



Newsletter



ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION (OIC)
RESEARCH CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC HISTORY, ART AND CULTURE (IRCICA)

SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 2020

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Editorial

This issue begins with an outline of the 47th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC Member States which was held last month in Niamey, Republic of Niger. The session covered a wide range of issues, long-standing and emergent. After several months of confinement due to the pandemic, the session was a valuable opportunity for the participating delegates to meet, during and aside the session. For my part on behalf of IRCICA, I had the honour to conduct high-level meetings: I was received by the Prime Minister of Niger H.E. Mr. Brigi Rafini, and also the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation, African Integration and Nigeriens Abroad H.E. Mr. Kalla Ankourao, and ex-Secretary General of the OIC H.E. Dr. Hamid Algabid. Each meeting further strengthened the prospects of cultural cooperation between Niger and IRCICA, in continuation of our preceding encounters in March 2019, during the Conference on “History of Islamic Civilization in West Africa” co-organized by IRCICA and Abdou Moumouni University of Niamey. On the sidelines of the Council’s session I also had the chance to meet with the Ministers of some other Member States.

Furthermore, during the last couple of months IRCICA was honoured by visits of Ministers from the Member States to its headquarters. H.E. Ms. Nabeela F. Tunis, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Sierra Leone, paid a visit to IRCICA on 6 November 2020 within the framework of her official visit to Turkey. During the fruitful meeting held with Minister Tunis and the accompanying high officials, we defined the concepts of academic projects, mainly conferences, to be implemented jointly by IRCICA and Sierra Leone’s cultural and educational institutions. Then, on 11 December 2020, we were honoured by the visit of H.E. Mr. Patalet Geo, Minister of Tourism Development, Culture and Handicrafts of the Republic of Chad, accompanied by the Ambassador of Chad in Ankara H.E. Mr. Adoum Dangai

Nokour Guavat and high officials from Chad. During our constructive meeting, we determined the sectors of culture and handicrafts promotion where the Republic of Chad and IRCICA are intending to develop cooperation.

IRCICA’s activities grow at an increasing pace as we expand the scope of existing cooperation schemes to cover new topics and establish new relationships with cultural institutions in the Member States. During the period covered in this issue, we organized online conferences on the history and heritage of Islamic civilization as they evolved in various regions within and around the OIC’s geographical area. We presented papers resulting from our research projects at conferences coordinated online by institutions in different countries. Meantime, we published collections of papers resulting from two conferences on the History of Islamic Civilization in West Africa (Nigeria, 2018 and Niger, 2019) and two conferences relating to Islamic studies in Uzbekistan and Central Asia (Uzbekistan, 2019).

Due to the pandemic, 2020 has been a year of unprecedented experiences for humanity in all spheres of life. The pandemic posed serious impediments to cultural activity everywhere. It is noteworthy that regarding the workflow at IRCICA, the hindrances were overbalanced by the facilities that online connections offer. Thus the pace of activity at IRCICA did not slow down but some sections of the work programs were transferred to virtual modes, which also allowed larger attendance than before to the events organized. We are thankful to all institutions and individuals who collaborate with IRCICA in the management of cultural platforms and academic meetings or participate in these activities. Thank you for your interest in our work.

Prof. Dr. Halit Eren
Director General, IRCICA



The 47th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC Member States

Niamey, Niger, 27-28 November 2020

The 47th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC Member States was held in Niamey, Niger, on 27-28 November 2020. The session adopted the theme: “United against Terrorism for Peace and Development”.

The inaugural session heard the speech of Mrs. Reem Al-Hashemy, Minister of State for International Cooperation of the United Arab Emirates, Chair of the 46th Session, who stressed the importance and centrality of the Palestinian cause as a historic sine qua non requirement for peace. Referring to the COVID-19

pandemic, the Minister called for increased solidarity among the Muslim peoples to face the repercussions of this pandemic, and considered that the OIC and its various organs have an important role to play to face the current challenges.

Mr. Kalla Ankourao, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation, African Integration and Nigeriens Abroad of the Republic of Niger, pointed out the importance that his country attaches to its membership in the OIC, noting that Niger is hosting the CFM meeting for the second time, after the 13th session held in 1982.

The Minister stressed the need to intensify work to promote the values of tolerance and moderation and to renounce hate speech, extremism and exclusion. He also explained that the continuation of conflicts in the Muslim world increases the risk of the spread of the phenomena of terrorism and poverty. He referred to the security challenges that the Sahel region is witnessing, and which calls for unification of efforts aimed at eliminating terrorist groups and more support for humanitarian work, especially for the benefit of the victims of terrorism. He also stressed the importance of strengthening

economic cooperation among member states and promoting the education and health sectors. The Minister stressed the need for solidarity to ensure the distribution of a vaccine to all member states in order to eradicate completely the pandemic.

H.H. Prince Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdullah, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, delivered a speech on behalf of the Kingdom in its capacity as chair of the 14th session of the Islamic Summit Conference. The Saudi Minister stressed the importance of concerted efforts among member states to combat terrorism and extremism, and renewed Saudi Arabia's support for the Palestinian cause and the issue of Jammu and Kashmir, and looked forward to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region based on peaceful solutions.

H.E. Mrs. Aissata Tall Sall, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Senegal, delivered a speech on behalf of the African Group, H.E. Mr. Othman Jerandi, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Migration, and Tunisians Abroad of the Republic of Tunisia, spoke on behalf of the Arab Group, and H.E. Mr. Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, spoke on behalf of the Asian Group. Then, Mrs. Amira Elfadil, Commissioner for Social Affairs of the African Union, delivered a speech on behalf of Mr. Moussa Faki, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, who was invited to the meeting as a guest of honor. In her speech, she emphasized the importance of cooperation between the OIC and the African Union in matters of common interest, strengthening international solidarity to face

the economic, social and health repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic, and working to provide a vaccine for everyone.

H.E. Dr. Yousef Al-Othaimeen, the OIC Secretary General, delivered a speech in which he reviewed the Organization's efforts to mitigate the effects faced by member states, especially the least developed ones, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. He reaffirmed the Organization's stances on issues of concern to the member states, especially the Palestinian issue, combating extremism and terrorism and addressing the phenomenon of Islamophobia.

The 47th session was opened by H.E. President Mahamadou Issoufou, President of the Republic of Niger. The President emphasized the importance Niger attaches to the Islamic identity, given Niger's long-standing link to Islam; he expressed his country's adherence to the tolerant values of Islam and its commitment to respecting the culture of moderation, tolerance and peace. In reference to the theme of the current session, the President stressed the importance of strengthening cooperation among member states to combat the phenomenon of terrorism. In this context, he valued the existing cooperation with international and regional organizations and other international partners to eliminate terrorist groups and thwart extremist terrorist thought. His Excellency also renewed his country's support for the Palestinian cause, based on the Arab Initiative and international references. He urged further strengthening of economic cooperation.

The participating ministers and heads of delegation delivered statements in the meeting in

which they highlighted the various challenges facing the Islamic world. They insisted on the need to promote intra-OIC solidarity and joint Islamic action to overcome these challenges.

The Council of Foreign Ministers discussed and adopted resolutions on the many issues on its agenda including: the cause of Palestine and Al Quds Al-Sharif; Political Affairs; Statutory, Organic and General Matters; Legal Affairs; Conditions of Muslim Minorities and Communities in non-OIC Member States; Information Affairs; Administrative and Financial Affairs; Humanitarian Affairs; Economic, Science and Technology, Cultural, Social, and Family Affairs.

A special brainstorming session was held on 28 November 2020 on the topic "Security and Humanitarian Challenges Facing Sahel Countries Members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation". The session was chaired by Mr. Kalla Ankourao, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation, African Integration and Nigeriens Abroad, with the participation of ministers and heads of delegations of the Member States. In their interventions, the participants renewed their condemnation of all forms of terrorism and extremism, exchanged views on ways and means to combat terrorism and stressed the importance of adopting preventive policies to curb the spread of terrorist groups.

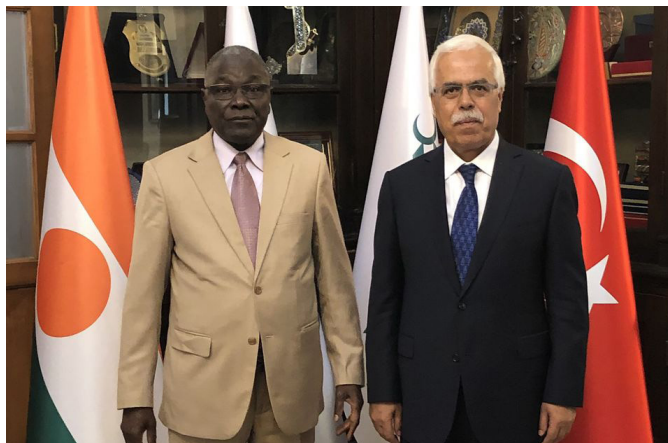
The Council of Foreign Ministers welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to host the 48th Session of the Council in 2021 and that of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to host the 49th Session.

Meetings during the period of the session

IRCICA Director General Prof. Dr. Halit Eren was received by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Niger H.E. Mr. Brigi Rafini in Niamey, on 28 December 2020. The meeting was an excellent opportunity to exchange views on the fruitful academic and cultural cooperation developed between Niger and IRCICA. Earlier, Prime Minister Brigi Rafini and Prof. Eren had met during the period of the international conference on “Islamic History and Civilization in West Africa” co-organized with Abdou Moumouni University of Niamey on 14-15 March 2019 in Niamey.



IRCICA Director General Prof. Dr. Halit Eren was received by Mr. Kalla Ankourao, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation, African Integration and Nigeriens Abroad, on 29 November 2020, during the period of the 47th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC. The deliberations were centered around cultural issues, IRCICA’s activities, and international cooperation in general. Minister Kalla and Prof. Eren had met earlier on the sidelines of the international conference on “Islamic History and Civilization in West Africa” co-organized with Abdou Moumouni University of Niamey on 14-15 March 2019 in Niamey



During the period of the 47th session of the OIC’s Council of Foreign Ministers held in Niamey, on 26 November 2020 IRCICA Director General Prof. Halit Eren paid a visit to H.E. Dr. Hamid Algabid, who was Secretary General of the OIC from 1989 to 1996.



During the 47th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, Prof. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, met with H.E. Mrs. Aissata Tall Sall, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Senegalese Abroad of the Republic of Senegal. The Director General briefed the Minister on joint activities envisaged together with Senegalese institutions.



Cooperation between the Republic of Sierra Leone and IRCICA The visit of H.E. Ms. Nabeela F. Tunis, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Sierra Leone, to IRCICA

6 November 2020

Her Excellency Ms. Nabeela F. Tunis, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Sierra Leone, paid a visit to Prof. Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA; on 6 November 2020. The Minister was accompanied by a governmental delegation. A fruitful working meeting was held during the visit which formulated the concepts and priorities of the intended cooperation in cultural, academic and artistic fields. The foundations of this cooperation had been laid during the Minister's first visit to IRCICA last year, on 17 August 2019.

Director General Prof. Dr. Halit Eren guided H.E. the Minister

and her entourage to the library, where he briefed them on the library's holdings and showed them some of the major publications of the Centre, among them the albums of historical photographs of Makkah al-Mukarramah and Medina al-Munawara and al-Qods al-Sharif. Then, the distinguished guests saw samples of Islamic calligraphy chosen from among winners' works at competitions organized by the Centre.

During the meeting held in the Directorate General's conference hall, Prof. Halit Eren welcomed H.E. the Minister and her delegation reaffirming that the Centre gives importance to

developing cooperation with Sierra Leone and all OIC Member States in Africa. He said the Centre conducts several projects in Africa and outlined some of the planned activities as well as those already completed, such as the congresses on the history of Islamic civilization in West Africa and Central Africa which were held in Niger, Nigeria and Chad in 2018 and 2019, and the online congress planned to focus on the history of Islamic civilization in Southern Africa to be held in Mozambique. Prof. Eren also spoke of the Centre's activities in the fields of arts and handicrafts and its schools of Islamic calligraphy.

Minister Ms. Nabeela F. Tunis



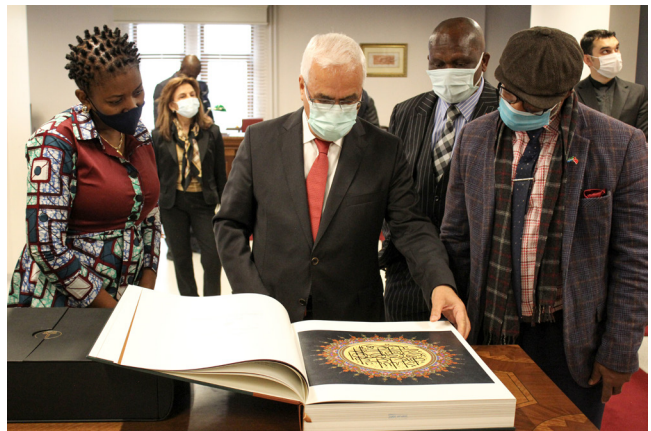
IRCICA DIRECTOR GENERAL PRESENTED H.E. MINISTER TUNIS WITH A CALLIGRAPHIC PLATE BEARING THE CENTRE'S MOTTO, WHICH IS A PART OF THE VERSE 13 OF SOURAH 49 (AL-HUJURAT) OF THE HOLY QURAN.

