University and Chengda Normal School"

Dr. Shaojin Chai, Ministry of Culture, United Arab Emirates: "Compassion or Justice: Understanding Virtue Politics and Statecraft in Kutadgu Bilig in Comparative Perspective"



Panel:

“IRCICA Library from the viewpoint of technological advancements in librarianship”

IRCICA; 3 April 2015

A panel was organized by IRCICA on “IRCICA Library from the viewpoint of technological advancements in librarianship” on 3 April 2015, with the participation of specialists from libraries and documentation centers, universities and other institutions concerned. The panel, organized within the framework of the 51th Librarianship Week, was an occasion to introduce the digital library of IRCICA which has the registered name of “Farabi” – after the illustrious philosopher and scientist Muhammad bin Muhammad Farabi (c. 872-950). The digital library’s contents and services were displayed in detail; its special features, such as the audio reading and translation facility and the reader’s personal memo page facility, were highlighted. In building its collections, Farabi Digital Library gives priority to books and documents related to the history and heritage of Islamic civilization, history, cultures and arts of Muslim countries. It aims to serve the needs of researchers in



Islamic studies all over the world. The panel, moderated by Mr. Abdullah Topaloğlu, heard the following presentations: “Pioneering initiatives in librarianship applications, the case of IRCICA Library” by Ms. Nurcan Toprak, “Technological developments in librarianship: RFID system” by Assoc. Prof. Işıl İlknur Sert from the Department of Data and Documentation Management, Istanbul University, “Digitization works at IRCICA: Farabi Digital Library” by Mrs. Neslihan Sandal, “Wen interface of Farabi Digital Library” by Mr. Kasım Çelik, Head of the Department of Library and Documentation, Sabahattin Zaim University, “IRCICA Library and technological innovations” by Mr. Sinan Kuşdoğan, web technology expert, and “The power of inter-institutional exchange programs” by Mrs. Mihin Lugal, Senior Library Expert.

Meetings, Cooperation

Mr. Vasip Şahin, Governor of Istanbul, visited IRCICA

The Governor of Istanbul Mr. Vasip Şahin paid a visit to IRCICA on 15 January 2015. Governor Şahin was on Yıldız Palace grounds inspecting restoration activities in progress in some of the buildings. Afterwards, the Governor met with Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA; who briefed the Governor on the Centre's activities and guided him to the different sections of IRCICA's library at Silahhane Building.



H.E. Mr. Cipriano Cassama, Speaker of the National Assembly of Guinea-Bissau, visited IRCICA

The Speaker of the National Assembly of Guinea-Bissau H.E. Mr. Cipriano Cassama and his entourage visited IRCICA on 17 January 2015, during the period of their participation in the 10th session of the OIC's Parliamentary Union of Islamic Countries - PUIC (Istanbul, 21-22 January 2015). The meeting with IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren was followed by a tour in some departments of the Centre. Relations and cooperation between IRCICA on one hand and cultural and educational circles of Guinea-Bissau on the other were the meeting's central topic.



High-level authorities of Edirne (Turkey) at IRCICA

On 22 January 2015 IRCICA received the Governor of Edirne Mr. Dursun Ali Şahin, the Mayor of Edirne Mr. Recep Gürkan, Edirne Chamber of Commerce and Industry Chairman Mr. Recep Zıpkıncı, and the Secretary General of Thrace Development Agency Mr. Mahmut Şahin. IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren met with the guests and later showed them around the Centre's premises. The main purpose of the visit was to plan the modalities of the exhibition of historical photographs from IRCICA's archives which was later opened in Edirne on 8 April.



