Newsletter

ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION (OIC)
RESEARCH CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC HISTORY, ART AND CULTURE (IRCICA)
JUNE-AUGUST 2023
121

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Newsletter

Jue-August 2023,
No. 121

Three issues per year in the three official languages of the OIC:
(English, French, Arabic)

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Editorial

Dear readers,

The present Newsletter reaches you in Autumn, which is the beginning of a new academic year in the northern hemisphere. It is also the start of a new teaching year for IRCICA's art education programs. These include the training courses on calligraphy and illumination that are broadcast online; the practical workshops conducted in the context of festivals or art congresses in different countries; and various reference books on traditional Islamic arts. Students from various countries of Africa and Asia, Australia and Canada are enrolled in the calligraphy and illumination courses that are conducted online and recorded on our YouTube channel. We are encouraged by the diversity of students' countries and also by the high rate of women's enrolment in the newly instituted illumination course. The calligraphy training program, which has been going on for many years, promises the teacher's ijaza - license to teach and practice this art - to perseverant students. The illumination course is planned as a longer, four-year theoretical and practical program leading to a certificate. Both can help people of all educational backgrounds to engage in art careers. These and other development-oriented programs and interactive activities of IRCICA in the field of arts will hopefully see a new expansion in the coming years. We are planning to institute some new projects, such as an international photography competition to highlight the traditional spirit and concepts of Islamic arts, an international competition on the art of illumination, and various regional competitions on Islamic calligraphy, to be conducted along with the well-known triennial IRCICA International Calligraphy Competition. During this past Summer, we organized art exhibitions in the context of cultural and artistic events taking place in Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia and Nigeria, as reflected in this issue. These activities were occasions to introduce our ongoing programs and future plans to wider audiences, acquaint peoples from various cultural backgrounds with the traditional arts of the Islamic world, and promote our publications.

Regarding the academic events held during the period under review, a new series of meetings was launched with the international conference on "History of Development of Islamic Learning and Scholarship in Africa" co-organized by IRCICA, the OIC General Secretariat, and Arewa House of Ahmadu Bello University (Kaduna, Nigeria) in June. The geographical focus of the conference was on the English-speaking West, East and Southern Africa. It will be followed by subsequent conferences about the same and other regions, to include the Arabic and French-speaking West, Central and Northern Africa. Contacts are under way to determine the partner institutions and venues for the planned conferences. In this past period, IRCICA also took part, as co-organizer and keynote speaker, in the Fourth International Symposium on Religious Literature and Heritage which was organized by the Center for Research and Development of Religious Literature and Heritage under the Ministry of Religion of Indonesia.

Within the general framework of IRCICA's research fields covering the history and cultural heritage of Islamic civilization and the arts and cultures of Muslim peoples, the themes of IRCICA's conferences are extending to include various regions of the world and new subjects of study. For example, the International Symposium on the "History and Legacy of Muslims in the Caribbean" to be organized jointly with the OIC General Secretariat, the Government of Guyana and Guyana University, in Georgetown, Guyana at the beginning of September, will be the very first scholarly event of its kind to be conducted by the OIC and IRCICA in the Caribbean region. There are two OIC Member States in the Caribbean region: the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and the Republic of Suriname.

In addition to the news on recent activities, the present issue introduces three new publications resulting from our research programs. They are related, respectively, to bibliographic studies on the Holy Qur'an, the history of Muslim communities in Africa, and Islamic culture and civilization in Central Asia.

I thank you for your interest in IRCICA's activities and wish you good beginnings for the upcoming work periods.

Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol KILIÇ
Director General, IRCICA

International Conference on the "History of Islamic Learning and Scholarship in Africa"

organized by IRCICA, OIC General Secretariat, and Arewa House, Ahmadu Bello University

Kaduna, Nigeria, 13-15 June 2023

IRCICA, jointly with the OIC General Secretariat and Arewa House, Ahmadu Bello University, Kaduna, Nigeria, have organized the International Conference on the "History of Islamic Learning and Scholarship in Africa". The conference received specialized contributions from thirty-three participants from universities and research institutes in Cameroon, Canada, Gambia, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Norway, Qatar, U.S.A. and IRCICA.

The opening ceremony of the conference held on 13 June 2023 was officiated by the Shehu of the Borno Emirate, H.R.H. Abubakar ibn Umar Garba El-Kanemi. Addresses were delivered by the Sultan of Sokoto His Eminence Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar, the Executive Governor of Kaduna State H.E. Senator Uba Sani; Mr. Alhoucine Rhazoui, Director of Cultural Affairs at the OIC General Secretariat speaking on behalf of H.E. the Secretary General of OIC Hissein Brahim Taha; Ambassador Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç, Director General of IRCICA. The ceremony was attended by high

officials, academics and cultural circles. Dr. Usman Bugaje, scholar from Nigeria, delivered the keynote address.

Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç, in his address, informed the audience that this first conference in IRCICA's new series on the history of Islamic scholarship and education was designed to focus on the English-speaking West, East and Southern Africa, to be followed by subsequent ones on other geographical and linguistic regions of the continent. Prof. Kılıç expressed his appreciation of the ongoing cooperation between Nigeria and IRCICA which already has on its record the international conference on "Islamic Civilization in West Africa" organized jointly with Arewa House, Ahmadu Bello University in 2019, and an international online panel on the "History of Islamic Learning and Scholarship in Africa" held in 2020, which were preludes to the present large-scale conference marking the beginning of a new series on the history of Islamic culture.

The themes of the working sessions were as follows:

* "Sun Rises in the East and Central Africa: History of Islamic Scholarship in Eastern Bilad al-Sudan";
* "Cross-Regional Transmissions and Interactions: I- Western and Eastern Bilad al-Sudan";
* "Cross-Regional Transmissions and Interactions: II- Maghreb and Central Bilad al-Sudan";
* "West African Flavors: Islamic Scholarship in Local Languages";
* "Perspectives on Tajdid Movements in Africa";
* "Methodologies of Learning and Teaching in West African Scholarship";
* "Contributions of Muslim Scholars in West Africa";
* "Effects of Colonialism, Women Scholarship, Youth Education and Legal Perspectives".

IRCICA researcher Dr. Ahmad Mukhtar Adam's paper titled "The Tradition of Tafsir in Northern Nigeria: Genesis, Development and Approaches" was placed at the session on "Methodologies of Learning and Teaching in West African Scholarship".