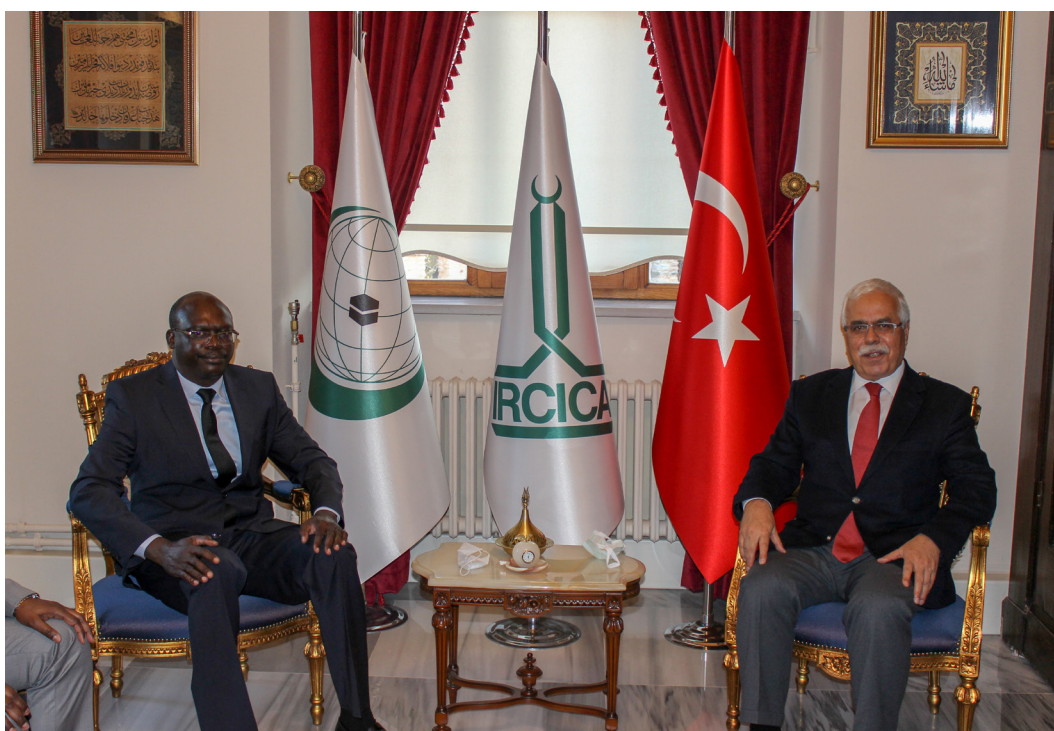


AS A SOUVENIR OF THE VISIT, H.E. THE MINISTER PRESENTED THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF IRCICA WITH A WORK OF ARTISANAT BEARING THE COLOURS OF SIERRA LEONE AND HAND-WOVEN TRADITIONAL MOTIFS (WORK OF MS. MAMUSU KAMARA).

expressed her pleasure to be visiting IRCICA and to see the rich history of this institution. She said that Sierra Leone is an active Member State of the OIC and gives importance to establishing strong relations with OIC institutions. The dimensions of research and organization of academic congresses are important for her country, she said, and great importance is given to improving education. Holding conferences of Muslim scholars in these areas would be beneficial. Another useful theme for a joint conference could be the peaceful coexistence of different faiths and cultures, she said, for which Sierra Leone is an example that shows how well it works.

The two sides decided to maintain an exchange of communications to concretize cultural and academic cooperation along the agreed lines. 🟩





Cooperation between the Republic of Chad and IRCICA H.E. Mr. Patalet Geo, Minister of Tourism Development, Culture and Handicrafts of the Republic of Chad, visited IRCICA

11 December 2020

H.E. Mr. Patalet Geo, Minister of Tourism Development, Culture and Handicrafts of the Republic of Chad paid a visit to IRCICA Director General Prof. Dr. Halit Eren on 11 December 2020.

The Minister was accompanied by the Ambassador of Chad in Ankara H. E. Mr. Adoum Dangai Nokour Guavat and a delegation comprised of: Mr. Seibou Siri, Director of Legal, Administrative and Cooperation Affairs of the Ministry, Mr. Ousmane Adam Dicky, Director of Customs, Mr. Abakar Rozzi Teguil, Coordinator

General of the National Bureau for Promotion of Tourism, Handicrafts and Arts, and Mr. Mahamat Abdoulaye Abdramane, Assistant to the Ambassador.

The meeting at the Directorate General determined the areas and types of cooperation to be implemented jointly by IRCICA and the Ministry of Tourism Development, Culture and Handicrafts of the Republic of Chad. Director General Prof. Eren gave highlights of the activities of IRCICA and said that its academic

cooperation with Chad had borne fruit in the international conference on “Islamic History and Civilization in the Central African Region” held exactly one year ago, on 13-14 December 2019, in N’Djamena, capital city of Chad. Minister Geo briefed Prof. Eren on the current priorities of the development programs within the spheres of the Ministry. Areas of collaboration that promise to be beneficial were discussed. The two sides agreed to collaborate towards training of experts, technicians and educators in the restoration

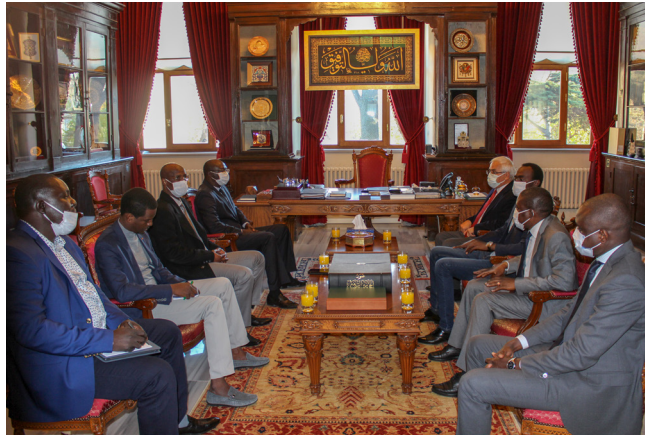
and preservation of archival materials, including ancient books and manuscripts, and for handicrafts development.

Director General Prof. Eren guided the guests to the Library and Archives Department of the Centre, briefed them on the library's activities and showed them samples of IRCICA's publications.

The Minister recorded his impressions in the Centre's Visitors' Book, as follows:

"We thank the Centre for the warm welcome that has been extended to us. We are satisfied by the quality of the discourse with the Director General of the Centre and impressed by the quality of the management of the documents of this Centre.

We record our readiness to cooperate with this Centre in the fields of culture and handicrafts." The Minister of Tourism Development, Culture and Handicrafts of Chad, Mr. Patalet Geo. 🇨🇩



AS A SOUVENIR OF THE VISIT, THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF IRCICA PRESENTED TO H.E. MINISTER PATALET GEO, A CALLIGRAPHIC PLATE BEARING THE VERSE 13 OF SOURAH AL-HUJURAT OF THE HOLY QURAN WHICH IS ADOPTED BY IRCICA AS ITS MOTTO

Webinar on “Islamic Civilization in Southern Africa” organized by IRCICA and Awqaf SA (South Africa)

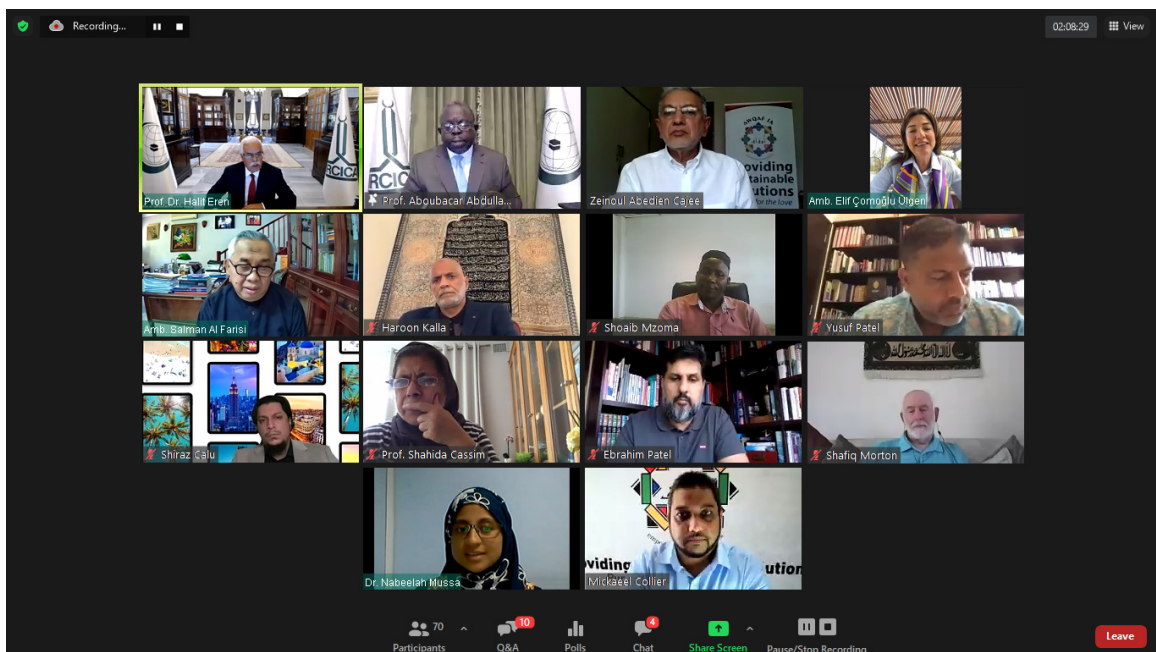
17 October 2020

IRCICA and National Awqaf Foundation of South Africa (Awqaf SA) jointly held the “Islamic Civilization in Southern Africa” Webinar on 17 October 2020. The event was designed to be a prelude to the 3rd International Congress on Islamic Civilization in Southern Africa to be held in Maputo, Mozambique in 2021.

The “Islamic Civilization in Southern Africa” Webinar was executed in two sessions. The plenary session, which was moderated by the Deputy Director of IRCICA, Prof. Dr. Aboubacar Abdullah Senghore, started with the opening address of Prof. Dr.

Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA. In his opening remarks IRCICA Director General Prof. Halit Eren briefly informed the attendees about the IRCICA’s activities on Africa and Center’s longstanding relationship with the Member States’ cultural authorities, universities and organizations and the Muslim communities. These activities resulted in scholarly publications on the history and cultures of Africa and in academic congresses oriented to the different regions of Africa: Southern Africa, West Africa, Eastern Africa and Central Africa. Prof. Eren also evoked the training programs on restoration

and conservation of library and archive collections aiming to protect and promote the sources of history studies. Then the plenary session received addresses of greetings from the Ambassador of Turkey in South Africa Amb. Elif Çomoğlu Ülgen and the Ambassador of Indonesia in South Africa Amb. Salman al Farisi. The Ambassador of Turkey evoked the shared memories in the cultural bonds between South Africa and Turkey, referring in particular to scholar Ebubekir Efendi who was assigned to Capetown in 1862 by the Ottoman Sultan Abdulaziz. The Ambassador of Indonesia emphasized the importance of



highlighting the Islamic history and culture in Southern Africa through which come to the fore the ideal values and concepts such as compassion to all human beings and attachment of wider communities to these values; he pointed to the need to reflect on how to translate these values into the realities of the 21st century.

Then Mr. Haroon Kalla, CEO of Awqaf SA, delivered an address referring to the characteristics of the Muslim community in Southern Africa in its historical evolution and relations with the Islamic world. On the development of relations with this world, he referred to the Ottoman civilization [which until early 20th century represented the greater part of the Islamic world geography] which he said is thought of as an over-arching “Ottoman Islamic Civilization” that embraces all communities. Mr. Kalla evoked the esteemed figures of the African Muslim community, in particular Usman Dan Fodio.

The working session of the Webinar, moderated by Deputy CEO of Awqaf SA Mickaeel Collier, saw three presentations on the history of Islamic civilization in Southern Africa. The first presentation was made by Dr. Yusuf Patel from South Africa. Dr. Patel talked about the political and economic directions of the Muslim community in South Africa. He described the current status of the Muslim community in statistics, analyzed its commercial activities, educational progress, immigrations; estimating the needs for the future, he recommended the establishment of a research institution on Islamic culture not only for the Islamic community but for society in general. The second presentation was made by

Dr. Shuaib Mzoma from Malawi, about the Islamic civilization is Malawi. He reviewed the history of the spread of Islam in Malawi in its successive phases, which began with the activities of individuals and continued with organizations, trusts, and their importance at all times in providing for basic needs, infrastructure, water, sanitary aid, etc. Dr. Mzoma said that Muslims in Malawi enjoy good conditions, the Governments in their various phases have been willing to employ Muslims in public service. The last presentation was a joint presentation by Prof. Shiraz Calu and Prof. Nabeelah Mussa, from Mozambique. It gave an overview of the history of Islam in Mozambique from the pre-colonial era to the present.

The Q&A session followed, with the talks of following scholars as panelists: Dr. Yusuf Patel, Prof. Suleman Dangor, Prof. Shahida Cassim and Prof. Shafiq Morton. Questions were received on a wide range of issues pertaining to the human infrastructure of Muslim communities in Southern Africa: demographic composition, education and manpower training, economic activities; the need for promoting fresh scholarship within and about the Muslim community was underlined.

The talks were rounded up, with greetings from Mr. Zeinoul Abedien Cajee, Coordinator for IRCICA at Awqaf SA and conclusion remarks by Dr. Yusuf Patel and Prof. Aboubacar Abdullah Senghore. The Webinar ended with a vote of thanks.

Earlier, Prof. Dr. Aboubacar Abdullah Senghore, Deputy Director General, IRCICA, participated in a special webinar that was conducted by Awqaf SA on “Economic Empowerment of the Muslim Community in the Republic of South Africa, their Engagement in and Contributions to South Africa’s Economy” on 17 September 2020. 📺

Online conference on “Culture, Religious Traditions and Customs of the Central Asian Peoples” organized online by IRCICA and the International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan, Tashkent

14 October 2020

IRCICA and the International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan (IIAU, Tashkent) have jointly organized the online conference on “Culture, Religious Traditions and Customs of the Central Asian Peoples” on 14 October 2020. The conference was opened by Prof. Dr. Shuhrat Yovqochev, First Vice-Rector for Coordination of Religious and Enlightenment Activities, IIAU, and Prof. Dr. Halit Eren, Director General, IRCICA.