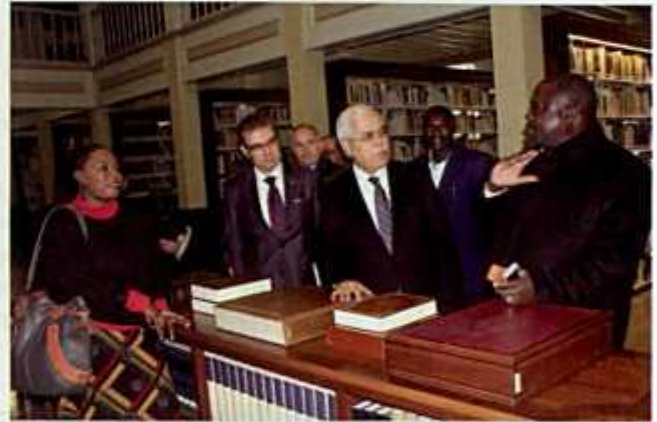
Speaker of the Turkish Cypriot State Parliament Dr. Sibel Siber visited IRCICA

Dr. Sibel Siber, Speaker of the Turkish Cypriot State's Parliament and the accompanying delegation paid a visit to IRCICA on 22 January 2015, during the period of the 10th session of the OIC's Parliamentary Union of Islamic Countries - PUIC which was held in Istanbul on 21-22 January 2015. Dr. Halit Eren guided the guests to the library and research sections of IRCICA. Recording her impressions in the Centre's Visitors' Book After the tour, Dr. Sibel Siber wrote her impressions: "Many thanks to Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren for the visit to IRCICA and the valuable information he gave us during this visit. It is important to uphold culture and arts, preserve our historical values and carry them to future generations. It is important to be able to cooperate to promote such activities in our respective countries as well."



Visit of Dr. Abubacar Senghore, The Gambia's Minister of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology

Dr. Abubacar Senghore, The Gambia's Minister of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology and the accompanying delegation visited IRCICA on 24 January 2015, during the period of their official visit to Turkey. The first part of the Minister's program in Turkey included a series of meetings with Turkish ministries in the capital Ankara. In the context of the Istanbul part of the program, the Minister visited IRCICA; the meeting with Director General Dr. Halit Eren focused on cooperation between Gambian academic, cultural and academic circles and IRCICA and the proposed joint events under consideration. Dr. Eren guided the Minister and his entourage to some sections of the Centre and briefed them on the activities.



Ambassador Asim M. A. Mukhtar Ibrahim, Consul General of The Sudan in Istanbul visited the Director General of IRCICA

Ambassador Asim M. A. Mukhtar Ibrahim, Consul General of The Sudan in Istanbul visited the Director General of IRCICA on 4 February 2015. Dr. Eren briefed the Consul General on the Centre's ongoing activities. Projects implemented jointly by Sudanese institutions and IRCICA were remembered, including the congress on "Sudan during the Ottoman period"

which was organized in cooperation with the National Records Office, Khartoum in 2012. It was also mentioned with satisfaction that Sudanese artisans in various branches of handicrafts are participating regularly in the Centre's festivals and exhibitions of handicrafts.

Visit of scholars from universities of Tatarstan

On 9 February a group of scholars from universities of Tatarstan visited IRCICA. The guests were Prof. Ramil Hayrutdinov, Director of the Institute of International Relations, History and Oriental Studies, Kazan Federal University, Prof. Ayrat Sitdikov, Director of the Archaeology Institute of the Tatarstan Academy of Sciences, and Dr. Elmira Habibullina from the

Turcology Section, Kazan Federal University. The meeting with Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, revolved around subjects of common interest and cooperation, particularly the series of congresses on the history of Islamic civilization in Volga-Ural region which IRCICA organizes jointly with these universities, and the resulting publications.

Visit of a South Korean delegation: Ambassador Ki Chul Lee from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Consul General of Korea in Istanbul Mr. Taedong Jeon

Ambassador Ki Chul Lee, in charge of Koreans abroad at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea visited IRCICA, accompanied by a delegation from the Ministry and Mr. Taedong Jeon, Consul General of the Republic of Korea in Istanbul, on 20 April 2015, during the period of their official visit to Turkey. Earlier, Consul General Mr. Taedong Jeon had visited the Director General of IRCICA on 12 February. Director General Dr. Halit Eren gave information to the guests on the Centre's activities. Cultural relations between OIC Member States and Korea were discussed. Dr. Eren spoke of IRCICA's interest in Muslims and Islamic cultural heritage in Korea as a subject of study.