An exhibition of award-winning works from the IRCICA International Calligraphy Competition was opened on the occasion of the conference. The Sultan of Sokoto and a large number of dignitaries visited IRCICA's exhibition.

On this occasion, the Director General of IRCICA Prof. Mahmud Erol Kılıç offered samples of IRCICA's publications to the Shehu of Borno El-Kanemi, as well as to Sultan Abubakar of Sokoto and the Governor of Kaduna Uba Sani. The Sultan of Sokoto offered to Prof. Kılıç the book entitled Selected Writings of Sheikh Abdullahi bin Fodio, containing a collection of texts authored by the well-known Islamic scholar of Sokoto, Abdullahi bin Fodio, who was the brother of the politician and scholar Usman bin Fodio.

The closing ceremony of the conference took place on 15 June 2023. Conclusion remarks were given by Prof. Aboubacar Abdullah Senghore, Assistant Director General of IRCICA, Dr. Shuaibu Shehu Aliyu, Director Arewa House, and Dr. Usman Bugaje, underscoring the contributions of the conference to studies on Islamic culture in general, and to strengthening specializations on subjects relating to its theme, in particular.

4th International Symposium on "Religious Literature and Heritage" (ISLAGE)

organized by the Ministry of Religion of Indonesia with IRCICA as collaborator

Yogyakarta, Indonesia and online, on 2-4 August 2023

The 4th International Symposium on Religious Literature and Heritage (ISLAGE) was organized by the Center for Research and Development of Religious Literature and Heritage affiliated to the Research and Training Agency of the Ministry of Religion of Indonesia, in Yogyakarta and online, on 2-4 August 2023. IRCICA was one of the collaborating partners, together with the National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) of Indonesia. IRCICA's Assistant Director General Prof. Aboubacar Abdullah Senghore gave the Keynote Address on behalf of Director General Prof. Mahmud Erol Kılıç at the opening ceremony of the symposium. Opening addresses were given by Prof. Al Makin, Rector of the State Islamic University (Universiti Islam Negeri - UIN); H.E. Yaqut Cholil Qoumas, Minister of Religion of the Republic of Indonesia; Prof. Dr. H. Amin Suyitno, Head of the Research and Training Agency, Ministry of Religion of Indonesia, and other dignitaries.

The sub-themes of the sessions over the three-day symposium were:

* "Religious Moderation and Local Wisdom";
* "Democracy and Religious Moderation Within Digital Society";
* "Interreligious Interaction in Literature and Heritage";
* "The making of Religious Identity as Reflected in the Literature and Heritage";
* "Indonesian New Capital City and New Challenges in Religious Life";
* "The Dynamic of Democracy in Cultural and Religious Diversities";

* "Conflict and Diplomacy - Historical and Contextual Frameworks".

Along with the working sessions dedicated to specific themes, there were plenary sessions, which were addressed by delegates from various ministries of the Indonesian Government and university. A total of 98 papers were presented over the 4 to 5 parallel working sessions dedicated to each theme, reflecting general perspectives and/or focuses on local cases. The overall outcome is a rich body of research literature with emphasis on the Southeast Asian religious and social sphere. A random sample of paper titles can illustrate the subject-wise diversity of the papers: "Exploring Inter-Religious Interactions: Prospects for Rational Enquiry and Shared Education Between Hindu and Islamic Traditions", Muhammed Midlaj Masroor; "Promotion of Tolerance in the Spiritual Heritage of Alisher Navoi", Bakhtiyor Tursunov; "Interreligious Harmonization in Indonesia Through Implementation of Wahdatul Adyan Concept By Ibnu Arabi", M. Hasan Hamid, Halya Millati; "Holding Justice and Knitting National Identity: The Basic Principle of Religious Moderation in the Manuscript Network for the Islamization of the Archipelago", Asman Azis; "Intellectual and Cultural Inter-Religious Interaction During the Mughal Era in Peninsular India", Mohammed Nihad; "Culturally Responsive Pedagogy on Islamic Education: A Democratic Learning Model for a Plural Society", Ai Umir Fadhilah, Idil Saptaputra, Desi Asmarita.

In his Keynote Address, the Assistant Director General of IRCICA Prof. Senghore said that IRCICA gives importance to the Symposium as a forum that underscores religious literature and cultural heritage from a realistic perspective attuned to global developments in all fields. Prof. Senghore recalled that the third symposium, which was coordinated jointly with the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Indonesia and Maulana Malik Ibrahim State Islamic University in 2021, had focused on religious literature and heritage in the post-pandemic era. The present, fourth symposium was emphasizing the importance of religious literature and heritage for mutual tolerance and harmony in international relations. In the first part of the address, the Assistant Director General pointed to the indispensable role of religious literature in humans' life, underlining that this literature helps to regulate and facilitate humans' relationship with Nature and with each other and serves as a reference for the conduct of spiritual and worldly matters. In the second part of his address, Prof. Senghore outlined the activities of IRCICA that contribute to the development of studies about the history of Islamic religious and scientific literatures in different regions of the Muslim world.

"History and Mission of IRCICA and Its Prospectus": IRCICA Director General's Lecture at the University of Sharjah

Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, 5 July 2023

Prof. Mahmud Erol Kılıç, Director General of IRCICA, accompanied by Prof. Cengiz Tomar, Head of Research and Publications, held meetings with the administrators and members of the University of Sharjah (UoS), United Arab Emirates, on 5 July 2023. The program of the visit started with the lecture of Professor Kılıç titled "History and Mission of IRCICA and Its Prospectus: Academic and Research Cooperation with the University of Sharjah (UoS)" which was jointly hosted by the Sharjah International Foundation for the History of Arab and Muslim Sciences through its Director, Prof. Mesut Idriz, and the Research Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences through its Director, Prof. Faker Al Gharaibeh. The lecture was attended by faculty members and postgraduate students. In this talk Professor Kılıç presented the topic through the lens of the evolution of the goals and concerns of IRCICA over the period of more than four decades that passed from its inception until today. The Director General analyzed this evolution, and the consequent resilience and responsiveness of IRCICA's work, by placing them within the framework of the OIC's objectives and global international relations. Based on this overview, Prof. Kılıç sketched out the prospective orientations of the Centre's activities. The lecture ended with questions and answers.

