



Newsletter



OIC RESEARCH CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC HISTORY, ART AND CULTURE

Islamic Countries Cultural Week

on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of IRCICA,
a joint program of the OIC Member States organised
with the contributions of the Metropolitan
Municipality of Greater Istanbul
22-28 November 2005

Musical concerts

Folklore performances

Film presentations

Lectures

**Exhibitions of Paintings,
Handicrafts and Photographs**

Panel: City, Architecture and Aesthetics

**Commemoration of IRCICA's
25th Anniversary within the framework
of the 21st session of COMCEC**
24 November 2005

21st Session of IRCICA Governing Board
25 November 2005

Presentation of "diplomas" of calligraphy

**Meeting the challenges of the 21st century:
The Third Extraordinary Islamic Summit
convened in Mecca**
6-7 December 2005

Recent Activities:

International Congress on "Bilad al-sham during
the Ottoman Era" held in Damascus,
26-30 September 2005

Medal of appreciation Awarded By The Republic
of Tatarstan, Russian Federation,
to IRCICA Director General

"Prince Faisal bin Fahd Award for the Preservation
of Islamic Architectural Heritage":
Competition in progress

Participation in the Regional Meeting of
the World Heritage in the Arab States

IRCICA

The Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture

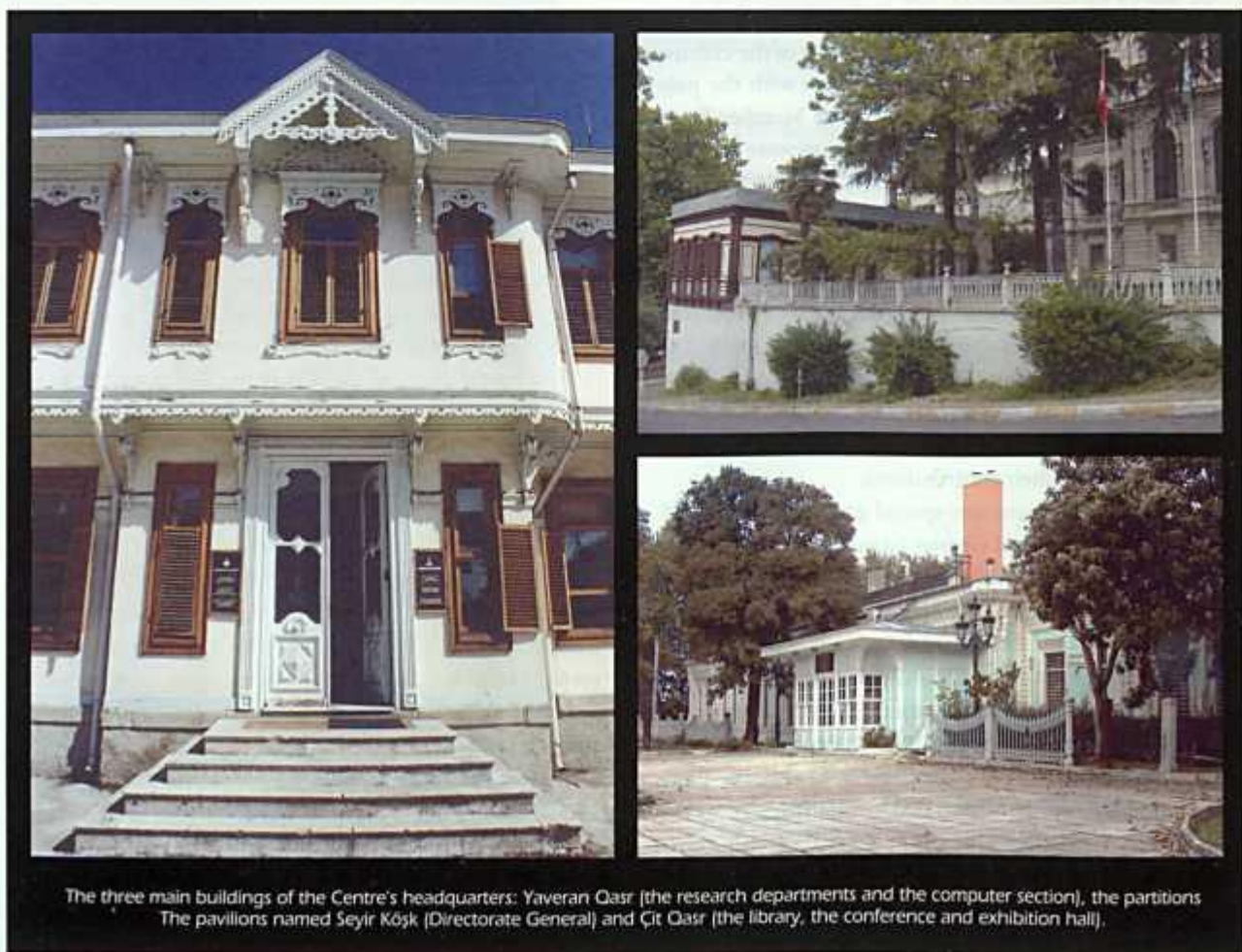
The Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA), subsidiary of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), is an inter-governmental organisation with 57 Member States from Southeast Asia, South Asia, Central Asia, Caucasia, the Middle East, Africa, and South America.

IRCICA undertakes activities of research, publishing, information, library and documentation, and promotes academic studies, on subjects relating to the history of Islam, Muslim nations, inter-cultural relations in the past and the present, as well as contemporary cultural development issues, arts and sciences in the Muslim world, Islamic archaeology, restoration and conservation of cultural and architectural heritage, and related fields.

IRCICA's events and activities such as congresses, exhibitions of artworks, competitions on arts and architecture

are organized in cooperation with the OIC Member States governments, academic and cultural institutions. The Centre maintains contacts and collaboration with the academic, artistic and cultural communities related to its field of interest within and outside the Member States and encourages their participation in the scholarly and artistic events it organises.

The headquarters of IRCICA are in the historical Yıldız Palace complex in Istanbul, consisting of the pavilions named Seyir Köşk, Çit Kasrı and Yaveran Kasrı, which were allocated to IRCICA by the Government of the Republic of Turkey and restored by the Centre during 1980-1985 through international fund-raising. In addition to these three buildings, where the Secretariat, the research departments, and the library and conference hall are located, two other apartments were provided to the Centre within the same complex, for storage and handling of its fast-growing library collections.



The three main buildings of the Centre's headquarters: Yaveran Kasrı (the research departments and the computer section), the pavilions named Seyir Köşk (Directorate General) and Çit Kasrı (the library, the conference and exhibition hall).

ISLAMIC COUNTRIES CULTURAL WEEK

on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of IRCICA:
A joint program of the OIC Member States organised
with the contributions of the Metropolitan Municipality
of Greater Istanbul

22-28 November 2005

The "Islamic Countries Cultural Week" was organised with the contributions of the Metropolitan Municipality of Greater Istanbul, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA), on 22-28 November 2005.

The Week's various events and activities were officially inaugurated by: H.E. Dr. Abdullah Gül, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey, H.E. Mr. Muammer Güler, Governor of Istanbul, and H.E. Arch. Dr. Kadir Topbaş, Metropolitan Mayor of Greater Istanbul, all jointly with H.E. Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Conference.

The members of the Governing Board of IRCICA were present at the openings and during the activities of the Cultural Week: H.R.H. Dr. Wijdan Ali (Jordan), Dr. Abdulaziz Deraman (Malaysia), Prof. Abdulhafez Helmy Mohammed (Egypt), Mr. Mohammed Ahmed Al-Murr (United Arab Emirates), Prof. Dr. Amadou Cissé Ndieguene (Senegal), Dr. Saad bin Abdul Aziz Al-Rashid (Saudi Arabia), Prof. Dr. Günsel Renda (Turkey), and Dr. Abdulaziz Abdullah Torki Al-Subaie (Qatar).

The Week's program included concerts of the classical, traditional and modern music of the Muslim countries, folklore performances, exhibitions of works of art, handicrafts and artistic photographs, presentations of films, publications, panel discussions.

In his welcoming address at the opening of the Cultural Week, the Exhibition of Paintings from the Member States titled "Expressions of Culture", the photograph exhibition on "Haramain", and the concert of the Turkish Ministry of Culture's Istanbul Historical Turkish Music Ensemble on 22 November 2005, the Director General of IRCICA Dr. Halit Eren expressed thanks and appreciation for the interest that was shown in the Cultural Week marking the 25th anniversary of IRCICA, in particular the high-level and extensive contributions of the Member States through the performances and exhibitions of their musicians, folklore artists, painters, craftsmen, specialists of arts, and for the high-profile opening of the Week by the Governor of Istanbul, the Mayor of Istanbul, in the presence of the Secretary General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, Ministers of the Member States and the Ambassadors of various countries, with a



The opening of the Islamic Countries Cultural Week by H.E. Mr. Muammer Güler, Governor of Istanbul, and H.E. Arch. Dr. Kadir Topbaş, Metropolitan Mayor of Greater Istanbul, in presence of H.E. Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Conference.

large audience of spectators filling the halls. He expressed his gratitude for the multidimensional support and contributions of the Metropolitan Municipality of Greater Istanbul and the Kültür A.Ş. company affiliated to it.

The events were announced on TV channels and on billboards in all quarters of Istanbul; they drew large audiences and were followed with great interest, all the more so as most of them were the firsts of their kinds to take place in Istanbul. The program coincided with the 21st Session of the OIC Standing Committee for Economic and Commer-

cial Cooperation, an OIC body chaired by the President of the Republic of Turkey. Thus, the ministers, representatives from various government offices and institutions of the 57 Member States were present, together with the Ambassadors in Ankara and Consul Generals in Istanbul of the OIC Member States and many other countries, members of various universities, music and fine arts academies. The musical and folklore performances were given in major concert halls of Istanbul with seating capacities of 900 each. They were broadcast on three TV channels.



Exhibition of Paintings entitled "Expressions of Islamic Culture" opened on 22 November 2005, at Cemal Reşit Rey congress hall

The Cultural Week began on 22 November 2005 with the opening of the Exhibition of Paintings from the Member States entitled "Expressions of Islamic Culture". The exhibition, arranged in the large foyers of Cemal Reşit Rey congress and concert hall, was opened jointly by the Secretary General of OIC Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, the Governor of İstanbul Mr. Muammer Güler and the Metropolitan Mayor of Greater İstanbul Arch. Dr. Kadir Topbaş. The opening took place just before the first musical concert of the Week.

Works of art from the following countries were displayed at the Exhibition "Expressions of Islamic Culture":

Iran, with the works of two Iranian painters: Mo-hamedyan Nemini and Mahmud Feriççayan.

Qatar, with 10 works by Qatari professors and specialists of fine arts, presented by the Visual Art Center of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Heritage.

Saudi Arabia, with 20 plates of paintings by Saudi painters and specialists of fine arts.

Syria, with 40 works some of which were displayed in the Painting Exhibition and some in the Syrian country stand at the Exhibition of Handicrafts, Illustrations and Publications.

Tunisia, with 10 plates of paintings representing Tunisian plastic arts.

The Exhibition of Paintings was open throughout the period of the Cultural Week. Large numbers of art lovers and faculty members and students from various universities visited the exhibition.

Exhibition of Photographs of "Haramain"

Photographs of Mecca and Medina taken by Mr. Ömer Faruk Aksoy, a photography expert of Turkish origin resident of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, were displayed in the foyers of Cemal Reşit Rey congress and concert hall and opened together with the exhibition of paintings "Expressions of Islamic Culture". The Secretary General of OIC Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, the Governor of İstanbul Mr. Muammer Güler and the Metropolitan Mayor of Greater İstanbul Arch. Dr. Kadir Topbaş jointly opened the exhibition. Forty-nine large-size photographic plates were displayed.