This interest had led among others, to the publication of Prof. Jamil Lee Hee Soo's (Hanyang University, South Korea) book

titled *Islam in Korea* (1997). On that occasion it was pointed out that cultural contacts between Korea and the Muslim world were initiated as early as the third Hijra century, mid-ninth century A.D. in continuation of commercial relations between China and Arabia through sea-routes. Thus Islamic cultural influence penetrated into Korea long before our time, but Islamic studies in Korea had rather neglected this history. This book was important as a first study to highlight the history of this relationship.



Visit of members of the Islamic Manuscript Association (TIMA), UK

A group of sixteen members of the Islamic Manuscript Association, UK visited IRCICA on 12 February 2015. The Director General of IRCICA Dr. Halit Eren and the TIMA members exchanged information on their respective, mostly converging objectives and activities in the area of Islamic manuscripts. TIMA Representative Board Member Dr. Muhammad Issa Waley, whom IRCICA knows well from past cooperation, was facilitator in this encounter. TIMA is an affiliated project of the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Centre of Islamic Studies at the University of Cambridge. It has held its Tenth "Islamic Manuscript Conference" in August-September 2014. The Association includes among its members libraries and museums possessing collections of Islamic manuscripts as well as individuals with scholarly and professional interests in Islamic manuscripts.



Professors and students of arts and design from Zerka University, Jordan

A group of professors and graduate students from the Department of Arts and Design, Zerka University, Jordan, visited IRCICA on 24 February 2015. During the talks, the Director General of IRCICA Dr. Halit Eren outlined the

Centre's numerous activities aiming to promote research and training in Islamic arts. The group visited the library and some departments of the Centre and saw its publications on arts.

Visit of a delegation of journalists and civil society representatives from India

A 15-member delegation of journalists and civil society representatives from India headed by Mr. Tasleem Ahmed Rehmani, President of Muslim Political Council of India and including Mr. Abdul Wahab Khilji, Executive Member of All India Muslim Personal Law Board and Vice President of Welfare Party of India, visited IRCICA. The group was visiting Turkey within the framework of the Project on Turkey's Public Diplomacy Activities implemented by the Prime Ministry's Public Diplomacy Coordination Office. After the meetings held in the capital Ankara, the group visited cultural and international institutions in Istanbul. The visit to IRCICA, on 28 March 2015, was important particularly as regards the state of international relations in the Muslims world. A number of issues were discussed during the meeting with Dr. Halit Eren, including cultural relations, communications and information exchanges between the OIC member countries and the Muslim community of India.



Prof. Hamlet İsağanlı, Founder and President of Khazar University, Baku at IRCICA

On 21 April 2015 Prof. Hamlet İsağanlı, Founder of Khazar University and Chairman of its Board of Directors and Trustees, Baku, visited the Director General of IRCICA. The visit was an opportunity to evaluate the outcomes of the International Symposium on "Science and Technology in Islamic Civilization" which was organized jointly by IRCICA and Khazar University two months before, on 20-22 February. Besides, Dr. Halit Eren gave information to Prof. İsağanlı on all activities of the Centre and guided the guest rector to some of the departments. Prof. İsağanlı recorded his impressions of this visit in the Visitors' Book: "Among the institutions that do research and disseminate information on Islamic civilization, the role of IRCICA is special, great and invaluable. It covers large geographical areas, early and middle ages, recent histories, science and culture and publishes excellent books, periodicals, bibliographies and conference papers... Congratulations!"



Visit of Dr. Eren to Prof. Yekta Saraç, President of the Council of Higher Education (YÖK) of Turkey

IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren paid a courtesy visit to Prof. Dr. Yekta Saraç, President of the Council of Higher Education (YÖK) of Turkey, on 25 April 2015. Dr. Eren congratulated Prof. Saraç on his taking the office (November 2014) and wished him success. During the meeting the Director General of IRCICA gave information to Prof. Saraç on IRCICA's activities; their importance in promoting cultural relations among Muslim countries was underlined.