IRCICA Director General Prof. Kılıç had a meeting with Prof. Hamid Al Naimiy, Chancellor of UoS, with the participation of Prof. Cengiz Tomar, Prof. Mesut İdriz and Prof. Faker Al Gharaibeh, on 6 July 2023. The two sides exchanged information on their ongoing studies and projects in fields of common interest, relating, in general, to the history of science

and philosophy. Possibilities for these institutions to join efforts to further advance their ongoing projects and launch new ones were explored.

Prof. Kılıç and Prof. Tomar paid a visit to the Museum of Islamic Civilization on 6 July 2023. They were received by Ms. Aishah bin Demas, Director General of the Sharjah Museums Authority.

During the talks, they described IRCICA's activities, including its networks of exchange and cooperation with institutions around the world, and expressed the wish to develop exchanges of information and publications with the museums of Sharjah.

Contacts and mutual visits between the University of Sharjah and IRCICA continue.

On 16 August 2023, Prof. Mesut İdriz, Director of the Sharjah International Foundation for the History of Arab and Muslim Sciences (SIFHAMS), University of Sharjah, was welcomed by the Director General Prof. Mahmud Erol Kılıç, together with the Head of Research and Publications Prof. Cengiz Tomar, at IRCICA.

International Online Conference "Neighborliness of Cultures in the 21st Century of Central Asian Countries"

coordinated by the N. Nazarbayev Center for Interfaith and Inter-Civilization Dialogue, Kazakhstan

17 August 2023

Ambassador Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç, Director General of IRCICA, gave a scholarly address at the International Online Conference on the theme "Neighborliness of Cultures in the 21st Century of Central Asian Countries" held on 17 August 2023. The conference was coordinated by the Nursultan Nazarbayev Center for Interfaith and Inter-Civilization Dialogue, Nursultan, Kazakhstan.

Following the opening speech of Ambassador Bulat Sarsenbayev, Chairman of the Management Board of Nazarbayev Center, the conference was addressed by the following dignitaries: Mr. Anuar Khatiyev, Deputy Chairman of the Religious Affairs Committee, Ministry of Information and Social Development of Kazakhstan; Ambassador Prof. Mahmud Erol Kılıç, Director General of IRCICA; Prof. Muhammad Zia ul Haq, Director General, Islamic Research Institute, at the International Islamic University of Islamabad, Pakistan; Dr. Shoazim Minovarov, Director, Center of Islamic Civilization in Uzbekistan, Tashkent; Dr. Elmira Sadykova, Head of the Center for Interreligious Dialogue, Bolgar Islamic Academy, Tatarstan, Russia; representatives of the Muslim, Catholic and Lutheran religious administrations and the UNESCO Cluster Office in Central Asia.

In his address, Prof. Mahmud Erol Kılıç reviewed the formation process and growing importance of the concept of "cultural proximity" of countries which is frequently referred to in global diplomatic contexts on one hand, and studies on international management and economics on the other. Prof. Kılıç analyzed the significance of cultural neighborliness aspects of Central Asian countries as examples relevant within the framework of efforts aimed at strengthening intercultural understanding and exchanges around the world.

Nazarbayev Center is one of the regular partner institutions of IRCICA in Kazakhstan. The two institutions are jointly coordinating inter-faith and intercultural platforms. Their precedent joint activity was the International Round Table on the "Significance of the 7th Congress of the Leaders of World and Traditional Religions" which was conducted at IRCICA, on 26 April 2023.

IRCICA's presentation at the Second Kazan Global Youth Summit

organized by the Government of the Republic of Tatarstan, Russian Federation and Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF-DC)

Kazan, Tatarstan, Russian Federation, 27-30 August 2023

The Second Kazan Global Youth Summit was organized by the Government of the Republic of Tatarstan, Russian Federation and the OIC-affiliate Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF-DC) in Kazan, Tatarstan, Russian Federation, on 27-30 August 2023, with the partnership of the following authorities and institutions of the Russian Federation: the Federal Agency for Youth Affairs; the Federal Agency for the Commonwealth of Independent States Affairs, Compatriots Living Abroad, and International Humanitarian Cooperation; the “All-Russian Public-State Movement of Children and Youth - Movement of the First”; the “New Generation” Program; Alexander Gorchakov Public Diplomacy Fund; the Academy of Youth Diplomacy; the Youth Center of the Republic of Tatarstan; Tatarstan Republican Youth Public Foundation "Selet". The Summit is an educational and expert platform for exchanging opinions and best practices on youth policy and involvement of children and youth locally, regionally, and globally (for detailed information, see kazanyouthsummit.ru).

The main agenda theme of the Summit 2023 was "The Role of Traditional Values in the Education of Children and Youth in the Modern World". Ministers, heads of agencies for youth policy of various countries, diplomats, representatives of international organizations, experts, heads and leaders of youth organizations, and media representatives participated in the Summit. It is noteworthy that the First Kazan

Global Youth Summit was held on 27-30 August 2022 and placed in the context of the program "Kazan OIC Youth Capital 2022".

IRCICA was represented at the Second Kazan Global Youth Summit by Prof. Dr. Cengiz Tomar, Head of Research and Publications. Professor Tomar presented a study during the Plenary Session, which was themed "The Role of Traditional Values in the Education of Children and Youth in the Modern World". Other speakers at this Plenary Session were Mr. Igor Komarov, Plenipotentiary Representative of the President of the Russian Federation in the Volga Federal District; Mr. Rustam Minnikhanov, Rais of the Republic of Tatarstan; Mr. Sergey Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (video statement); Mr. Taha Ayhan, President of the Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum; Mr. Grigory Gurov, Chairman of the Board of the All-Russian Public-State Movement of Children and Youth «Movement of the First»; Dr. Salim bin Mohammed AlMalik, Director General of ICESCO; Mr. Damir Fattakhov, Deputy Head of the Federal Agency for Youth Affairs; Prof. Dr. Mohammed Iqbal Choudhury, Coordinator General of the OIC Standing Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) (video statement). In his paper, Professor Tomar underlined the presently growing importance of educating children and youth with ethical values and a sense of responsibility towards their immediate and larger environments, where preparedness and solidarity for the difficult future that appears to be facing global community is a pressing concern. Prof. Tomar stated that innovation and advancement are compatible with the respect of traditional values, and gave examples of cultural, and educational and social activities organized by IRCICA that combine the traditional with the modern, that emphasize and draw from the complementarities between these two.