Mr. Ömer Faruk Aksoy presents his works to Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, the Governor of İstanbul Mr. Muammer Güler, the Mayor of İstanbul Arch. Dr. Kadir Topbaş, and Dr. Halit Eren.



Musical Concerts and Folklore Performances

Concert by the Istanbul Historical Turkish Music Ensemble of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey 22 November 2005, Cemal Reşit Rey congress hall

The Istanbul Historical Turkish Music Ensemble, attached to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Turkey, specializes in each of the branches, periods and regions of Turkish music over the vast geographical area of its history. Under the direction of Mr. Ahmet Özhan, the ensemble performs on occasions to help make these branches of music better known to the public. In this concert conducted by Mr. İhsan Özer, with Chief of the Military Band Mr. Kürşat Tuncay, the Ensemble performed Sufi music, Mehter (Ottoman military music) and classical Turkish music, starting from a song accompanied by the Kop-

uz, one of the oldest Turkish music instruments used before the Turks' settlement in Asia Minor. Then followed samples from the three main groups of branches showing that there is no strict demarcation between the latter and they can be performed as parts of a unity.

As this was the first concert in the schedule of the Week's events, the message received from H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister of Turkey, was read to the audience. In his message, the Prime Minister congratulated IRCICA and its parent organisation, the OIC, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary, welcomed the delegations of the Member States and wished success to the Cultural Week.

At the end of the concert, a plaque expressing IRCICA's gratitude to the Metropolitan Municipality of Greater Istanbul for their contributions to the Cultural Week, was presented to Mr. Erman Tuncer, Advisor to the Mayor.



**Classical music from the Syrian Arab Republic:
The concert of the Tarab Orchestra,
on 23 November 2005,
at Atatürk Cultural Centre**

The well-known classical music ensemble from Syria, the Tarab Orchestra conducted by Maestro Majid Sarajeddin, and comprised that day of fourteen singers and musicians, gave their concert on 23 November 2005 at Atatürk Cultural Centre's Big Concert Hall in Taksim, at 7 p.m. The orchestra played a selection of classical Arab songs and compositions.

Tarab Orchestra was set up in 2002. It performed in a number of countries around the world.

The delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic was headed by Mr. Nezhir Khoury, Director of Cultural Affairs at the Ministry of Culture of the Syrian Arab Republic. The Consul General of the Syrian Arab Republic in Istanbul Mr. Mohamad Koudaimi, extended his kind assistance in the process of Syria's participation in the Cultural Week events.

Syria's participation in the Cultural Week covered all categories of the events, with a collection of 40 paintings from Syria displayed at the Exhibition of Paintings from the Member States which was opened on the first day of the Cultural Week. Furthermore, visitors at the country stands at the Exhibitions of Handicrafts, Illustrations and Publications opened at Yıldız Palace on 23 November did not miss the Syrian stand.



The Cultural Performance by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, on 23 November 2005 at Atatürk Cultural Centre's Concert Hall

A rich repertoire of songs and traditional dances from the various regions of Pakistan were displayed by the National Art Group of Pakistan. The performance, given at 8.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 23 November, drew a large audience of spectators. For the majority of them this was the first opportunity to see and learn about the folkloric traditions of Pakistan.

The Pakistani delegation in the Islamic Cultural Week was headed by the Deputy Secretary of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth Affairs Sahib Raza H. Kharal. Ministers from the Government of Pakistan were present at the performance, accompanied by the Consul General of Pakistan in Istanbul Mr. Mohammad Riaz, who had extended his cooperation to IRCICA in initiating the contacts towards Pakistan's participation in the Cultural Week.

The Group presented folk music, songs and dances from various parts of each of the four main provinces of Pakistan, i.e. Sind, Punjab, N.W.F.P. and Balochistan.

In the last part of the performance, a concert was given by the well-known Pakistani pop singer Ms. Hadiqa Kiani. Ms. Kiani sang songs from Pakistani pop music and also a song in Turkish. She had visited Turkey four times before and is therefore already known and admired by the Turkish public.

The folk songs and dances performed during the concert were Bhangra dance from Punjab, Akhtar Chunal Zehri from Balochistan, Leva dance from Makran (Balochistan), dance from Jhoomar, Sind, Khattak from the north-west region of Pakistan, the Moenjodaro dance (Sind) inherited from the Indus Valley civilisation - 3000 B.C., playing of Dhole (Punjab), an oblong drum used as rhythm in all folk music, and Aaj Rung Hai - Sufi music.



Performance of the United Arab Emirates religious songs group, on 23 November 2005, at the Conference Hall in Yıldız Palace

The performance by the United Arab Emirates religious songs group within the framework of the Islamic Countries Cultural Week took place in the hall of IRCICA at Yıldız Palace, in the afternoon of Wednesday 23 November. This was the group's first performance in Turkey. It was followed with interest by an audience comprised of the Consul Generals in Istanbul of the OIC Member States, countries of Asia and Europe, faculty members and students from music academies, representatives of cultural research centers, tourism companies, in the presence of the members of the Governing Board of IRCICA.

The delegation of the United Arab Emirates was headed by Mr. Bilal al-Budur, Undersecretary of the Ministry of In-

formation and Culture. The Consul General of the United Arab Emirates in Istanbul Mr. Essa Abdulla Massoud, and Mr. Mohammed al-Murr, Chairman of the Cultural Council of Dubai and member of IRCICA Governing Board, extended their assistance and coordination for the Group's participation in the Islamic Countries Cultural Week.

Eng. Usama al-Safi, one of the six singers in the group, was also one of the panelists at the Panel on "City, Architecture and Aesthetics" held on 26 November 2005 within the framework of the Islamic Countries Cultural Week. The other singers were Mr. Abdullah M. Abdullah Mohammed, A. Hasan Abdallah Al-Mansouri, Omar Yusuf Al-Marzuki, M. Abdulrahman Al-Mansouri, and Abdullah Ali Al-Abbar.

The United Arab Emirates participated in the other categories of events of the Cultural Week as well, with the country stand at the Exhibitions of Handicrafts, Illustrations and Publications at Yıldız Palace.



Concert by the Traditional Music Ensemble of Tunisia, 26 November 2005, Cemal Reşit Rey congress hall

Performances by the delegations of musicians and artists of three countries took place on Saturday, 26 November. The first performance, at 5 p.m., was the concert entitled "True Melodies" by the Traditional Music Ensemble from the Republic of Tunisia.

The Ensemble was composed of 19 musicians and headed by the Mr. Fathi Zghonda, Director of Music at the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Tunisia and well-known composer and conductor. The Ensemble performed songs and compositions selected from the Malouf repertoire,

which represents a synthesis of Tunisian and Andalusian music enriched over the centuries with innovative contributions by masters of classical music. The program included excerpts from Nouba Asbahane and Rasd, as well musical pieces from the 19th and 20th centuries, songs by composers and singers who marked contemporary Tunisian music, and solos of instruments.

Mr. Taoufik Jabeur, Consul General of the Republic of Tunisia in Istanbul, has extended his cooperation to IRCICA towards Tunisia's participation in the Cultural Week which included, together with the concert of the Traditional Music Ensemble, the presentation of a film of philosophical and spiritual content entitled "Tawq al-Hamama al-Mafkud", and an extensive stand at the country exhibitions.



Concert by the Ancient Musical Instruments Ensemble from the Republic of Azerbaijan, on 26 November 2005 at Cemal Reşit Rey congress hall

The concert by the Ancient Musical Instruments Ensemble of the State Museum of Azerbaijan Musical Culture was at 7 p.m. on Saturday, 26 November, in the large concert hall of Cemal Reşit Rey congress center. The Ensemble is directed by Dr. Mejnun Kerimov, Musical Director. It is comprised of soloist maestro Munis Sherifov, soloists Nuriye Huseyinova, Teyib Aslanov and their colleagues forming an orchestra of fourteen musicians. The group performs with instruments that were widespread in the Middle Ages but were forgotten for six centuries until they were revived

through the efforts of the State Museum of Azerbaijan Musical Culture, Baku. The costumes of the musicians are tailored according to their medieval originals which were determined through extensive research.

The Ensemble plays musical compositions from the Middle Ages and also classical songs some of which are widely known and appreciated today. Since its establishment in 1996 the Ensemble gave concerts in various countries of Europe and participated in international festivals of medieval music.

Close assistance was extended to IRCICA by Ms. Gunay Efendiyeva, Consul, Cultural Counselor, Consulate General of the Republic of Azerbaijan, in ensuring Azerbaijan's participation in the Cultural Week events with this concert and also in other categories of the events.



Dr. Mejnun Kerimov presented a copy of his own book on Ancient Musical Instruments to IRCICA Director General



Performance by the Folklore Group of Saudi Arabia, on 26 November 2005, at Cemal Reşit Rey congress hall

It was perhaps the first opportunity for the majority of the large audience of spectators filling the concert hall of Cemal Reşit Rey building to see traditional folkloric performances from Saudi Arabia.

The Saudi Arabian Folklore Group was composed of 25 artists. The Saudi Arabian artistic delegation was chaired by Dr. Abdullah bin Ali Al-JaarAllah, Director General, Directorate of Heritage and Popular Arts, Ministry of Culture and Information, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The Consul General of the Kingdom in Istanbul Ambassador M. Jamal Hashim, whose cooperation and assistance contributed towards Saudi Arabia's participation, was present during the performance.

In the program which started at 8.30 p.m. on Saturday, 26 November at Cemal Reşit Rey large concert hall, the Group presented folkloric traditions from the following regions of Saudi Arabia: the middle parts, the Eastern (Gulf) region, the Western part where, Mecca, Medina and Jeddah are located, and the South of the country (Abha, Jazan ...).

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia participated in the Exhibitions of Handicrafts, Illustrations and Publications held at Yıldız Palace throughout the Week, with a stand displaying various arts and introductory materials. The Kingdom also participated in the Exhibitions of Paintings which was opened on 22 November 2005, the first day of the Islamic Countries Cultural Week, with a collection of paintings selected from among the works of Saudi painters. Furthermore, a lecture was given by H.E. Sheikh Mohammed Naser al-Aboudi, Deputy Secretary General of the Muslim World League, on "Relations between Saudi Arabia and Turkey".