The conference received scholarly papers highlighting the efforts and activities directed to the study, promotion and preservation of the documents and artifacts representing the legacy of culture, customs and traditions of the Central Asian peoples and which are the sources of information about them. The following experts and scholars delivered addresses or papers: Dr. Nematullo Mukhamedov (Head of the Department of History and Source Studies- IRCICA Chair, IIAU, moderator); Dr. Shoazim Minovarov (Director of the Center for Islamic Civilization in Uzbekistan), on: “The structure of the exhibition of the Museum of the Center for Islamic Civilization”; Prof. Dr. Ashirbek Muminov (Head of Research and Publication, IRCICA), on: “Heritage of Central Asia scholars and Ibn Kamal-Pasha”; Prof. Dr. Akbar



Hakimov (Head of the Department of Fine and Applied Arts, Institute of Art History, Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Academician, Academy of Arts of Uzbekistan), on: “The process of formation of cultural strategies in contemporary art in Central Asia”; Dr. Dilorom Yusupova (Academician, Institute of Oriental Studies, Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan), on: “The development of science and culture in Central Asia in the IXth-XIVth centuries”; Assoc. Prof. Dr. Shovosil Ziyodov (Director of Imam Bukhari International Research Center, Samarkand), on: “Information about libraries in sources on the history of Central Asian culture”; Prof. Dr. Adham Ashirov (Head of the Center for Ethnology and Anthropology,

Institute of History, Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan), on: “The combination of national and religious values in the way of life of the Uzbek people”; Dr. Nigora Rahimjanova (Senior Research Fellow, Institute of History, Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan), on: “The coverage of religious ceremonies and holidays in the periodicals of Turkestan in the early twentieth century”; Prof. Dr. Saidakbar Agzamkhodjaev (Professor, Department of History and Source Studies- IRCICA Chair, IIAU), on: “Basic principles of the culture of interethnic harmony in Central Asia”. Discussions followed.

In his opening address, IRCICA Director General Prof. Dr. Halit Eren evoked the historical

background and evolution trends of the cultures and traditions of Central Asian peoples. In this regard he emphasized that with the advent of Islam in the region in the eighth century, Central Asia became part of the Islamic world; thereafter, the cultural contributions from Central Asia emanated from within the scope of Islamic civilization.

In this process, Islam provided the principles and guidelines of an environment that was supportive of science and scholarship, arts and architecture, institutional and urban development. At the same time, it preserved the local cultures by incorporating elements from them whenever suitable. Pointing out that the cultures and traditions

of Central Asia are the subject matter of a special chapter in Islamic studies, Prof. Eren outlined IRCICA's studies and activities in this area which are partly reflected in the activities of the IRCICA Chair on the History of Islam and Source Studies which was established at the Academy in June 2019. 📺

International Online Conference “The Place of Termiz in the History of Islamic Civilization”

jointly organized by International Scientific-Research Center of Imam Termizi (Termiz), IRCICA (Istanbul), and Center of Islamic Civilization in Uzbekistan Under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan (Tashkent)

16 December 2020

An international online conference was jointly organized by the International Scientific-Research Center of Imam Termizi (Termiz), IRCICA, and the Center of Islamic Civilization in Uzbekistan Under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan (Tashkent), on the theme “The Place of Termiz in the History of Islamic Civilization”, on 16 December 2020.

Termiz is one of the historical cities of Uzbekistan which gave birth to prominent Islamic scholars in such fields as Quranic exegesis, studies on the Hadith, jurisprudence, Sufi theory and Sufi spiritualism.

Opening addresses were delivered by Mr. Bahodir Qodirov, Deputy



Governor of Surkhandaryo Region; Dr. Muzaffar Komilov, Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Religious Affairs; Vice-Mufti Homidjon Ishmatbekov, Vice-

Chairman of the Muslim Board of Uzbekistan, Prof. Halit Eren, Director General, IRCICA, Dr. Shoazim Minovarov, Director of the Center for Islamic Civilization

in Uzbekistan (Tashkent), Dr. Shovosil Ziyodov, Director of Imam Bukhari International Scientific Research Center (Samarkand); Dr. Shukrilla Umarov, Director of Imam Termizi International Scientific-Research Center.

In his address, Director General of IRCICA Prof. Dr. Halit Eren underlined some marking characteristics of Islamic scholarship in Termiz and referred to major scholars and their seminal contributions in diverse areas. He said that IRCICA, the cultural research centre of the OIC, has the mission to promote the academic study of the history and heritage of Islamic civilization and highlight the development process of this civilization in different regions of the world. To this aim, the Centre organizes activities jointly with cultural authorities and universities of different countries, he explained, and gave examples of earlier IRCICA events similar to the present conference such as the international conferences on “Baghdad in Islamic Civilization” (2008) and “Konya in Islamic Civilization” (2016) which were co-organized with different universities.

At the end of the opening session, a Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation was signed between IRCICA and Imam Termizi International Scientific-Research Center.

The papers addressed themes related to, but not limited to, the following:

- History and scientific environment of Termiz
- Historical and geographical description of Termiz in the Islamic literature
- Spread of Islam in the region and formation of the local Islamic schools in Termiz

- Reflection of Islamic civilization processes in material and written culture
- Scholars from Termiz and their scientific and practical legacy in the persons of Abu Ja'far al-Termizi, Imam al-Termizi, al-Hakim al-Termizi, Abu Bakr al-Warraaq al-Termizi, Sayyid Burhan al-Din al-Termizi, al-Adib Sabir al-Termizi, Khoja Samandar al-Termizi, Sufi Allahyar, and others.
- Sayyids of Termiz: Genealogies of Termizi Sayyids, “Sultan Sa’odat” Architectural-Memorial Complex in Termiz, cultural activities of Sayyids in Termiz and the whole Islamic world

11 research papers were presented by participants from India, Iraq, Tajikistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan, as follows. Extensive discussions were held after the presentations.

Ayşe Esra Şahyar (*Marmara University, Istanbul, Turkey*). “Place and Importance of Sunan at-Tirmidhi in the Hadith Literature and Its Exegesis”;

Veysel Özdemir (*İnönü University, Malatya, Turkey*). “Imam at-Tirmidhi’s Profundity in ‘Ilm al-Hadith”;

Mirzo Kenjabek (*Center for Islamic Civilization, Tashkent, Uzbekistan*); “Tirmidhi Scholars Mentioned in Sunan at-Tirmidhi”;

Abuzar Hairy (*Academy of International Studies, India*). “The Importance of Socio-Cultural Value of Termiz”;

Ender Buyuközkar (*Sakarya University, Turkey*). “The Issue of the Heart in the Views of al-Hakim at-Tirmidhi and Burhan ad-din at-Tirmidhi”;

Ashirbek Muminov (*IRCICA*). “The Role of Termiz in the History of Islamic Civilization”;

İbrahim Usmanov (*International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan, Tashkent, Uzbekistan*). “The Importance of al-Hakim at-Tirmidhi’s Work Nawadir al-Usul”;

Rustam Azizi (*Center of Islamic Studies, Dushanbe, Tajikistan*). “The Importance of Termiz in the Early Hanafism”;

Betül Sinan Nizam (*Şehir University, Istanbul, Turkey*). “Scientific Heritage of Burhan ad-din Tirmidhi”;

Arafat Aydın (*General Directorate of Libraries and Publications, İstanbul, Turkey*). “Observations on Some Manuscript Copies of al-Jami’ as-Sahih and ash-Shama’il an-Nabawiya by Abu ‘Isa at-Tirmidhi”;

Sayidakbar Muhammadaminov (*Abu Rayhan Beruni Institute for Oriental Studies, Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan*). “Manuscript Heritage of Tirmidhi Scholars in the Funds of the World”. 🇺🇸



The 16th Muslim International Forum

“The Culture of Encounter: Religious Ethics in the Era of the Pandemic”

dedicated to the 1150th anniversary of the great Muslim philosopher Abu Nasr al-Farabi

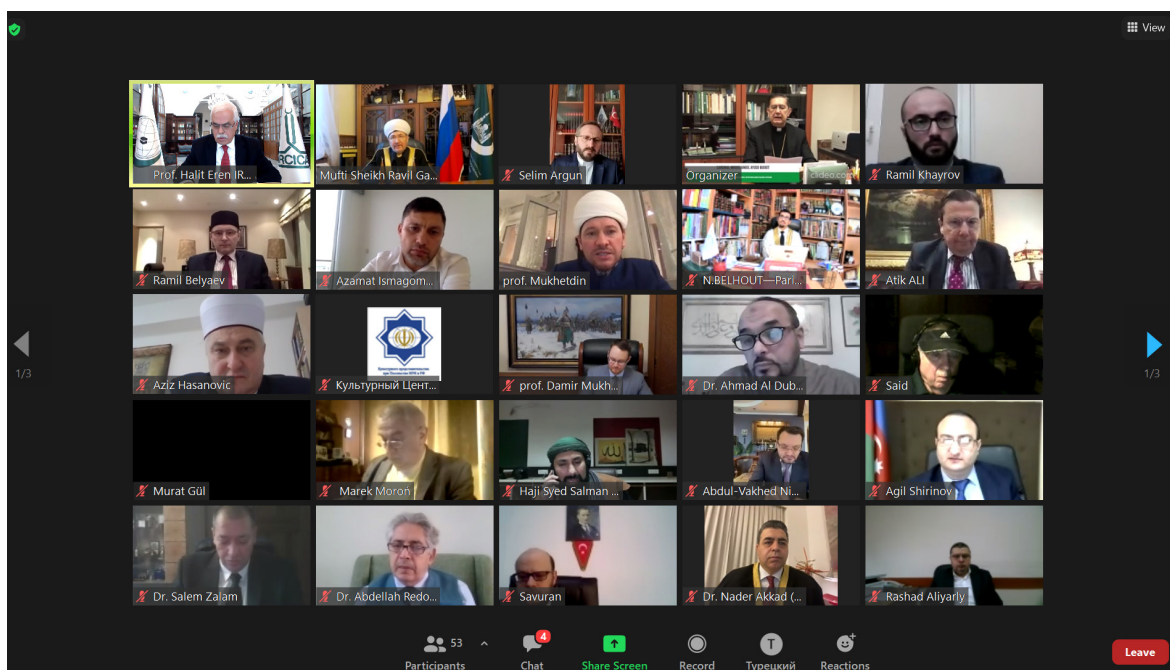
organized by the Secretariat of the Muslim International Forum and the Religious Board of the Muslims of the Russian Federation

10 December 2020

The Secretariat of the Muslim International Forum, the Religious Board of the Muslims of the Russian Federation, and the Council of Muftis of Russia have conducted the 16th Muslim International Forum on the theme “The Culture of Encounter: Religious Ethics in the Era of the Pandemic”, on 10 December 2020. The event was dedicated to the 1150th anniversary of the great Muslim philosopher Abu Nasr al-Farabi. The forum’s organization was directed by

Mufti Sheikh Ravil Gaynutdin, Chairman of the Religious Board of Muslims of the Russian Federation, Secretary General for the Muslim International Forum and Member of the Council for Cooperation with religious associations under the President of the Russian Federation, and Mr. Damir Mukhietdinov, Executive Secretary of the Muslim International Forum and First Deputy Chairman of the Religious Board of Muslims of the Russian Federation, Rector of the Moscow Islamic Institute.

In his opening address of the forum, Mufti Sheikh Ravil Gaynutdin recalled al-Farabi’s emphasizing that the good and happiness of people stem precisely from genuine, all-round solidarity, and quoted the words of the philosopher: “a City where the purpose of uniting people to help each other in matters that achieve true happiness is a perfect city, and a community where people help each other to achieve happiness is a perfect community.”



(<http://muslim-forum.info/en/happening/mezhdunarodnaya-panorama/mufti-sheikh-ravil-gaynutdin-general-secretary-of-the-muslim-international-forum-quoted-the-muslim-th/>)

The wide-scale forum attended by religious and cultural authorities and specialists in various social sciences, worked around the following issues:

1. Hope at the tribunal of history: beyond pessimistic disenchantment and optimistic illusions.
2. “The culture of encounter” vs. “The culture of clash”.
3. Dialogue of theologians and religious figures from different religions.
4. Religiosity and secularism in the modern world.
5. Interreligious dialogue – from figures of politeness to real cooperation.
6. The ethics of virtue and the ethics of rules – together or opposed?
7. The agreement of the different as the ideal of politics.
8. Joint creativity as a path to mutual understanding.

IRCICA Director General Prof. Dr. Halit Eren, speaking at the forum, said that humanity is passing through a period of unprecedented challenges and problems. He said that the pandemic hits everybody regardless of religious or cultural affiliation or level of income or education and that realization of this fact has reminded humanity of its common destiny. In this environment, it has become clearer to all that cooperation is indispensable for human survival, since eradication of the pandemic requires generalization of the remedies. The necessity of cooperation and solidarity applies in all cases and problems facing humanity. This reality is



what all religions are trying to teach. All faith systems, especially all revealed religions, promote peace, tolerance and compassion between peoples. Prof. Eren said that tensions and conflicts based on inter-religious differences do not stem from the religions themselves, but from clashes and competitions between their adherents. The spirit of peaceful coexistence taught by all religions provides the best framework for a new culture of encounters, a culture of recognition. Wishing success to the forum, which aims to contribute in building such a culture, Prof. Eren outlined the efforts that IRCICA, the OIC’s cultural subsidiary, makes in that direction through its academic congresses and various cultural and artistic events, which occasion cultural encounters and collaboration between different peoples from all countries. 🌍



International Online Conference on “Modern Interpretations of the religious and educational views of Mahmudhoja Behbudi” conducted by the International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan

Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 2 December 2020

The International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan, Tashkent, conducted an International Online Conference on “Modern Interpretations of the religious and educational views of Mahmudhoja Behbudi”, on 2 December 2020. The conference was organized in connection with the 145th birthday of Behbudi.