On the occasion of the session, Prof. Tomar offered his greetings to H.E. Rustam Minnikhanov, Rais of the Republic of Tatarstan. It was recalled that the Republic of Tatarstan and IRCICA have cooperated since 2000 on various occasions, most notably through the co-organization of three congresses titled "Islamic Civilization in Volga-Ural Region" in Kazan (2001, 2005, 2012; two others co-organized in Ufa, Republic of Bashkiria in 2008 and 2010).

During the same period, on 29 August 2023, Prof. Cengiz Tomar paid a visit to Dr. Aynour Timerkhanov, Vice-President, Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tatarstan, at the Academy. Working relations between the Academy and IRCICA were discussed; in particular, the project to jointly organize the sixth congress on "Islamic Civilization in Volga-Ural Region" in 2024 was elaborated upon.

Panel on Oriental Studies: "A Distinguished Scholar in Oriental Studies, Prof. Ahmed Ateş"

in cooperation with Istanbul University and Hafez-e Shirazi Iranian Research Centre of Istanbul Medeniyet University

IRCICA, 9 June 2023

IRCICA, with the cooperation of Istanbul University and Hafez-e Shirazi Iranian Research Centre of Istanbul Medeniyet University, organized the panel entitled "A Distinguished Scholar in Oriental Studies: Prof. Ahmed Ateş" at IRCICA headquarters on 9 June 2023.

The panel was opened with the addresses of IRCICA Director General Prof. Mahmud Erol Kılıç, the Rector of Istanbul University Prof. Mahmut Ak, and the Rector of Istanbul Medeniyet University Prof. Gülfettin Çelik, in the presence of Mr. Hasan Didban, Cultural Attaché of the Consulate General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Istanbul, Prof. Murteza Bedir, President of Türkiye Diyanet Foundation's Centre for Islamic Studies (ISAM), scholars from various universities, students, and the cultural press. Following a video presentation entitled "Prof. Ahmed Ateş in the Memory of His Students", the opening session continued with the speeches of Prof. Ahmet Emre Ateş (Istanbul University) on "A Scholar in Suriçi [historical part of Istanbul]: My Grand-Father Professor Ahmed Ateş", Assoc. Prof. Güler Doğan Averbek (Marmara University) on "Prof. Ahmed Ateş Collection in IRCICA Library", and Assoc. Prof. Turgay Şafak (Istanbul Medeniyet University) on "Prof. Ahmed Ateş's Academic Polemics with Iranian Scholars". The subsequent session heard studies about the contributions of Prof. Ateş to studies on Arabic, Persian and Turkish language and literature and Oriental Studies in general. Assoc. Prof. Kadir Turgut (Istanbul University) spoke on Prof. Ahmed

Ateş's "Contributions to the Development of the Critical Text Edition Method"; Dr. M. Bilâl Yamak (Kırklareli University) on "Prof. Ahmed Ateş's Unpublished Arabic-Turkish Dictionary for Reading the Quran and for Students' Use"; Dr. İsa Akpınar (Turkish Ministry of National Education) on "The Role of Prof. Ahmed Ateş in the Preparation of Türkiye's First Encyclopedia of Islam"; Assoc. Prof. Emek Üşenmez (Istanbul University) on "Ahmed Ateş's Turkish Studies and His Notes on Ali Shir Navai's Work Titled Majolis un-Nafois". The event was accompanied by an exhibition of photographs, publications, and samples from the archive of Ahmed Ateş.

In his opening remarks at the panel, IRCICA Director General Prof. Mahmud Erol Kılıç said that IRCICA occasionally organizes meetings to commemorate eminent experts and authors who had been connected in some way to IRCICA and its activities. Pointing out that the present panel had occasioned the preparation of comprehensive studies on the works of Prof. Ahmed Ateş in addition to boosting the cataloging process of his book collection preserved in IRCICA Library. These studies, he said, are paving the way for future research and publications to make known and benefit from the scholarly legacy of Ahmed Ateş.

The Rector of Istanbul University, Prof. Mahmut Ak underlined, in his speech, the importance of the activities of Prof. Ahmet Ateş in the context of the history of development of the Faculty of Letters of Istanbul University and affirmed the University's readiness to participate in research projects that would further highlight the contents and contributions of his studies and publications. Prof. Gülfettin Çelik, Rector of Istanbul Medeniyet University, emphasized the significance of Prof. Ahmed Ateş's publications and teaching in the context of the academic and cultural environment of his time.

A brief biography: Ahmed Ateş studied in the Department of Turkish Language and Literature of Istanbul University from 1936-39. He started to work in the Chair of Arabic-Persian Language and Literature as the assistant of Hellmut Ritter in 1939. He became Associate Professor in 1943 and Professor in 1953. He contributed to raising the level and quality of Oriental Studies in Türkiye to international standards; the activities of the academic departments he directed became known in the West and the East. He died in 1966.

Before the advent of online technology, IRCICA's training schools (on arts, architecture, librarianship, etc.) were conducted with in-person attendance and by postal correspondence. But since the technology became available almost all over the world, it has become possible for IRCICA to conduct its courses in hybrid format and record them on YouTube. The courses are now within the reach of people in different time zones. The teaching periods of IRCICA's training programs on the arts of calligraphy and illumination align, in principle, with the academic year as it is typically scheduled in the Northern Hemisphere. The new teaching period starts in the early autumn of 2023.

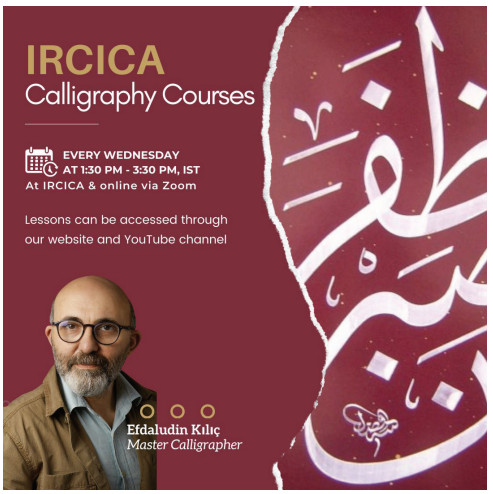
Training program on the art of calligraphy

The training program on calligraphy coordinated by IRCICA for nearly thirty years has helped hundreds of artists from around the world to upgrade their skills in the different calligraphic styles and obtain Ijaza, the traditional license delivered by the teacher authorizing the student to practice and teach this art. Till 2023 inclusive, 187 calligraphers from 32 countries have earned Ijaza for different writing styles under IRCICA's programs.

