



# Newsletter



OIC RESEARCH CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC HISTORY, ART AND CULTURE

His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said conferred the Sultan Qaboos Order for Culture, Science and Art on IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren

The Ninth Session of the OIC's Islamic Conference of Information Ministers held in Libreville, Gabon

The 9<sup>th</sup> International Calligraphy Competition in the name of Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu: an homage to patronage and promotion of the art

## Recent events

- Fourth Annual Seminar of the "Al-Quds/Jerusalem 2015" Program of architectural studies and workshops
- International congress on The Family in the Muslim Countries and Communities
- The Muscat International Festival for Arts and Crafts, Oman: reflections of a heritage in constant innovation
- International Conference on Jerusalem held in Doha, and IRCICA's participation
- Fifth Sharjah Calligraphy Biennial; Seventh Dubai International Exhibition on the Art of Arabic Calligraphy

## Forthcoming congresses

### History:

- "Islamic Civilization in Central Asia", in Kyrgyzstan;
- "Islamic Civilization in Volga-Ural Region", in Tatarstan (Russian Federation);
- "The Balkan Wars at Their Centenary", in Turkey

### Arts and handicrafts:

- Tehran International Congress and Exhibition of Publications on Arts and Handicrafts

## Meetings, cooperation

## Book survey

# Newsletter



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## EDITORIAL

I am deeply honoured, and grateful to His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said, Sultan of Oman, with the prestigious scholarly Order, the "Sultan Qaboos Order for Culture, Science and Art" of the First Degree that has been conferred upon me. This has been a source of encouragement of exceptional significance for IRCICA and for me in carrying out the projects we have undertaken, directed and coordinated in various areas of research, international cultural relations and institutional cooperation. From this recognition at highest level of the pertinence and success of our activities we derive further and stronger commitment.

The Order's conferral took place during the period of the Muscat International Festival for Arts and Handicrafts, a large-scale cultural and artistic event organized by Muscat Municipality which brings together performers of the different traditional arts and handicrafts from far and near across continents. During the 2011 and 2012 sessions of the Festival, IRCICA was co-organizer of exhibitions of artisans at work and participated in the coordination and selection process of the Muscat Award for Innovation and Creativity in Crafts. The award is one of the world's most outstanding in its genre for its aims and scope, honouring innovation and creativity in fourteen categories covering almost all branches of handicrafts. The event is followed with great interest each year. The rate of participation of artisans in the Festivals was 150 from 25 countries in 2011 and 118 from 32 countries in 2012. The Sultanate of Oman has extended close support to IRCICA's activities since the 1980s. Renewed occasions were offered to me in recent years, particularly during the Muscat Festivals, to report on progress achieved in our activities and to present samples of our publications to the Royal Court and the Government of the Sultanate of Oman.

More recently, in April, I was greatly honoured to meet with H.E. Ali Bongo Ondimba, President of the Republic of Gabon, during the Ninth Session of the OIC's Islamic Conference of Information Ministers which was held in the Gabonese capital Libreville on 17-20 April 2012. Furthermore, in recent months we have had a number of high-level visitors from Turkey to our headquarters: the Speaker of the Turkish Parliament Mr. Cemil Çiçek, Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Bekir Bozdağ, Foreign Minister Prof. Ahmet Davutoğlu, Defense Minister Mr. İsmet Yılmaz; the Minister for EU Affairs Mr. Egemen Bağış received me in his office. These meetings were excellent opportunities for me to inform them on developments recorded in IRCICA's activities.

IRCICA's long-term program of architectural studies and workshops on the Islamic heritage of Al-Quds/Jerusalem is one of its most authentic activities that won interest and recognition on international scale. One of the regular features of this program is its annual seminar, which usually takes place at the beginning of each academic year with the participation of the collaborating universities. One of the seminar's tasks is

to review the activities carried out by architectural faculties in contribution to this program which are implemented usually in the form of research and studio assignments, projects and theses. In January our Department of Architecture and Heritage Preservation organized the fourth annual seminar, with panels and lectures on theoretical and practical aspects of the Islamic urban heritage in the Old City in Al-Quds. At present we are making preparations to organize the second Architectural Summer School, to take place this coming Summer, after the first one held in June-July 2011.

A well-known major program that IRCICA launched as of 1986 and has since then organized regularly every three years is the International Calligraphy Competition. Each round of the competition was dedicated to one of the acknowledged masters in the history of this art. Thus up to this point eight master calligraphers from different regions of the Muslim world have been commemorated. This has grown to become an established IRCICA tradition awaited by calligraphers, connoisseurs and the public at large. Every round also is an occasion for calligraphers to familiarize themselves with the life and work of a particular master and tradition. Over the last twenty-six years, this calligraphy competition developed into the major and only forum where the quest for excellence in this art continues as it allowed thousands of calligraphers to participate in it from within and outside the Muslim world. As the event matured its contributions towards enhancing our knowledge of the different aspects relating to this art, artistic commitment on the part of its practitioners, appreciation and observance of classical standards, among others, in the practice of Islamic calligraphy, came in full public view. Hence the event is followed closely not only by calligraphers from around the world but also by the larger public interested in Islamic art and art history. In brief, this calligraphy competition has become one of the defining activities carried out by IRCICA. For the initial conception of this competition - as well as for many other activities pursued by IRCICA - an expression of gratitude is long overdue to H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu who formulated the concept of the competition and presided over many of its rounds during his tenure as Director General of IRCICA (1980-December 2004). In the same tradition that he has established, we have the honour and pleasure of dedicating the ninth competition, to be organized in 2012-2013, to Prof. İhsanoğlu. In so doing, we wish to permanently record in the history of the competition program an acknowledgment of his seminal contribution, as a patron and promoter, to the preservation and development of this art. The Ninth International Calligraphy Competition in the name of Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu is thus declared open. I thank the participants in advance for their interest and wish them success.

*Dr. Halit Eren*

## His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said conferred the Sultan Qaboos Order for Culture, Science and Art on IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren

The Sultan of Oman His Majesty Qaboos bin Said conferred the Sultan Qaboos Order for Culture, Science and Art of the First Degree on Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, in appreciation of his good contributions to research in serving the Centre and its objectives.

The Sultan Qaboos Order for Culture, Science and Art was presented to Dr. Halit Eren on behalf of His Majesty the Sultan of Oman, by H.H. al-Sayyid Haytham b. Tariq Al Said, Minister of Culture and Heritage of Oman, with a ceremony held in Muscat on 22 February 2012. The Minister of Culture and Heritage made the following statement while presenting the Order: "I hereby would like to convey to you the greetings of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said. Dr. Eren was duly conferred the Sultan Qaboos Order for Culture, Science and Art of the First Degree due to his contributions to research on Islamic culture, arts, civilization and history in serving the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) and its objectives. I present you this Order on behalf of and with the greetings of the Sultan." H.H. the Minister of Culture and Heritage Al Said stated that IRCICA under the capable leadership of its Director General Halit Eren was serving as an effective bridge of civilization between Oman and Turkey, and they as the government of Oman expected that the relations between the two countries will become stronger in the future.



The Certificate of the Sultan Qaboos Order for Culture, Science and Art of the First Degree



On behalf of H.M. Sultan Qaboos bin Said; H.H. al-Sayyid Haytham b. Tariq Al Said, Minister of Culture and Heritage of Oman, presented the Order to Dr. Eren in Muscat, on 22 February 2012

The Certificate of the Sultan Qaboos Order for Culture, Science and Art of the First Degree, bearing the signature of Sultan Qaboos bin Said, was presented to Dr. Eren by H.E. Ambassador Qais Salim Ali Al Said, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman in Ankara, Turkey (the host country of IRCICA) on 12 April 2012 in Ankara. The Certificate, which has the citation for the Order, reads: "We, Qaboos bin Said, Sultan of Oman, in recognition of the outstanding services rendered by Dr. Halit Eren, with regard to the works he has accomplished, have decided to confer on him the Order for Culture, Science and Art of the First Degree, and upon our order to this effect this Certificate was issued from our Palace in Muscat, on 29 Rabi al-awwal 1433 H/22 February 2012."

## The Ninth Session of the Islamic Conference of Information Ministers held in Libreville, Gabon

17-20 April 2012

The Ninth Session of the Islamic Conference of Information Ministers was hosted by the Republic of Gabon in the capital city Libreville, from 17 to 20 April 2012. The President of Gabon H.E. Ali Bongo Ondimba welcomed the participating States and organizations on the occasion of this first ministerial-level meeting of the OIC that was being held in Gabon, a land at the heart of Africa possessing a rich history and a diverse cultural heritage. The conference revised the progress achieved in the OIC's cooperative action in the field of information since its eighth session which had been held in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco in January 2009. The conference adopted a series of resolutions, on the following subjects, among others: the media in OIC Member States and its role in supporting the cause of al-Quds and the Blessed al-Aqsa Mosque; development of a comprehensive media plan, the International Islamic News Agency (IINA) and the Islamic Broadcasting Union (IBU), inter-OIC coordination in the information field, Africa's position and role in the launching of the OIC Satellite Channel, establishing an OIC Journalists Forum. The conference issued the Libreville Declaration, calling for the promotion of joint Islamic action in the field of information and for enhancing the presence of the OIC on

the information scene (<http://www.oci-gabon.org>). IRCICA was one of the OIC's subsidiary centres participating in the conference whereby it presented to the Ministers an activity report highlighting the informational dimensions of its work.

On 19 April 2012, IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren was honoured to meet with H.E. Ali Bongo Ondimba, President of the Republic of Gabon. The President received information on the objectives and activities of the Centre and specifically, on its research projects leading to scholarly publications, some of which address themes within the areas of Islamic culture and civilisation that were not studied or recorded before. Reference was also made to the congresses organized by IRCICA on the history and cultural heritage of Islamic civilization in Africa, where the congresses held until the present have focused on West Africa, Eastern Africa and Southern Africa. President Ali Bongo Ondimba expressed his appreciation of IRCICA's contributions to the development and the diffusion of knowledge in the many fields it is dealing with. He praised the Centre's studies on copies and translations of the Holy Quran in various languages and the publications resulting from these studies.



H.E. President Ali Bongo Ondimba and Dr. Halit Eren exchanging greetings during the Information Ministers' sessions

## Meetings with Palace and Government authorities of the Sultanate of Oman

IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren was received by the Palace and Government authorities of the Sultanate of Oman during his visit to the capital city Muscat to attend the opening of the Muscat International Festival for Arts and Crafts (3 February to 1st March 2012).

At the request of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said, H.E. Mr. Khaled bin Hilal Al Bousaidi, Minister of the Diwan of the Royal Court, received Dr. Eren in his office on 8 February. The meeting was an excellent occasion for appraising the ongoing cooperation between the Sultanate of Oman and IRCICA. Friendly conversations were exchanged besides the discussions on projects and on cultural and art themes which have been and can further be taken up in the context of this cooperation.