Dr. Halit Eren's courtesy visit to SESRIC Director General Mr. Musa Kulaklıkaya

IRCICA Director General paid a courtesy visit to Mr. Musa Kulaklıkaya on his appointment as Director General of the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries – SESRIC, a subsidiary of the OIC based in Ankara, Turkey. During the visit (25 April 2015), the two heads of institutions exchanged wishes for cooperation and experience sharing. Mr. Kulaklıkaya served earlier as Chairman of the Prime Ministry's Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency – TİKA and most recently as Ambassador of Turkey to Mauritania.



Tarihî Fotoğraflarla EDİRNE in Historical Photographs

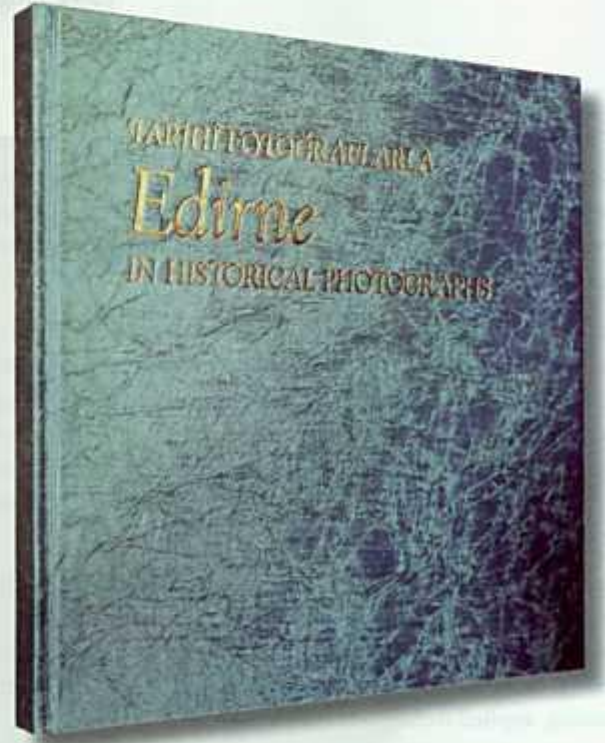
IRCICA, Istanbul, 2015

This album presents 68 photographs of Edirne, a historical city in Thrace, northwest Turkey, as seen in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It was published as an outcome of the exhibition which was organized in Edirne jointly by the Governorate of Edirne, the Municipality of Edirne, Thrace Development Agency and IRCICA from 8-15 April 2015. The photographs were selected from the Yıldız Photograph Albums, which form the basis of IRCICA's photograph archives.

The photographs in the catalogue are grouped under ten headings, showing different aspects of Edirne. Section 1 is a panorama of the city reproduced in lithography from a photograph of Edirne dated 1871; Section 2 has general views, section 3 views of Edirne Palace. Section 4, titled Mosques, shows the Mosque of Sultan Bayezid II, Ismihan Sultan Mosque, Kadiriye, Kasım Pasha Mosque, Muradiye Mosque, Selimiye Mosque, and Üç Şerefeli Mosque; Section 5 is devoted to the Clock and Fire Tower, while Section 6, titled Public Buildings, shows the departments of the governorship and the army, hospitals and military establishments; Section 7 is on schools of different levels of education, while Section 8 has photographs of the bridges surrounding Edirne such as Meriç (Maritza), Tundzha, Saraçhane, Gazi Mihal, Sarayıçi and Saray bridges. Section 9 is about the Exhibition of Crops and Manufactures which was organized for the first time in Edirne in 1905 and which can be considered as a prototype of today's trade fairs; Section 10 has scenes of Edirne from the years of the Independence War and the Balkan Wars.

The catalogue has forewords, by Mr. Mehmet Müezzinoğlu, AK Party Deputy from Edirne and Minister of Health of Turkey, titled "Edirne, A Civilisational Experience" and by Mr. Dursun Ali Şahin, Governor of Edirne, titled "Edirne, A Cradle of Arts and Architecture". It has a preface by Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA.