Mahmudhoja Behbudi (1875-1919) was an educator, a publisher, an outstanding author in Uzbek literature and drama, and one

of the leaders of the Jadidism movement in Central Asia. His father was a prominent specialist in Islamic culture. Mahmudkhoja traveled extensively in Russia and to various countries, including Egypt and Turkey, which enriched his world-view. He published articles in newspapers, mostly on issues related to improvement of school education and arts. He founded the newspaper “Oina” (Mirror). He authored numerous publications in Turkic and Persian languages; many of

them are internationally known, like *Muntakhab-i jugroŞya-i umumiy* (Muntakhab’s general geography), 1903 and *Kitob-ul-atfol* (Children’s book), 1904. Behbudi’s drama *Padarkush* (Patricide) released first in Samarkand in 1911, then published in the *Turan* newspaper in 1912 and as a book in 1913, made a wide intellectual impact. Behbudi’s “Selected works” were published in 1977. His works are included in textbooks.

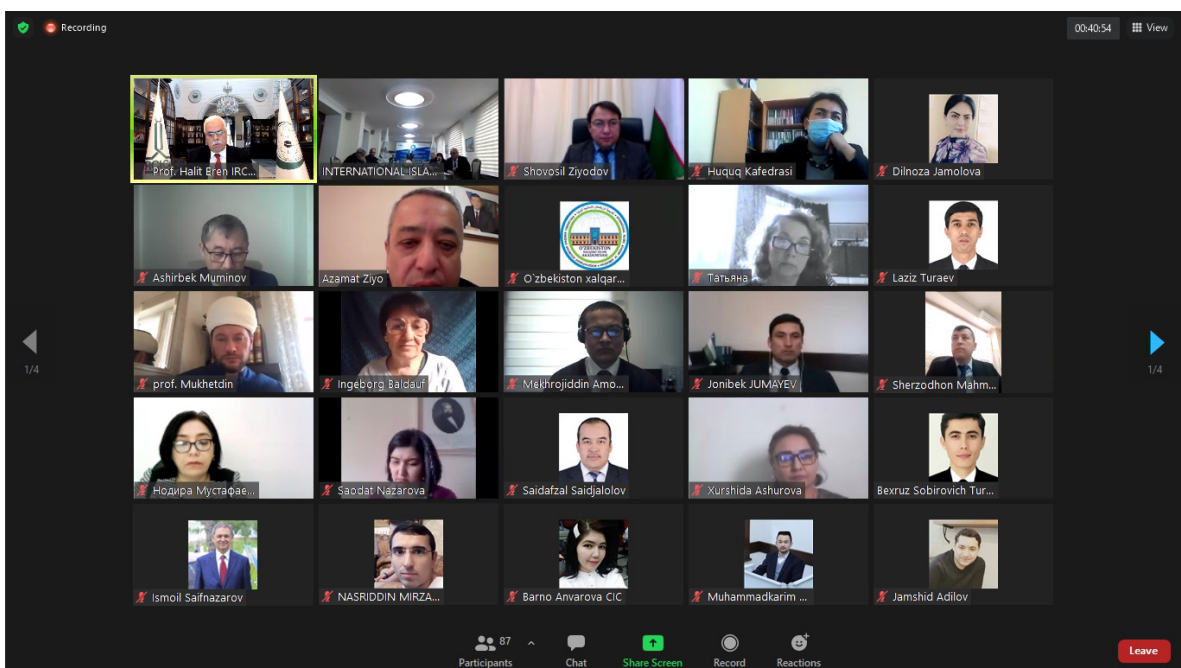
The online conference was

attended by specialists from academies and universities in Berlin, Kazan, St Petersburg, Turkestan, and various cities of Uzbekistan. Opening words were given by Prof. Dr. Shuhrat Yovkochev, First Vice-Rector of the International Islamic University of Uzbekistan; Prof. Dr. Halit Eren, Director General, IRCICA, Prof. Dr. Azamat Ziyo, Director of the Institute of History, Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and Prof. Dr. Hassanov Bakhtiyor Vakhobovich, Director of the State Museum under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan of Repression Victims. The working sessions heard specialized papers examining the Jadid movement and the views of Behdudi in the context of the early 20th century social and cultural environment of Central Asia and evaluating them through the lens of present-time social and educational issues.

Prof. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, underlined the importance that IRCICA attaches to studies on the cultural histories of



its member countries and diffusion of scientific information about leading cultural figures having played roles in those histories. He outlined the activities IRCICA carries out in this direction in different regions and countries of the Muslim world. IRCICA was represented during the sessions of the conference was also attended by Prof. Dr. Ashirbek Muminov, Head of Research and Publications, IRCICA. 🇺🇵



"The Spiritual Heritage of Muslim Theologians in the Context of the 21st Century Problems" International Conference

organized by Dagestan Institute of Humanities with the assistance of the Muftiate of Dagestan Republic

Makhachkala, Dagestan, Russia, 25-27 November 2020

An academic videoconference was organized by the Dagestan Institute of Humanities, with the support of the Government of the Republic of Dagestan (Russian Federation) and the Fund for Islamic Culture, Science and Education, and with the assistance of the Centralized Islamic Religious Organization (Muftiate) of Dagestan Republic. The conference took place on 25-27 November 2020. Prof. Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, and Prof. Dr. Ashirbek Muminov, Head of Research and Publications, IRCICA, participated in the conference.



The conference revolved around themes such as: the life and legacy of Muslim theologians of Russia; Muslim theology in Russia: the history of development and a look at the current problems of humankind; conceptual issues raised in the works of Russian Islamic theologians in different historical periods; the Russian state and Muslim thinkers of our time: ways of mutual relations and the vector of further cooperation; development of ideas of humanism and enlightenment in a multinational and multi-confessional society: forms and methods, among others. The participants were: heads and

representatives of research and educational organizations, Islamic scholars, theologians, religious scholars, teachers and university students, religious and public figures participated in the conference.

IRCICA Director General Prof. Dr. Halit Eren gave an address focusing on the main characteristics of the spiritual legacy of the Muslim theologians of Russia. He said that this legacy constitutes the deep-rooted cultural link between Russia and its Muslim communities of Russia and that it also forms an intellectual bridge between Dagestan and the Islamic world. Dagestan

was one of the first areas in Russia to come into contact with Islam. Its multi-ethnic, multi-faith and multicultural environment provided a conducive climate for development of Islamic culture. Throughout the centuries Muslim theologians of Dagestan, as in other places in Russia such as Kazan, Ufa and Moscow, made important contributions to Islamic studies and produced essential works in Islamic studies. 🌱

International online conference on “Problems facing the present-day world: Hate speech, terror, extremism, Islamophobia and the aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan” conducted by the Caucasus Muslims’ Board

Baku, Azerbaijan, 10 November 2020

An international online conference was organized by the Caucasus Muslims’ Board, Azerbaijan, on 10 November 2020 on “Problems facing the present-day world: Hate speech, terror, extremism, Islamophobia and the aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan” addressing the pressing problems posed by continuing religious discrimination, intolerance, xenophobia and Islamophobia manifested in various parts of the world and defamation of sacred values of Muslims under the pretext of freedom of expression. The conference was attended by H.E. Sheikh-ul-Islam Allahshukur Pashazade, Chairman of the Caucasus Religious Board; Mr. Marghoob Saleem Butt, Special representative of the OIC Secretary General H.E. Dr. Yousef b. Ahmad Al-Othaimeen, presidents of religious affairs and heads of religious organizations from OIC member countries, heads and representatives of Muslim communities from around the world.

Prof. Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, delivered an address at the Conference stressing the multiple problems that disrupt peace, welfare and



security across the world and the continuing pandemic all of which point to humanity’s shared destiny. Despite all this, chronic problems of inter-cultural and inter-faith hatred, political conflicts and armed aggressions, continue to prevail. Referring to the repeated aggressions of Armenia over Azerbaijan and occupation of Azerbaijan’s territory, Prof. Eren pointed out that the global political environment that surrounded this crisis carried several examples of double standards and lack of fair and proper reaction on the part of world community to the aggressions and the occupation which were rooted

in inter-faith and intercultural prejudice and discrimination. Prof. Eren expressed his heartfelt congratulations to H.E. the President and the people of Azerbaijan on their victory in liberating their territory and their cities sealed by an agreement that very same day, 10 November. Prof. Eren said that within the framework of the OIC’s firm stance on this problem over the past years, the OIC’s cultural center IRCICA gave special coverage to the issue under its aspects that come within its mandate, that is, the Islamic cultural heritage located in Karabagh. One of IRCICA’s objectives regarding

this severe situation was to raise awareness in world opinion and promote architectural studies on Karabagh monuments and artefacts. An international experts' workshop was organized jointly by the Ministry of Culture of Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences, and IRCICA on "Karabagh: History and Heritage", in November 2016. The subject was underlined in all pertinent contexts and cultural forums. IRCICA Director General then spoke of the problems of extremism and Islamophobia with special reference to the publication of defamatory cartoons about the Prophet of Islam SAW which is unacceptable under any

pretext or in any context. He said that freedom of thought and expression must be conducive to mutual respect and coexistence, not to separation and tension. Prof. Eren then outlined the activities IRCICA undertook through its research projects which are conducted in partnership with the Member States' institutions and international and regional organizations, its training programs, academic forums, art and architectural competitions, cultural heritage preservation programs, that provide scholarly and cultural information to global community about the Islamic civilization and Muslim world. Prof. Eren referred in particular,

to IRCICA's efforts to combat extremism and Islamophobia. These activities support the public opinion side, the scholarly information side and the educational side, of the pressing task of combatting extremism and Islamophobia. He said that IRCICA welcomes collaboration with authorities and institutions within and outside the Muslim world towards the objective of eradicating extremism and Islamophobia.

The conference adopted a Statement on "Problems facing the present-day world: Hate speech, terror, extremism, Islamophobia and the aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan". 🟩



International Online Forum "Consonance of Civilizations on the Silk Road" dedicated to the 1150th anniversary of Abu Nasr al-Farabi, conducted by the International Turkic Foundation

Nur-Sultan City, Kazakhstan, 19 October 2020

An International Online Forum was conducted by the International Turkic Academy, based in Nur-Sultan City, on the theme "Consonance of civilizations along the Silk Road". The event was dedicated to the 1150th birth anniversary of the great philosopher Abu Nasr Al-Farabi. It was held with the cooperation of UNESCO, on 19 October 2020.

The conference highlighted the theme of the Silk Road as a common component of the historical and cultural heritage of Turkic peoples all of which are located on the Silk Road. Scholars

and specialists of international relations, history, cultural heritage and connected disciplines, heads of international organizations and diplomatic missions, all from 30 countries of the world, came together on this occasion.

The opening session, moderated by Prof. Dr. Darkhan Kidirali, President of the International Turkic Foundation, heard the greetings of Dr. Krymbek Kuserbayev, Secretary of State of the Republic of Kazakhstan; Dr. Mansour Gholami, Minister of Science, Research and Technology of the Islamic Republic of Iran;

Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General of OIC Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTech); Prof. Dr. Halit Eren, Director General, IRCICA; Dr. Salim M. Almalik, Director General of ICESCO; Mr. Dusen Kasseinov, Secretary General of TURKSOY; Mr. Yalçın Topçu, Chief Adviser to the President of the Republic of Turkey; Dr. Nurzhigit Kadyrbekov, Minister of Culture, Information and Tourism of the Kyrgyz Republic

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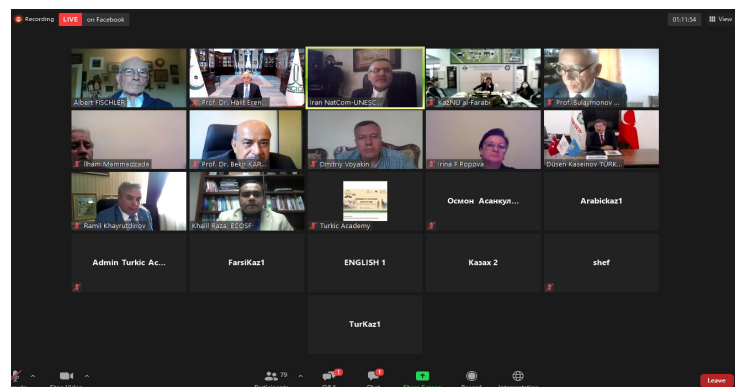


Prof. Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, pointed out, in his address, that the Great Silk Road played a unique role in history by linking together peoples in various parts of Asia and Europe thus promoting economic, diplomatic and cultural relations of their diverse peoples and fostering cultural exchanges among them. In recognition of this all-encompassing experience, in recent times the name of the Silk Road has acquired additional sense indicating a network of communications and a sphere of mutual understanding and cooperation. In this sense, it conveys a spirit of great value for the present and the future. Prof. Eren said that underlining the theme of consonance of civilizations along the lines of the Silk Road paradigm and dedicating it to the great philosopher Al-Farabi creates an inspiring context for refreshing and deepening many crucial concepts that connect peoples in the context of present-time realities. In the present period of the pandemic, achievement of compatibility within diversity and consonance towards common goals among peoples of the world becomes crucial.

Scholarly papers and speeches were delivered during the conference over two sessions. The first session, themed “Civilizations on the Silk Road”, moderated by Hojatullah Ayoubi, Acting Secretary General of

the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO, heard the addresses of: Prof. Dr. Düsen Kaseinov, Secretary General, International Organization of Turkic Culture (TURKSOY); Prof. Dr. Reza Davarari Ardakani, President, Academy of Science of Iran; Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, President, ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF); Prof. Dr. Dmitriy Voyakin, Director of the International Institute for Central Asian Studies (IICAS), Uzbekistan; Prof. Dr., Academician of the Russian Academy of Sciences Irina Popova, Director of the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia; Prof. Dr. Ilham Mahammadzada, Director, Institute of Philosophy, National Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan; Prof. Dr. Ramil Khayrutdinov, Director, Institute of International Relations, Kazan Federal University, Chairman of the Board of the Institute for Central Asian Studies, Tatarstan, Russian Federation.