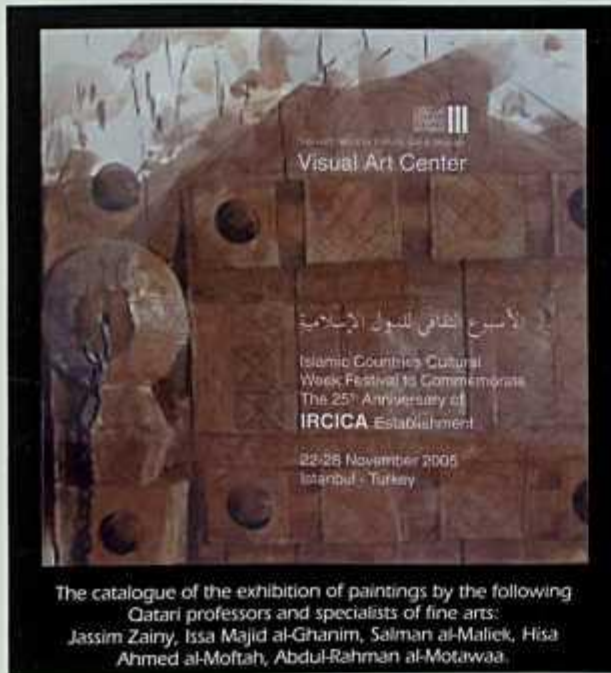


Plaque expressing gratitude to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia received by Dr. Abdullah bin Ali Al-JaarAllah, Director General, Directorate of Heritage and Popular Arts, Ministry of Culture and Information, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Film Presentations

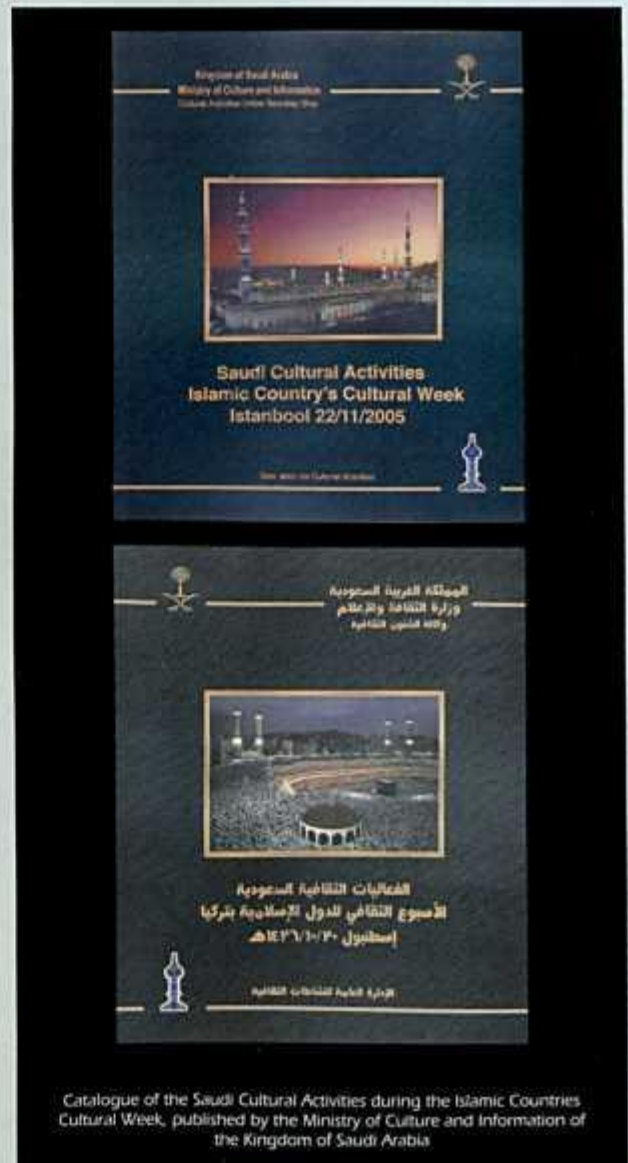
Film presentation by the Republic of Tunisia

The film titled "Tawq al-Hamama al-Mafkud" (The lost necklace of the dove) by the world-renown Tunisian film director Nacer Khamir was shown on Saturday, 26 November 2005 at 7.30 p.m. in the Movie Hall of Atatürk Cultural Centre. The film was met with great interest and enthusiasm. Its philosophical and spiritual character appeals to both minds and emotions and carries the viewer into deep reflection.



Film presentation from the Republic of Turkey

"The Hejaz Railway", a documentary film directed by Mustafa Aksoy, was presented on Friday, 25 November 2005, at 7.30 p.m. in the Movie Hall of Atatürk Cultural Centre. It is a highly instructive documentary. At the same time, the viewer is carried away by Mustafa Aksoy's fascinating work reflecting the beauty of the scenery along the way through the train stations. The construction of the Hejaz railway was started in 1900. Running from Damascus to Medina, its purpose was to facilitate Muslims' pilgrimage and foster trade in the region. The most advanced technologies of the time were used in the construction. The film aroused great interest.



Lectures



Lecture delivered by H.E. Sheikh Mohammed Naser al-Aboudi, Deputy Secretary General of the Muslim World League, on "Relations between Saudi Arabia and Turkey"; on 23 November 2005

Within the framework of the Islamic Countries Cultural Week, H.E. Sheikh Mohammed Naser al-Aboudi, Deputy Secretary General of the Muslim World League, delivered a lecture on "Relations between Saudi Arabia and Turkey". The lecture was organized at ISAM, the Centre for Islamic Studies affiliated to the Turkish Religious Foundation, in Üsküdar, Istanbul.

The lecture was followed by a large audience of scholars, historians, political scientists and researchers in international relations. Sheikh Al-Aboudi, a scholar in Islamic studies, is the author/editor of more than one hundred books. He occupied several posts in his professional career, before assuming his present duties as Deputy Secretary General of the Muslim World League: management of the scientific institute in Buraidah for seven years, Secretary General of the Islamic University in Medina for thirteen years, General Secretary for Islamic Dawa (the level of deputy minister) for eight years, among others. Sheikh Mohammed Naser Al-Aboudi was awarded the King Abdulaziz (First Class) medal in literature.



Lecture by Mr. Abdullah bin Jassim al-Mutairi on "Old Islamic Coins", delivered on 25 November 2005, at Çit Oasr, Yıldız Palace

Within the framework of the participation of the United Arab Emirates in the Islamic Countries Cultural Week, Mr. Abdullah bin Jassim al-Mutairi from Dubai displayed a group of items from his personal collection of old Islamic coins in the country stand of the United Arab Emirates at the Exhibitions of Handicrafts, Illustrations and Publications which was held at Yıldız Palace throughout the Week's period.

Mr. Abdullah bin Jassim al-Mutairi, who is the Director of Sheikh Said bin Maktoum Museum in Dubai, in the old Dubai historical core, has assembled this collection which ranks 7th among the world's coin collections. The total number of coins in his collection is around 15 000. They come from 90 dynasties from Andalusia in the West to China in the East.

Mr. al-Mutairi gave a lecture in the conference hall at Yıldız Palace at 12 a.m. on Saturday, 26 November 2005. He outlined the history of the collection, its importance, giving statistics on its items and showing their pictures and enlargements of their inscriptions. The lecture was followed with interest by the participants in the Islamic Countries Cultural Week and the scholars and architects who were participating in the panel on "City, Architecture and Aesthetics" held that day at the same venue.

Exhibitions of Handicrafts, Illustrations and Publications

22-28 November 2005

Silahhane (Armoury) Building, Yıldız Palace

Throughout the Cultural Week, Member States' stands displayed artifacts, handicrafts, objects representing the lifestyles and social heritage of their populations, photo-

graphs, introductory publications on tourism and cultural aspects of their countries and other cultural materials. The exhibitions, named briefly Exhibitions of Handicrafts, Il-



illustrations and Publications, were arranged all over the two floors of the Silahhane (Armoury) Building, one of the largest main buildings of Yıldız Palace complex.

The Exhibitions were opened by H.E. Dr. Abdullah Gül, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Vice-Prime Minister of Turkey, together with H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the OIC, on Wednesday, 23 November 2005, at 5 p.m. The Minister, the Secretary General and their entourage visited the country stands, where they met the members of the country delegations participating in the event.

Furthermore, Mr. Cumhuriyet Taşbaşı, Deputy Governor of Istanbul, visited the country exhibitions and received information on the handicrafts. The heads and representatives of the Member States delegations participating at the OIC's COMCEC session, which was held in Istanbul during the same period, visited the exhibitions. The head of the United Arab Emirates delegation, Minister of Economics and Planning Sheikhha Lubna al-Qassimi visited the country stands.



Countries participating in these Exhibitions were:

Egypt

Publications on arts and culture, introductory CDs.

Iran

Handicrafts, miniature painting, calligraphies.



Kuwait

Handicrafts exhibition contributed by Sheikha Altaf Salem A. Al-Sabah, Director of Al-Sadu project.
Introductory illustrations and publications.



Lebanon

Handicrafts exhibition presented by Mrs. Faika Sibal Ouwayda, comprising traditional costumes, jewelry and silverwork, mirrors plated with wood and mother-of-pearl, embroideries.



Qatar

Exhibition of large plates of historical photographs of monuments, images of social and economic life
Historical documents reproduced on plates of large dimensions. Publications, touristic brochures



Saudi Arabia

Models of the cities of Mecca and Medina. Exhibition of Plastic Arts. Exhibition of ethnographic materials.
Exhibition of historical documents and photographs. Calligraphy exhibition.



The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey visited the stands. From the right: Dr. Abdulaziz al-Sebail, Deputy Minister for Cultural Affairs, Ministry of Culture and Information, and professor at King Saud University, Faculty of Arts, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Dr. Hani Erni, the Minister Dr. Abdullah Gül; Mr. Abdullatif Abdallah al-Balal, Director at the Ministry of Culture and Information, Saudi Arabia; Dr. Saad bin Abdul Aziz Al-Rashid, Deputy Minister for Antiquities and Museums, Ministry of Education, Saudi Arabia, and member of IBCICA Governing Board.

Meeting with Dr. Abdulaziz al-Sebail, Under Secretary for Cultural Affairs, Ministry of Culture and Information, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 23 Nov. 2005

Sudan

Exhibition of Plastic Arts by Mr Husain Jumaan. Exhibition of Cultural Heritage by Ms. Bakhita Musa Bekar. Photography Exhibition by Mr. Mohammad Ali Haroun.



Syria

Exhibition of handicrafts. Exhibition of plastic arts. Calligraphy exhibition by Dr. Mohamed Ghanoum. Publications, films and brochures on the archaeological and architectural sites.



The works of Mr. Mohamed Ghanoum from Syria were part of the exhibition

Tunisia

Handicrafts, Publications, Paintings and illustrations introducing the country.



Turkey

Exhibition of archive documents reflecting the common history of Muslim countries, contributed by the Turkish Prime Ministry's Department of Ottoman Archives.

Traditional crafts from the city of Konya; Calligraphy by Hüseyin Öksüz, Fevzi Günüş, Marbling by Sadreddin Özçimri; Glazed Tiles by Erdoğan-Nurgül Uslu, "Destegül Çini" group, and Glazed Tiles presented by the Municipality of Selçuklu, Konya; Canes by Osman Şişman; Woodcarvings by Mevlut Çiller; Sculptures by Abdullah Çanlı; Felt-making by Mehmet Girgiç; Engravings by Cengiz-Faiz Bilge, Mehmet Büyükcanga.

Craft Exhibition by the Municipality of Selçuklu, Konya. Marbling workshop by Hikmet Barutçugil and his students. Gilding Exhibition by Nusret Çolpan, Semih Irteş, Mamure Öz.



United Arab Emirates

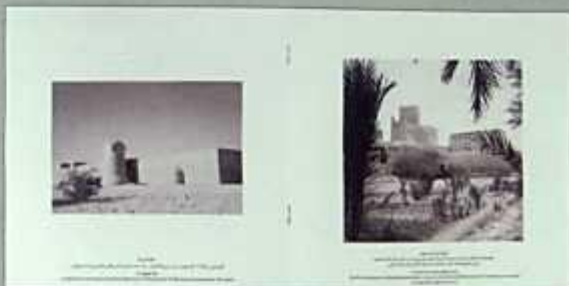
Collection of historical Islamic coins presented by Mr. Abdullah bin Jassim al-Mutairi. Calligraphy Exhibition by Mohammed Mandi. Historical and modern paintings. Films and publications introducing the country.



Yemen

Exhibition of Handicrafts, presented by Architect Jamal Majam.

Pictures from the Catalogue of the Exhibition of Historical Photographs presented by the State of Qatar, published by the Historical Research and Documents Division, Museum and Antiquities Department, National Council for Culture, Arts and Heritage. Qatar was known as the country of towers and castles. The photographs date from the 19th and early 20th centuries.



Panel: City, Architecture and Aesthetics

Yıldız Palace, Çit Qasr, 26 November 2005

A panel on the theme "City, Architecture and Aesthetics" was organised jointly with the Metropolitan Municipality of Greater Istanbul, with the technical contributions of Kültür A.Ş., the cultural institution affiliated to the Municipality.