IRCICA's calligraphy training program offers courses in all styles of calligraphy, but mainly and mostly in thuluth, naskh, and ta'liq. Three master calligraphers, Mr. Efdaluddin Kılıç, Mr. Ferhat Kurlu, Mr. Mümtaz Seçkin Durdu, are teaching in the program. Each master teaches on weekly basis; thus, on the whole, courses are taught three days a week. Mr. Kılıç's classes have continued throughout the summer; all three teachers will begin the 2023-24 term in September 2023. For those wishing to obtain Ijaza in calligraphy, regular class attendance is a must. A total of 67 students are presently enrolled in the program from around the world. The teachers are briefly introduced here.

Calligrapher Efdaluddin Kılıç

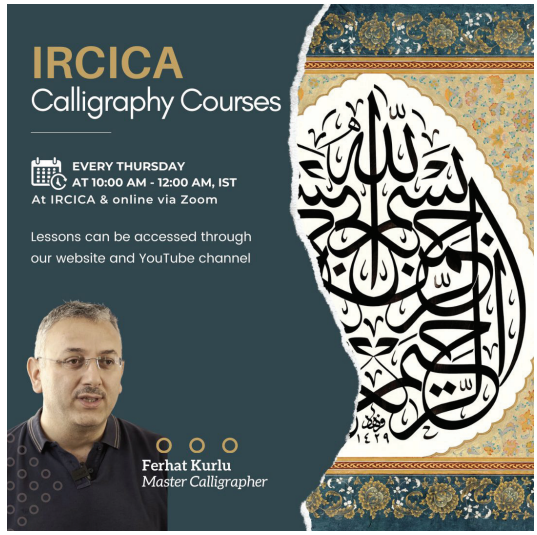
Born in Istanbul, Efdaluddin Kılıç graduated from Marmara University, Faculty of Theology. He obtained his MA degree from Marmara University, Institute of Social Sciences with his dissertation on "Yakut Musta'sımi's Works in Istanbul Museums and Libraries". At the same time, he practiced different



styles of calligraphy with Hüsrev Subaşı, Muhittin Serin, and later Hasan Çelebi. He taught calligraphy and held exhibitions in different countries within and outside the Muslim world. He has works in various private collections in Türkiye and abroad.

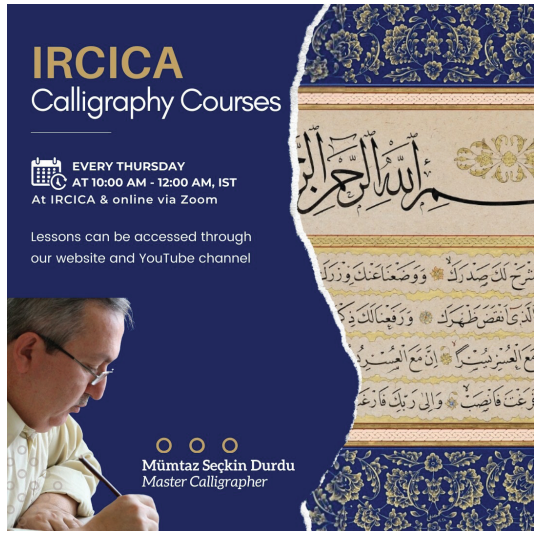
Calligrapher Ferhat Kurlu

Ferhat Kurlu was born in Ordu, Türkiye. He is a graduate of the Faculty of Theology of On Dokuz Mayıs University, Istanbul. He took courses from Muzaffer Ecevit and later Hasan Çelebi and obtained Ijaza in different styles. He wrote approximately two hundred hilyahs (calligraphic portraits of the Prophet Mohammedsaw, one hundred pieces in thuluth, jaly thuluth and taliq, and inscriptions for many mosques and fountains. He teaches calligraphy at IRCICA and other institutions.



Calligrapher Mümtaz Seçkin Durdu

Born in Trabzon, Türkiye, Mümtaz Seçkin Durdu studied calligraphy starting from his university years in Ankara under the instruction of Mustafa Acet and later Hasan Çelebi, from whom he obtained his Ijaza in thuluth-naskh. He participated in a large number of exhibitions in Türkiye and abroad, trained students from different countries, which he continues to do while producing calligraphy pieces.



Training program on the art of illumination

IRCICA launched its training program on illumination in March 2023. The first term, which lasted till June 2023, was conducted with 40 trainees from 15 countries, who had been selected at the outset among a few hundred of applicants from 35 countries. At the end of the first term, homework was assigned to the students, to be done during the summer break and to serve for further evaluations, after which the class will be reduced by half approximately. The illumination course is planned differently from the calligraphy courses: it is planned to last four years, lead to a certificate, and help talented and ambitious people to pursue a career in this field. The course is conducted in three languages (Turkish, English, Arabic) and attended by interested people from the OIC membership area in Africa and Asia as well as from geographically faraway countries such as Australia and Canada.

The Islamic art of illumination is one of the oldest decorative arts in Islamic culture as are its counterparts in other cultures around the world. It is applied on paper and various surfaces by using natural and synthetic paints, gold wash of different carats and colors, and ink, and with thin brushes. Illumination generally accompanies and decorates works of calligraphy. Like the latter, it was transmitted from teacher to pupil in the traditional way and acquired added significance in Islamic culture due to the respected status attached to the book, beginning with the Holy Qur'an. Works of illuminations are found not only in books but also as part of other manuscript and artistic works. The art of

illumination constantly evolved under Islamic states, during the Herat, Ilkhanid, Mamluk, Timurid, Safavid, Seljukid and Ottoman periods; it was enriched with changes of materials, colors, uses of gold, motifs and techniques. Today, it continues to be practiced by a growing number of artists throughout the world. These historical, theoretical and practical aspects of the Islamic art of illumination are being taught in the IRCICA Illumination Course, which is conducted by the Illuminator Necati Sancaktutan in hybrid format, on weekly basis.