The second session, themed “Philosophy of al-Farabi and Modern World”, moderated by Galimkair Mutanov, Rector of the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Almaty, Kazakhstan, heard the addresses of: Mahmoud Fouad, Director of the al-Farabi Center, Department of Linguistics, Cairo University, Egypt; Bekir Karlıga, Coordinator of the UN Alliance of Civilizations in Turkey, Turkey; Bakhrom Abdukhalimov, Vice-president of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Uzbekistan; Osmon Togusakov, Vice-president of the National Academy of Sciences of the Kyrgyz Republic, Kyrgyzstan; Albert Fischler, Honorary Professor, France, Officer in the Order of Academic Palms, France; Georgios Steiris, Professor, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece; Saidrahmon Sulaimonov, Professor, Tajik National University, Tajikistan. 🌍



Online conference on “Inter-faith and inter-civilizational dialogue against the background of the pandemic” organized by the Nursultan Nazarbayev Center for the Development of Interfaith and Inter-Civilizational Dialogue

Nur-Sultan City, Kazakhstan, 24 September 2020

An international scholarly conference was organized online by Nursultan Nazarbayev Center for the Development of Interfaith and Inter-Civilizational Dialogue, based in Nur-Sultan City, Kazakhstan, on 24 September 2020 on the theme “Inter-faith and inter-civilizational dialogue against the background of the pandemic”. The high-profile conference received addresses by dignitaries and scholars from various countries and international organizations.

In his address at the conference, IRCICA Director General Prof. Dr. Halit Eren emphasized the crucial importance of inter-faith dialogue especially in dealing with global problems facing humanity such as the present pandemic where reinforcement of the principles of compassion, justice, equality and inclusiveness shared by all faiths and beliefs becomes vitally instrumental. Prof. Eren underlined the unique case of the OIC, and its cultural organ IRCICA, in the history of international relations, as an inter-governmental organization in modern sense whose foundations are rooted in the common faith of its Member States. Director General also outlined those activities of IRCICA such as scholarly conferences that address themes relevant in the context of the pandemic.

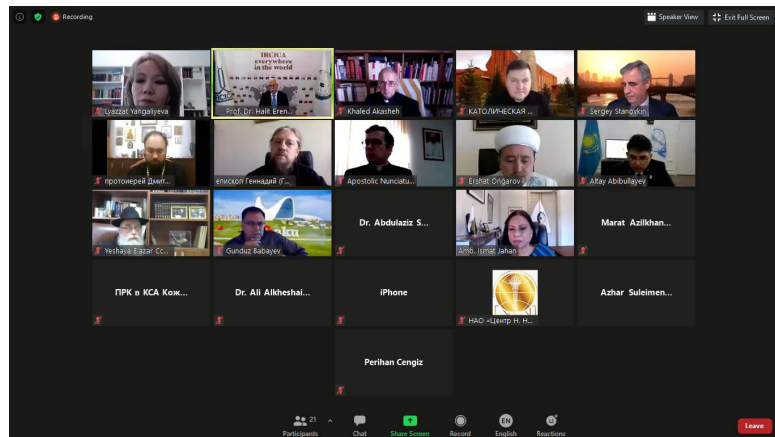


The conference was opened and moderated by Ambassador Altay Ibragimuly Abibullayev, Chairman of the Board of N. Nazarbayev Center. Greetings were expressed by Mr. Marat Almasovich Azilkhanov, Vice Minister of Information and Social Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The following addresses were by: Dr. Abd al-Aziz Sarkhan, Representative of the Muslim World League, Secretary General of the International Organization for Relief, Support and Development, Saudi Arabia; Monsignor Khaled Akasheh, Head of the Bureau of Islam at the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, Holy See; Prof. Dr. Halit Eren, Director General, IRCICA; Father Gennady, Manager

of the Metropolitan District of the OCK, Rector of the Almaty Orthodox Theological Seminary; Ambassador Jahan Ismat, Permanent Observer, OIC Mission to the EU; Naib Mufti Dr. Ershat Ongharov, Deputy Chairman of the Spiritual Directorate of Muslims of Kazakhstan; Kogen Yeshaya Elazar, Chief Rabbi of the Republic of Kazakhstan; Mr. Ali al-Khushayban, Researcher, Center for Research and Knowledge Sharing, columnist for the Riyadh News newspaper, Saudi Arabia; Mr. Sergey Stanovkin, Head of Commercial Representation of BBC World News in Eurasia, U.K.; Mr. Mohammad al-Muayni, Chairman of the Board of the International Institute for Cultural Diplomacy, United Arab Emirates; Muhammad

Zia ul-Haq, Director General, Islamic Research Institute, Pakistan; Ms. Lyazzat Yangaliyeva, Director, Office of Social Communication of the Bahai Community, Kazakhstan. Cultural and religious figures from within and outside Kazakhstan joined as attendees online. The proceedings of the conference will be collected and published as a book. From IRCICA the conference was also attended by Prof. Ashirbek Muminov.

Nursultan Nazarbayev Center for Development of Interfaith and Inter-Civilizational Dialogue was established one and a half year ago on decision of Kazakhstan President H.E. Qassym-Jomart Tokayev. Its objectives are in line with those of the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions which was established by former



President of Kazakhstan H.E. Nursultan Nazarbayev and served the purpose of mutual respect and rapprochement between different faiths through triennial sessions. The Sixth Congress, convened on 10-11 October 2018, was themed “Religious Leaders for a Safe

World”. Sessions of the Congress are attended by high-level followers of all religions, traditional faiths and beliefs, religious and public organisations from around the world. 🌍

Chingiz Aitmatov International Forum of Writers and Intellectuals on “Russia and the Islamic World: The Role of Traditional Values in Maintaining Cultural Diversity”

22 October 2020

Chingiz Aitmatov International Forum of Writers and Intellectuals held on 22 October 2020 in online format was organized by the Group of Strategic Vision “Russia-Islamic World” with the topic “Russia and the Islamic World: The Role of Traditional Values in Maintaining Cultural Diversity”.

The Forum brought together intellectuals, writers and social scientists from around the world in order to develop joint approaches and solutions to the spiritual, moral and social

problems of the modern world. The forum was attended by a large of participants both from Russia and the Islamic world. 18 attendees delivered addresses, namely Farit Mukhametshin, Deputy Chairman of the Group of Strategic Vision “Russia-Islamic World”; Ramazan Abdulatipov, Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the OIC; Salim M. al-Malik, Director General of ICESCO, Konstantin Shuvalov, Ambassador-at-Large of the Russian Foreign Ministry; Eldar Aitmatov, President of the Chingiz Aitmatov International Foundation, Director

of the Chingiz Aitmatov House-Museum, son of Chingiz Aitmatov; Irina Bokova, 10th Director General of UNESCO (2009-2017); Halit Eren, Director General, IRCICA; Leyla Fazleeva, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Tatarstan; Mounir Bouchenaki, Special Adviser to the Director-General of UNESCO, Director of the Arab Regional Center for World Heritage; Rushan Abbasov, First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Muftis of Russia; Alexandra Ochirova, Member of the Presidium of the independent Organization “Civil Society”; Sidorov Evgeny, Literary Critic,

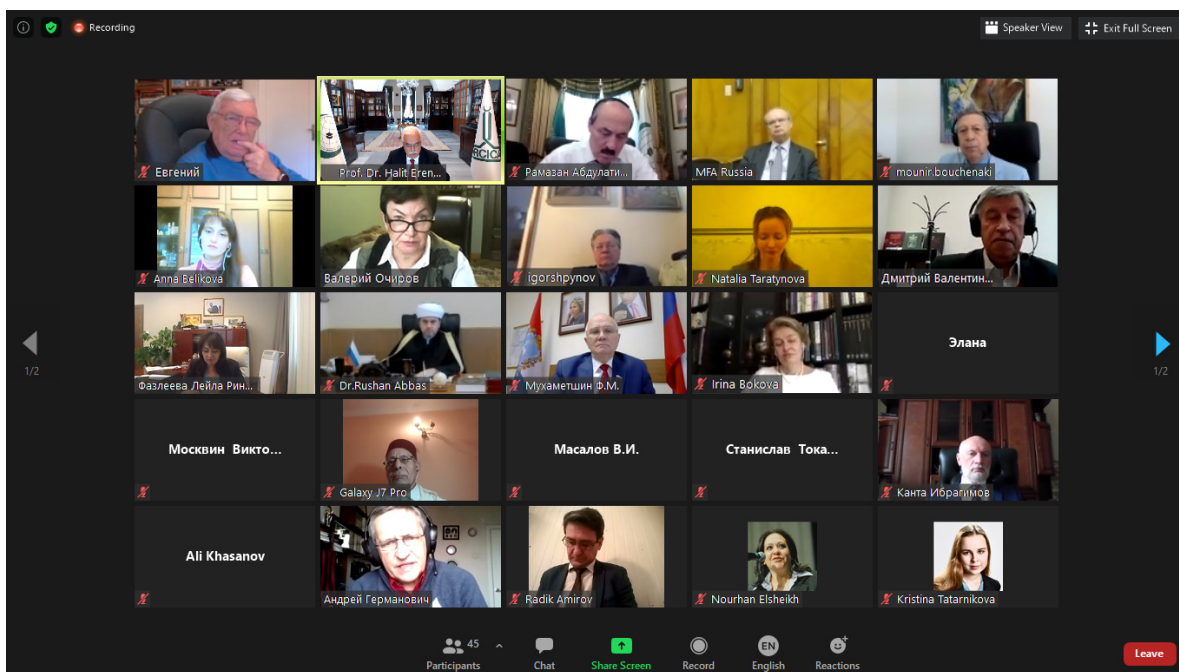
Former Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to UNESCO, Former Minister of Culture of the Russian Federation; Vladimir Masalov, Member of the Writers' Union of Russia; Kanta Ibragimov, Laureate of the State Prize of Russia, Chairman of the Writers' Union of the Chechen Republic; Ejaz Akram, Advisor to President of the National Defense University, Islamabad; Nasirulla Mirkurbanov, Professor of the Department of World Literature of the National University of Uzbekistan; Nourhan El-Sheikh, Professor of International Relations, Cairo University; Abdellatif Bahraoui, Chairman of the Morocco-Russia Friendship Association.

In his address, IRCICA Director General Prof. Dr. Halit Eren stated that in the present time, in the face of spreading xenophobia, studies and diffusion of knowledge among the young generation acquire special importance. In this context, preservation of traditional knowledge and values

to support multicultural diversity and peaceful coexistence of communities is more important than ever. Conducting research to produce truthful accounts of cultural traditions and disseminate this knowledge have become instrumental factors for peace. IRCICA Director General Halit Eren also noted that Chingiz Aitmatov showed a very good example of peaceful coexistence through his literary works. Characters in his novels, the common people from his native Kyrgyzstan, always reflected a universal perception and referred to cultural commonalities with distant lands. Another important factor was Aitmatov's agility in situating various aspects of indigenous tradition into the reality of modern societies. Prof. Halit Eren concluded his speech with the remark that the intellectual legacy of Chingiz Aitmatov underlined intercultural dialogue, tolerance and traditional values to promote peace and harmony.

An earlier round of the Chingiz

Aitmatov International Forum of Writers and Intellectuals was co-organized by IRCICA jointly with the Group of Strategic Vision "Russia – Islamic World" as the Round-table on "Cultural Interactions and the Heritage of Chingiz Aitmatov" which was held in Istanbul on 24 March 2018. IRCICA participated with addresses in the subsequent sessions of the Forum which were held in Moscow on 22-23 November 2018 and Kazan on 25 October 2019. 🇺🇸



The 23rd Eurasian Economic Summit: “The New World After the Coronavirus”

organized by Marmara Group Strategic and Social Research Foundation (Turkey)

7-8 October 2020

The 23rd Eurasian Economic Summit organized by Marmara Group Strategic and Social Research Foundation (Turkey) was held online on 7-8 October 2020, on the theme “The New World After the Coronavirus”. The Summit received addresses from current and former heads of state and government, speakers of parliaments, ministers, heads of international organizations, heads of faith communities, diplomats and scholars from 45 countries. The participants called for solidarity among faiths and cultures in dealing with challenges facing humanity, presently the Coronavirus pandemic.

Following the opening address of Dr. Akkan Suver, President of Marmara Group Foundation, addresses were given by the Minister of Energy of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr. Parviz Shahbazov, city mayors, dignitaries, and heads of international organizations, among them: Prof. Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, Mr. George Tsereteli, Secretary General of OSCE Parliamentarian Assembly, Denmark, and Ambassador Dr. Dusen Kazeinov, Secretary General of the International Turkic Culture Organization (TURKSOY). Other international organizations were represented during the relevant thematic sessions together with dignitaries from different sectors of activities. The said sessions were

arranged as follows: the Economics Platform, themed “Hello to the New World Economy and to the New World!”; the Energy Platform, on “How will sustainable energy policies take shape in Eurasia in the long term after the coronavirus epidemic?”; the Peace and Security Platform, themed “Terror and Regional Conflicts”, where heads of faith communities from different countries addressed the meeting; the “Sagacious People” Platform on “New Power Balances in Globalization and Respect in Governance”, where 16 former heads of state took the floor, and the session on “Pioneers of change – Woman leaders platform”.