Other catalogues and thematic albums published by IRCICA with photographs from its archives are: Al-Quds in Historical Photographs (2009), Haremeyn. Makka al-Mukarrama and al-Madina al-Munawwara in photographs from the Ottoman



period selected from the albums of Sultan Abdulhamid II and the collection of Fahreddin Pasha (Türkkan) (2013), İstanbul: A Glimpse into the Past (1992), Erzurum in Gravures and Old Photographs (1998), Egypt as Viewed in the 19th century (2001), Photographs of Istanbul from the Archives of Sultan Abdulhamid II (2007), Bursa in Photographs from the Period of Sultan Abdulhamid II (2011), Manisa in Photographs from the Period of Sultan Abdulhamid II (2013), A Century-Old Turkish-Japanese Friendship in Historical Photographs (2008), Photographs of the Friendship Between Turkey and Yemen Throughout History (2011), Turkish-Afghan Friendship in Historical Photographs (2011), and 600 Years Old Turkish-Polish Friendship (2014).

Features, Characteristics and Cultural and Economic Contribution of Arts and Handicrafts

Proceedings of Tehran-Tabriz International Congress on Features, Characteristics and Cultural and Economic Contribution of Arts and Handicrafts, Tehran and Tabriz on 5-9 May 2013, prepared for publication by Nazeih Taleb Maarouf, preface by Halit Eren, IRCICA, 2015, 643 pp.

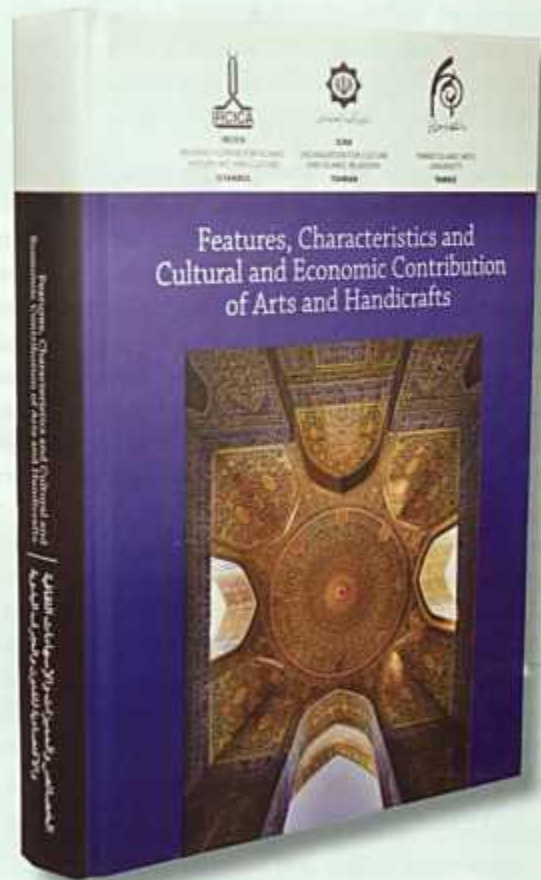
(341 Eng., 302 Ar.), ill.

IRCICA published a luxury, amply illustrated volume entitled *Features, Characteristics and Cultural and Economic Contribution of Arts and Handicrafts* that pictures innovative products of arts and crafts from different parts of the Muslim world.

The book presents fine examples of products in the field of architecture, carpets, Sadou and kilims weaving, illumination, ornamentation, geometric designs, handmade paper making, book-binding, miniature, decoration, pottery, ceramic, wood engraving and other creative works which highlight the level of excellence that artisans of these specific branches have reached on the average.

It reflects the experience of some countries and some master artisans as regards creativity in Islamic arts and crafts. In this way it communicates this experience to others and creates among them some kind of an exchange relating to design, training, applied techniques and raw materials.

The volume constitutes at the same time an academic documentation based on site surveys of various aspects of arts and crafts in the Muslim world through the works of a group of professional specialists. As such it will contribute in advancing research in this field by assisting the researchers. The book will enable readers to learn closely about the present state of the sector, difficulties faced, and plans formulated for its development. It will also allow artisans and specialists to make comparisons and assess experiences recorded in different countries, which will serve in devising policies and action as regards development of the design aspects, selection of convenient raw materials, applied techniques, and also exploring more opportunities for artisans in education and training facilities. Furthermore, it will encourage more regional and international exhibitions which for no doubt will attract more participation of artisans.