Illuminator Necati Sancaktutan

Born in Istanbul, Sancaktutan graduated from Marmara University, Department of Traditional Turkish Handicrafts, Division of Illumination & Miniature Arts with first degree. He obtained his MA from the same university, with his thesis titled "Study of a Mushaf from the Safavid Period from the Viewpoint of Illumination". He pursues doctorate studies at Marmara University, with a dissertation on "Illumination Art during the Reign of Murad III". Sancaktutan taught the art of illumination at al-Balqa' Applied University, Jordan, for seven years. He continues to teach at various institutions and serves as jury member in international competitions. Sancaktutan currently works as Advisor for Arts at the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye.

IRCICA's exhibition and Director General's Keynote Address on Islamic calligraphy

Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, 5-7 June 2023

IRCICA Director General H.E. Ambassador Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç gave a Keynote Address at the 6th International Seminar on "Halalan Thayyiban Products and Services" opened on 5 June 2023 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam. An exhibition of Islamic calligraphy, consisting of award-winning works from IRCICA's calligraphy competitions, was contributed by IRCICA to the seminar. The seminar was organized by Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali and the Ministry of Religious Affairs in conjunction with Brunei Mid-Year Conference and Exhibition; the latter was coordinated by the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism.

Prof. Kılıç spoke, in his Keynote Address, of the guiding philosophies, concepts and themes of Islamic arts that constitute common grounds of understanding among the culturally diverse peoples of the world and explained IRCICA's mission aimed at highlighting and strengthening these grounds by way of research and public cultural events, underlining, in this regard, the significance of the art of Islamic calligraphy, which is appreciated and practiced by artists around the world as reflected by the samples of works displayed by IRCICA on this occasion. The same day, Prof. Kılıç gave an interview to Brunei Radio TV about IRCICA's activities.

The Minister of Religious Affairs of Brunei Darussalam, Pehin Haji Awang Badaruddin, who was the Guest of Honour of the seminar, visited IRCICA's exhibition of calligraphy on the first day of the seminar and was briefed by Director General Ambassador Kılıç on IRCICA's calligraphy competition and the works displayed.

"OIC-Indonesia Cultural Week: Organization of Islamic Cooperation Cultural Activities" (OIC-CA): lectures, exhibitions of artworks and historical photographs

Jakarta and Samarinda, Indonesia, 7-14 July 2023

The large-scale activity entitled "OIC-Indonesia Cultural Week: Organization of Islamic Cooperation Cultural Activities (OIC-CA)" was officially launched by the Indonesian Minister of Youth and Sports, Mr. Dito Ariatedjo and the Assistant Secretary General of OIC for Humanitarian, Cultural, Social and Family Affairs, Ambassador Tariq Bakheet on 8 July 2023. The events and activities of the Week were implemented at different venues in Jakarta and in Samarinda (East Kalimantan) during the period 7-14 July 2023. This was the second "Cultural Week" program of its kind organized by the OIC in its Member States: the first OIC-CA had taken place in Uganda, in 2022. This program is becoming a tradition, alongside the "OIC Day" annual festivals that have been held in different countries for several years to commemorate the OIC's foundation anniversaries.

The program of the OIC-Indonesia Cultural Week featured cultural and artistic events highlighting the cultural diversity of the Islamic world, underlining the crucial role that interfaith harmony and dialogue play in promoting peace, tolerance, and social cohesion, and pointing to the need to strengthen the shared values of the OIC member countries for further cooperation and solidarity. Ambassador Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç, Director General of IRCICA, was invited to address the High-Level Panel on "Embracing Cultural Diversity and Harmony for a Brighter Future Society" which was held at Muhammadiyah University, Kalimantan Timur (UMKT) on 10 July 2023. The panel was opened by the welcoming remarks of Prof. Bambang Setiaji, Rector, Muhammadiyah University, and the address of Prof. Warsito, Assistant Deputy for Religious Moderation Affairs, Ministry of Human Development and Culture of Indonesia.

In his address, Director General Prof. Kılıç presented an analysis of the correlation between the themes contained in IRCICA's work programs, on one hand, and the diversity of the arts and cultures of the Islamic world, on the other hand. Other speakers at the panel included the Ambassadors of the State of Qatar and the European Union accredited in Indonesia, and governmental delegates from various OIC Member States and the host country.

Before the opening of the panel, a Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation was signed by Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç, Director General, IRCICA, and Prof. Bambang Setiaji, Rector of Muhammadiyah University, Kalimantan Timur, laying foundations for academic cooperation between the two institutions.

Another Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation between Balikpapan University, Kalimantan, and IRCICA, was signed on 12 July 2023 by the Rector of Balikpapan University Dr. Isradi Zainal and IRCICA Director General Prof. Mahmud Erol Kılıç.

IRCICA contributed to the OIC-CA program with two exhibitions. One of them presented historical photographs of the sacred cities of Islam – Makkah al-Mukarramah, Madina al-Munawwara and al-Quds al-Sharif, chosen from IRCICA's archive, and the other exhibition displayed a sample of prize-winner works in IRCICA's International Calligraphy Competition. The exhibitions were arranged in the Sempaja Convention Hall at Samarinda City, Kalimantan.

Academic support to the 8th International ILEM Summer School

IRCICA contributed to the academic programs of the 8th International ILEM (Academic Studies Association) Summer School held in Istanbul on 24-30 July 2023. The other partners were the OIC Youth Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation (ICYF), the Turkish Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities, Fatih Sultan Mehmet Vakıf University and other organizations. IRCICA Director General Prof. Mahmud Erol Kılıç gave a scholarly address at the opening ceremony of the 8th School on 24 July 2023. Prof. Kılıç said that the scholars and specialists working on arts, aesthetics and philosophy are necessarily delving into the spiritual and metaphysical aspects of Islamic arts, which is a consequence of the existence of a governing spirit behind artistic, architectural and aesthetical productions.

40 academics from 15 countries taught in this program dedicated to "Rethinking Arts and Aesthetics in the Muslim World: Concepts, Theories and Practices". The Chief of IRCICA's Architectural Heritage Section, Assoc. Prof. Alidost Ertuğrul gave a paper at ICYF's Panel on "Enriching the Contemporary Worldview: Muslim Youth and the Aesthetic Foundations of Islamic Intellectual Heritage".