Meeting at the office of H.E. Mr. Khaled bin Hilal Al Bousaidi, Minister of the Diwan of the Royal Court

IRCICA Director General Dr. Eren was also received by the Minister of Awqaf and Religious Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman, H.E. Sheikh Abdullah bin Mohammed bin Abdullah Al-Salmi. The talks covered in particular the Centre's research and publishing activities in the field of Quranic studies. Views were exchanged on possible joint projects and exchanges of information in this field.

Then, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman H.E. Mr. Yusuf bin Alawi bin Abdallah received Dr. Eren whereby the cooperation between Oman and IRCICA was reviewed with appreciation. Talks were held with the Minister and his delegation on projects to be considered for future joint activities. The latter include scholarly congresses, among them the conference to be organized in Istanbul in the fall of 2012 on the History of Oman on the basis of Archive Documents. Dr. Nazih Marouf, Head of the Craft Development Program at IRCICA, accompanied the Director General during the meeting. Dr. Eren also met with Dr. Hamed bin Dawyani, Head of the National Archives of Oman. The meeting's emphasis was on the conference on the History of Oman on the basis of Archive Documents to be organized.

A most memorable moment of the period was certainly the ceremony of presentation of the Sultan Qaboos Order for Culture, Science and Art, on behalf of His Majesty the Sultan of Oman, by H.H. al-Sayyid Haytham b. Tariq Al Said, Minister of Culture and Heritage of Oman, to Dr. Halit Eren on 22 February 2012 (p. 2 of the present issue).



H.E. Sheikh Abdullah bin Mohammed bin Abdullah Al-Salmi presented a souvenir gift to Dr. Eren

## The "9th International Calligraphy Competition in the name of Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu" declared open

IRCICA declared its 9th International Calligraphy Competition open. The competition is dedicated to an eminent scholar who made outstanding contributions towards reviving and promoting the art of calligraphy: Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu.

The 9th competition will be finalized during the course of 2013. The preceding competition was conducted during 2009-2010 and its winners were announced in April 2010. IRCICA has organized international calligraphy competitions once every three years since 1986. The aim of the competition is to preserve, foster and develop the classical art of Islamic calligraphy by maintaining its original principles and traditional spirit, and to protect it from trends that emerge under foreign influences and which are not in conformity with this spirit. To symbolize this understanding, encourage young artists to emulate the examples of the great masters of calligraphy and, at the same time, to commemorate their achievements, each competition is dedicated to an eminent figure of this art of the past or the present. Thus the Centre had dedicated the first competition (1986) to Hamid al-Amidi (1891-1982), the second (1989) to Yaqut al-Mustasimi (?-698/1298), the third (1992) to Ibn al-Bawwab (?-413/1022) on the occasion of the millennium of his death, the fourth (1997) to Sheikh Hamdullah (833-926/1429-1520), the fifth (2000) to Sayyid Ibrahim (1897-1994), the sixth (2003) to Mir Imad al-Hasani (961-1024/1554-1615) on the 400th year Hijra of his death, the seventh (2006) to Hashim Muhammad al-Baghdadi (1335-1393/1917-1973) and the eighth to Muhammed Badawi al-Dirani (1312-1387/1894-1967).

Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, the current Secretary General of the OIC, a leading international diplomat and academic in history of science, is at the same time a connoisseur, collector, patron and promoter of Islamic calligraphy. His interest in calligraphy developed at an early age, evolved throughout his professional career and resulted in seminal contributions to this art on world scale. During his mission as Director General of IRCICA (1980-Dec. 2004) he instituted a variety of long-term programs to promote classical Islamic calligraphy, revive interest in it, encourage its practice and develop an understanding, a knowledge and an appreciation of it in conformity with the established rules and methods of writing. In acknowledgment of his patronage and promotion of the art of calligraphy particularly since 1980, he is credited with the revival of this art and stimulation of institutional, scholarly and artistic interest in it not only in the Muslim world but also at global level. Some of Prof. İhsanoğlu's activities in this area are:

- instituted IRCICA's calligraphy competition program in 1985
- organized multiple exhibitions of major contemporary calligraphers and had them staged in different parts of the world. He mentored young calligraphers from different

countries, organized training courses for them, revived the tradition of İjaza "Certification" awarding and staged the first official international İjaza awarding ceremony for the American calligrapher Mohamed Zakaria in 1988

- oversaw the preparation of a reference book on the art of calligraphy and had it published in English, Turkish, Arabic, Japanese and Malay. He also published masterpieces of calligraphy, as well as calligraphy exercise books (mashq) crafted by leading calligraphers
- supervised the production of two documentary films, on Hamid al-Amadi (Aytaç), a prominent calligrapher of the 20th century, and two among the leading artists in gilding and ornamentation, namely Prof. Tahsin Demironat and Ms. Rikkat Kunt.

### COMPETITION CALENDAR

Deadline for registration: 31 October 2012

Deadline for submitting the entries: 28 February 2013

Jury meeting: April 2013

Announcement of the Competition results: May 2013

The Competition covers the following styles:

- |                       |                |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| a. Jaly Thuluth       | f. Jaly Diwani |
| b. Thuluth            | g. Diwani      |
| c. Naskh              | h. Kufi        |
| d. Jaly Ta'liq        | i. Riq'a       |
| e. Ta'liq (Nasta'liq) | j. Maghribi    |

The Booklet containing the rules of the competition, specifications for each of the above styles and sample texts, method of application and entry submission, the application form and other necessary information is available in English, Arabic and Turkish. It can be requested from IRCICA or downloaded from: [www.ircica.org](http://www.ircica.org).



## Recent activities relating to the art of calligraphy

### Seventh Dubai International Exhibition on the Art of Arabic Calligraphy

One of the important periodical events in the OIC member countries devoted to the art of calligraphy is the "Dubai International Exhibition on the Art of Arabic Calligraphy". The event is organized by the Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing of the Government of Dubai. IRCICA has been cooperating for years now as co-organizer for some sections and activities of the exhibition which it also did in the seventh session held on 16-23 February 2012. The exhibition was opened by Mr. Mohammed Ahmed al-Murr, Deputy Chairman, Dubai Culture and Arts Authority, member



The ribbon-cutting ceremony

of IRCICA Governing Board representing the United Arab Emirates; Dr. Halit Eren, IRCICA Director General; Mr. Khalid bin Sulaim, Director General of the Dubai Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing, and Mr. Hisham al-Madhloom, Head of the section of arts at the Sharjah Department of Culture and Information, United Arab Emirates. Members of the UAE Government and guests from various countries attended the opening. Mr. Abdurrahman al-Oweis, Minister of Culture, Youth and Community Development, United Arab Emirates, visited the exhibition in the evening of the opening. 21 calligraphers from 12 countries participated in the exhibition. Lectures and seminars were organized on the occasion.

To the general calligraphy exhibition stands, Mr. Mohammed al-Murr had contributed an exhibition of samples from his personal collection of Hilye (texts describing the personal features of Prophet Muhammad) plates and other calligraphic works (26 in total) and of writing tools. Speaking to an audience of artists, art lovers and media representatives, Mr. al-Murr expressed



Mr. Mohammed Ahmed al-Murr, Deputy Chairman, Dubai Culture and Arts Authority, informed the guests at the opening on the characteristics of each and every calligraphic work in the section where samples from his personal collection were displayed

his appreciation of the state support accorded to this art in the United Arab Emirates; as reflected in the Dubai International Exhibition of the Art of Arabic Calligraphy. He said that in the present age of information technology this event was contributing in encouraging the youth to take interest in this art in its esthetical and artistic aspects; this was observable through the displayed works representing classical and modern applications of a high level of artistic performance. As to Dr. Halit Eren, he lauded the Dubai International Exhibition pointing out that this outstanding event reflected the state support extended to calligraphy and that it had promoted excellence in this art increasingly over the years. He said that this development was noticeable as one toured the stands of the exhibition and examined the works. He also observed that the participating artists were from countries where the performance of this art was relatively advanced.

## The Fifth Sharjah Calligraphy Biennial

(1 April-1 June 2012)

Under the patronage and in the presence of H.H. Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Sharjah, the Fifth Sharjah Calligraphy Biennial was inaugurated on 1 April 2012, to continue until 1 June 2012. Crown Prince and Vice-Ruler of Sharjah H.H. Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed bin Sultan Al Qasimi was also present at the opening. The ceremony took place at Calligraphy Square at the Heritage Area, at the hearth of Sharjah. It was attended by guests of honour from all continents - among them the Director General of IRCICA Dr. Halit Eren. On the day of the opening, His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Sharjah, accepted greetings from Dr. Halit Eren. The motto of this biennial is «Universe».

The next day, H.H. Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi received Dr. Halit Eren in his Palace. This was an occasion for a renewed expression of gratitude to His Highness by the Director General of IRCICA for the constant support His Highness have extended to IRCICA over the past years relating to different aspects of the Centre's activities. Dr. Eren briefed Sheikh Qasimi on recent progress of the Centre's work and its ongoing projects. H.H. Sheikh Qasimi praised the Centre's initiatives in various fields of its work and the steady progress it achieves; he wished continual success to Dr. Eren.

The Sharjah Calligraphy Biennial is a large-scale event organized by the Directorate of Arts, Culture and Information Department of the Government of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates. Its emphasis is on classical and artistic Islamic calligraphy.

A number of exhibitions on different themes are presented by calligraphers from all Arab countries, China, Iran, Japan, Turkey, and the USA. The section displaying classical calligraphy is dedicated to embellished copies of verses of the Quran. The section highlighting the theme of the biennial, the «Universe» is one of those with the largest variety of countries of the artists. Another section, titled «For Love of the Sultan», express the Sharjah calligraphers' gratitude to His Highness the Ruler of Sharjah for the constant support extended to them. 334 artists from 28 countries participate in the event with a total of 1525 works.

The recipients of the Award which was allocated by H.H. Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi for the 2012 Biennial are: Mr. Hüseyin Kutlu (Turkey), Mr. Mohammed Hammam (Egypt) and Mr. Mahdi el-Jibouri (Iraq). His Highness also honoured other calligraphers who submitted works in different genres: Mr. Mohammed Ali Zahid (Pakistan), Mr. Mahfoudh Dhanoun (Iraq) and Mr. Emir Felsefi (Iran) in classical calligraphy, Mr. Mohammed el- Boustani (Morocco) and Mr. Alaa Ismail (Iraq) in the modern genre and Mr. Salem al-Marhoun (Oman) and Ms. Fatima Loota (UAE) in contemporary applications. Ms. Farah Bahbahani (Kuwait) won an award for excellence in the work.

## Art exhibition at IRCICA: Gilder Serap Bostancı Tuluk

An exhibition of gildings by Ms. Serap Bostancı Tuluk, a professor of gilding from Turkey, was held at IRCICA from 7-14 April 2012. The exhibition was dedicated to the Week of the 1441st Anniversary of the Birth of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). The majority of the works displayed were *Hilyes* (texts describing the personal features of Prophet Muhammad) decorated with gildings. The gildings featured the theme of the rose as their main motif. This flower is appreciated for its



several therapeutic faculties and its beautiful perfume; on account of the latter it is referred to by Muslims as «The flower of Prophet Muhammad».