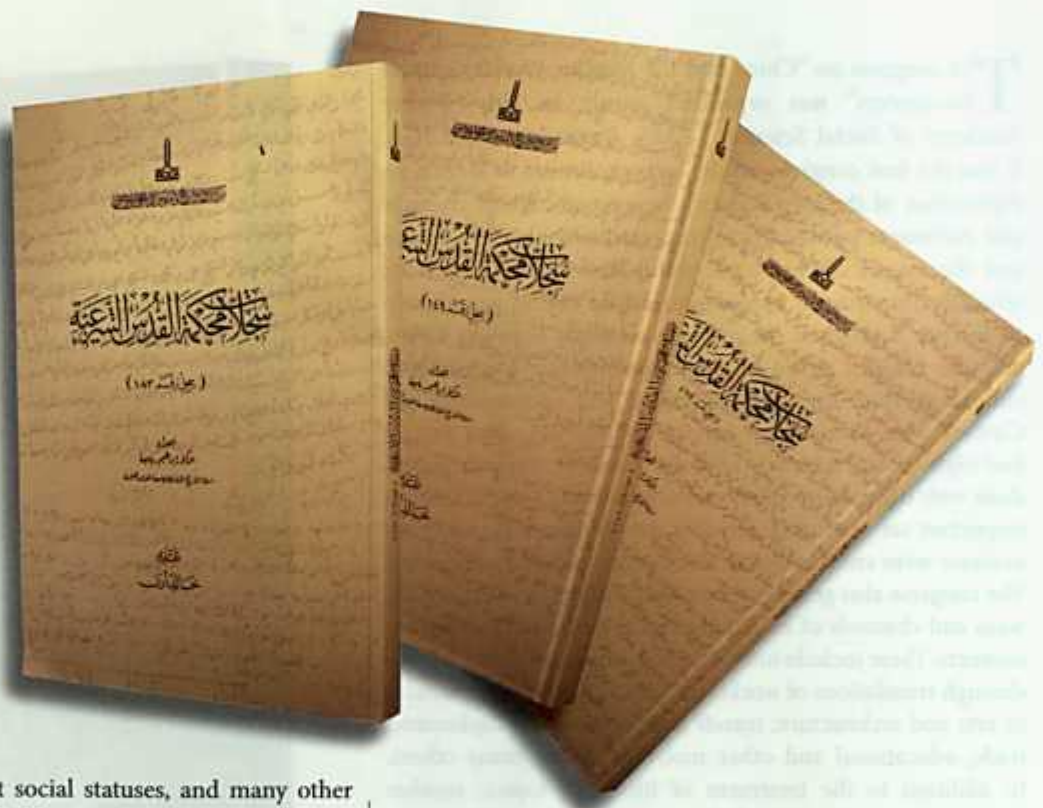


The book also comes as a new input to scientific research in the field of arts and traditional industries. It provides a first preliminary assessment of the prospects of economic, social and cultural development of Islamic arts and crafts in various regions.

Series on the Sharia Court Registers of Jerusalem, 3 volumes: Registers no. 119, 149 and 183

prepared for publication by Ibrahim Rabaia, preface by Halit Eren, IRCICA, Istanbul, 2014
(in Arabic)

IRCICA publishes a series of volumes each devoted to one of the registers of the Sharia courts held in Al-Quds/Jerusalem during the Ottoman period. There are altogether 412 registers, dating from the period from 1529 to 1909. These registers are valuable first-hand sources that record cases reflecting life in the region, the relations between the local administration and the people, between different faith communities and between people of different social statuses, and many other subjects. Therefore they reliably complement other sources for studies on those aspects of history. The index of terms and the indexes of place names, communities and businesses are useful additions to the books. In his Introduction, Dr. Rabaia explains his methodology and the types of information he has extracted from the registers. In the first volume which was published by IRCICA in 2013 he examines the register no. 107 which refers to the period from 5 August 1623 to 10 April 1624 and contains cases reflecting social and economic life in the region. The three volumes published by IRCICA in 2014 contain, respectively, the studies on the following registers:



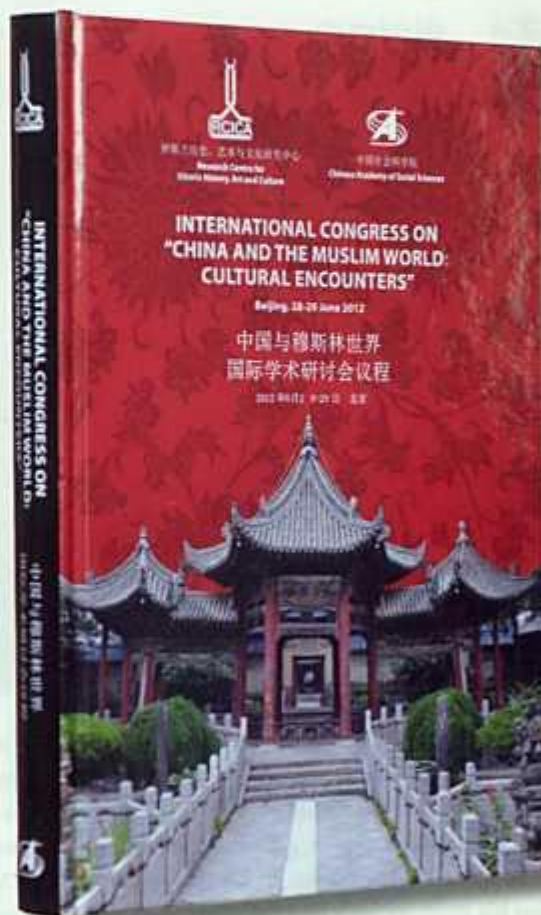
- Register no. 119 of Al-Quds Sharia Court (Early Rajab 1041 H-late Rabi II 1042 H (23 Jan. 1632-13 Nov. 1632), 562 pages; location of the register: microfilm at the library of Dr. Mahmoud AtaAllah
- Register no. 149 of Al-Quds Sharia Court (Early Muharram 1061 H-10 Safar 1065 H (20 Nov. 1653-20 Dec. 1654), 482 pages, 1900 cases
- Register no. 183 of Al-Quds Sharia Court (20 Dhu'l Hijja 1090 H-1 Safar 1092 H (22 Jan. 1680-20 Feb. 1681), 481 pages.

International Congress on “China and the Muslim World: Cultural Encounters” Beijing, 28-29 June 2012

IRCICA and Chinese Academy of Sciences, Istanbul, 2014, 462 pp.
(in English and Chinese)

The congress on “China and the Muslim World: Cultural Encounters” was organized jointly by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS, Beijing) and IRCICA. It was the first congress on the subject, aiming to launch an exploration of the long and rich history of cultural contacts and exchanges between two great civilizations, the Chinese and the Islamic. It was understood that in addition to its scholarly importance, exploration of the theme would help to further strengthen the existing relations between China and the Muslim world in trade, investment, tourism and cultural sectors. The opening session was addressed by the Chinese Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Zhai Jun. It had high-quality scholarly sessions. Valuable research papers dealt with diverse and often multidisciplinary topics. Thus an important set of studies carrying new information and new analyses were contributed to the existing scholarly literature. The congress also generated research findings concerning the ways and channels of exchanges and their trends in different contexts. These include interactions in philosophy and science through translations of works, reciprocally; mutual influences in arts and architecture; travels and missions for diplomatic, trade, educational and other motives, among many others. In addition to the treatment of historical topics, another important contribution of the congress was a discussion on present cultural relations and future perspectives. The inaugural and the closing sessions recorded observations and recommendations of academic and practical relevance. It was recommended among others that the congress be given a periodical character.