The Director General of IRCICA, Prof. Dr. Halit Eren, traced

the ongoing tendencies of the multipolar system of global governance where unconstrained economic competition and violations of international norms, together with socio-economic problems ensuing from the 2008 financial crisis including an aggravation of radical currents such as discrimination, xenophobia and Islamophobia, caused growing threats to regularity and harmony in the world. At a time when world community was trying to fight with these, eruption of the COVID-19 pandemic brought once more to the attention of this community the indispensability of international cooperation. It called for all peoples, of similar or different political and cultural identities, to join hands to combat



this crisis, which totally differs from earlier ones, restricts social life in a way unprecedented and causes lockdowns and quasi-total halts of activities in most sectors of life. Prof. Eren underlined in this environment, the work of international organizations gains increased importance. He outlined the multifarious activities of IRCICA which aim to project the true image of Islamic civilization and the Muslim world by

disseminating objective references and information on the cultures, arts, sciences and cultural heritage of this civilization and encouraging advancements in research and teaching in the related scholarly and educational fields. Prof. Eren gave examples of those activities of IRCICA which emphasize rapprochement and aimed at removing the barriers between peoples of different cultures, such as the projects conducted jointly

with the Council of Europe on “The Image of the Other in History Education” and those undertaken in the context of the UNAOC. In the face of the economic and social problems and the tensions created by the pandemic, the crucial role of international organizations such as IRCICA which promote intercultural dialogue, cooperation and peaceful coexistence across the world, gains deeper significance. 🟩



International conference on “Turkmenistan’s international cooperation in historical and cultural fields” conducted by the Institute of Language, Literature and National Manuscripts named after Makhtumkuli, Academy of Sciences of Turkmenistan

Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, 4 December 2020

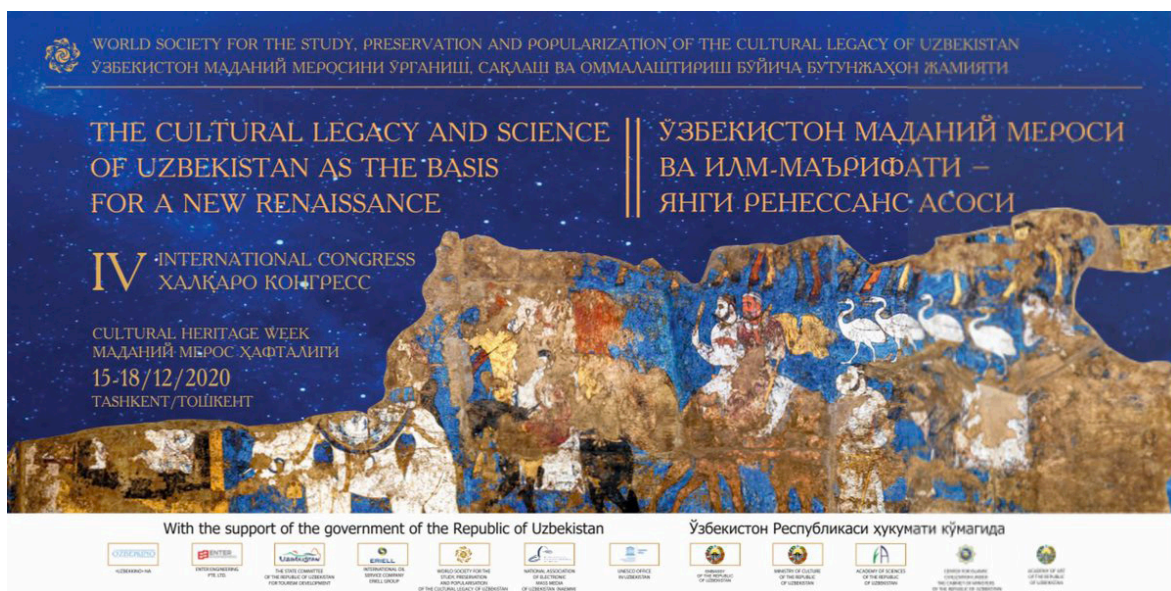
An online international conference on “Turkmenistan’s international cooperation in historical and cultural fields” was held by the Institute of Language, Literature and National Manuscripts named after Makhtumkuli of the Academy of Sciences of Turkmenistan, Ashgabat, on 4 December 2020. Representatives of the Institute of History and Archeology of the Academy of Sciences also took part in the event. The conference focused on the scientific and cultural life of ancient Turkmen cities. It was dedicated to the 25th anniversary of Turkmenistan’s obtaining the status of permanent neutrality. The conference consisted of the plenary session and the following sections:

«Turkmenistan neutrality and its historical roots», «UNESCO and Turkmen people’s national heritage» and «Ancient Turkmen cities and their social and political life». Specialists from Afghanistan, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, China, India, Iraq, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Russia, Tajikistan, Ukraine and U.A.E. participated in the conference.

Prof. Dr. Ashirbek Muminov, head of Research and Publications, IRCICA, participated in the third section of the conference with a scholarly study titled “Medieval Turkmen cities as centers of Islamic science and culture”. On the basis of mainly the little-known but valuable biographical work ar-Risala fi

tabakat al-mujtahidin by Ibn Kamal Pasha (d. 1534), the study highlights the contributions of medieval Turkmen cities such as of Jurjaniyya, Merv, Sarakhs, Nisa, Amul to Islamic scholarship through the works of their significant Islamic theologians. 🟩

PRESERVATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE



The Week of Cultural Heritage and IVth International Digital Conference “Cultural heritage of Uzbekistan as the basis of a new Renaissance”

organized by the World Society for the Study, Preservation and Popularization of the Cultural Heritage of Uzbekistan

15-16 December 2020

The Week of Cultural Heritage and IVth International Digital Conference “Cultural heritage of Uzbekistan as the basis of a new Renaissance” took place during 15-16 December 2020. This year’s round of the large-scale event organized by the World Society for the Study, Preservation and Popularization of the Cultural Heritage of Uzbekistan and the project Cultural Heritage of Uzbekistan in the World Collections, was held online due to the pandemic (www.legacy.uz).

The opening session on 15

December 2020 was addressed by the Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan H.E. Mr. Aziz Abdukhakimov, the First Deputy Chairman of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan H.E. Mr. Sadyk Safayev, the Vice President of the Academy of Sciences, Director of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan Prof. Dr. Bakhrom Abdukhaliimov. Opening remarks were also given by the Director of the Center for Islamic Culture under the Cabinet of Ministers of Uzbekistan Mr.

Shoazim Minovarov, the Director General of IRCICA Prof. Dr. Halit Eren, the Director of the St. Petersburg Museum of Islamic Culture (Russia) Prof. Dr. Efim Rezvan, and the Ambassadors of various countries to Uzbekistan. Mr. Firdavs Abdukhaliimov, Chairman of the Board of the World Society for the Study, Preservation and Popularization of the Cultural Heritage of Uzbekistan, presented a report on the activities of the Society during 2020.

Prof. Dr. Halit Eren, in his address,

reaffirmed the importance IRCICA gives to research, documentation and creation of public awareness about the cultural heritage of the OIC-IRCICA Member States. Prof. Eren gave an outline of events and activities having taken place in recent years within the framework of the active cultural cooperation going on between Uzbekistan and IRCICA. The plenary session heard the following paper presentations: Prof. Dr. Edward Rtveldadze, Academician of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan, on “Scientific

significance of the project Cultural Heritage of Uzbekistan in the World’s Collections in the context of modern science”; Mr. Frederick Starr, Member of the Scientific Council of the World Society, USA, on “New Renaissance of new Uzbekistan”; Mr. Sergey Laptev from Miho Museum, Japan, on “Uzbekistan on the verge of the third renaissance”; Dr. Thomas Kunze, Germany, on “Musical heritage of Uzbekistan as the most important part of the Renaissance culture”; Frederic Baupertuis-Bressan, France, on “The era of

the Timurids - the pinnacle of cultural genius”, and Academician Akbar Khakimov, Uzbekistan, “The Temurid Renaissance as a phenomenon of global interaction of the cultures of East and West”. The following days of the Week were animated by panels, film presentations and artistic activities under the themes “Cultural Heritage of Uzbekistan: Expanding the Horizons of Cooperation” and “Cinematograph of Uzbekistan: Dialogue between Past and Future”, and youth events titled “New Renaissance – New Generation” 🍀



Virtual coordination meeting on “Supporting the efforts of Arab countries to protect their heritage properties in times of crisis” organized by ALECSO

13 October 2020

A virtual coordination meeting was organized by the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO, Tunisia) on 13 October 2020, on “Supporting the efforts of Arab countries to protect their heritage properties in times of crisis”. The meeting was attended by experts and heads of international organizations, including the OIC, the Arab League, UNESCO, IRCICA, ICESCO, the International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), the International Council of Museums (ICOM), the International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage in conflict areas (ALIPH), ICCROM-Sharjah, the Arab Regional Center for World Heritage (ARC-WH, Bahrain), and

the Arab Towns Organization. Representatives of cultural circles and officials from countries witnessing threats to their heritage properties (Lebanon, Iraq, Yemen, Libya and Sudan) participated in the online meeting.

The meeting was opened by H.E. Prof. Dr. Mohamed Ould Amar, Director-General of ALECSO, who renewed his organization's commitment to assisting the efforts made to preserve and protect cultural heritage especially in countries undergoing exceptional circumstances. The opening session heard the addresses of: H.E. Ambassador Haifa Abu Ghazaleh, Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the Social Affairs Department at the

Arab League; H.E. Dr. Al-Hussein Ghazawi, Director of Cultural Affairs at the OIC, and H.E. Dr. Salem Al-Malik, Director-General of ICESCO.

In his address, Prof. Dr. Halit Eren, Director-General of IRCICA, emphasized the importance of preserving Cultural Heritage, which represents the history of the Muslim Ummah and constitutes an integral part of world heritage. “It is clear that the cities where arts and sciences, buildings and monuments flourished reflecting the different customs and traditions cultivated over centuries, are being destroyed and pillaged in various parts of the world as in Jerusalem, Palestine, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Libya and

elsewhere”, he said. Prof. Dr. Eren stated that IRCICA has mobilized all its capabilities and experiences gained over four decades of continuous work to contribute to protecting and preserving cultural heritage. He said that the Centre has deployed great efforts in this field, either through the long-term projects included in its research programs on cultural heritage or via cooperation agreements with concerned authorities of its member states for joint studies, conferences or training programs.

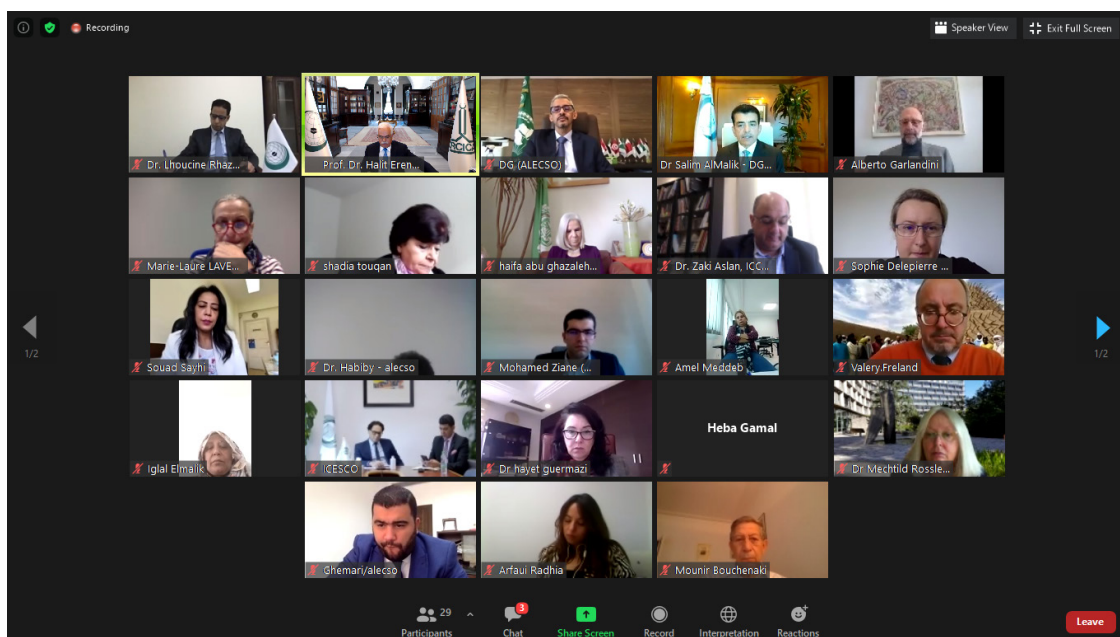
IRCICA Director General, called on international and regional organizations and institutions concerned to respond to the need for coordination among them in order to limit the damages; identify priorities for intervention; form a committee of experts to work on the preparation of studies and reports on the status of heritage and ways to protect it; and to provide consultations and exchange administrative and technical expertise. Prof.

Eren renewed the call to the OIC Member States, including Arab states, to actively participate in expanding the "IRCICA - Prince Sultan bin Salman Islamic Architectural Heritage Database" by registering their properties in this database, where entries for Islamic sites and monuments include files of descriptive information about their properties, history, functions, physical conditions past and present, restorations and alterations they underwent, and other relevant information.

Prof. Eren stressed the need for all countries to implement the necessary concrete measures to curb acts of pillage and vandalism suffered by cultural heritage; prevent its trafficking; stop clandestine excavations and illicit exports; and confiscate smuggled materials to be returned to their country of origin, as stipulated by several international agreements. Director General Prof. Dr. Halit Eren concluded his address by stressing that goals sought in

the field of protecting cultural heritage properties cannot be achieved without the concerted efforts of the Member States of the two organizations - OIC, Arab League - and working as a united international team, pointing out that consolidating the values of peace and peaceful coexistence between societies and spreading the principles of tolerance and understanding and combating extremism, violence and hatred also acquire great importance in the current circumstances.