Architects and urban planners from around the world were invited to participate in the panel: Prof. Gulzar Haider (Pakistan); Prof. Attilio Petruccioli (Italy); Prof. İskender Pala (Turkey), Prof. Zeynep Ahunbay (Turkey), Dr. Adem Esen (Turkey), Prof. Marwan Abu Khalaf (Palestine); Arch. Osama al-Safi (United Arab Emirates); Arch. Jamal Majam (Yemen). Prof. Arch. Amir Pasic (Bosnia and Herzegovina) from IRCICA coordinated the preparation and proceedings of the panel.

Welcoming the participants and the audience, IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren said that this panel, placed within the framework of IRCICA's 25th anniversary commemoration organised with the contributions of the Metropolitan Municipality of Greater Istanbul, was, by its subject matter, directly related to cultural themes that are of common concern for the Municipality and IRCICA. He recalled the workshop "Architectural Heritage Today" covering Istanbul and Süleymaniye Area which was organised in 1995 by IRCICA and the Metropolitan Municipality of Greater Istanbul, expressing his pleasure that another scholarly event on architecture and urbanism was now being held jointly by the two. Dr. Eren thanked the distinguished scholars and specialists participating in the panel. He thanked the OIC Secretary General H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, who is, he said, "the real architect of these projects", for his presence in the panel.

Arch. Dr. İskender Pala, Advisor to the Mayor of Istanbul Arch. Dr. Kadir Topbaş, conveyed the greetings and best wishes of H.E. the Mayor. He underlined the importance of the panel theme and the exchanges of ideas towards preserving the identity of a city and enabling it to reflect this identity. He confirmed that their joint activities with IRCICA in this panel and in other areas came directly under their fields of concern since they helped to generate consciousness and draw lines of action on issues relating to the city and its conservation.

Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of OIC, gave the opening address. On behalf of the OIC and himself, he expressed his pleasure that the theme was being reflected upon and discussed, and thanked all the contributors. He said that preservation of the city is in essence an "ethical goal". In this regard, he expressed the hope that efforts in this direction will increase in the Muslim world. He said that the existing international norms and successful examples from around the world can be taken into consideration.

Dr. İskender Pala chaired the meeting. Communicating his observations on the theme, he dwelt upon the concept of "city", the related terms, and their connotations as regards the social and civilisational features of the city and its dwellers. Then, Arch. Prof. Zeynep Ahunbay spoke of issues related to preservation, matching and combination of the architecture and urban structure with the natural landscape. She said that regrettably, in the process of architecture and city building aesthetics has been neglected. She said that the preservation of architectural heritage cannot be the task of an architect or a city planner, it is to be done through collec-





tive action. It is a complex matter involving social behaviour as well. Prof. Pala agreed and said that city dwellers are there not only to consume the city but also to produce the city.

Prof. Attilio Petruccioli from the University of Bari, Italy, said that an architectural crisis is being experienced in the Muslim world and the Western world. There are some modern architectural movements that constitute a rupture of the heritage. Architectural culture is no longer based on those collective subcultures that had built our respective cultures, and today, single architectural initiatives cannot replicate the complicated structures that came from long stratifications. The alternative suggestion is, to ensure "continuity", which would be the key word. Thus contemporary design would become the last phase of the historical process. Prof. Petruccioli then argued on the processes of evolution of local building practices which are connected with the evolution of society and constantly evolve in time following the phases of society.

Architect Osama al-Safi, Head of Pre-qualification and Building Studies at Dubai Municipality, United Arab Emirates, gave information, with power point illustrations, on the traditional buildings and housing complexes in Dubai, highlighting their main features, with an emphasis on the interpretation of the cultural environment embodied in them and their characteristics reflecting adaptation to natural conditions and environment.

Prof. Gulzar Haider, Dean of the Faculty of Architecture, Lahore University, Pakistan, gave a lecture on the "Private Prayer Rugs in Public Labyrinths: The Case of the Marble

Floor of Sultan Hassan Madrassah, Cairo, 1356-62", communicating and evaluating the results of long-term studies conducted on the spot.

Dr. Adem Esen, Mayor of Selçuklu, Konya, communicated the experiences of his municipality in city management and urban planning, the principles and policies. Referring especially to the aesthetical aspects of city planning, he underlined the need to create public consciousness on aesthetics in urban context, since this aspect depends not only on municipalities but to a greater extent, on the residents and the builders.

Arch. Jamal Majam, Assistant Director, Organisation for the Preservation of Historical Cities of Yemen, Sana'a, made a power-point presentation entitled "Inventory of historical buildings in Sana'a City". He highlighted the characteristics of traditional buildings and historical building complexes and the policies and measures adopted for their conservation.

Prof. Marwan Abu Khalaf, Director General, Institute of Islamic Archaeology, Al-Quds University, made a comprehensive presentation covering the historical architecture in Al-Quds, highlighting the technical and aesthetical aspects of the structures, with a focus on the Dome of the Rock.

Prof. Amir Pasic, Head of Architectural Studies, IRCICA, gave a review of the activities carried out during the ten-year Mostar 2004 program: the ten workshops, academic work conducted in a number of universities, and the actual restoration projects realised.

Commemoration of IRCICA's 25th Anniversary Within the Framework of the 21st Session of COMCEC

The Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation, an OIC body chaired by the President of the Republic of Turkey, held its 21st session in Istanbul, on 22-25 November 2005 (senior officials meeting: 22-23 November, ministerial meeting: 24-25 November). H.E. Ahmet Necdet Sezer, President of the Republic of Turkey, opened the ministerial meeting on 24 November 2005 with a comprehensive address. In his address delivered at the opening ceremony of the COMCEC session, the President of Turkey pointed out many issues of common concern for the OIC Member States regarding national development and international relations, and reviewed the OIC's activities in various fields, in particular those undertaken by COMCEC to promote economic and commercial cooperation. The President evoked the successful achievements made by IRCICA during its first twenty-five years and the Islamic Countries Cultural Week organised on the occasion of its 25th anniversary. The President said "I would like to seize this opportunity to congratulate the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art, and Culture in Istanbul on its 25th anniversary. The Centre has scored significant accomplishments over the past 25 years. With the invaluable support and attention of the Secretariat and the member countries, it has made concrete contributions to the study and preservation of, and dissemination of information on the works of Islamic art and culture. The "Islamic Countries Cultural Week", organised for the 25th anniversary, underlines the diversity and value of these works, which are embedded into the traditions of the member countries pertaining to culture and art.

I hope the Center will pursue these fruitful activities with a further extended scope." (Excerpts from the address are published below).

In his address at the opening ceremony of the COMCEC meeting, the Secretary General of OIC Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu said that the COMCEC, under the strong and committed leadership of H.E. the President of the Republic of Turkey, made profound contributions to the strengthening of the economic and commercial cooperation amongst the OIC Member States. Reviewing recent events in the Muslim world, the Secretary General first referred to the devastating earthquake that struck Pakistan on 8 October 2005. He reiterated his appeal to OIC Member States to urgently extend all possible material and humanitarian assistance to Pakistan and pointed to the need to create a permanent disaster relief fund at the OIC level. The Secretary General then evoked the problems experienced by the OIC Member in political, economic, scientific, social, and cultural fields including illiteracy, inadequate housing, poverty, lack of health services, lack of basic needs, low life expectancy, infrastructural inadequacies, limited production levels, low levels of investment, heavy debt burden, lack of competitiveness, among others. He outlined the steps taken by the OIC to increase cooperation and mutual assistance among its Member States to help alleviate and solve these problems.

Following the opening ceremony of the 21st session of COMCEC, the President of Turkey H.E. Ahmet Necdet Sezer opened an Exhibition entitled "IRCICA 1980-2005" outlining the activities of IRCICA during the first twenty-five



years of its existence. The President received information from the Director General of IRCICA on recent progress in the activities. The exhibition was arranged in the foyer of the COMCEC conference hall at Hotel Marmara in Taksim. After the IRCICA's exhibition, the President of Turkey and Chairman of the COMCEC H.E. Ahmet Necdet Sezer and the Secretary General of OIC Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu received the heads of the Member States' delegations attending the conference.

In the afternoon of 24 November, a ceremony was held within the framework of the program of the COMCEC meeting, to commemorate IRCICA's 25th anniversary. The event was under the patronage and in presence of H.E. Prof. Mustafa İsen, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Culture and

Tourism of Turkey, in the presence of Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the OIC, with the participation of Mr. Ahmet Tıktık, Undersecretary of the Turkish Prime Ministry's State Planning Organisation. The ceremony was attended by the heads and members of the OIC Member States' delegations participating in the COMCEC session, the heads and members of diplomatic missions accredited in Ankara and Istanbul, guests from cultural and scholarly circles and representatives of the media.

The ceremony started with a short documentary power point presentation on IRCICA's objectives and activities.

H.E. Prof. Mustafa İsen, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Republic of Turkey, delivered an address underlining the role institutions play in realising

Excerpts from the speech delivered by H.E. Ahmet Necdet Sezer, President of Turkey and Chairman of COMCEC, at the opening ceremony of the 21st Session of COMCEC Istanbul, 24 November 2005

Honorable Ministers, Distinguished Secretary General, Distinguished Delegates,

I am pleased to be with you again on the occasion of the 21st Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference. Welcome to Turkey. I sincerely greet you all, and hope that your efforts will yield beneficial results.

I wish once again Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, who is participating in this COMCEC meeting as the Secretary General of OIC for the first time, all success in his work. The success of the Secretary General in introducing innovations and reforms aiming at establishing a more effective structure for the organisation that meets the needs of its members will undoubtedly depend on the support provided by all member states.

...

COMCEC has sustained its endeavors uninterruptedly for 21 years with the support of OIC Member States, and acquired the distinct peculiarity of being an international forum for developing economic and commercial relations among our countries and evaluating economic developments in the world.

The Organisation of Islamic Conference is the second biggest political organisation worldwide in terms of population and geographical size, next to the United Nations. Therefore, it is the main goal of the activities by COMCEC to make use of the opportunities and meet the needs of the members of the Organisation of Islamic Conference, in such a way as to produce common benefits in the economic and commercial field. It is our common wish that the member states provide strong support to the realisation of concrete projects of an international size and scale through efficient and fruitful activities.

I would like to seize this opportunity to congratulate the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art, and Culture in Istanbul on its 25th anniversary. The Center has scored significant accomplishments over the past 25 years. With the invaluable support and attention of the Secretariat and the member countries, it has made concrete contributions to the study and preservation of, and dissemination of information on the works of Islamic art and culture. The "Islamic Countries Cultural Week", organised for the 25th anniversary, underlines the diversity and value of these works, which are embedded into the traditions of the member countries pertaining to culture and art. I hope the Center will pursue these fruitful activities with a further extended scope.

...

One of the main challenges for us is to combat poverty from which more than 1 billion people suffer today, by exerting all efforts required. As the international community, our main priority is to half, by 2015, the number of people in the world who have a daily income of less than one dollar and are on the brink of starvation. With a view to establishing an environment that enables development and the reduction of poverty both at the national and global levels, we must show determination and build strong partnerships with the private sector and nongovernmental organizations.

To reach these goals, the establishment of better and independently operating political and economic mechanisms compatible with universal values and based on principles such as democracy, the rule of law, human rights, good governance, transparency, accountability, gender equality, and rejection of violence, is among our important tasks.

...

societies' goals. He said IRCICA is one of those institutions which succeeded in fulfilling their mandate pertinently, and "having witnessed the evolution of the Centre, I can say with certainty that the Centre covered culture and arts with full content." Prof. İsen commended the achievements of Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of OIC, who was the Director General of IRCICA until the end of 2004, for performing his mission and responsibilities in the best way, a success which carried him to higher missions. He expressed his conviction that the new Director General Dr. Halit Eren will endeavour to continue to raise the IRCICA flag higher.