Visit of H.E. Ambassador M. Amanul Haq, Ambassador of Bangladesh

H.E. Mr. Amanul Haq, Ambassador the People's Republic of Bangladesh in Ankara, Türkiye, paid a visit of courtesy to H.E. Ambassador Prof. Mahmud Erol Kılıç, Director General, at IRCICA, on 8 August 2023. Views were exchanged on cultural cooperation between Bangladesh and IRCICA. Memories were shared about the years when Ambassador Haq was on official mission at the OIC General Secretariat.

Visit of H.E. Mr. Mohammad Ahmad Al Murr, Chairman of Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Library Foundation, Dubai

H.E. Mr. Mohammad Ahmad Al Murr, Chairman of Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Library Foundation, Dubai, United Arab Emirates and former representative of the U.A.E. in IRCICA Governing Board (2003-2014), paid a visit to Prof. Dr. Mahmoud Erol Kılıç, Director General of IRCICA, at IRCICA's headquarters on 3 July 2023. Prof. Kılıç guided Mr. Al Murr to the Arts and Handicrafts Section and the Library of the Centre and briefed the distinguished guest on recent progress in the activities.

Visit of Senator Salim Rahaman from Grenada

The Honourable Salim Rahaman, Member of the Grenada Senate and First Vice-President of Grenada Chamber of Commerce and Industry, paid a courtesy visit to IRCICA on 18 August 2023. Senator Rahaman was received, on behalf of IRCICA Director General, by Assistant Director General Prof. Aboubacar Senghore. Possible collaboration was discussed, particularly in the area of academic studies on Islamic cultural heritage in the Caribbean.

Cooperation with Abdullatif Alfozan Award for Mosque Architecture, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Prof. Mashary Al Naim, Secretary General of the Abdullatif Alfozan Award for Mosque Architecture, KSA, and Dr. Mohammed Al Naim, paid a visit to Director General Prof. Mahmud Erol Kılıç at IRCICA, on 18 July 2023. Cooperation projects were discussed and an MOU for Cooperation was signed, with the participation of IRCICA's Assistant Director General Prof. A. Senghore, Head of Research and Publications Prof. C. Tomar, Architectural Section Chief Assoc. Prof. A. Ertuğrul and senior expert Prof. F. Bayat.

Cooperation with Bukhara State University, Bukhara, Uzbekistan

A Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation between Bukhara State University and IRCICA was signed during the visit of Prof. Obidjon Khamidov, Rector of Bukhara State University, to Prof. Mahmud Erol Kılıç, Director General of IRCICA, at IRCICA headquarters, on 14 August 2023. A working meeting was held, together with the members of the visiting delegation, Assoc. Prof. Hamroev Azalshoh Hazratovich, Chairman of the Bukhara Region Branch of the Society of Historians of Uzbekistan, Prof. Namozov Bobir Bahrievich, Head of the Department of Islamic History and Source Studies, and Assoc. Prof.

Ochilov Alisher Tulis oglu from the Department of History and Archeology of Bukhara, and IRCICA officials Prof. Cengiz Tomar, Head of Research and Publications, and Prof. Ashirbek Muminov, Consultant for Organizational Activities (Central Asia). A roadmap for cooperation was adopted.

Sometime later, Director General Prof. Mahmud Erol Kılıç sent a Congratulation Message to the Rector of Bukhara State University Professor Obidjon Khamidov on the occasion of the 93rd Anniversary of Bukhara State University that was celebrated with a ceremony held on 9 September 2023.

Visit of a delegation from Bekasi City, Indonesia

A delegation from the City Council of Bekasi, West Java, Indonesia, was received by Director General Prof. Mahmud Erol Kılıç at IRCICA on 10 August 2023, within the framework of the Council's international institutional consultations on the development of cultural activities. A working meeting was also held, where the guests were briefed on IRCICA's programs relating to arts, as well as its library and publications.

Scholarly visit from Uzbekistan

Director General Prof. Mahmud Erol Kılıç has received on 28 August 2023 at IRCICA, the scholars Prof. Bekmirzaev Ilkhomjon and Prof. Qambarov Azamhon from the International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan and Senior Lecturer Mr. Ikromjonov Akmaljon from Imam Bukhari University, Tashkent, Uzbekistan, for a working visit in the context of the ongoing cooperations.

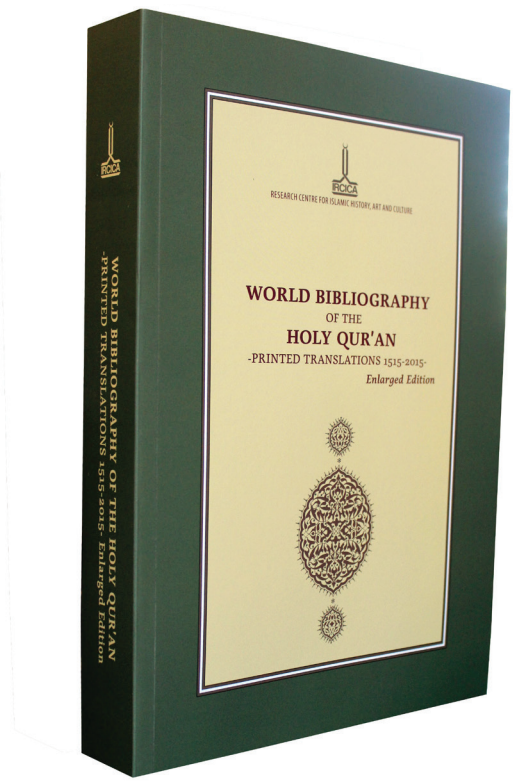
Art historian Dr. Valérie Gonzalez's visit

The specialist of Islamic arts and culture Dr. Valérie Gonzalez, who is Research Associate at SOAS, University of London, School of Arts, Department of History of Art and Archaeology, paid a visit to Director General Prof. Mahmud Erol Kılıç at IRCICA on 1st August 2023. The talks centered around developments observed in the world in the orientations of research and teaching on Islamic arts and architecture were introduced.