At the end of the coordination meeting, it was decided to form a reduced working group to set the priorities, type and levels of intervention, and to propose two pilot projects to be implemented as soon as possible, with priority given to Lebanon, Libya, Iraq, Yemen and Sudan. 🇺🇦



ISLAMIC ARTS

International Meeting on the “Role of Islamic Art in Building Human Civilization and Disseminating Peace Values” organized by ICESCO

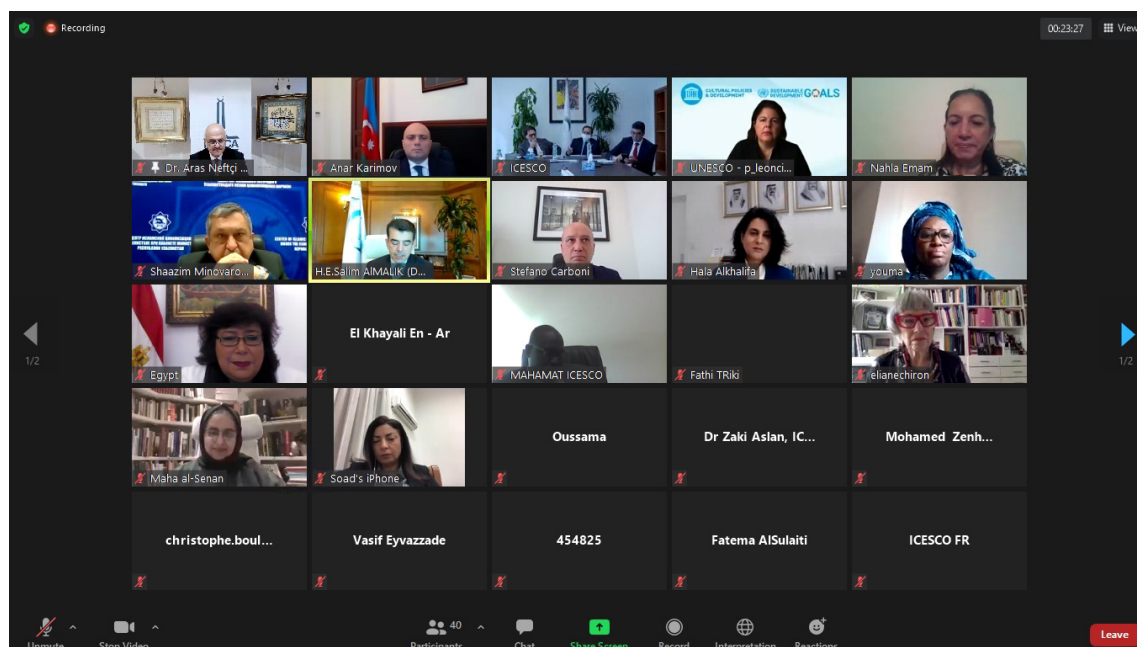
25 November 2020

IRCICA made a presentation on its activities on Islamic arts during the International Meeting on the “Role of Islamic Art in Building Human Civilization and Disseminating Peace Values” that was organized online by the Islamic World Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (ICESCO) on 25 November 2020. The meeting was attended by ministers and curators of museums from various countries and international organizations (see www.icesco.org). The Director General of IRCICA

Prof. Dr. Halit Eren, who was travelling that day to Niamey, Niger to attend the 47th session of the OIC’s Council of Foreign Ministers, was represented at the meeting by historian of art and architecture Assoc. Prof. Dr. Aras Neftçi.

Dr. Neftçi briefed the meeting on the long-term activity programs IRCICA carries out in the field of Islamic arts in fulfilment of its mandate as the OIC’s subsidiary organ specialized in this field. In this connection, he outlined IRCICA’s program of

international competitions of Islamic calligraphy held every three years starting from 1986, the albums of award-winning calligraphic works it published, and the training programs it is conducting, among other activities on Islamic arts, aimed at preserving and promoting these arts and highlighting their value as vectors of civilization and channels of cultural expressions and encounters between peoples.



Annual High-Level Meeting of the Group of Friends of the UN Alliance of Civilizations

29 September 2020

The Annual High-Level Meeting of the Group of Friends of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) was held online on 29-30 September 2020. UN Member States, observers, and international organizations which are members of the UNAOC Group of Friends attended the plenary session which was opened and moderated by H.E. Miguel Angel Moratinos, Under-Secretary-General, High Representative for UNAOC. The session heard the remarks of H.E. Mr. Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the UN, and H.E. Mr. Volkan Bozkır, President of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly. In his address at the plenary session, IRCICA Director General Prof. Dr. Halit Eren recalled that IRCICA's cooperation with the UNAOC continued since the latter's inception, involving organization of special sessions and panels over the years. Prof. Eren said that these joint activities were mainly aimed at fostering international cooperation towards inter-cultural dialogue, enhancing inclusiveness and combatting extremism, and also engaged international bodies such as the Council of Europe with its History Education Division as working partners. The Director General said that the grave challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic have increased the value of international collaboration: humanity needs coordinated action to deal with increasing poverty, injustice, human rights abuses, racism, Islamophobia,

extremism and xenophobia. Dialogue and cooperation among different cultures acquire added importance during times of global crisis when unemployment and social problems rise; health issues such as sanitation and vaccines emerge as pressing matters, and there is no doubt that strong cooperation among different cultures and civilizations would contribute to the solution of pressing global problems. Prof. Eren also alluded to the webinars launched by IRCICA on themes relating to the pandemic such as "Turning Points in History and Effects of Epidemics" and "Urban History and Prospects of Cities in the Post-Pandemic era" and reiterated IRCICA's welcoming international cultural cooperation projects.

As it commemorates the 15th anniversary of its establishment, the UNAOC reiterated its commitment to "Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies" in fulfilment of Goal 16 of the

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which became even more imperative than ever before in the current dark moment in the history of humanity. Presentations were made at the meeting of outlines of its activities and plans for new actions to address challenges posed by the current pandemic.

Two interactive webinars were organized by UNAOC following the plenary session, placed in the margins of the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly. The webinars dealt, respectively, with the following themes: "An Intergenerational Conversation: The Future They Want" and "Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination: The Tearing of Our Societies".

The OIC and IRCICA are among the 27 international inter-governmental organizations which are members of the Group of Friends of the UNAOC. 🇺🇳



MEETINGS, VISITS, COOPERATION



● **Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation signed between IRCICA and Imam Termizi International Scientific-Research Center, Termiz, Uzbekistan**

IRCICA and Imam Termizi International Scientific-Research Center based in Termiz, Uzbekistan, signed a Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation. The parties intend to cooperate for joint research projects, conferences, and information exchange for library development, among others. The memorandum was signed on the occasion of the international conference on the theme “Place of Termiz in the History of Islamic Civilization” which was co-organized online by the parties together with the Center for Islamic Civilization in Uzbekistan (Tashkent) on 16 December 2020.



● **H.E. Ambassador Mosud Mannan, Ambassador of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh in Ankara** paid a working visit to IRCICA Director General Prof. Dr. Halit Eren on 17 November 2020. The meeting was an occasion to review the cooperation implemented over the years between the Government and the academic institutions of Bangladesh on one hand and IRCICA on the other. Ambassador Mannan is closely acquainted with some of the joint events organized in the past, in particular the international symposium on “Islamic Civilization in South Asia” which was took place during the period of his functions as The cooperation ongoing between Bangladesh and IRCICA and the events that were planned but postponed due to the pandemic, were also reviewed. Ambassador Mannan was accompanied by the Consul General of Bangladesh in Istanbul Mr. Mohammed Monirul Islam and Vice-Consul Mr. Md. Masud Parvegi.



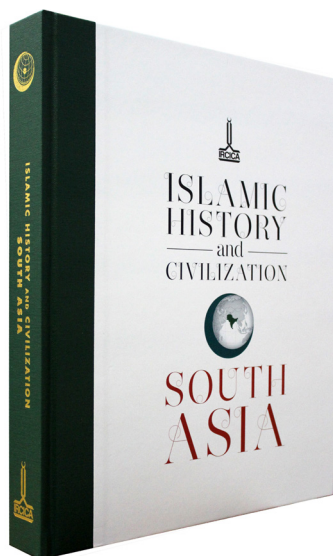
● Prof. Dr. Erol Özvar, Rector of Marmara University, Istanbul, paid a visit to Prof. Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA; on 22 October 2020.

● The Director of the Institute of Oriental Studies in Kosovo, Dr. Isa Sülçevji, paid a visit to the Director General of IRCICA Prof. Dr. Halit Eren on 26 October 2020.

● The Consul General of Lebanon in Istanbul Mr. Mazen Kabbara paid visits to Prof. Dr. Halit Eren, together with Mr. Faysal Karami, member of the Lebanese Parliament, on 1 October 2020 and with Prof. Khaled Tadmore from Tripoli, on 8 September 2020.

● The Director General of IRCICA paid a visit to Prof. Dr. Yekta Saraç, President of the Council of Higher Education (YÖK) in the Council’s Istanbul office on 23 October 2020.

IRCICA PUBLICATIONS



Islamic History and Civilization: South Asia

PROJECT DIRECTOR: PROF. HALIT EREN;
EDITOR: PROF. KHURRAM QADIR;
PREPARED FOR PUBLICATION BY: PROF.
AZMI ÖZCAN, PROF. SADIK ÜNAY,
SAMET YALÇIN; SERIES OF STUDIES AND
SOURCES ON HISTORY OF ISLAMIC
CIVILIZATION NR. 48, IRCICA, 2020, 472
P. ISBN 978-92-9063-079-1

IRCICA has embarked on a multi-volume research project on 'Islamic History and Civilization' aimed at presenting a comprehensive overview of Islamic history and civilizational heritage since the time of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) in a chronological and geographical perspective. The Project Director of this major initiative is IRCICA has embarked on a multi-volume research project on 'Islamic History and Civilization' aimed at presenting a comprehensive overview of Islamic history and civilizational heritage since the time of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) in a chronological and geographical perspective. The Project Director of this major initiative is IRCICA Director General Prof. Dr. Halit Eren. The project is planned to comprise

several volumes that cover the rich historical legacy of Muslim nations and their civilizational heritage in different periods and geographical regions by predominantly local authors.

The first volume prepared in the context of this long-term research project with a special regional focus on South Asia, 'Islamic History and Civilization: South Asia', has been published. The volume is co-edited by Prof. Khurram Qadir and Prof. Faraz Anjum, both leading academic experts from the region. Prof. Khurram Qadir is the former Chair of History at Bahauddin Zakariyya University, Multan; Chairman of History at the International Islamic University, Islamabad; and the former Director of the National Institute for Historical and Cultural Research, Quaid-e Azam University. Prof. Faraz Anjum is a Senior Lecturer in History at the Punjab University, Lahore, Pakistan.

The volume includes contributions by sixteen leading experts on Islamic history and civilization in the Subcontinent starting with the part on 'Muslim Inroads in South Asia'. This part includes several articles on the early Muslim Sultanates in South Asia and detailed analyses on a variety of fields including state administration; social and economic life; science, education and culture: trade and commerce; art and architecture. The following parts of the volume highlight fragmentation of Muslim polity and focus on localized Sultanates. The Muslim polity in Baharat and Deccan regions are evaluated with reference to major states such

as the Baburi/Mughal Empire; as well as the minor states that were formed after the decline of the Mughals. In this context, key historical events and development of Islamic civilization under the centralized rule of the Mughal Empire and the micro-states in frontier regions such as Balochistan, Sindh, Bhopal, Hyderabad, Awadh and Khyber are analyzed by leading experts in the field.

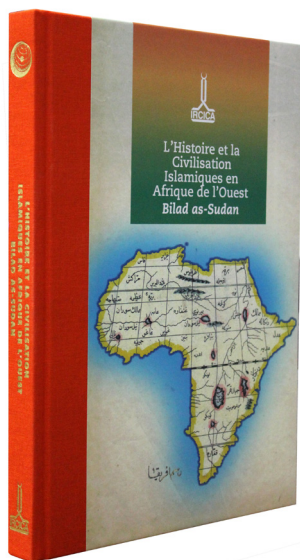
The volume also contains general assessments concentrating on the state of South Asian Muslims during the Colonial period; Relations of the Subcontinent Muslims with the Ottoman Caliphate; and contributions of the Subcontinent to Islamic culture and civilization.

In addition to Prof. Khurram Qadir and Prof. Faraz Anjum who contributed to the volume both as co-editors and authors, Dr. Salma Farooqui, Director of the H.K. Sherwani Centre for Deccan Studies in Hyderabad has contributed with five chapters. Prof. Azmi Özcan from IRCICA and the late Prof. Khaliq Ahmad Nizami from Aligarh Muslim University in India also contributed with one substantive chapter.

Enriched with historical and topographic maps, figures, genealogical tables and photographs of historical sites this volume represents an encyclopedic contribution to the studies on the history of Islamic civilization in South Asia. The fact that the authors also come from the Subcontinent makes the volume a truly original and endogenous piece of scholarly work supported and sponsored by

IRCICA as the cultural subsidiary of the OIC. 'Islamic History and Civilization: South Asia' is bound to become a leading reference in the English language for scholars and researchers specializing on various historical periods and various aspects of the legacy of Muslim nations in the region.