The artist, Ms. Serap Bostancı Tuluk received her training in gilding and calligraphy from leading masters of these arts in Istanbul. She taught at various course programs including Topkapı Palace's Traditional Decorative Arts Course, Yıldız Palace's Traditional Turkish Decorative Arts Course, Turkish-Islamic Arts Library, among others. Currently she teaches at the Turkish-Islamic Arts Specialized Center – İSMEK in Istanbul.



H.H. Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi visited the exhibition; here, with Sheikh Juma al-Majid, Founding President of Juma al-Majid Center for Culture and Heritage, Dubai

## RECENT EVENTS

### Fourth Annual Seminar of the "Al-Quds/Jerusalem 2015" Program of architectural studies and workshops held in Istanbul

The 2012 Annual Seminar of IRCICA's long-term program entitled "Al-Quds/Jerusalem 2015" was conducted at IRCICA, Istanbul on 27-28 January 2012.

After the welcoming speech Dr. Halit Eren, the opening session was addressed by Dr. Mahmoud Al Habbash, Minister of Awqaf and Religious Affairs, State of Palestine; Dr. Rafiq Shakir Al-Natsheh, Advisor to the President of Palestine; Prof. Mehmet İpşirli, Fatih University, Istanbul, member of IRCICA Governing Board representing Turkey; Mr. Hüseyin Bürge, Member of the Turkish Parliament. After the opening addresses, a keynote speech was delivered by Dr. Rafiq Shakir Al-Natsheh, titled "Contributions made to Jerusalem during the period of Sultan Abdulhamid II".

The first day's afternoon program comprised two panel sessions focusing on research on the history of Jerusalem and research in libraries and archives, that is, basically theoretical aspects. The second day of the seminar gave emphasis to the practical aspects of the subject based on field work relating to the architectural heritage of Jerusalem and its conservation. Precisely, the morning session of the second day involved panel presentations by: Dr. Rami Nasrallah (Chairman, International Peace and Cooperation Center, Jerusalem) on "The Shifting of East Jerusalem hijacking the Old City"; Prof. Attilio Petruccioli (professor of landscape architecture, Polytechnic of Bari, Italy) on "History and Restoration"; Prof. Daniele Pini (Department of Architecture, University of Ferrara, UNESCO WHC

Consultant) on "The UNESCO Action Plan for the Old City of Jerusalem: Inventory of monuments and historic sites, priorities of intervention pilot projects", and Prof. Ahmed Hadrovic (Dean, Faculty of Architecture, Sarajevo University) on "Sarajevo during the Ottoman Reign (compared with Jerusalem)". The session was followed by presentations of preservation projects and concluded with discussions.

The presentations titled "Al-Quds/Jerusalem Historical Overview" by architects Aida Idrizbegovic-Zgonic, Lana Kudumovic and Jasmina Dizdarevic and on "Heritage Under Destruction: Critical Analysis of Approaches to Built Heritage in the Old City of Al-Quds/Jerusalem" by Arch. Deniz İkiz served as comprehensive background papers for the seminar.



Ambassador Nabil T. Maarouf, Dr. Mahmoud Al Habbash, Dr. Rafiq Shakir Al-Natsheh, Dr. Halit Eren, Mr. Hüseyin Bürge

The audience and participants at the seminar learnt about the objectives and activities of "Al-Quds/Jerusalem 2015" Program through the address of Director General Dr. Eren and the detailed presentation by Prof. Amir Pasic, Head of the Architecture and Heritage Preservation Department, IRCICA, and his assistant, architect Ömer Faruk Erol. Director General Dr. Eren said that the program covers both theoretical and practical fieldwork research. In addition to annual seminars, several studio works and architectural project courses focusing on the conservation of built heritage in Al-Quds/Jerusalem are conducted every academic year in different universities in collaboration with IRCICA's Department of Architecture and Heritage Preservation. Outcomes of the program are presented in international conferences and at joint activities with other international organizations concerned, thus addressing to the public opinion along with the academic platform. He added that the wide range of activities operated within the program makes the latter a unique global initiative.

As to Prof. Pasic and Arch. Erol, they elaborated upon the program's implementation aspects and tangible outcomes as regards architectural education, training on cross-cultural heritage and public information. They pointed out that the program activities could be classified in two categories: architectural studies and restoration of selected historic monuments. Architectural studies involve among others the development of the data collected on site during the workshops. Restoration projects of the surveyed buildings are prepared after the workshop. Buildings located at the heart of the Old City that are remarkable monuments of Islamic heritage are given emphasis. Due to the on-going policies of the authorities in charge, these monuments not only suffer serious deterioration due to neglect, but also misuse. Since large numbers of Palestinians are forced to live in these buildings which lack appropriate infrastructure, the inhabitants have very low life standards. "Al-Quds/Jerusalem 2015" Program has the vision of not only documenting the city's Islamic heritage, but also of rehabilitating these monuments for the benefit of the

residents as well as for conservation as parts of world heritage property.

Since the initiation of this program in 2006, numerous seminars, workshops and fieldwork activities have been implemented, which led to the publication of a booklet titled *Al-Quds/Jerusalem 2015 Program* and subsequent reports. IRCICA organizes the annual seminars as an integral feature of this on-going program. A report of the fourth annual seminar is being prepared.



## **"The Family in the Muslim Countries and Communities" symposium**

In cooperation with the Turkish Ministry of Family and Social Policies and Sancaktepe Municipality, Istanbul, IRCICA has organized an international symposium on the theme of "The Family in the Muslim Countries and Communities". The symposium, held on 28 April 2012 in Cevahir Hotel in Istanbul and conducted in the English and the Turkish languages, drew a very wide audience. Ms. Emine Erdoğan, spouse of the Prime Minister of Turkey, delivered an address at the opening ceremony. Ms. Erdoğan said that "The Muslim community

is a big family". Referring to the cause of Palestine and other problems of common concern that preoccupy all Muslims, she said that all joys and sorrows are shared by this larger family.

Two guest speakers at the ceremony who had kindly accepted IRCICA's invitation, namely Ms. Bassima Hakkaoui, Minister of Solidarity, Woman, Family and Social Development of Morocco and Ms. Khadeega Abdulgassim Hag Hamad, Vice Minister of Social Security of Sudan, underlined the importance attached to the family as the fundamental unit

of society with examples from their respective countries. The ceremony also heard the addresses of Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, Mr. İsmail Erdem, Mayor of Sancaktepe, Mr. Hüseyin Tanrıverdi, Vice General President of AK Parti and Deputy from Manisa. In his speech, Dr. Halit Eren outlined the academic and the practical objectives of the symposium. He said that one of the many and varied by-products of IRCICA's studies on the works of Islamic history and culture including biographies, travelogues and archival documents is the observations on and references to the family as an agent of religious, cultural and social life and development. He cited examples of such observations reflecting the determining role of the family such as the powerful influence of family lifestyles on housing architecture in Muslim countries, among many others. He pointed to the need of furthering academic research on the subject. He thanked the scholars and specialists attending the symposium from OIC-IRCICA's member countries whose contributions were important for development of studies on the theme in the context of different countries and regions.



Ms. Emine Erdoğan, spouse of the Prime Minister of Turkey, addressed the opening ceremony

The paper presentations were arranged in two working sessions, chaired, respectively, by Prof. Mehmet Akif Aydın, Director of İSAM, Istanbul, and Assoc. Prof. Huriye Martı from the Presidency of Religious Affairs of Turkey. The participating scholars and their paper titles were:

- Dr. Ramiz M. Zekaj, Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilisation, Albania: "The Islamic Family in the Balkans and the Challenges of Integration"
- Prof. Enes Karic, University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina: "Aspects of the Traditional Muslim Family Life in Bosnia"
- Prof. Magda Salah Makhlof Mohamed, Ain Shams University, Egypt: "Problems Faced by the Egyptian Family Under the Influence of Globalisation"
- Dr. Hadia Abdel Rashid Khaznakatbi, University of Jordan, Jordan: "The Small Arab Family Unit in the Levant: The Small Jordanian Family as a Model"
- Dr. Zaur G. Dzalilov, R.B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies, Kazakhstan: "Family in Kazakhstan: Traditions and Modernity"
- Dr. Kishimjan Eshenkulova, Manas University, Kyrgyzstan: "Society and Family in the Transition Period in Post-Soviet Kyrgyzstan"
- Prof. Khurram Qadir, National Institute of Historical and Cultural Research, Pakistan: "Family in Pakistan and the Sub-Continent"
- Prof. Amadou Cissé N'Dieguène, Member of IRCICA Governing Board representing the Republic of Senegal: "Islam and the Family"
- Prof. Najat Muhammed Sayem Khalil, University of Sana'a, Yemen: "The Family in Yemen and in the Gulf: Present Situation and Challenges".



Ms. Bassima Hakkaoui, Minister of Solidarity, Woman, Family and Social Development of Morocco



Ms. Khadeega Abdulgassim Hag Hamad, Vice Minister of Social Security of Sudan



The sessions

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

Muscat Municipality of the Sultanate of Oman and MIRCICA jointly organized the Muscat International Festival for Arts and Crafts, from 3 February to 1st March 2012. The festival was accompanied by the Muscat International Award for Innovation and Creativity in Crafts (Worth US\$100,000) and the International Exhibition of Artisans-as at-Work. This was the second session of the Festival; the first one was organized by Muscat Municipality and IRCICA from 27 January to 24 February 2011.

The event brought together innovators and craftspeople from various countries in pavilions forming a craft village where they displayed their works, tools and techniques. The activities included exhibitions of artisans-at-work and an arts and crafts market (Bazaar). The various activities of the Festival program are outlined below.

### *A Folkloric Parade under the Slogan "Revival and Protection of Traditional Heritage"*

The festival was opened on 7 February 2012 with a folkloric parade in the main courtyard of the Festival at Al Qurm Park in the city of Muscat. Folkloric groups' performances accompanied by fireworks celebrated the occasion. The message aimed to raise awareness of the importance of artisans and revival and protection of the traditional heritage.

### *Live Presentations of Artisans-as at-Work*

118 artisans from 32 various countries displayed their tools, skills and techniques in the different handicrafts including sewing and embroidery, traditional costumes, carpets and rugs, ornamentation, engraving, bookbinding and gilding, marbled paper, "mushrabiya", stucco colored glass, pottery and ceramics, silver and metal crafts. Participants and visitors of the exhibition enjoyed the opportunity to get acquainted with this rich heritage, to meet artisans and inquire about their works, and to acquire handcrafted products. The following countries participated in the event:

Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei Darussalam, Cameroon, Dagestan, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Russia, Senegal, Spain, Sudan, Tatarstan, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Yemen.

### *Arts and Crafts Market (Bazaar)*

This bazaar was organized in the form of a craft village where craft products from different countries were offered for sale.