The Secretary General of the OIC Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu addressed the audience, recalling the establishment stages of IRCICA. Almost thirty years ago, the idea of setting up the Centre was agreed upon at the Seventh Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held in Istanbul, at the proposal of Turkey; the process was implemented under the great leadership of H.E. Dr. Amadou Karim Gaye, Secretary General at that time, who was also one of the founders of OIC. His successor H.E. Mr. Habib Chatti appointed Prof. İhsanoğlu to be the founding Director General of the Centre. Prof. İhsanoğlu said he had the honour of serving this institution dedicating his life to it and was proud of the results achieved. He said he was grateful to the Member States who supported the idea, the host country Turkey. He also expressed his gratitude to the former Secretary Generals, his predecessors. He said that the Governing Board of IRCICA, which has always been a panel of eminent specialists, greatly contributed to the Centre's success.

H.R.H. Princess Dr. Wijdan Ali, Chairperson of the Governing Board of IRCICA, said that this anniversary was an important and a precious occasion all Muslims should be proud of, since IRCICA is one of the most successful cultural institutions of the Muslim world. She said "Governments, buildings, centres alone do not make a successful cultural institution; what makes it is its leader, and IRCICA was very fortunate to have Prof. İhsanoğlu as its leader, with his

foresight, his great abilities in administration and planning, which helped in making the Centre one of the most important and most-effective cultural institutions of the Muslim world." She wished success to Dr. Halit Eren, the present Director General of IRCICA, and his team.

Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, conveyed gratitude for the patronage and support extended to IRCICA by its host country the Republic of Turkey and the support of inestimable importance accorded by the Member States, which reaffirm the trust placed on IRCICA as the OIC's cultural organ. He said that the inter-disciplinary audiences participating in the commemorations of IRCICA's anniversary reflected that the coverage of its international cooperation network was commensurate with the ever-expanding scope of its mandate. The Director General said that the active participation of the Member States in the Islamic Countries Cultural Week that was going on in Istanbul from 22 to 28 November reflected the importance given by the Member States to the common and the diverse aspects of their cultures and the multifarious expressions of the latter which are all within the domain of IRCICA's fields of study. He recorded his gratitude to the Member States for their participation in the Islamic Countries Cultural Week organised on the occasion of IRCICA's 25th anniversary.

The Director General said it was a significant coincidence that Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, who had directed IRCICA from 1980 until taking office as Secretary General of OIC on 1st January 2005, was honouring the 25th anniversary ceremony that day in his capacity as Secretary General. He said that Prof. İhsanoğlu's excellent management of the Centre had played an immense role in the Centre's attaining its present status. Then he presented to Prof. İhsanoğlu the first copy of a Festschrift, entitled Essays in Honour of Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu. This book published by the Centre contains forty-five articles by select scholars and authors from the East and the West on subjects related to the Centre's fields of research.



21st Session of IRCICA Governing Board

25 November 2005

The Governing Board of IRCICA held its Twenty-first Session of the Centre's headquarters in Yıldız Palace in Istanbul, on 25 November 2005, the day following the anniversary commemoration ceremony held within the framework of the 21st session of the COMCEC. The Board session was held in the presence of H.E. Professor Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference. The following Board members were present: H.R.H. Princess Dr. Wijdan Ali (Chair), Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan; Prof. Abdul Hafez Helmy Mohammad (Vice-Chair), Arab Republic of Egypt; Dr. Abdulaziz Deraman, Malaysia; Mr. Mohammed Al-Murr, United Arab Emirates; Dr. Amadou Cisse Ndieguene, Republic of Senegal; Dr. Saad bin Abdul Aziz Al-Rashid, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Prof. Günsel Renda, Republic of Turkey; Dr. Abdul Aziz Abdullah Turki Al-Subaie, State of Qatar; Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA.

H.R.H. Dr. Wijdan Ali, Chairperson of the Board, inaugurated the session with an address in which she congratulated the Centre on its 25th anniversary, commending the various commemoration activities organised on this occasion. In its first session, the Board heard the report of the Director General of IRCICA comprising the activities completed or ongoing within the framework of the work plan for 2005-2006 and the proposed work plan for 2006-2007. The Director General underlined the most important accomplishments of the Centre during the period since the previous

session, citing, in particular, the long-term projects relating to the compilation of bibliographies of the translations of the Quran that are found in printed and manuscript forms. He also briefed the Board on the First International Congress on Islamic Archeology which was held in Istanbul in April 2005, underlining the importance it carries as the first congress of its kind. Citing the activities which were completed during the period of one year that had passed since the previous meeting of the Board, he mentioned the Second International Symposium on "Islamic Civilisation in the Volga-Ural Region" which was held in Kazan, Tatarstan on 24-26 June 2005; the symposium on "Bilad Al-Sham During the Ottoman Era" organised in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture of Syria in Damascus, on 26-30 September 2005. The Director General also spoke of the future projects to be organised by the Centre, such as the third international symposium on "Islamic Civilisation in the Balkans" to be held in Bucarest, Romania on 1-5 November 2006; the international symposium on "Islamic Civilisation in Southern Africa" which will be the third one relating to Africa, to be held in South Africa in September 2006; the international symposium on "Tourism and Traditional Crafts" which will be held in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 7-14 November 2006 in cooperation with the Supreme Commission for Tourism of the Kingdom, among others. The Board reviewed the report of the Director General, deliberated on some of the activities, and adopted the report.



The Board took note of the Centre's studies and contributions to recent conferences on the theme of the waqf institution. Board members underlined the relevance of the subject within the framework of the Centre's mandate and recommended that the latter undertakes a research project on the waqf institution which would deal not only with historical aspects of the waqf but also its existing and possible contemporary applications. Relating to the dissemination of information on IRCICA's activities on regular basis, the Board members commended the introductory brochure that the Centre published on the occasion of its 25th anniversary. They pointed out to the necessity of documenting

all the activities undertaken by the Centre in a documentary book. On the other hand, the Board observed with appreciation that the Centre realised many projects in cooperation with cultural and academic institutions in the Member States and around the world. The Governing Board examined and adopted the proposed budget of the Centre for 2006-2007.

The Board expressed its appreciation to the OIC Member States for having taken part in the "Islamic Countries Cultural Week" organised by the Centre on the occasion of its 25th anniversary.

Excerpts from the welcoming address of Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA,
at the 21st Session of the Governing Board of IRCICA
25 November 2005

This session of the Board convenes in a significant period coinciding with the twenty-fifth anniversary commemorations of the Centre. It is an honour for us that the commemoration activities are inaugurated and held in the presence of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey, the Secretary General of OIC, the Governor of Istanbul, the Metropolitan Mayor of Istanbul, the distinguished members of the Governing Board of IRCICA, and representatives from the international academic and cultural communities.

A ceremony marking this anniversary was held yesterday, 24 November, as part of the program of the COM-CEC, an OIC body chaired by the President of Turkey. ...The proceedings of the ceremony underscored the role IRCICA assumes as the intergovernmental cultural institution of the OIC countries dealing with Islamic culture and civilisation.

The present anniversary is commemorated with an Islamic Countries Cultural Week comprising concerts and folkloric performances, exhibitions of paintings, handicrafts and publications displaying the cultural riches of the OIC member countries. The program is realised with the cooperation of the Municipality of Greater Istanbul. We believe the colourful image reflected in Istanbul during this Week conveys the message of a common culture and its myriad expressions, representing the immense cultural assets and potentials of the Muslim world to the study of which IRCICA is devoted.

This anniversary also coincides with Professor Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu's first year in office as Secretary General of OIC after having directed IRCICA since 1980. This is an occasion to express our gratitude to him for his excellent management that enabled the Centre to reach its present status and the close support that the Secretary General continues to extend to the Centre.

A vital element in IRCICA's success is no doubt, the

support and cooperation of the OIC Member States, their governments, their cultural institutions. We are grateful as always to the host country of the Centre, the Republic of Turkey, for having proposed to host IRCICA in the first place, allocating the Centre magnificent premises in the historical Yıldız Palace, providing patronage and facilities for its activities.

The Governing Board of IRCICA, composed of eminent scholars and specialists appointed from nine Member States, will review the Centre's activities under its current work plan covering the period from July 2005 to June 2006 inclusive, finalise its proposed work plan for next year, 2006-2007, and recommend guidelines and policies for its operations. Its agenda will cover the continuing long-term programs and several newly established projects. Among these are the international competition that was launched in July 2005 towards the Prince Faisal Award for the Preservation of Islamic Architectural Heritage, aiming to give recognition to the best architectural restoration projects of Islamic monuments. We will have two congresses in 2006 to focus on the history and the living cultural heritage of Islamic civilisation in regions outside the present Muslim world, to be held in Southern Africa and Romania respectively.

...Within the framework of its activities aiming to promote Islamic arts, IRCICA coordinates training courses in various branches of Islamic arts, especially calligraphy. Over the past years a number of calligraphers from around the world were presented diplomas - Ijaza, in accordance with the tradition. This year's diplomas will be presented to the successful trainees within the framework of the twenty-fifth anniversary commemoration program. ...During your stay in Yıldız Palace you may also wish to visit the exhibitions of calligraphy and Islamic arts and handicrafts on display in the various halls. ...

Presentation of "Diplomas" of Calligraphy

25 November 2005

Following the opening ceremony of the Twenty-first Session of the Governing Board of IRCICA, held at the Centre's headquarters on 25 November 2005, a special session was devoted to the presentation of *Ijaza* - "diplomas" or "licenses" of calligraphy that are delivered by teacher to student in accordance with the traditional practice in the teaching of this art. This session was attended by guests from the diplomatic corps in Istanbul, members of faculties of art, calligraphers, and lovers of this art, together with the delegations of the Member States participating in the Islamic Countries Cultural Week.

The ceremony underscored the positive results achieved through the services of IRCICA in promoting this art, encouraging its teaching and practice, and creating opportunities for calligraphers of various countries and varying levels of advancement to meet each other and cooperate in upgrading their knowledge and skills.

Until that day inclusive, thirty-five calligraphy "diplomas" were issued within the framework of the training programs coordinated by IRCICA, to calligraphers from Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Iran, Japan, Jordan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, and U.S.A.

Six calligraphers who recently completed their training courses coordinated by the Centre received their *Ijaza* during the 21st Session of IRCICA Governing Board, within the framework of the Centre's twenty-fifth anniversary commemoration program.

Then, Mr. Mahmud Ibrahim Salama from Egypt addressed the audience on behalf of the calligraphers who had received *Ijaza*, expressing his thanks for the attention and the special programs that were devoted to this art to ensure its preservation and steady development.



Mr. Hamidi Belaïd from Morocco received his *Ijaza* in the Taliq style issued by his teacher Prof. Ali Alpaslan. He received the *Ijaza* certificate from Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu, Secretary General of the OIC. In the past years, Mr. Belaïd had obtained *Ijaza* in the thuluth naskh and diwani styles within the framework of the same program.



The following *Ijaza* were all in the Thuluth Naskh Style: Mr. Mahmud Ibrahim Salama (Egypt) and Mr. Khalifa al-Shimi (Egypt) were both trained and delivered their *Ijaza* by Mr. Hasan Çelebi. Mr. Salama received his certificate from Prof. Abdulhafez Helmy Mohammad (Egypt), Vice-Chairman of the Governing Board of IRCICA. Mr. Khalifa al-Shimi received his from Mr. Mohammed al-Murr (United Arab Emirates), member of the Governing Board of IRCICA.



Mr. Hasan Çelebi spoke on behalf of the teachers, underlining that this "diploma" is issued only if the teacher is convinced the trainee has shown promising progress and is likely to continue to work to learn more and improve his skills. In other words, this certificate does not indicate an accomplishment or a completion, but it is only a beginning.



Mr. Jewad Hooran from Iran was trained by Mr. Mehmet Özçay. During the ceremony he received his certificate from Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA.