Book presentation by Sadik Ünay



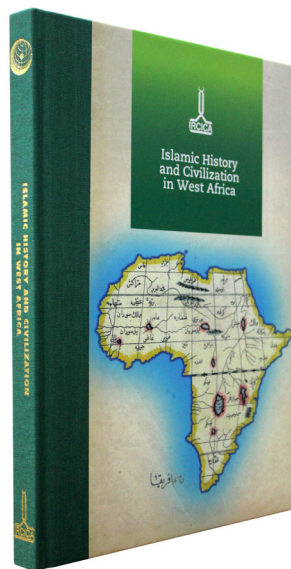
Actes de la conférence internationale sur l'Histoire et la Civilisation islamiques en Afrique de l'Ouest. Bilad as-Soudan

Mars 2019, Niamey

(PROCEEDINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ISLAMIC HISTORY AND CIVILIZATION IN WEST AFRICA. BILAD AS-SUDAN, MARCH 2019, NIAMEY); PROJECT DIRECTOR: HALIT EREN; PREPARED FOR PUBLICATION AND EDITED BY SEYNI MOUMOUNI AND HAMADOU ADAMA; SERIES OF STUDIES AND SOURCES ON HISTORY OF ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION NR. 47, IRCICA, ISTANBUL, 2020, 260 P. (IN FRENCH) ISBN 978-92-9063-086-9

The international conference on "The History of Islamic Civilization in West Africa" was held in Niamey, Niger, on 14-15 March 2019, under the

high patronage of H.E. President Issoufou Mahamadou, President of the Republic of Niger. It was organized by IRCICA and Abdou Moumouni University (UAM) of Niamey through its Institute of Research in Humanities (Institut de Recherches en Sciences Humaines, IRSH). Thirty-one papers were presented during the working sessions by scholars and researchers from Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, and Turkey. In highly specialized studies, they analyzed the particularities of the spread of Islam in Bilad al-Sudan, the role and place of Islam and the impact of Quranic studies and Islamic culture in the different State administrations and the lives of peoples of the region (IRCICA Newsletter nr. 108, January-April 2019). Fourteen papers of the conference have been edited and published as a book, with the Preface of Prof. Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA. The book has the General Introduction by Prof. Dr. Hamadou Adama from Ngaoundere University in Cameroon, who prepared the papers for publication together with Prof. Dr. Seyni Moumouni, Director of the IRSH. The conference was conducted in the French language ; a couple of papers that were presented in Arabic will be published in a forthcoming issue of the IRCICA Journal. All articles in this book are in French. This collection of studies by authors from within and around the region is a valuable addition to history literature. It also appeals to the general reader.



Proceedings of the International Conference on Islamic History and Civilization in West Africa

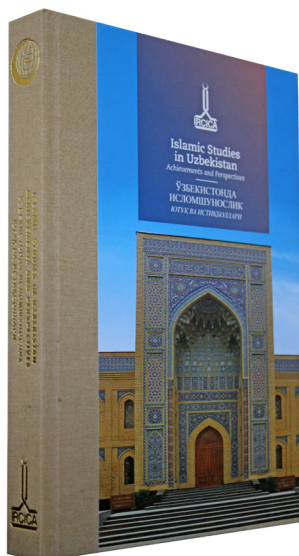
October 2018, Abuja, Nigeria

EDITED BY HALIT EREN; PREPARED FOR PUBLICATION BY ABOUBACAR ABDULLAH SENGHORE, SADIK ÜNAY, SHUAIBU SHEHU ALIYU AND SAMET YALÇIN; SERIES OF STUDIES AND SOURCES ON HISTORY OF ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION NO. 45, IRCICA, ISTANBUL, 2020; 218 P. ISBN 978-92-9063-107-1

IRCICA and the Arewa House, Ahmadu Bello University, Kaduna, Nigeria jointly organized the international conference on "Islamic History and Civilization in West Africa", on 19-20 October 2018, in Abuja, Nigeria. The opening ceremony of the conference was attended by members of government and academia. H.E. President Muhammadu Buhari, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, was represented by the Minister of Education, Hon. Alhaji Adamu Adamu, who read the President's address. The papers presented during the conference traced the history regarding the spread of Islam in West Africa starting

from the first century of Islam. In his remarks as moderator of the opening session, Dr. Usman Bugaje, Convener of the Arewa Research and Development Project, pointed to some salient issues regarding studies in this field, such as: the need to attach due importance to the civilizational dimension of Islam, that much of history is alive, but scholars and policy-makers often neglect to bring this into reality; and, the contributions of women to scholarship need to be given some prominence. The main themes of the working sessions were: Spread of Islam in Bilad al-Sudan (900-1500); Spread of Islam in Eastern Bilad al-Sudan; Islamic Revivalism in Bilad al-Sudan (1600-1800), and Historical, Social, Economic and Cultural Background. The conference language was English.

The book contains fourteen papers by scholars and researchers from Gambia, Nigeria and Turkey. They provide detailed information and specialized analyses on the history and culture of local Muslim communities starting from the time of their first contact with Islam up until the present day. Those interested in the history of West Africa will find this book highly informative.



Islamic Studies in Uzbekistan. Achievements and Perspectives

June 2019, Tashkent

PROCEEDINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON "ISLAMIC STUDIES IN UZBEKISTAN: ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERSPECTIVES", EDITED BY PROF. HALIT EREN, PROF. ASHIRBEK MUMINOV; PREPARED FOR PUBLICATION BY PROF. SHUKHRAAT YOVKOCHEV, PROF. ZOKHIDJON ISLAMOVI, SERIES OF STUDIES ON ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION IN CENTRAL ASIA NR. 44, IRCICA, ISTANBUL, 2020, 364 P. (ARTICLES IN UZBEK, RUSSIAN AND ENGLISH, INTRODUCTORY TEXTS AND CONTENTS IN ENGLISH)

The International Workshop on "Islamic Studies in Uzbekistan: Achievements and Perspectives" was conducted jointly by IRCICA and the International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan, in Tashkent, on 24 June 2019. It was opened by Prof. Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, and Prof. Dr. Shuhrat A. Yovqochev, Rector of the International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan. Specialized papers were presented to the workshop by scholars and experts from Uzbekistan. This book is a collection of 21 articles based on the workshop.

The articles deal with the state and prospects of Islamic studies in Uzbekistan with regard to a wide range of aspects and issues involved in the conduct of Islamic studies. From the perspectives of the different disciplines and subject areas these studies comprise, they record experiences, assess needs and estimate future prospects with regard to the various theoretical, technical and operational aspects of the field, thus focusing on research, teaching, training, source studies, academic exchanges and international cooperation, among others. Thanks to the diversity of the authors' specializations, a multi-disciplinary range of subject areas in Islamic studies come into focus such as: religious sciences, including Quranic education, the sciences of Hadith, exegesis, and jurisprudence, Sufism and schools of theology; history; art; archeology; architecture; source studies; methodological issues, and training of educators and researchers. It is noteworthy that the research and educational environment of Islamic studies in Uzbekistan benefits from the richness and diversity of the topics, materials and sources that the history and scholarly heritage of Uzbekistan offer for study.

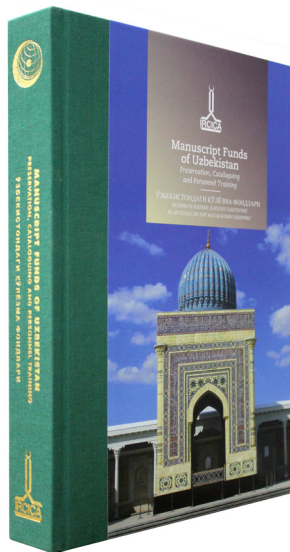
In the context of its research and conference programs on the history and heritage of Islamic civilization in the different regions of the OIC-IRCICA membership, IRCICA gives importance to highlighting the contributions that came from the different cultural and linguistic regions of this membership geography to Islamic civilization. Thus IRCICA gives importance to highlighting the scientific and intellectual inputs from Uzbekistan and other countries

of Central Asia to this civilization. To this aim various projects were conducted by IRCICA over the past years and series of international workshops were organized in the last couple of years in countries of Central Asia in cooperation with their governments, academic and cultural institutions. The workshop which occasioned the present publication was organized in the same vein. From the viewpoint of IRCICA, the book is a valuable addition to its series of studies on the history of Islamic civilization in Central Asia. It concretizes the objectives sought by the organizers of the workshop. The book will be a valuable input to the literature relating to Islamic studies and will draw the attention of scholars and researchers world-wide to subjects of universal relevance for the studies.

Proceedings of the International Workshop. Manuscript Funds of Uzbekistan. Preservation, Cataloging and Personnel Training

ED. PROF. HALIT EREN, DR. SHOVSIL ZIYODOV, PREPARED FOR PUBLICATION BY PROF. ASHIRBEK MUMINOV, OTOBEK MUHAMMADIYEV. SOURCES AND STUDIES ON THE HISTORY OF ISLAMIC CIVILISATION SERIES NO. 46, IRCICA, ISTANBUL, 2020, XXIX, 464 P. (ARTICLES IN UZBEK AND RUSSIAN)

This is a collection of specialized research papers addressing diverse aspects of the preservation, management and utilization of the funds of manuscripts of Uzbekistan. These funds of manuscripts are the products of scientific, philosophical and literary activities that have taken place in Uzbekistan and its region over the past centuries. They are sources of information for



researchers who are working on various aspects of the history of culture of the region. Their conservation, cataloguing and valorization engage a wide range of specializations. The workshop which was organized by IRCICA and Imam Bukhari International Scientific Research Center (IBISRC) in Samarkand, Uzbekistan in June 2019 aimed at encouraging research work and fostering exchanges of information between relevant expert circles on diverse aspects of the management of the manuscript heritage. The participants were an inter-disciplinary group of scholars and specialists involved with theoretical and practical, scientific and technical aspects of the preservation and treatment of funds of manuscripts. Their papers collected in this book focus on current issues and challenges involved in this field, communicate experiences, recommend best practices, evaluate availability of training facilities, and explore avenues of sectoral and inter-country cooperation.

IRCICA's activities on the history of culture in the Islamic world

involve frequent references to collections of Islamic manuscripts, both as sources for research and works of science and scholarship. IRCICA's long-term research program of "Studies on Manuscripts" already bore fruit in various of bibliographies and catalogues of manuscripts compiled with varying regional and/or thematic focuses. These publications facilitate researchers access to collections that carry importance for academic study or as cultural heritage assets. They cover various funds including archives of official, institutional or personal documents and manuscripts authored as works of science or letters. They help the aims of appraising the contents of the collections and raising researchers' awareness of them. Concomitantly, IRCICA gives importance to the question of the management and preservation of the funds. The Samarkand workshop delved into this aspect. It can serve as an example for similar ones that would focus on funds of manuscripts located elsewhere. Its proceedings contained in this book can be useful for the experts in charge of curation and management of collections in different parts of the world. The first chapter of the book, on "Manuscript Funds of Uzbekistan", contains 17 articles; the second chapter, on "Preservation, Primary Description and Online Cataloguing of Manuscripts" has 18 articles, and the third, on "Prominent Scholars of Uzbekistan: Compilation of their Activities and Manuscript Heritage", 21 articles.

Series on the Sharia Court Registers of Jerusalem: Volumes 34 -36 relating to Registers no. 53, 55 and 56 from the 16th century

PREPARED FOR PUBLICATION BY IBRAHIM RABAIA. IRCICA, ISTANBUL, 2020 (IN ARABIC)

IRCICA publishes a series of volumes based on registers of the Sharia courts held in Al-Quds/ Jerusalem in past centuries. There are altogether 412 registers, dating from 1529 to 1909. These are valuable first-hand sources that record cases reflecting daily life in the region, relations between local administrations and the people, interaction among different faith communities and people of different social statuses. Indexes of terms, places, communities and professions are added to each volume.

The first volume, published in 2013, is related to the register no. 107 which dates from the period between 5 August 1623 and 10 April 1624. The three volumes published in 2014 are related to the following registers: register no. 119 of al-Quds Sharia Court (23 Jan. 1632-13 Nov. 1632), register no. 149 (20 Nov. 1653-20 Dec. 1654), register no. 183 (22 Jan. 1680-20 Feb. 1681). The volumes published in 2015 are related to al-Quds Sharia Court registers no. 78 (4 Jan. 1597- 21 Feb. 1598), no. 96 (18 Nov. 1614 - 9 Sep. 1615), no. 136 (26 Jan. 1646 - 2 Feb. 1646), no. 167 (26 Oct. 1666 - 19 Sep. 1667). The volumes published in 2016 are related to al-Quds Sharia Court registers no. 67 (dated 10 May 1587 - 10 Dec. 1588), no. 191 (dated 6 Sep. 1688 - 11 Jan 1690) and no. 201 (dated Aug 1707 - Jul. 1703). In 2017 the series continued with volumes related to the registers no. 36 (dated 26

March 1558 - 28 Nov. 1558), no. 46 (dated 12 Oct. 1564 - 30 April 1565), no. 28 (dated 2 March – 7 Dec. 1554), no. 54 (dated 5 Jan. 1571 - 10 April 1572), no. 88 (dated 16 March 1608 – 7 Jan. 1609) and no. 19 (dated 11 April 1547 – 26 Nov. 1547). In 2018, IRCICA published the volumes concerning the register no. 16, related to the period from 12 September 1544 to 17 June 1545, the register no. 101 of the period from 28 August 1618 to 6 May 1619, the register no. 112 dating from 23 October 1626 - 20 July 1627 and the register no. 33 dating from 20 October 1556 – 28 August 1557. The following volumes have appeared in 2019: Vol. 22 on the register no. 35 dated 25 August 1557 - 23 February 1558; Volume 23 concerning the register no. 30 dated 19 December 1554 - 21 November 1555. Volume 24 concerning the register no. 31 dated 25 November 1555 – 29 September 1556, Volume 25 relating to the register no. 37 dating from 28 November 1558 – 23 November 1559, Volume 26 on the register no. 39 dating from 23 November 1559 – 2 November 1560, Volume 27 concerning the register no. 40 dated 2 November 1560 – 31 October 1561, Volume 28 relating to the register no. 43 dated 31 October 1561 – 12 October 1562, Volume 29 about the register no. 44 dated 12 October 1562 – 22 November 1563 and Volume 30 concerning the register no. 45 dated 27 November 1563 – 8 October 1564. The volumes having appeared in



2020 are: Volume 31 concerning the register no. 48 dated 28 April 1565 – 11 April 1566, Volume 32 about the register no. 49 dated 12 April 1566 – 18 October 1567, Volume 33 relating to the register no. 51 dated 19 October 1567 – 7 July 1569; Volume 34 about the register no. 53 dated 24 November 1569 - 1 January 1571; Volume 35 about the register no. 55 dated 11 April 1572 – 12 December 1573, and Volume 36 about the register no. 56 dating from 13 December 1573 – 14 May 1576.



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