### *Folkloric Performances*

Performances of folklore groups from Al-Quds, Kazakhstan and Dagestan were an outstanding feature of the festival.



Inaugural ceremony: H.E. Engineer Sultan Al-Harithy, Chairman, Muscat Municipality, Dr. Halit Eren, Director General, MIRCICA and Dr. Nezhir Maruf, International Coordinator of the Muscat International Festival for Handicrafts, and Head, Crafts Development, IRCICA

### *Muscat International Award for Creativity in Handicrafts for the Year 2012*

An Award totaling US\$100,000 was distributed in the various categories of handicrafts. The Jury met on 18-22 February 2012 to select the winners, touring the stands several times. The objectives of the award program were set as follows:

- \* Promoting originality and research towards developing the handicrafts
- \* Encouraging handicrafts and increasing young

artisans' innovative predisposition through competitive programs and incentives for variation and creativity

- \* Developing a practical policy and a clear plan of action to boost innovative spirit in the crafts sector
- \* Improve artisans' work conditions and environment
- \* Raise regional and international awareness on the importance of artisans by exhibiting and rewarding outstanding products
- \* Publicizing the works of talented craftspeople of different regions in order to create cooperation and exchange opportunities among them as regards their works, experiences and techniques
- \* Improving the living conditions and social status of the artisans in due recognition of their merits.



Visit to the stand of Ms. Makfula Mohamed Ahmiada (Engraving, Mauritania) with the Chairman of Muscat Municipality Engineer Sultan Al Harithy

The Jury was composed of:

- 1- Dr. Halit Eren, Director General, IRCICA
- 2- Dr. Nezh Maruf, Head, Crafts Development Program, IRCICA
- 3- Dr. Mohamed Zeinhum, Member, Union of Applied Arts; Chair, Glass Section, Faculty of Applied Arts, Helwan University, Egypt
- 4- Prof. Fathiya Al-Barouni Ben Sidrin, PhD in Social Science of Works and Crafts; member of the follow-up committee responsible for applying governmental decisions and procedures on issues related to Tunisian Handicrafts since 2003, Tunisia

- 5- Mr. Naser Saif Al-Hatimi, Head, Design and Crafts Promotion, Public Authority for Handicrafts, Oman.

The Jury's main criteria for selection were: Excellence, Creative Concept, Design and Invention in Traditional Technique while it took into account all the characteristics and technical features of each product and conformity with the award terms and conditions. In the distribution of the award between three levels in each category, the prizes at some levels were shared by two artisans. The following artisans were declared as the Winners of the Muscat Festival Award for the Year 2012:

### 1 - Carpets, Sadou and Kilims



Metin Kaye, Turkey, 1<sup>st</sup> Award



Tulba Abdul Ghani Tulba, Egypt, 2<sup>nd</sup> Award



Smajlovic Amila, Bosnia & Herzegovina, 3<sup>rd</sup> Award

### 2 - Traditional Costumes and Embroidery

1<sup>st</sup> Award Not Provided



Nilufar Musadjanova, Uzbekistan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Award



Tehrnia Perveen, Pakistan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Award



Yusra Bent Sleiman Al Siyabla, Oman, 3<sup>rd</sup> Award



### 3 – Metal Works including Jewelry and Silver Artifacts



Abdul Jalil Al Sakrouni,  
Morocco, 1<sup>st</sup> Award, Metal  
Crafts



Murad Sakhatov, Turkmenistan,  
1<sup>st</sup> Award, Silver Crafts



Kamran Arasteh, Iran, 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Award, Metal Crafts

Näser Lotfi, Iran, 2<sup>nd</sup> Award, Metal Crafts | Luis Mendez Lopez, Spain, 3<sup>rd</sup> Award, Jewelry | Akmedov Alikhan, Dagestani, 3<sup>rd</sup> Award, Metal Crafts

### 4 - Pottery and Ceramics

1<sup>st</sup> Award: withheld



Zabari Tartiana, Russia,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Award



Ali Taabodi, Iran, 2<sup>nd</sup> Award

Naser Ben Hmeid Ben  
Naser Al-Yehiaei, Oman,  
3<sup>rd</sup> Award



### 5 – Wooden Crafts

1<sup>st</sup> Award: withheld



El Hadji Dioum, Senegal,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Award



Abdulla Abdurrazakov,  
Uzbekistan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Award

Ayat Ihsayin Rashid, Morocco,  
3<sup>rd</sup> Award



### 6 - Architectural crafts



Ensoy Abut, Turkey, 1<sup>st</sup> Award



Karima Omari, Tunis, 2<sup>nd</sup> Award

Abdul Latif Al-Arjani, Morocco,  
3<sup>rd</sup> Award



### 7 – Paper-making and Ebru (Marbled Paper)

1<sup>st</sup> Award: withheld

3<sup>rd</sup> Award: withheld



Laili Mounira, Algeria,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Award, Ornamentation  
by Silver Paper

### 8 – Stucco Colored Glass

1<sup>st</sup> Award: withheld

3<sup>rd</sup> Award: withheld



Enrique de Lucas Tortajada,  
Spain, 2<sup>nd</sup> Award

### 10 – Straw, Baskets and Bamboo Crafts

1<sup>st</sup> Award: withheld

2<sup>nd</sup> Award: withheld



Tassa Nofewe Hilaré,  
Cameroon, 3<sup>rd</sup> Award

## 9 - Decoration, Miniatures, Gilding and Binding

1<sup>st</sup> Award: withheld



Muhammad Naeem Shahzad,  
Pakistan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Award, Lacquer  
Work



Mehran Amir Inanlou, Iran,  
3<sup>rd</sup> Award, Decoration - Painting



Naciye Subasi, Turkey,  
3<sup>rd</sup> Award, Gilding

## 11- Miniature



Azam Amiri Siavashani, Iran,  
1<sup>st</sup> Award



Kamol Mirzaev, Uzbekistan,  
1<sup>st</sup> Award



Shalikhon Shayakubov,  
Uzbekistan, 1<sup>st</sup> Award

Mirodil Yakubov, Uzbekistan, 1<sup>st</sup> Award

## 12- Sadaf and Inlay Works

3<sup>rd</sup> Award: withheld



Faraj Mohamed Al-Sayid Deeb,  
Egypt, 1<sup>st</sup> Award



Ilyas Anwar Ghaitas Al-Yaseem,  
Palestine, 2<sup>nd</sup> Award

## 13- Engraving on Wood and Metal

1<sup>st</sup> Award: withheld



Mohamed Sayid Hamid,  
Egypt, 2<sup>nd</sup> Award, Engraving  
on Wood



Berik Allibay, Uzbekistan,  
3<sup>rd</sup> Award, Engraving on Metal

## 14- Mosaic

2<sup>nd</sup> Award: withheld



Mohamed Rashid Al-Jabari,  
Palestine, 1<sup>st</sup> Award



Ibrahim Al-Zain, Tunisia,  
3<sup>rd</sup> Award



## International Conference for the Defense of Jerusalem and IRCICA's participation

Under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, the International Conference for the Defense of Jerusalem was hosted by the State of Qatar on 26-27 February 2012. The conference was called for by the League of Arab States. Its co-organizers were the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Qatar and the Arab League General Secretariat. The conference revolved around four major themes: Jerusalem and international law; Jerusalem and history; Jerusalem, colonization and Israeli violations; Jerusalem and the civil society. The conference was held under the slogan "Support the steadfastness of Jerusalem".

H.H. the Emir of Qatar opened the conference with a comprehensive address pointing to the dangers caused by the Judaization of al-Quds and the need to move quickly to stop it. His Highness presented a proposal to be submitted to the UN Security Council to adopt a resolution for the formation of an international investigation committee to investigate all the actions taken by Israel since the 1967 occupation of al-Quds. The resolution will be consistent with the previous decisions of the Security Council, calling on Israel to retreat from all the actions taken by the Judaization of al-Quds. His Highness called on the Palestinian leadership to exert every possible effort to preserve the Arab identity of al-Quds, to enforce the national reconciliation and prepare a comprehensive and expanded strategy to the various sectors and projects needed by the city, underlining Qatar's willingness to participate in its full potential in order to accomplish and implement this strategy. What Israel is doing in al-Quds is definitely a clear violation of international law and the numerous resolutions of the Security Council and the UN General Assembly concerning the rights of the Palestinian people. H.H. the Emir stressed the importance of Arab unity to face the Israeli violations and preserve al-Quds identity. He called on the civil society organizations, as a key partner with governments, to shoulder their responsibilities towards protecting al-Quds and preserving its Arab and Islamic identity. (Source: <http://www.qatarconferences.org/jerusalem>)

Speeches were delivered at the opening by H.E. Mahmoud Abbas, President of the Palestinian Authority; on behalf of H.M. King Mohammed VI, King of Morocco, Chair of the OIC's Jerusalem Committee, H.E. Mr. Abdelilah Benkirane, Prime Minister of Morocco; H.E. Nabil Abdullah al-Arabi, Secretary General of the League of Arab States; H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation; and, on behalf of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, Mr. Robert Serry, United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process.

The conference praised the proposal of His Highness the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani calling for approaching the UN Security Council to adopt a resolution on forming an international commission to investigate all the actions taken by Israel since the 1967 occupation. The conference also welcomed H.H. the Emir's call to prepare a comprehensive strategy for the various sectors and projects needed by the city of al-Quds. These decisions were included in the Doha Declaration adopted by the conference (For the full text of the Declaration, see <http://www.qatarconferences.org/jerusalem>)

IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren was invited to address the conference's section on the theme of Jerusalem and History. His presentation, titled "Protecting Jerusalem's Islamic Identity", underlined that "The cause of al-Quds is rooted in its history. This history provides evidence in support of this cause and can constitute a frame of reference for protection of its Islamic heritage representing its Islamic identity." Dr. Eren said that in recognition of this fact IRCICA has since its establishment in 1980 launched programs and projects of various kinds stemming from its mandate in the OIC context. The problem of al-Quds and Palestine is the founding motive of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. The subject of Jerusalem's Islamic identity is one of deep concern for Muslims. In dealing with this subject, IRCICA, in its capacity as the OIC's scholarly centre in charge of research on history and cultural heritage and preservation and documentation, works by organizing inter-university collaborative programs leading to architectural workshops, studies and publications. It produces reports and references aiming to raise awareness in world opinion about the Islamic identity of al-Quds and the need to protect its cultural and architectural heritage. Dr. Eren gave the audience detailed information on these programs and made a power point presentation on their objectives, modalities and findings.



The opening session of the Conference

## **IRCICA's participation in the 19<sup>th</sup> EUROCLIO Annual Conference**

The 19th Annual Conference and Professional Training Development Course of EUROCLIO - the European History Educators Association, was held in Antalya, Turkey, during the week of 1-7 April 2012. The conference was supported by the European Union through the Comenius and Gruntvig Lifelong Learning Programmes, Turkish National Commission for UNESCO, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of The Netherlands (MATRA Programme). The main theme of the conference was "Looking at history through a variety of lenses". History educators from Europe, the Middle East, Russia and Central Asia participated in the numerous sessions and parallel workshops. They presented examples of alternative narratives and critical readings of sources relating to historical events that involve shared memories of countries and peoples. They dealt with matters of traditional and modern historiography and multicultural challenges in history teaching. Dr. Semih Aktekin, EUROCLIO Board member and EUROCLIO Project Coordinator in Turkey, distributed newly published books and reports to the participants, relating to

different practical aspects of the conference theme as in its actual treatment in the classroom.