The book begins with the texts of the opening speeches. Then 25 articles, either in English or in Chinese with English abstracts, are grouped under headings corresponding to the congress' session themes: “Historical Processes of Relations between China and the Muslim World”, “Communication and



Interactions on Art”, “Cultural Interactions through Literature and Language”, “Cultural Encounters in Science, Religion and Thought”, “Relations between Modern China and the Muslim World”, “China and the Muslim World in Global Context”.

IRCICA Journal.
A Journal on Islamic History and Civilization
Volume II, Issue 3, Spring 2014

The third issue of IRCICA Journal has appeared. This is an interdisciplinary refereed journal published two times per year (Spring and Fall) which includes articles in English, French or Arabic.

Lists of the contents of Volume I in its Spring and Fall issues and Volume II, Issue 3, Spring 2014 are given below.

Vol. I, Spring 2013

Articles in English:

The Balkan Wars in the Records of the Italian Army General Staff, by Alberto Becherelli (Sapienza University of Rome, Italy)

Political Activities and Popular Outcry on the Turkish Question in Muslim Bengal (1908-1924): An Archival Report, by Assoc. Prof. Kazi Sufior Rahaman (University of Calcutta, West Bengal, India)

Seeds of Ottomanism and Islamism: Fruits of Secularism and Democracy, by Khurram Qadir (Managing Editor of IRCICA Journal & Former Director of NICHHR, Pakistan)

Yasaviya Traditions in the Culture of the Volga Muslims, by Guzel Sayfulina (University of Leiden, Netherlands)

Articles in Arabic:

The Issue of Orthography in the Manuscripts of the Qur'an, by Tayyar Altukulaç (former President of Directorate of Religious Affairs and former Member of Parliament, Turkey)

Higher Education Institutions in the Eastern Arab Provinces of the Ottoman Empire in the Light of Ottoman Documents, by Fazil Bayat (IRCICA)

Vol. I, Fall 2013

Articles in English:

Incorporating the Maghrib as an Axis in World History, by Gavin D. Brockett (Wilfrid Laurier University, Department of History and Coordinator of Muslim Studies, Ontario, Canada)

"Al-Andalus" and Recovering the Cultural Legacy of the Moorish Presence in the Iberian Peninsula, by José Tomaz Castello Branco (Department of Political Studies, Catholic University of Portugal, Lisbon)

East Encounters West: French Merchants and Islamic Law in the Ottoman Mediterranean (Late-Sixteenth and Early-Seventeenth Centuries), by Viorel Panaite (Department of Islamic and Ottoman History, The University of Bucharest, Romania)

Articles in Arabic:

Contributions of Women to Charitable Waqfs during the Rasulid State in Yemen (616-858 AH/1228-1454), by Muhammed Arnaoud (World Islamic Science and Education University, WISE, Amman, Jordan)

The Abuse of the Idea of Islamic Caliphate by Britain in India in the 19th Century, by Asma Muhaibil (Algiers University-II, Algeria)

Vol. II, Issue 3, Spring 2014

Articles in English:

"The Rise and Development of the Art of Calligraphy: From its Origins to the End of Yakut's Era", by Nihad M. Çetin (posthumously; the late Professor Nihat Çetin was affiliated with Istanbul University, Faculty of Letters)

"The Balkan Wars and British India: A Case Study of NWFP (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa)", by Abdul Rauf (University of Peshawar, Department of Political Science, Pakistan)

"The Town of Štip (Ištīp) in the Republic of Macedonia and the Mosque of Husameddin Pasha" by Michael Kiel (Netherlands Institute in Turkey, Istanbul)

"Islamic Ornamentation: Reflections on its Humanistic, Cosmological and Metaphysical Aspects" (Patrick Ringgenberg, Lausanne University, Institut Cultures, Religions, Modernité, Switzerland)

Articles in Arabic:

"Endowments of Ottoman Rulers in Al Quds:

The Model of Yusuf Pasha Waqfs (1061 H/1651 AD)" by Ibrahim Rabaya (Al-Quds Open University, Palestine)

"Calligraphy of Mushaf Manuscripts" by Idham Muhammad Hanash (World Islamic Science and Education - WISE University, Amman, Jordan)