Ms. Soraya Syed (U.K.), who was trained by Mr. Afdaluddin Kılıç, received her certificate from Dr. Wijdan Ali (Jordan), Chair of the Governing Board of IRCICA.



Mr. Ömer Faruk Özoğul (Turkey), who was trained by Mr. Davut Bektaş, received his certificate from the hands of Dr. Abdulaziz Abdullah Torki al-Subaie (Qatar), member of the Governing Board of IRCICA.

Meeting the Challenges of the 21st Century: The Third Extraordinary Islamic Summit

Convened In Mecca, 6-7 December 2005



The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz opened the Conference.

The Third Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference was held in Mecca, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 7-8 December 2005. (The two previous Extraordinary Sessions of the Islamic Summit Conference were held in Islamabad, Pakistan, on 23 March 1997, and Doha, Qatar, on 5 March 2003 respectively.) The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, opened the Conference with a speech in which he stressed that extremism, fanaticism and excommunication will not take root in a land that is endowed with the spirit of tolerance and the dissemination of moderation. He affirmed his aspiration to the rise of a unified Islamic community; a rule that eradicates injustice and oppression; comprehensive Islamic development targeting the removal of destitution and poverty; the spread of reason and moderation which are characteristics of the tolerance of Islam; having Muslim inventors and industrialists; an advanced Islamic technology; and a Muslim youth who equally works for this life and the hereafter. The Conference was also addressed by the Prime Minister of Malaysia, H.E. Dato Seri Abdullah bin Ahmed Badawi, in his capacity as Chairman of the Tenth Islamic Summit Conference (Putrajaya, 2003). In his statement, he stressed that the causes of the problems faced by the Muslim world today must be confronted and addressed in a holistic manner, among others by building capacities and projecting the true image of Islam and its civilisation.

Addressing the opening session, Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Secretary General of the OIC, reviewed the current situation of the OIC and the appropriate place it is aspiring to occupy on the international scene, taking into account the huge global developments and the need for strategic planning so as to keep abreast of these developments in such a way that safeguards the supreme interests of the Muslim world and enables it to preserve its identity, civilisation and lofty human values as a fundamental factor for the cohesion of the fabric of the Muslim societies and the strengthening of their social stability.

The Summit conference took note of the reports and recommendations submitted by the Meeting of Foreign Ministers Preparatory to the Extraordinary Summit, and the Secretary General's report titled "New Vision for the Muslim World: Solidarity in Action". It adopted a "Ten-Year Programme of Action to Meet the Challenges Facing the Muslim Ummah in the 21st Century". The Conference also adopted the Mecca Declaration.

As regards intellectual issues, the Summit reaffirmed that Islam is a religion of moderation which rejects bigotry, extremism and fanaticism. It stressed that dialogue among civilisations based on mutual respect, understanding and equality between people, is a prerequisite for establishing a world marked by tolerance, cooperation, peace and confidence among nations. The Conference called for combating pseudo-religious and sectarian extremism.



In the political field, the Conference stressed the importance of the question of Palestine as the central cause of the Muslim community. The ending of the Israeli occupation of the Arab and Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, the Syrian Golan and the remaining occupied Lebanese territories in compliance with Security Council Resolution 425, constitutes a vital request for the entire Muslim world. This question should unify the Muslim position regarding the comprehensive settlement of the question of Palestine in accordance with the United Nations resolutions, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Roadmap. Efforts should be made to regain the city of Al-Quds, safeguard its Islamic and historical character, preserve and protect Al-Aqsa Mosque and other sacred sites, counter the judaization of the Holy City, support the Palestinian institutions in the city, and establish Al-Aqsa University in the city of Al-Quds. It called for support to the Waqf of Al-Quds Fund with each Muslim individual contributing one dollar, besides contributions by Member States in order to preserve the holy sites in the city of Al-Quds, including in particular Al-Aqsa Mosque; safeguard the sacred city's cultural and historic landmarks and Arab-Islamic identity, and strengthen the steadfastness of its population so that it may regain its character as a city of coexistence and tolerance and the capital of the State of Palestine. The Conference reiterated working hand in hand with the international community to cease and dismantle settlements in the occupied territories. It also called for a halt in the building of the Separation Wall and its demolition in accordance with the opinion of the International Court of Justice.

The Summit Conference discussed the developments in Iraq and welcomed the Arab Initiative for National Accord among the Iraqi parties. It expressed the hope that the legislative elections would lead to a constitutional Iraqi government so as to safeguard the country's unity and territorial integrity to ensure peace, security, stability, and condemned

the terrorist violence faced by the Iraqi people. It supported the political process and the completion of building constitutional institutions as well as Iraqi reconstruction. The Conference further stressed the importance of the role of the UN in Iraq in cooperation with the OIC.

The Conference expressed its support to the people of Jammu and Kashmir for their inalienable right to self-determination in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. It called for respect of the human rights of the Kashmiri people and agreed to provide all possible political and diplomatic support to the true representatives of this people in their struggle against foreign occupation.

The Conference expressed its firm determination to act in solidarity with the Muslim Turkish Cypriot people and their rightful cause, by supporting the efforts within the UN framework to find a comprehensive, fair and lasting settlement of the problem on the basis of political equality, as well as by taking concrete steps towards the elimination of all restrictions isolating the Turkish Cypriots.

The Conference welcomed the comprehensive peace agreement in Sudan and the resolution adopted by the 10th Islamic Summit Conference regarding the creation of a Fund for the Reconstruction of War-Affected areas in Sudan, and urged Member States to effectively contribute to this Fund.

The Conference reiterated its support for the Somali Government in its efforts to restore security and achieve reconstruction.

The Conference also reiterated its condemnation of the continued Armenian aggression against the sovereignty of Azerbaijan and its territorial integrity and called for complete and unconditional withdrawal from all occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

The Conference emphasised commitment to and credibility of Joint Islamic Action through implementation of

the resolutions, particularly as regard the display of Islamic solidarity in the face of natural disasters, etc, and countering foreign threats that jeopardize the security of any OIC Member State in a collective manner and rejected unilateral sanctions, which may be imposed against any Member State. The Conference also stressed the need to reform the OIC with a view to further energizing its institutions and enhance its role.

The Conference stressed the need to condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and reject any justification for it, considering terrorism a global phenomenon not related to any religion, race, color or country. The Conference emphasised also the importance of joining international efforts to combat this phenomenon, and to endeavor to implement the recommendations adopted by the International Counter-Terrorism Conference, held in Riyadh in 2005, including the creation of an International Center for Combating Terrorism, as well as the need to differentiate between terrorism and the legitimate resistance to foreign occupation. The Conference also stressed the need to support the efforts aimed at drawing up an International Code of Conduct for Combating Terrorism, as well as the need to hold an international conference in special session of the United Nations General Assembly to affirm international agreement on laying down a coherent strategy for combating this dangerous phenomenon.

The Conference expressed its concern at rising hatred against Islam and Muslims in the world and condemned the recent incident of desecration of the image of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) in the media of certain countries. It stressed the responsibility of all governments to ensure full respect of all religions and religious symbols and

the inapplicability of using the freedom of expression as a pretext to defame religions.

The Conference called for considering the possibility of preparing an Islamic Charter on Human Rights in accordance with the provisions of the Cairo Declaration on Human Rights. The Conference further highlighted importance of promoting women's rights and education and welcomed Turkey's offer to host the First OIC Women's Conference.

The Conference stressed the need for the media in the Muslim world to project the true image of Islam, and to effectively deal with international media to attain this objective.

In the economic and social fields, the Conference underlined the importance of cooperation in the fields of poverty alleviation, elimination of illiteracy, and eradication of diseases and epidemics such as AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis. It pointed to the need to mobilise the necessary resources to this end by establishing a special fund within the Islamic Development Bank. The Conference mandated the IDB Board of Governors to implement this proposal. With reference to the call of the United Nations Secretary General to eradicate Polio, the Conference stressed the significance of international efforts exerted in this regard, especially that OIC Member States are the most affected by the disease.

The Conference decided to take practical steps to achieve scientific and technological development, with a view to supporting sustainable development in OIC Member States.

The Conference extended gratitude and appreciation to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its continuing support to the OIC and its General Secretariat. It also expressed gratitude and appreciation to the OIC Secretary General for his efforts to bring a new spirit and vision for the Organisation marked by efficiency and effectiveness.



Recent Activities

International Congress on Bilad al-Sham During the Ottoman Era Damascus, 26-30 September 2005

Under the patronage of H.E. Dr. Bashar al-Assad, President of the Syrian Arab Republic, IRCICA and the Ministry of Culture of Syria have jointly organised the International Congress on "Bilad Al-Sham during the Ottoman Era", in Damascus, on 26-30 September 2005.

Forty-three papers were presented by scholars from universities in the Arab world, Turkey, Europe, Japan and the USA. The following main topics were addressed: research difficulties and resources of the Ottoman history studies; society and the relationship with the State; financial management (16-18th centuries); administrative, justice and waqf systems; the European influence in the late Ottoman era; modernisation during the late Ottoman period (Tanzimat era); intellectual and cultural life; architecture, cities and infrastructure; travels and population movements, as well as such subjects as Sufism and the *Zawaya* (dervish convents) and their cultural and spiritual influence;

agriculture; handicrafts and industry; trade and seaports; transportation facilities; educational institutions; scientific activity; printing and press; libraries; cultural and scientific literature, among others.

Opening of the congress: The opening ceremony was held on 26 September at Cham Palace hotel in Damascus in presence of H.E. Dr. Mahmoud al-Sayed, Minister of Culture, representing H. E. Dr. President Bashar al-Asad, President of the Syrian Arab Republic. The ceremony was attended by ministers from the Syrian Government and heads and members of the diplomatic missions of OIC countries in Damascus, interested scholars, researchers, students and media representatives.

In his address at the inauguration ceremony of the conference, the OIC Secretary General Professor Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu underlined the OIC's commitment to encouraging cultural activities among the Islamic countries,





proceeding from the conviction that strengthening their cultural relations affords the soundest foundation for developing their relations in other fields. The Secretary General commended the role played by IRCICA by organising a series of congresses on the history of Muslim nations in different parts of the world, on regional basis, and devoting the present one to Bilad al-Sham, covering the Middle East. The Secretary General also paid a glowing tribute to the Syrian Arab Republic and its historical capital Damascus, referring especially to Syria's unique position in the Arab and Muslim worlds because it was so immersed in the deep-rooted Islamic civilisation that it was able to expand to the east and west and herald to the whole of humanity the Islamic divine message, knowledge, and guidance enshrined in its spirit of tolerance and coexistence. He reaffirmed that this congress shall form a basis for improving existing radical concepts built about the history of the Ottoman State which followed from old-fashioned political traditions and ideology and lacked the objectivity and methodology needed for the study of history. He called for periodical repetition of the congress, to be arranged jointly with other countries. The Secretary General, who is at the same time a scholar in Ottoman history, attended various sessions of the congress.

In his statement on behalf of H.E. President Bashar Al-Asad, H.E. Dr. Mahmoud al-Sayed, Minister of Culture of the Syrian Arab Republic welcomed the participants. He highlighted the importance of Congress' theme and objectives and expressed his appreciation to the OIC and IRCICA for their collaboration with the Government of Syria in organising this congress in Damascus at a time when the Arab and Muslim regions are facing momentous challenges on all levels. He also pointed to the significance of the topic

of the congress which reflects that Turkey and the present-day states in the former Bilad al-Sham region share a common history of nearly four centuries which should pave the way for increased understanding and cooperation between their peoples. The Minister noted that the importance of the congress theme also follows from the importance of the Ottoman period in Syria's history and from shedding light on a wide-range of prevalent contemporary aspects of life.