IRCICA was invited to the conference by EUROCLIO. IRCICA's comprehensive presentation was placed at the session titled "How do inter-governmental organizations play a role?" together with those by the UNESCO National Commission in Turkey, North-South Centre of the Council of Europe (Lisbon) and Open Society (New York). Following an introduction by EUROCLIO Executive Director Ms. Joke van der Leeuw-Roord, presentations were made by each organization on their activities and experiences. IRCICA Director General was represented by Ms. Zeynep Durukal, who reviewed the objectives defined and programs carried out by IRCICA in these realms and pointed to challenges faced, needs assessed and prospects foreseeable with regard to the international organizations' activities and the collaborative projects they undertake with the aim of promoting cross-border education, multi-perspectivity and recognition of multicultural diversities in history education.

## **FORTHCOMING CONGRESSES**

### **History**

### **Fifth congress on "Islamic Civilisation in the Volga-Ural Region" to be held in Kazan, Tatarstan, in June 2012**

IRCICA and the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tatarstan (Russian Federation) are jointly organizing the fifth international congress on the theme "Islamic Civilization in the Volga-Ural Region" to be held in Kazan, Tatarstan, on 9-11 June 2012.

The symposium will be held under the high patronage of H.E. R. N. Minnikhanov, President of the Republic of Tatarstan. It will be the third international event to be co-organized by the Government and the academic institutions of Tatarstan and IRCICA. The congress aims to keep alive and further expand the forum of scholarly exchange among specialists and researchers of the field that was established through the previous congresses (Kazan, Tatarstan, 2001, 2005 and Ufa, Bashkortostan, 2008, 2010).

It is significant that some of the sessions will be held in the heritage site of Bulgar, which is important with respect to the history of Islamic civilization in the region. Bulgar was the capital of the state that ruled between the 9th and 12th

centuries and adopted Islam as the state religion in the year 922.

The congress will cover the history of Islamic civilization in the Volga-Ural Region under its diverse aspects: developments in sciences, philosophy, technology, arts, language, literature and other fields of intellectual activity; interactions with other cultures within and around the region; the legacy of Islamic civilization in terms of both material culture (architectural heritage, written heritage and other tangible assets) and intangible and spiritual culture (oral, ritual and other intangible aspects of culture), and the stages and trends observable in the process of cultural development. The congress is expected to throw light on the role and place of Islamic civilization in the region and its past and prospective contributions to cultural dialogue among its peoples. At the same time, it will be an occasion to appraise the state of research on the theme. The languages of the symposium are the Tatar language, Russian, English and Turkish.

## Second international symposium on “Islamic Civilization in Central Asia” in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, in October 2012

The second symposium in a series on “Islamic Civilization in Central Asia” will be organized by IRCICA jointly with Kyrgyzstan-Turkey Manas University, on 11-14 October 2012, in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. The first symposium on the same theme was held in Astana, Kazakhstan, in 2007.

The symposium will focus on “Islamic Civilization in Central Asia” with an interdisciplinary and comparative approach. It will examine the history of Islamic civilization in Central Asia under its diverse aspects, including developments in the intellectual, scientific, literary, artistic and other cultural fields, intercultural exchanges, the main stages and trends of the development of Islamic civilization and its impacts and contributions in the region, the formation and present state of the Islamic cultural heritage, ways and means to promote it and making it better known. The symposium will be an opportunity for the presentation of new studies, assessment of the state of scholarly research and publication and of problems and prospects of studies on Islamic civilization in Central Asia and the neighbouring regions as a field of academic research.

The working languages of the symposium will be Kyrgyz, Turkish, English, and Russian.

The symposium shall cover the following subjects:

- Islamic culture in Central Asia: a living heritage
- History and philosophical aspects of Islamic culture in Central Asia
- Interactions of Islamic culture with local cultures in Central Asia
- Development of natural and applied sciences in the context of Islamic civilization in Central Asia
- Islamic arts in Central Asia
- Diversity of cultures in Central Asia: specific and common features, integrating tendencies



## International symposium: “The Balkan Wars (1912-1913) at Their Centenary”, Istanbul, 19-21 October 2012

On the centenary of the Balkan Wars (1912-1913) which left traces and consequences still observable in and around the region, an international symposium will jointly be organized by IRCICA and İstanbul Sabahattin Zaim University with the contributions of Zeytinburnu Municipality (Istanbul), in Istanbul on 19-21 October 2012.

The symposium will deal with the following topics among others:

- Berlin Congress and change of the status quo in the Balkans
- The Balkan policy of Abdulhamid II
- The Balkan policy of the Committee of Union and Progress
- The causes, outcomes and present consequences of the Balkan Wars
- The Balkan Wars in the context of international political developments
- The Balkan Wars as reflected in Ottoman domestic policy, official documents and the press
- The Balkan Wars in national histories and peoples' collective memories

- The demographic and cultural impact of the Balkan Wars Migrations
- Balkan migrants in modern Turkey
- The culture of coexistence in the Balkans
- Material properties lost during the Balkan Wars
- Folk songs related to the Balkan Wars
- The Balkan Wars and the migrations in literature

By dealing with the above topics, the congress will contribute to a rethinking of the memory of the Balkan wars and their consequences. By doing so it will at the same time have looked into the sources, studies and information on the subject, evaluated the ways in which specific topics within the theme are narrated and recorded. Another topic of interest for the congress will be the question of bridging any existing gaps between present and evolving academic knowledge and national histories as well as between this knowledge and public opinion.

## **Tehran International Congress on: Features, Characteristics and Cultural and Economic Contribution of Arts and Handicrafts, accompanied by an Exhibition of Publications in the Field of Arts and Handicrafts**

Tehran, Iran, 16-20 September 2012

IRCICA and the Organisation for Culture and Islamic Relations, Islamic Republic of Iran, are jointly organizing the "Tehran International Congress on the Features, Characteristics and Cultural and Economic Contribution of Arts and Handicrafts accompanied by an Exhibition of Albums, Catalogues and Books Published in the Field of Arts and Handicrafts". The event will take place in Tehran on 16-20 September 2012.

The congress aims among others, to explore the means that can be provided for an optimal use of this sector of activity in the cultural and tourism areas and that can generate benefits for the tourism sector when it is linked with arts, heritage and handicrafts, the latter to be studied in its actual state and its development perspectives. The congress will also underline the need to preserve the authenticity of these traditional skills and to promote them by available means. Participants in the congress will include professionals, experts and representatives of institutions dealing with the development of handicrafts from within and outside the Muslim world.

The congress program will include an exhibition of albums, catalogues, books, documentary films, posters, photographs and brochures produced in the fields of arts and handicrafts. In this regard, each participating country will be invited to display its publications.

The congress will discuss the following aspects of the arts and handicrafts:

The social, economic and tourism aspects; the marketing of the arts and handicrafts products; the heritage aspect and efforts to preserve the authenticity and traditions; cultural dialogue and mutual influences; education; training; the role of the government and efforts of the private sector; the media and the duty of creating awareness about the importance of the sector and its constructive contribution to society.

While dealing with the above aspects of the theme; the presentations will provide in depth coverage of the following branches of arts and handicrafts: ceramic and pottery; textiles, embroidery and traditional costumes; carpets, kilims and sadou; architectural crafts; furniture and interior décor; paper-making, gilding, binding and ebru; ornamentation and miniature; wooden crafts; metal crafts.

The working languages of the congress are English and Arabic. Those wishing to participate in the event with a paper are invited to write to the International Coordinator of the congress: Dr. Nezh Maruf, Head, Crafts Development Program, IRCICA, Istanbul. Email: nazeihmaarouf@gmail.com

This event comes under IRCICA's long term program entitled the "Craft Development Program" which gives emphasis to traditional handicrafts in the OIC Member States and tries to

contribute to the revival, preservation and development of the handicrafts. Within the framework of this program, IRCICA previously organized the following large-scale and composite events, jointly with the governments and the institutions of the host countries:

- \*The 2012 Muscat International Festival for Arts and Crafts, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, 3 February - 1 March 2012. The festival attracted 1,5 million visitors. It comprised the 2012 session of the Muscat International Award for Innovation and Creativity in Crafts (Worth US\$100.000) and the 2012 International Exhibition of Artisans-as at-Work.
- \*The 2011 Muscat International Festival for Arts, Heritage and Creativity, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, 27 January - 24 February 2011 which attracted 1 million visitors. The festival included the International Seminar on Innovation and Creativity in Arts and Crafts (19-20 February 2011), the 2011 Muscat International Award for Innovation and Creativity in Crafts (Worth US\$100.000) and the 2011 International Exhibition of Artisans-as at-Work.
- \* The Doha International Handicrafts Festival, Doha, 5-9 December 2010 comprising the International Seminar on Innovation and Creativity in Crafts (7-9 December 2010), the Doha International Award for Innovation and Creativity in Crafts and the International Exhibition of Artisans-as at-Work.
- \* The International Congress on Employment of Handicrafts within Architectural Projects, Tunis, 27-31 October 2008.
- \* The International Congress on Tourism and Traditional Handicrafts, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 7-14 November 2006.
- \* The International Congress on Islamic Arts and Crafts, Isfahan, October 2002.
- \* The First International Seminar on Traditional Carpets and Kilims in the Muslim World: Past, Present & Future Prospects for Developing this Heritage with the Continuous Changes in the Market, Design, Quality and Applied Techniques, Tunis, November 1999.
- \* International Seminar on Arabesque in Traditional Crafts of OIC Countries, Damascus, 1997.
- \* The First International Seminar on Crafts in Traditional Architecture, Cairo, 1995.
- \* The First International Artisans-At-Work Festival, Islamabad, Pakistan, 1994, comprising the Craft Awards and the International Seminar on Creativity in Traditional Crafts.
- \* International Seminar on Prospects for the Development of Traditional Crafts in OIC Countries, Rabat, 1991.

## A FAREWELL TO MR. MOHAMMED AL-TAMIMI, a senior member of IRCICA, on his retirement

Mr. Mohammed Daoud Qadi Al-Tamimi has retired from IRCICA as of the end of 2011 after having completed a brilliant career as a senior official, and during the last seven years, as Head of the Islamic Arts Department.

All members of IRCICA were emotional at the ceremony held on 30 December 2011 at Çit Qasr, Yıldız Palace, to honour Mr. Al-Tamimi. Many of them took the floor to tell their memories of times, tasks and talks shared with this dear colleague of theirs. The members of IRCICA were almost speaking with one voice when they said this was not a goodbye and that the close friendship that had gotten stronger over the years will continue all life.

Mr. Al-Tamimi was born in 1948 in Al-Khalil, Jordan. He received his B.A. and his M.A. from the Department of Economics of Istanbul University. Before joining IRCICA in 1983, he worked at the Consulate General of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Istanbul (1978-83). In the early years of his functions at IRCICA he worked together with Prof. Mehmet İpşirli to compile IRCICA's publication entitled Muslim Pious Foundations and Real Estates in Palestine. He participated in some research projects carried out by IRCICA on the history and cultural heritage of al-Quds and Palestine. From those early years until his retirement he represented IRCICA at ministerial, administrative and expert-level meetings of the OIC accompanying or representing the Director General. He was a member of the Editorial Board of IRCICA for the Arabic versions of the Centre's various reports and publications, including its Newsletter. Mr. Al-Tamimi was always one of the close assistants of both of the successive Director Generals of the Centre, namely Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu (1980 - Dec. 2004) and Dr. Halit Eren (since 2005).

At the establishment of the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage (ICPICH) in 1983 under the chairmanship of the late Prince Faisal bin Fahd bin Abdulaziz Al Saud with IRCICA as its Secretariat and Executive Organ and the Director General of IRCICA as the Secretary of ICPICH, Mr. Al-Tamimi was assigned to collaborate in the coordination of ICPICH's projects relating to Islamic arts, particularly the art of calligraphy. It is in the context of IRCICA's mission as Secretariat and Executive Organ of ICPICH that the



Dr. Halit Eren presented a plaque of appreciation and a souvenir gift to Mr. Tamimi

International Calligraphy Competition, which now reached its ninth session, was initiated in 1985. Upon the demise of its Chairman in 1999, ICPICH was merged with IRCICA in 2000 and its activities were included in the latter's activity programs. Mr. Al-Tamimi continued to serve as the Secretary of the Calligraphy Competition. He participated in various projects of the Centre in the field of Islamic arts, calligraphy in particular, including the training programs leading to Ijaza (license) in calligraphy, the exhibitions held in different countries, the meetings with artists and promotion of cooperation among them. He compiled and prepared the catalogues of the winners' plates in the international calligraphy competitions and the editions of leading calligraphers' exercise books for use in training which were published by IRCICA.

Mr. Al-Tamimi was present as an active participant in IRCICA's work throughout its establishment and development phases and as the Centre acquired maturity. His contributions will always be remembered with appreciation.



Souvenir photo with the colleagues

## MEETINGS, COOPERATION

### H.E. Mr. Cemil Çiçek, Speaker of the Turkish Parliament, visited IRCICA

IRCICA was honoured to receive the Speaker of the Turkish Parliament Mr. Cemil Çiçek on 11 April 2012. Mr. Cemil Çiçek was in Istanbul participating in the 15th Eurasian Economic Summit convened by the Marmara Group Strategic and Social Research Foundation. Mr. Çiçek received information from Dr. Eren on IRCICA's work programs, the cultural events it organizes in cooperation with the OIC Member States' governments and universities, and its collaboration with international and regional organizations.

Following the talks, Dr. Eren guided the distinguished guest to the Centre's library, where he gave highlights of the expansion and development program which was implemented in the library since the allocation of Silahhane (Armoury) Building to IRCICA by the Turkish Government in 2007 and its official opening by Prime Minister Erdoğan in May 2009. Mr. Cemil Çiçek visited and received information on the other sections of the Centre's premises as well.



Dr. Eren informed Mr. Cemil Çiçek on the publications

### Deputy Prime Minister of Turkey H.E. Mr. Bekir Bozdağ visited IRCICA

Mr. Bekir Bozdağ, Deputy Prime Minister of Turkey, visited IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren on Friday 13 April 2012. During the visit Dr. Eren briefed Mr. Bozdağ on the activities and guided him to the different departments of the Centre. In the library, he briefed Mr. Bozdağ about the collections of books, the classification and management methods including the RFID system and other facilities installed in recent years within the framework of the library expansion and development scheme. At Çit Qasr Mr. Bozdağ visited an exhibition of gilding, and at Yaveran Building he was briefed by the research staff on specific programs and projects. Talks were held on subjects of common concern in the context of collaboration between IRCICA and the Turkish Prime Ministry's institutions which work under affiliation to Deputy Prime Minister Bozdağ namely the Turkish Prime Ministry's Turkish Agency for Development and Cooperation (TİKA) and the Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities which on many occasions have extended cooperation to the Centre for joint activities, particularly conferences and symposiums.



Mr. Bekir Bozdağ was presented with the motto of IRCICA, a calligraphic work bearing the Quranic verse 13 in Surah al-Hujurat

## Visit of H.E. Prof. Ahmet Davutoğlu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey, to IRCICA

Prof. Ahmet Davutoğlu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey, visited IRCICA on 7 January 2012. IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren briefed the Minister on latest developments in the Centre's activities. He guided the Minister to the main library at Silahhane (Armoury) building, which was allocated to the Centre by the Turkish Government in 2007 as the fourth building put to the use of Centre within the historical Yıldız Palace complex. In the library, Dr. Eren presented to the Minister the outcomes of the research projects and activities as they are reflected in the publications of the Centre, the collections and the digital section of the library, the archives of photographs and art works, among others. Emphasis was put on the Centre's publications, as they result directly from the various projects it carries out on diverse subjects relating to the history of Islamic culture and civilization. Thus Dr. Eren also informed Minister Davutoğlu on the activities conducted in the field of Quranic studies including the publication of facsimile editions of the oldest known Mushafs (copies of the Quran), and the studies conducted on the basis of the historical photograph archives, leading to such publications as the album of historical photographs of Al-Quds during the Ottoman period, among others.

At the end of his visit, Prof. Davutoğlu recorded his impressions in the Visitors Book: "I felt great honour and pleasure to visit IRCICA and the new premises of its library from which I had



The Minister expressed his appreciation of the Centre's publications

benefited considerably during the period of my academic activities. Having made important contributions in carrying the deep-rooted heritage and the unique classical works of the Islamic civilization, which encompassed and re-interpreted all the earlier civilizations, to the present world of learning, IRCICA has also won a well-deserved esteem in international academic milieu. I express my appreciation to all scholars who served in the activities of this institution of ours which also contributes greatly to our country's cultural heritage, to all its officials, at their head Dr. Halit Eren, and wish them success in their work."

## Visit of Dr. İsmet Yılmaz, National Defense Minister of Turkey

On 22 March 2012 the Centre was honoured to receive Dr. İsmet Yılmaz, National Defense Minister of Turkey. It was the renewal of a long acquaintance with the Centre's activities since the time of Dr. Yılmaz's functions as Undersecretary of the Ministry of Culture. During the meeting at the Directorate General at Seyir Köşk, Dr. Halit Eren briefed the Minister on the activities being carried out by the Centre, its different projects and programs. Then he guided the Minister to the other buildings and some of the departments, where he informed him of the collections, the archive and documentation unit, and showed samples of the Centre's own publications. Minister Yılmaz expressed his appreciation of the steady progress achieved by the Centre over the years and wished Dr. Eren continual success.



Meeting at Dr. Eren's office

## Dr. Halit Eren paid a visit to H.E. Mr. Egemen Bağış, the Turkish Minister for EU Affairs

Dr. Halit Eren paid a visit to H.E. Mr. Egemen Bağış, the Turkish Minister for EU Affairs, at the Minister's Istanbul office, on 13 February 2012. During the meeting, Dr. Eren briefed the Minister about the Centre's main activity programs and recent developments in its cooperation with international and regional organizations around the world. At the end of the meeting, Minister Bağış and Dr. Eren made a press declaration. The Minister expressed his appreciation of the Centre's activities and said "Our dear scholar Dr. Eren gives Turkey pride. He does very successful works for Turkey. As you know IRCICA is a subsidiary center of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. IRCICA fulfills a very important role in carrying Turkey's message of peace to all parts of the world. Turkey's calls for peace come to the fore at present through IRCICA not only in the Muslim geography but in all corners of the world. We have had a comprehensive meeting with Dr. Halit Eren. We agreed to organize, during the present process of Turkey's negotiations with the European Union, a congress on the contributions of Islamic civilization to European civilization and to give it continuity afterwards. We will be honoured to organize it."



Dr. Eren presented the Minister with samples of the Centre's publications

## Meetings with Ministers from the Jordanian Government and with the President of Al Albait University

An international symposium on "The Image of the Muslim World in Evliya Çelebi's Seyahatname" was organized in Amman, on 18-20 December 2011, under the high patronage of H.H. Prince Ghazi bin Muhammad, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, jointly by IRCICA, the Centre for Islamic World Research and the History Department, Al Albait University. H.E. Dr. Haifa Abu Ghazaleh, Minister of Tourism and Antiquities of Jordan, addressed the opening on behalf of H.H. Prince Ghazi bin Muhammad. Prof. Nabil Shawaqfeh, President of Al Albait University, also delivered an address. Before the ceremony, Minister Abu Ghazaleh, Prof. Shawaqfeh and IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren met at Prof. Shawaqfeh's office, exchanging talks on cultural and academic subjects.



Prof. Nabil Shawaqfeh, President of Al Albait University, Dr. Haifa Abu Ghazaleh, Minister of Tourism and Antiquities of Jordan, and Dr. Halit Eren



H.E. Mr. Abdus Salam Abbadi, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs of Jordan, received Dr. Eren during the symposium period

While in Amman, Director General Dr. Halit Eren paid a visit to H.E. Mr. Abdus Salam Abbadi, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs of Jordan. The Minister received information on recent progress in the Centre's activities, especially those concerning studies on copies and translations of the Holy Quran, documentation and publishing work relating to the Holy places of Islam, and the preservation and study of the cultural and architectural heritage of the Muslim world. Dr. Eren spoke in detail of the activities concerning the Islamic heritage of al-Quds, and also, the data base of Islamic sites and monuments. The Minister expressed his appreciation of the activities, which he said he was following with interest. He wished IRCICA and Dr. Eren continuous success.

## The Minister of Solidarity, Woman, Family and Social Development of the Kingdom of Morocco H.E. Ms. Bassima Hakkaoui visited IRCICA

H.E. Ms. Bassima Hakkaoui, Minister of Solidarity, Woman, Family and Social Development of the Kingdom of Morocco, visited IRCICA on 28 April 2012. The Director General of IRCICA Dr. Halit Eren welcomed the Minister in his office where he briefed her on the Centre's objectives and activities. The talks were centered especially on the areas of cooperation between the academic and cultural institutions of Morocco and IRCICA. Over the past decades, this cooperation has resulted in some landmark scholarly events: a recent example is the International Congress on «The Maghreb and Western Mediterranean during the Ottoman Period» which was organized in Rabat in 2009 jointly by IRCICA and the Royal Institute for the History of Morocco, while an earlier example was the International Seminar on «Crafts: Prospects of Development» organized jointly by IRCICA and Ribat al-Fath Association, Rabat, in 1991.