IRCICA's Director General Dr. Halit Eren gave a statement at the opening ceremony, pointing to the importance of the history of Bilad al-Sham region in world history, especially for the inexhaustible sources and vast experiences it possesses in the field of the history of relations between nations, communities, cultures and religions. He said that the history of this region and the history of the Ottoman State constitute subject areas in which research, literature and data sources are relatively advanced, and that therefore this congress was going to benefit from state-of-the-art contributions by specialists from around the world. He recalled that the idea of the congress had been approved by President Bashar Al-Asad at his meeting with Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanođlu during the President's visit to IRCICA in January 2004. Dr. Eren outlined the series of congresses on the History of Muslim Nations that IRCICA organises in various regions with focuses on the history of Islam in those regions. He expressed his conviction that this congress was going to contribute in highlighting many common aspects and experiences in the history of Muslim nations in the Middle East region. He thanked all those who contributed in the organisation of the symposium, particularly the coordinators: Dr. Abdal-Razzaq Moaz, Deputy Minister of Culture, Syria, and Dr. Nazeih Maarouf from IRCICA. He conveyed his thanks to the participants for their interest and contributions.

Session themes and papers:

Session 1:

Writing of the history of Bilad al-Sham during the Ottoman Period: Methodological and Research Difficulties

Chair: Abdul-Karim Rafeq

Tufan Buzpinar

How Should We Study the History of Ottoman Rule in the Bilad al-Sham?

Toru Miura

Continuity and Discontinuity of Damascus from the Mamluk Period to the Ottoman Rule

Thomas Philipp

The Governors of Aleppo, Damascus, Sidon and Tripoli in the Ottoman Era

Session 2:

Sources of the Studies on Ottoman History

Chair: Mahmoud Amer

Önder Bayır

The Ottoman Archives on Bilad al-Sham

Khairia Kasmieh

From the Mirror of Damascus: Some Aspects of the 1st World War

Jaafar Muhajir

The Diary of Shihab al-Deen Ahmad Ben Touk

Session 3:

Society and the Relationship with the State

Chair: Önder Bayır

Faisal Al Kandari

The Petition of the People of Aleppo to the Grand Vizier

Mohannad Mbaydeen

Non-Muslims in Islamic Juristic Texts during the Eighteenth Century

Margaret L. Meriwether

Family Ties and Social Networks in Early Modern Aleppo

Session 4:

Financial Management (16-18th Centuries)

Chair: Khairia Kasmieh

Mahmoud Amer

The Ottoman Coins and Reflection on the Life of Bilad al-Sham

Issam Khalife

The Baalbek District in the Sixteenth Century: Historical Demography and Taxation

Mehmet İpşirli

Some Remarks on the Province of Damascus and its Budget of March 1578-March 1579 during the Governorship of Sokulluzade Hasan Pasha

Brigitte Marino

The Investments of Ismâ'il Pasha al-Azem (1725-1730) in the Damascus Countryside

Session 5:

Administrative, Court and Waqf Systems

Chair: Mehmet İpşirli

Randi Deguilhem

Kadak wa-Khulû on Waqf Properties: Just Another Contract? A Look at Nineteenth Century Damascene Practices

Stefan Knost

The Role and Organisation of Neighbourhood Endowments (Waqf al-Mahalla) in 18th and 19th Century Aleppo: Some Preliminary Remarks

Jean-Paul Pascual

The Muhasaba: The Management of the

Colette Establet

Inheritance of Minorities, a Source for the Legal Administration of Properties in Damascus around 1700

Session 6:

Economic Life during the Late Ottoman Period

Chair: Issam Khalife

Abdul-Aziz Awad

Land and Agriculture System in Syria Wilayat during the Ottoman Tanzimat Era (1839-1914)

Vanessa Guéno

Mahkamat nizâmiyé and the countryside at the End of the Ottoman Rule: The Case of Qadâ Hims (Central Syria)



Session 7:

The European Influence in the Late Ottoman Era

Chair: Tufan Buzpinar

Abdul-Karim Rafeq

Syria's Reaction to European Capitalism in the 2nd half of the 19th century: Introducing Modernization, Pooling Resources, and Engaging in Partnership Across the Religious Divide

Ali Ihsan Gencer

The Reactions to Wilhelm II's Journey to Bilad-al-Sham

Mustafa Kaçar

German Emperor Wilhelm II's Journey to Bilad al-Sham (October-November 1898)

Session 8:

**Modernisation during the Late Ottoman Period
(Tanzimat Era)**

Chair: Muhamad Qajja

Vehbi Baysan

Modernization of Ottoman Public Education and the Bilad Al-Sham during the Tanzimat Era

Massoud Daher

Modernization of Culture and Education in 19th-century Ottoman Bilad al-Sham

Iyad Tabbaa

The First Prints and Publications in Bilad al-Sham

Session 9:

Intellectual and Cultural Life

Chair: Thomas Philipp

Nelly Hanna

Syrian Popular Culture in the Seventeenth Century According to Damascene Biographer Muhibbi

Steve Tamari

Mufti and Mudarris: Localism and Ottomanism among the Teachers of 18th-Century Damascus

Mehmet Canatar

Some Documents and Evaluations about the Public Library of Damascus

Riyadh Murad

Intellectual Life in Damascus during the 12th Century

Session 10:

Cities and Infrastructure

Chair: Ghazi Bisheh

Nofan Al-Sawarieh

Water and its Resources in Jerusalem and the Neighboring Areas during the Ottoman Reign: A Documentary Historical Study

Verena Daiber

Damascus in the 18th Century: the Impact of a Natural Disaster on Official Structures and Infrastructure of a Major Ottoman City

Najwa Othman

Substructure Projects in Aleppo in the Late Ottoman Era (1900-1918)

Mouaffak Doughman

The Projects of Infrastructure and their Effects on the Urban Plan of Damascus City at the End of 19th Century

Session 11:

Architecture and Patronage (A)

Chair: Günsel Renda

Himmat Taşkömür

Royal Patronage in Damascus and Jerusalem in the Sixteenth Century

Zekeriya Kurşun

The Security of the Pilgrims Road and its Logistics in the 19th Century: Protection and Renovation of the Forts and Pilgrims Wells

Session 12:

Architecture and Patronage (B)

Chair: Yusuf Natsheh

Beatrice St. Laurent

Ottoman Restorations of the Dome of the Rock

Talal Akili

Umayyad Mosque Fire (1311 H.-893 AC) - Critical Study of the Rebuilding and Restoration Works

Abir Arkawi

Caravanserais in Damascus during the Ottoman Period



Session 13:

Domestic Architecture and its Decorations

Chair: Abdal-Razzaq Moaz

Stefan Weber

The Damascene Living Room: Aspects of an Urban Residential Culture in the Ottoman Period

Günsel Renda

Painted Decorations in 19th Century Ottoman Houses: A Comparative Study

Ariane Ahmad

The Development of the External Facades of the Courtyard Houses in the Syrian Cities in the Late 19th Century

Session 14:

Workshop

Abdal-Razzaq Moaz

Bilad al-Sham during the Ottoman Era in a Virtual Museum of Islamic Art

Concluding remarks and closing session: Prior to the closing ceremony, a session was held for concluding remarks and recommendations on methodological issues relating to the historiography of Bilad al-Sham. The participants were Abdul-Karim Rafeq, Khairia Kasmieh, Mehmet İpşirli, Thomas Philipp, Nelly Hanna, and Abdal-Razzaq Moaz. They underlined the importance of the congress, commended the quality of the papers, and stressed the need to hold the congress periodically.

At the closing ceremony, H.E. Dr. Mahmoud al-Sayed, Minister of Culture of Syria, and Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, both expressed their gratitude to the participants for their active contributions and called for

more cooperation in this field of study. The congress participants issued a cable of gratitude to H.E. Dr. President Bashar al-Asad, President of the Syrian Arab Republic, for extending his patronage to the congress and for the warm hospitality shown by his country and his people towards the congress.

Exhibition contributed by the Department of Ottoman Archives, Directorate General of State Archives, Turkey: "Bilad al-Sham in the Ottoman Archives"

An important feature of the congress was the exhibition entitled "Bilad al-Sham in the Ottoman Archives" which was prepared by the Turkish Prime Ministry's Department of Ottoman Archives in Istanbul as a contribution to the congress. The exhibition, held at the National Museum in Damascus, presented the reproductions of samples of decrees and other administrative documents issued by the Ottoman State during the period from the 16th-early 20th centuries and relating to the region. Given the essential importance of Ottoman archive documents as the main and the original sources for studies in Ottoman history, the exhibition was an integral component of the congress.

The exhibition was inaugurated jointly by: H.E. Dr. Mahmoud al-Sayed, Minister of Culture of Syria, H.E. Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the OIC, Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, H.E. Mr. Halit Çevik, Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey in Syria, Mr. Önder Bayır, Director, Department of the Ottoman Archives (Istanbul), Prime Ministry of the Republic of Turkey, along with the representatives of the Diplomatic missions of OIC counties in Damascus. The exhibition was visited by large numbers of people: researchers, students, media representatives and the general public.



Medal of appreciation awarded by the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tatarstan to IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren

Kazan, the capital city of Tatarstan, commemorated its 1000th anniversary in June 2005, with several events including academic congresses, international meetings, publications, exhibitions (see *Newsletter* no. 67, August 2005). The Second International Symposium on "Islamic Civilisation in the Volga-Ural Region", jointly organised by IRCICA, the Municipality of Kazan, and the Tatarstan Academy of Sciences' Institute of History on 24-26 June 2005 took place within the same framework. The reprint of the historical "Kazan Mushaf - Quran copy" on the occasion of the anniversary was another activity in which IRCICA cooperated with the Kazan authorities: the copy was reprinted in Istanbul by the Municipality of Kazan, following a technical revision by IRCICA in preparation for printing.

By decision of H.E. Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, a medal has been awarded to Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, "In Memory of the 1000th Anniversary of Kazan". The medal presentation ceremony was held at the Consulate General of the Russian Federation on 15 December 2005.

The medal is awarded to Dr. Eren for the successful organisation of the International Symposium on "Islamic Civilisation in Volga-Ural" and for his contributions to the promotion of cooperation between IRCICA, the first inter-governmental cultural institution of the Muslim world, on one hand, and the academic and cultural institutions of Tatarstan and the Russian Federation at large, on the

other, through several joint projects. The medal certificate is signed by H.E. Mintimer Shaimiev, President of the Republic of Tatarstan, on behalf of the President of the Russian Federation.



Mr. Alexander Krivenko, the Consul General of the Russian Federation in Istanbul, presented the medal to Dr. Halit Eren.



Souvenir photo with the members of the Consulate General of Russia and the Representation of Tatarstan in Istanbul

Prince Faisal bin Fahd Award for the Preservation of Islamic Architecture: Competition in progress

The competition for the Prince Faisal bin Fahd Award for the Preservation of Islamic Architecture which was launched in June 2005 continues. The awards will be given to the best restoration projects of Islamic structures, to be selected by an international jury architects and specialists of restoration. The purpose of the competition is to support the revival of Islamic heritage - preservation of monuments in order to give them vital functions, either historical or contemporary. The competition is open to projects completed in the last five years and representing a remarkable contribution to the preservation of Islamic cultural heritage.

The competition is dedicated to the memory of the late Prince Faisal bin Fahd bin Abdulaziz al-Saud. Prince Faisal was the Chairman of the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage (ICPICH), an ad-hoc subsidiary body of the OIC which operated from 1983 until 2000 with IRCICA as its Executive Secretariat. The Commission was merged with IRCICA in 2000, following the demise of its Chairman, and its activities were integrated into the work plans of IRCICA. In response to the requests of the Islamic Summit and Foreign Ministers Conferences held since 2000, asking that IRCICA dedicates a special activity to the memory of Prince Faisal bin Fahd, the Centre planned to organise a series of competitions entitled "Prince Faisal bin Fahd Award for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage", the first cycle to be devoted to the theme "Prince Faisal bin Fahd Award for the Preservation of Islamic Architecture". The project was approved by the Member States of the OIC during the 32nd Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held in Sana'a, Yemen Republic, on 28-30 June 2005. The "Prince Faisal bin Fahd Award for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage" will be organised every three years, starting from 2005. Subsequent competitions will be on other themes relating to heritage preservation.