It can be recalled that Morocco was one of the first countries to be represented in the Governing Board of IRCICA at its establishment which continued for four terms, from 1981 to 1998. Furthermore, one of the landmark documents preserved in the archive on the history of IRCICA is the Royal Message which was sent by H.M. King Hassan II, King of Morocco and Chairman of the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference, to the ceremony of the Fifteenth Anniversary of IRCICA held in 1995.

Dr. Eren guided the Minister to the Silahhane and Çit buildings where he gave her information on the library's activities and collections, the studies and publications concerning the copies and the translations of the Holy Quran, the activities relating to the preservation of the Islamic heritage of Al-Quds, and the



Meeting in the Director General's office

many other projects.

At the end of her visit, the Minister recorded her impressions in the Visitors Book, as follows: «At my visit to this place I was able to feel the depth of the civilization, the spiritual climate and the weight of history. I applaud your work and your efforts and I thank you for having given me this opportunity which allowed me to once again see how advanced and how civilized a community we, the Muslim Ummah, are. And if this does not find recognition today, it will find it tomorrow, Insha'Allah».

In the morning of the same day Minister Ms. Bassima Hakkaoui had addressed the opening ceremony of the International Symposium on «The Family in the Muslim Countries and Communities» which was organized by IRCICA jointly with the Turkish Ministry of Family and Social Policies and Sancaktepe (Istanbul) Municipality.

## ECO Secretary General and ambassadorial delegation at IRCICA

On 5 January 2012, IRCICA was honoured to receive a high-level group representing the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) based in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran. The group was composed of ECO Secretary General H.E. Mr. Mohammed Yahya P. Maroofi, the ECO Member States' Ambassadors in Tehran, and the ECO Eminent Persons. Director General Dr. Halit Eren guided the guests to the different departments of the Centre, informed them on the research programs and the collections and activities of the library. Secretary General Mr. Maroofi signed the Visitors Book: "This has been a great privilege to visit IRCICA, the cradle of Islamic civilization. I have the pleasure to congratulate H.E. the Director General of IRCICA Dr. Eren for the most commendable historic achievement in the service of the Islamic civilization. This great centre has been visited in the presence of the ECO permanent representatives on January 5, 2012."

The ECO membership is composed of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan Republic, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Turkey, Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan.



ECO Secretary General Mr. Maroofi and Dr. Eren at Çit Qasr; presentation of some IRCICA publications.

## Visit of the President, Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts – MANU and cooperation protocol with IRCICA

IRCICA and the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts – MANU have signed a cooperation protocol drawing the framework of joint activities envisaged, mainly the organization of conferences and translation of some of IRCICA's publications into the Macedonian language. The protocol was signed during the visit of Prof. Vlado Kambovski, President of MANU, to IRCICA on 9 March 2012.

Prof. Vlado Kambovski, accompanied by Prof. Numan Aruç, member of MANU were received by IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren. They discussed the modalities of the projects to be undertaken at a first stage including the translation and publication in Macedonian of the two-volume book titled History of the Ottoman State, Society and Civilization which was published by IRCICA originally in Turkish, English and Arabic during the 1990-2000s. Editions of this book in the Bosnian, Russian and Albanian languages had appeared in 2005, 2006 and 2009 respectively.

Following a tour in IRCICA's library at Silahhane (Armoury) Building where Prof. Kambovski saw samples of the Centre's publications, the cooperation protocol was signed in the conference hall at Çit Qasr in the presence of IRCICA's staff members. Prof. Kambovski recorded his impressions in the Visitors Book:



A cooperation protocol was signed between IRCICA and MANU

"It is with the most sincere feelings of close affinity and interest that we are visiting the Centre. ... The present century is time for science and learning, time to care for cultural relations and for the diversities, especially for multiculturalism and tolerance. This century is a period when human values and scientific values must be upheld. The protocol we signed with IRCICA is a good example of response to this need, and we shall care for its implementation in continuity. I consider it an important and priority task..."

## Visit of Dr. Halit Eren to the OIC Islamic Centre for the Development of Trade (ICDT), Casablanca

At the invitation of Dr. El Hassane Hzaïne, Director General of the Islamic Centre for the Development of Trade (ICDT), Casablanca, Morocco, the Director General of IRCICA Dr. Halit Eren visited his counterpart on 16 April 2012. Dr. Eren, accompanied by Mr. Fayçal Benaïssa from the editorial team of IRCICA, was transiting from Casablanca on his way to Libreville, Gabon, to attend the 9th session of the Islamic Conference of Information Ministers to be opened on 17 April. The meeting in the office of Dr. Hzaïne referred to converging aspects of the activities of these two OIC subsidiaries in the context of their respective mandates. One of the intersecting areas in which the two centres plan to cooperate in the near future is traditional handicrafts, with respect to presentation and marketing of handcrafted products from the OIC countries. After the talks, the Director General of ICDT guided Dr. Eren

to the departments, explaining the tasks of each. Followed a larger meeting with the staff of ICDT where Dr. Hzaïne welcomed Dr. Eren and introduced him to his colleagues, each of whom outlined their respective functions at the Centre; a documentary film on the activities was shown. Dr. Halit Eren in turn expressed his pleasure to be visiting the ICDT and his appreciation of the successful activities it carries out which contribute to the development of cooperation in the field of trade in the OIC context and promotion of trade among the OIC member countries.



Dr. El Hassane Hzaïne, Director General of ICDT, presented the plaque of his Centre to Dr. Eren

## BOOK SURVEY

- **A History of the Arabian Peninsula**, edited by Fahd al-Semmari, translated by Salma K. Jayyusi, London: I. B. Tauris in association with King Abdul Aziz Foundation, 2010, VII, 312 pp.

This book is one of the outcomes of a valuable project undertaken by King Abdul Aziz Foundation (Riyadh) to render available in the English language selected sources on the history of Arabia that were originally written in Arabic. It represents an important effort and fills a gap in studies on the history of Arabia: research interest and publications on the subject have been increasing for the last two decades, but most of the resulting literature is in Arabic. There was a need to make these sources available to larger readerships across the world, particularly to non-Arabic speaking researchers interested in the history of Arabia. The editor, Dr. Fahd al-Semmari (PhD in Modern History, University of California), is the Editor-in-Chief of the literary periodical *Al-Darah Quarterly* and Secretary General of the King Abdul Aziz Foundation. The articles were translated into English by Prof. Salma K. Jayyusi (PhD from SOAS, University of London). She is the author of several books of her own and has introduced numerous Arab writers to the English-speaking world for the first time. The wide-ranging articles in this volume were originally published in *Al Darah Quarterly*. In his preface Dr. Semmari outlines the fields covered by the articles as: economy, literature, religion, travel accounts, politics, society and architecture, and their topics, as: the origins of Saudi history, industry in Arabia during the Umayyad period, the migrations of Banu Hanifa to other regions during the Umayyad period, Najd in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, the reform movement of Sheikh Muhammad ibn Abd al-Wahhab, the town of Ad-Dir'iyah, King Abdul Aziz, Arab travelers' accounts, Riyadh city architecture and Soviet diplomacy in Arabia in the 1920s.

- **Fuat Sezgin, The Istanbul Museum for the History of Science and Technology in Islam (An Overview)**, Institut für Geschichte der Arabisch- Islamischen Wissenschaften, Frankfurt, 2010, 214 pp.

The Istanbul Museum for the History of Science and Technology in Islam was opened in 2008 in the Gülhane Park at the suggestion of Prof. Fuat Sezgin, an eminent scholar and specialist of the history of science and technology in of the Muslim world. This is the first museum on this subject in the world. The exhibits displayed here are original inventions from the period extending from the 9th to the 16th century, a time in which the Muslim world was creatively active. They invented many new instruments and adapted a series of tools and devices in the course of the transfers of sciences from other cultures; they further developed these sciences with original contributions. A limited number of the instruments in astronomy, medicine,

- **Rare Saudi Arabian Manuscripts, Examples from a Collection of Rare Arabic Manuscripts preserved in the King Abdul Aziz Foundation for Research and Archives**, prepared by F. al-Semmari, A. al-Hunayhan, S. al-Abd al-Latif, photo. by A. al-Huwaysal, M. al-Baqiyya, transl. by Richard Mortel, King Abdul Aziz Foundation for Research and Archives publ. 262, Riyadh, 2011, 656 pp.

The present publication was originally prepared for an exhibition of rare manuscripts organized by the King Abdul Aziz Foundation for Research and Archives in Riyadh (2011).

This foundation is supported by H.R.H. Prince Salman bin Abdulaziz who is also the chairman of the Board. The foundation was established in 1972 for the purpose of contributing to the learning of the history of Saudi Arabia by means of a variety of scholarly and cultural programs and activities. One of its most important tasks is the preservation and collection of sources of the history of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the scholarly editing, publication and translation of texts dealing with the history, geography, literature and antiquities of the Kingdom, the Arabian Peninsula and the Arab and the Muslim worlds in general. The country's manuscript heritage is of great importance. The Foundation exerts to rescue and to preserve this heritage.

There are manuscripts which date back to the early centuries of Islam. The rare manuscripts presented in this book were selected from more than sixty libraries. The catalogue part is in two languages (English and Arabic). It is arranged alphabetically (in Arabic) according to the names of the local libraries, indicating the collections they belong to.

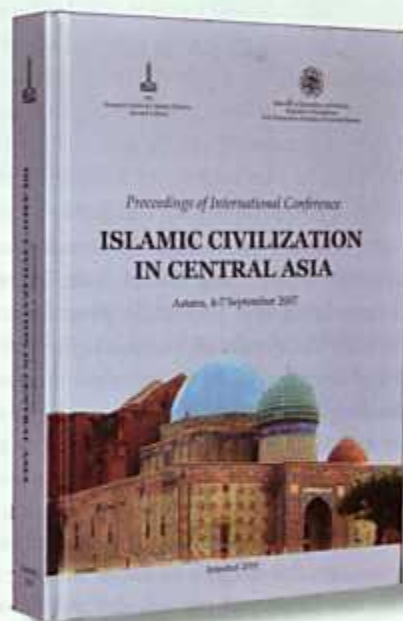
chemistry and time measurement invented or manufactured by scientists of the Muslim world remained to our time. They were described in treatises, drawings, medical and astronomical works.

The exhibits were reconstructed by the Institute for the History of Arabic-Islamic Science at the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University in Frankfurt am Main. Most of the exhibits were prepared on the basis of illustrations and descriptions found in literary sources and some were copied from original specimens that are still extant. The museum is housed in a historical complex, the Sultan's stables, in the Gülhane district, old part of Istanbul.

### Proceedings of the International Conference: Islamic Civilization in Central Asia: Astana, 4-7 September 2007

editors: Halit Eren, Meruert Abuseitova, Ashirbek Muminov, Ayna Askeroğlu, 2 volumes, Sources and Studies on History of Islamic Civilization Series 20, IRCICA, Istanbul, 2010; xxiv, 402; xxxiv, 427 pp.