In this competition, a total of \$ 30.000 US will be awarded as three equal prizes. Since the success of a winning project may be the product of efforts by diverse individuals, groups, and organisations, the Jury will apportion prizes among the contributors - architects, other design and construction professionals, craftsmen, clients, and institutions - whom it considers most responsible for the success of each project. An exhibition of the participating projects will be held and a catalogue of this exhibition may be published.

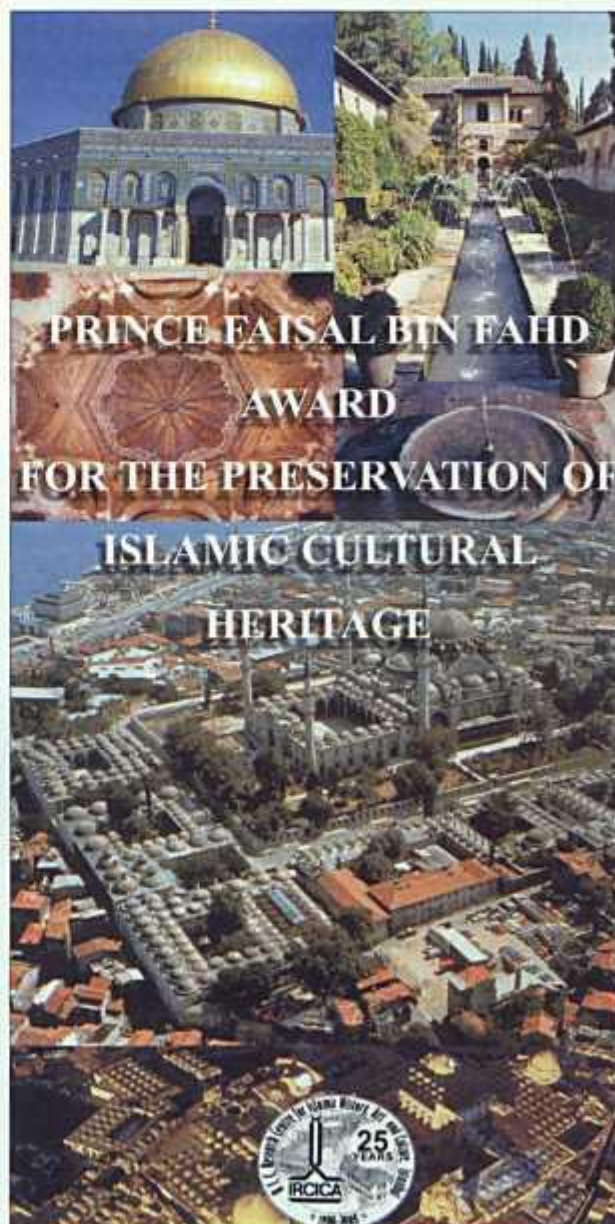
The Jury members of the first competition are: Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu, President; Dr. Saad Abdulaziz Al-Rashid; Prof. Zeynep Ahunbay; Prof. Attilio Petruccioli; Prof. Saleh Lamei Mostafa; Prof. Gulzar Haider; Dr. Halit Eren (Director General of IRCICA).

The ceremony to honor the winning projects will be held in Istanbul on Friday 20 April, 2008. A seminar to present

the award-winning projects to a wider public will be organized following the ceremony and provide a forum for the participants to debate architectural issues. A monograph bringing together descriptions of the winning projects, the jury deliberations, and essays by the Jury will be published on the occasion of the award ceremony.

The competition calendar will proceed as follows:

Announcement	June 2005
Identification and Nomination of projects	15 February 2006
Submission of Documentation	October 2006
On line work of the Master Jury	1 February - September 2007
Master jury final meeting	October 2007
Award announcement ceremony	April 2008



Participation in the Regional Meeting of the World Heritage in the Arab States Abu Dhabi, 4-8 December 2005

More than 100 experts from 19 Arab states, and nearly 30 institutions and universities from around the world working in the field of cultural heritage, took part in the Regional Meeting of the World Heritage in Arab States which was held in Abu Dhabi, on 4-8 December 2005. The meeting, which was the "Follow-up to Periodic Reporting and Information Management" was organised by the World Heritage Centre of UNESCO in collaboration with the Abu Dhabi Tourism Authority. On its agenda were the following matters: presentation of the Strategy for the Management of the Cultural Heritage of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi; the UNESCO 1972 Convention for the protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage; the Regional Program for the Arab States; presentation of Cultural World Heritage Sites in the Arab Region and discussion on their conservation and management; Natural World Heritage in the Arab States; areas of action of the Regional Programme for the Arab States; Assistance Modules for Cultural and Natural Heritage; UNESCO partners in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention: examples of projects in the Arab Region; strategy for the identification of natural properties of potential Outstanding Universal Value.

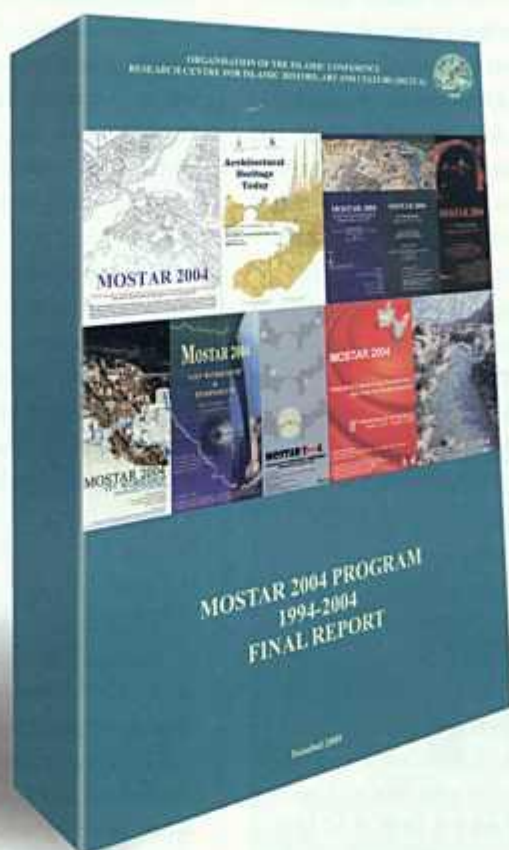
IRCICA's participation: Dr. Nazeih Marouf, Head of the Craft Development Program, represented IRCICA at the meeting. He presented a paper entitled: "IRCICA and a Project of Documenting and Recording the Archeological Sites and Historical Monuments in Islamic Countries and the Use of the Geographic Information System (GIS)". The paper highlighted those aspects of the mandate of IRCICA relating to the study, documentation and development of the cultural, architectural and archeological heritage of the Member States, and outlined the various activities undertaken by the Centre in these fields since its establishment in 1980. The latter include a multidimensional program comprising architectural workshops, production of plans and guidelines for conservation of cities and monuments; maintaining a data bank of sites and monuments of the OIC

Member States, architectural competitions to promote the preservation of architectural heritage, and publications. IRCICA's publications were displayed and drew the interest of the participants. The meeting was also an opportunity for the Centre to collect data on relevant institutions working in the field of GIS and cultural heritage restoration, preservation, documentation, and management of sites. The meeting also provided a unique opportunity for contacts with representatives of various institutions active in the field of cultural heritage development: Abu Dhabi Tourism Authority; General Organisation for the Preservation of Historic Cities of Yemen (GOPHCY); Sana'a, Yemen, ALECSO, Organization of World Heritage Cities (OWHC); Nordic World Heritage Foundation (NWHF); World Monuments Fund; Centre for Documentation of Cultural and Natural Heritage (CULTNAT); German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ); World Heritage; International Centre For the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural (ICCROM).

At the opening ceremony, H.H. Sheikh Sultan bin Tahnoon Al-Nahyan, Chairman of Abu Dhabi Tourism Authority, stressed the need to preserve the cultural heritage and promote it in order to strengthen the cultural identity on the one hand, and keep abreast with modern life on the other. His Highness added that in the United Arab Emirates, particularly in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, the issue of cultural heritage has become part and parcel of the development process witnessed by the country and that this is visible in many cultural, economic, infrastructural, touristic, scientific and religious fields.

The meeting adopted the "Regional Action Plan concerning the Cultural World Heritage in the Arab Region" and the "Regional Action Plan concerning the Natural World Heritage in the Arab Region", and agreed that these plans be used in the preparation of national action plans for cultural and natural heritage.

New publications by IRCICA



Mostar 2004 Program 1994-2004 Final Report, compiled by Prof. Dr. Amir Pasic, IRCICA, Istanbul, 2005 (in English)

■ This is a cumulative report on the activities and results of IRCICA's ten-year program of architectural workshops entitled Mostar 2004. The workshops were organised during the Summer months, in Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina, except the first two, 1994 and 1995 workshops which were held in Istanbul, Turkey. During each academic year between two workshops, the collaborating architectural faculties held studios and/or assigned theses relating to the subjects of the program, with special reference to Bosnia and Herzegovina. study, restoration, conservation of cities and buildings. These activities brought together a large number of professionals and students from various countries, thus forming a network of people and institutions interested in and contributing to the preservation of heritage, and at the same time, support for Bosnia and Herzegovina in the aftermath of the 1992-95 war. The workshops involved 823 participants from 31 countries: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Czech Republic,

Croatia, North Cyprus, South Cyprus, Denmark, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kosovo, Lebanon, Lithuania, Macedonia, Mexico, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Russia, Serbia, Spain, Syria, Turkey, United Kingdom, USA, and Uzbekistan. The teachers and students came from 68 universities. During the entire period, efforts were made to reinforce public awareness on the history, the cultural and architectural heritage of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

This comprehensive report contains the gist of the large volume of research, data and documents resulting from the program. It also reflects the experience acquired through this collaborative effort: the importance of the scientific approach in the preservation of heritage, the importance of networking, the importance of training local professionals for the conservation. It is hoped that this record of the program and the experience will be useful for preservation efforts in other parts of the world.

New publication by IRCICA

Essays in honour of Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu,
Volume I: Societies, Cultures, Sciences:
A Collection of Articles;
Volume II: Biography, bibliography,
and recollections about İhsanoğlu, IRCICA,
Istanbul, 2005

(in English, articles in English, French, Turkish)

■ This is a Festschrift in honour of Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, the Secretary General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, who was the Director General of IRCICA from 1980 to December 2005. It is an expression of gratitude for Prof. İhsanoğlu's scholarly endeavours that helped to promote research and international cooperation in many subject areas relating to the Muslim world, and, from IRCICA's standpoint, for his inspired and foresighted leadership which contributed to the Centre's success since its establishment.

The first volume contains forty-five articles on the history, cultural life, arts and sciences of Muslim countries which were contributed by scholars from around the world.

The second volume contains the views, impressions and souvenirs of persons from academic, diplomatic and cultural circles who have known and collaborated with İhsanoğlu, as well as his biography, and his bibliography. The initiative leading to this publication belong to a group of social scientists from IRCICA and from universities of Istanbul who collaborated with/under the direction of Prof. İhsanoğlu for many years: Zeynep Durukal (IRCICA), Dr. Mustafa Kaçar (Istanbul University), Prof. Ali Akyıldız (Marmara University). The essays of the first volume are grouped in three parts: I. Ottoman History: the Centre, the Provinces, Studies and Sources; II. Cultural Life; III. History of science.