Research and publications on the Islamic cultural history of the vast Central Asian region have been progressing outside of it as well as within. This is observed in the context of various social sciences but most notably in language studies, history of science, history of art and urban studies. Central Asia is one of the regions where Islam spread the earliest, from mid-seventh century onwards, and interacted productively with the local cultures. In consequence the region is marked by a multi-faith structure which produced intellectuals, philosophers and artists of varied cultural backgrounds. Within this framework, the Islamic culture that flourished here gave birth to eminent theologians and jurists, philosophers, astronomers and mathematicians. Some of the leading centers of civilization developed in Central Asian cities. Urbanism, scholarly and scientific activity in the region endowed its countries and peoples with a distinct cultural heritage that is reflected in the written works and the built structures. At the same time interactions took place with the neighbouring Arabic, Persian, Chinese and Russian cultures and civilizations. These and other multifarious aspects of Central Asian Islamic cultural history were addressed by the participants in the conference on Islamic Civilization in Central Asia which was held in Astana, Kazakhstan in September 2007. The conference was organized jointly by



IRCICA on one hand and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Education and the Institute of Oriental Studies of Kazakhstan on the other. The President of Kazakhstan H.E. Nursultan Nazarbayev extended his patronage to the event; in his message to the participants which was read at the opening ceremony, President Nazarbayev stated "It is known that no social entity can understand itself without understanding other nations. Genuine tolerance stems from this background and it is a basis for interfaith dialogue." The conference as a whole was indeed a contribution to intercultural and interfaith understanding and dialogue since it increased the knowledge and references about the Islamic civilization in the region in its interactive dynamics with other cultures. The present book in two volumes records this contribution for the benefit of the world of learning. The first volume contains 31 papers presented in English and the second, 38 papers in either Russian or Kazakh. The message of President Nazarbayev, the address of OIC Secretary General Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, the welcoming remarks by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan Mr. Marat Tazhin, and the address of IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren are given in the first volume and in Russian in the second volume.

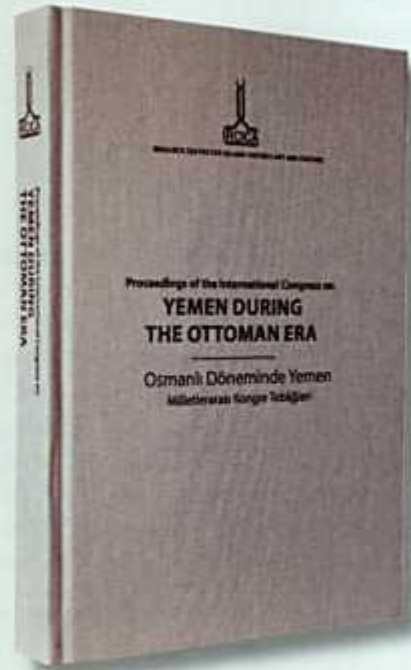


**Proceedings of the International Congress on Yemen during the Ottoman Era,  
Sana'a, 16-17 December 2009**

Preface by Halit Eren, IRCICA, Istanbul, 2011, 85+266 pp.

This book contains 17 articles in Arabic, 3 in Turkish and 2 in English that were presented at the congress on "Yemen during the Ottoman Era" which was organized jointly by the National Archives of Yemen and IRCICA in December 2009. The congress dwelt upon a variety of topics ranging from state policies of development and administration to cultural, economic and social life and international relations of the Yemen region during the period of Ottoman rule. In addition to presenting research results, the participants also discussed issues of perspective and methodology and underlined the importance of basing their studies on first-hand archival sources to the possible extent.

IRCICA's congresses on history are grouped in two main series. One of them is on the history of Islamic civilization in regions of the world it expanded to or interacted with. Congresses in this series have focused until now on the following regions: West Africa (second congress in preparation), East Africa, Southern Africa, Southern Asia (two congresses), Southeast Asia (the Malay world), Volga-Ural (fifth congress in preparation), Central Asia (second congress in preparation), Caucasia (second congress in preparation), the Balkans (four congresses). The other series of congresses is devoted to the history of the Ottoman world specifically and is also given regional focuses, thus until now Al-Quds, Bilad al-Sham, Egypt, the Maghreb and Western Mediterranean, and, our subject matter here, the history of Yemen. The congresses in this second series and their proceedings come in addition to the various other research, publications and symposia that IRCICA devoted to the history of the Ottoman State under its different aspects. The publications include the comprehensive book titled *History of the Ottoman State, Society and Civilisation* which was published in English, Turkish, Arabic, Russian, Bosnian and Albanian editions, the series of bi-bibliographies on the *History of Scientific Ottoman Literature*, the series of books containing selections of Ottoman archive documents on the Arab world and their Arabic translations (two volumes published, continuing), the guidebooks to the Ottoman archives, and an international academic event, the



symposium on "Learning and Education during the Ottoman Period" (1999) to cite some.

Other publications related to Yemen came out from IRCICA's different activity programs. An album of historical photographs of Yemen selected from IRCICA's archives titled *The Friendship Between Turkey and Yemen Throughout History* was published on the occasion of an exhibition that IRCICA had organized in Sana'a during the visit of H.E. Abdullah Gül, President of the Republic of Turkey, to Yemen in January 2011. In the context of another program, an edition, accompanied by a scholarly study, of the Quran copy which is attributed to Ali bin Abi Talib and located in Sana'a Grand Mosque, was published by IRCICA in 2011. IRCICA is pleased to present these congress proceedings for the use of all those interested in the history of Yemen and/or the history of the Ottoman State in general.

### Machiel Kiel, *Arkitektura Osmane në Shqipëri 1385-1912*

(Ottoman architecture in Albania 1385-1912), transl. into Albanian by Holta Vrioni, Islamic Architecture and Heritage Preservation Series no. 2, IRCICA, Istanbul, 2012, 494 pp., illustrated

Dr. Machiel Kiel's book titled *Ottoman Architecture in Albania* was published by IRCICA in its original English edition in 1990. The Centre now has the pleasure of publishing its Albanian edition. This edition will make it possible that the book serves more widely in its own geographical context by researchers whose working language is Albanian. Albania is a Member State of the OIC and IRCICA since 1992.

This is the third book published by IRCICA in the Albanian language. The papers of the Second International Symposium on "Islamic Civilisation in the Balkans" which was held in Tirana, Albania, in December 2003, were published in three volumes, whereby the second volume, *Punimet e Simpoziumit të dytë Ndërkombëtar Qytetërimi Islam në Ballkan*, contains the thirty papers in the Albanian language. In 2009, the Albanian edition of IRCICA's major publication titled *History of the Ottoman State, Society and Civilisation* was published, under the title *Historia e Shtetit, Shoqërisë dhe Qytetërimit Osman*.

The present book is one of the pioneering studies made by Machiel Kiel on the architectural heritage of the Balkans, in particular the heritage dating from the Ottoman period. This edition contains the Albanian translation of the "Preface to the English edition" which was authored by Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, followed by Dr. Kiel's Historical-Topographical Introduction about Albania which constitutes Part I of the book. Part II is the main body, "A Survey of the Monuments of Ottoman Architecture", according to the regions – 23 regions. Part III has the Conclusion. At the end of the book the reader finds a "Conclusion to the Albanian edition" written by Machiel Kiel, together with a Bibliography and a Glossary.

In his preface to the Albanian edition, IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren recalls that although trade and cultural contacts between the Muslim world and the Balkan peoples date back to the early centuries of Islam, the Islamic faith spread in the region with the influence of the Ottomans, who introduced it through the administrative, legal and public institutions; meantime, commercial, social and intellectual exchanges also played a role in the expansion of Islam in the



Balkans. "The Ottoman heritage is predominantly Islamic but as a consequence of the multicultural coexistence that was provided for by the Ottoman political system, it incorporates the heritage of other cultures. The legacy of this cultural diversity is observable as a living element in the languages and traditions and as a tangible asset in built structures and the physical environment of the region." Research on Balkan history supported by studies on the written heritage, comprising archive documents, manuscript and printed literature, and on the built heritage, including the architectural structures and the related records and inscriptions, gives evidence of the peaceful coexistence achieved by peoples of different faiths and cultures in this region throughout the centuries of Ottoman history. This theme comes under focus at IRCICA for its relevance within the history of Islamic civilization in general, Islamic architecture, cultural and administrative institutions, Ottoman history, and history and culture of the Balkan region.

## Al-Mushaf Al-Sharif attributed to Ali b. Abi Talib (The copy of Sana'a)

prepared for publication by Tayyar Altıkulaç, IRCICA, Istanbul, 2011

This is a facsimile edition of the copy (Mushaf) of the Holy Quran which is attributed to the time of Ali b. Abi Talib and located in Sana'a, Yemen. It comes out as a third publication in IRCICA's series of editions of oldest copies of the Quran. Earlier IRCICA had published editions, accompanied by descriptive and comparative studies, of two Quran copies that are attributed to the time of Othman b. Affan namely the copies of Topkapı, Istanbul and al-Mashhad al-Husayni, Cairo. The other copies attributed to the same period are in the following cities: Istanbul (the Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts, edition published by ISAM, Istanbul, 2008); London; Paris; St. Petersburg, and Tashkent. There are other editions of Quran copies that IRCICA published outside this series. One of them is the copy dated 582 H/1186 and known as the Fazıl Pasha (Sherifović) Mushaf, which is located in Gazi Husrevbegova Library, Sarajevo. Another edition, supervised by IRCICA, is the reprint of the Mushaf of Kazan dated 1803 which is known to be the first copy printed in the Muslim world; it was reprinted in cooperation with Kazan Municipality in the year 2005 corresponding to the millennium of Kazan city. By publishing these editions, with studies in the case of the former ones, IRCICA aims to contribute in preserving them and making them known and accessible to all.

The Sana'a copy is located at the Grand Mosque of Sana'a. The elaborate Introduction to the edition is a study by Dr. Tayyar Altıkulaç, specialist of the history of copies of the Quran and ex-Head of Religious Affairs in Turkey. The study is a concise history of the dissemination of the Holy Quran through its copies and of the developments relating to script, orthography, punctuation, locations, etc. of the copies. It examines, describes and analyses



the characteristics of the Sana'a copy as to script, orthography, binding, etc. It also describes the other copies attributed to the period of Othman b. Affan as well as the copy printed by the King Fahd Complex for the Printing of the Holy Quran, Medina, which is known to be in conformity with the orthography of the time of Othman b. Affan.

IRCICA planned to publish this edition during the 2010-2011 period which, at the suggestion of IRCICA, was designated by the 2010 meeting of the OIC's Council of Foreign Ministers as the "1400th Year of the Revelation of the Holy Quran". The Council had invited all OIC member countries and Muslims' associations and institutions world-wide to commemorate this anniversary of the beginning of the revelation with cultural and scholarly activities that would contribute in diffusing a correct and deeper understanding of the Holy Quran. IRCICA for its part is honoured to have been able to record this publication among its activities related to the said Year.