World Bibliography of the Holy Quran – Printed Translations, 1515-2015

ENLARGED EDITION; PREPARED BY İSMET BINARK AND MEHMET SERDAR BEKAR; PREFACE: PROF. DR. MAHMUD EROL KILIÇ; IRCICA, 2023; BIBLIOGRAPHY ON THE HOLY QUR'AN: 5, XXIX+670 PP. (IN ENGLISH)

ISBN 978-92-9063-411-9



The present publication resulted from IRCICA's research project relating to the history of the dissemination of the Holy Qur'an by way of copies, exegeses and translations of its text. The project covers the translations that were published throughout the world from the invention of the printing press in Europe - 1515 - up to the year 2015 inclusive. It is an enlarged edition of IRCICA's first bibliography dated 1986 which recorded the translations printed until 1980.

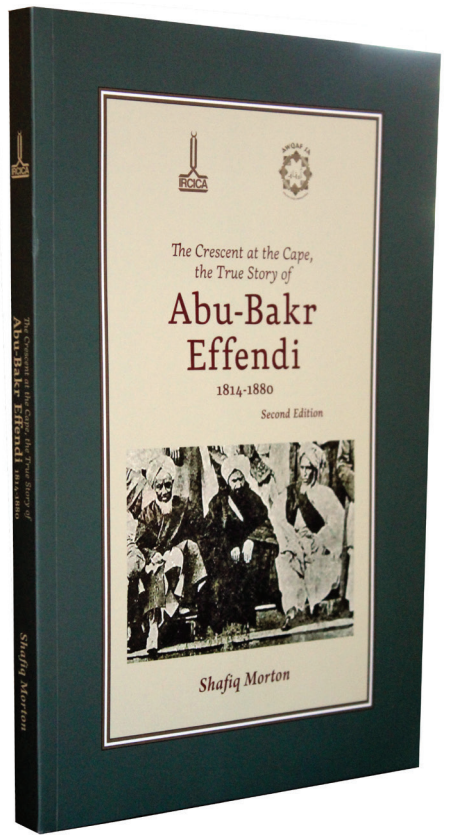
This research project comes under IRCICA's main activity program titled "Studies on the Holy Qur'an", which is organized in two sections, for printed translations and manuscript translations respectively. Studies and collection of data on printed translations is a continual work. Concerning translations in manuscript form, three bibliographies were published earlier, covering the manuscripts in all known collections under the titles World Bibliography of Translations of the Holy Quran in Manuscript Form: Volume I, Translations and Exegeses in All Languages Except Turkish, Persian and Urdu (2000); Volume II, Translations and Exegeses in Urdu, prepared with the Introduction by Dr. Ahmad Khan, Director of the Centre for Preservation of Arabic Manuscripts, Islamabad, Pakistan (2009); Volume III, Translations and Exegeses in Turkish (2016).

Copies and translations of the holy books and religious literatures started to be printed in Europe soon after the discovery of printing techniques. For several centuries, many translations of the Holy Qur'an published in the Western world contained various biases and inaccuracies. In the Muslim world, religious publishing was not started until the early 19th century, as a precaution against eventual misprints. The first translation printed in a language of the Muslim world was the Urdu translation published in 1803. The publications continue to increase with new translations in various languages and dialects and reprints of existing ones.

The Crescent at the Cape. The True Story of Abu-Bakr Effendi. 1814-1880

SECOND EDITION; PREFACE: MAHMUD EROL KILIÇ, FOREWORD: SELIM ARGUN; IRCICA, 2023, 233 PP. (IN ENGLISH)

ISBN: 978-92-9063-408-9



Abu-Bakr Effendi (d. 1880), an Ottoman religious scholar, was appointed by the Sultan Abdūlazīz to the Cape (1278H/1862) on invitation, to instruct Muslims in Southern Africa on religious matters. Abu-Bakr Effendi never left the region until the end of his life except one visit to Istanbul, dedicating himself entirely to the religious and educational needs of the Muslim community. He established theological schools at Cape Town; taught the Qur'an to young and adult students together with his assistant Ömer Lütfi; gave lectures on Qur'anic exegesis, theology and jurisprudence, as well as Arabic and Turkish language courses. He was held in great esteem by the Muslims as an authoritative scholar consulted on religious issues. His guidance helped to strengthen Muslims' communal solidarity. Abu-Bakr Effendi also contributed to enriching the religious literature available to Muslims in the region. Most famous among his eight works is *Beyānū'd-dīn*, a book composed in Arabic with outlines in the Afrikaans language written in Arabic script, which is considered a linguistic success for its time. Copies of this book are preserved in the museums of South Africa; some of his written correspondence is also accessible in the archives.

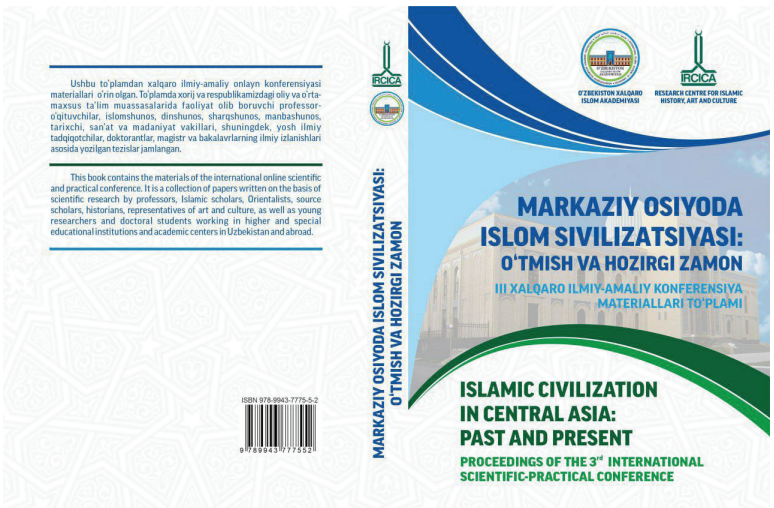
Dr. Shafiq Morton, a leading editor and historian of Southern Africa, wrote the interesting story of Abu-Bakr Effendi on the basis of ample first-hand sources, personal narratives, and abundant literature surveys. The first edition of the valuable book was launched jointly by the Awqaf Foundation of South Africa (Awqaf SA) and IRCICA during the International Symposium on "Islamic Civilization in Southern Africa: History, Contemporary Situation and Future Perspectives, Specially Dedicated to the Muslim Leaders Including Abu-Bakr Effendi and Imam Abdullah Haron" organized on 16-18 September 2022 in Cape Town. The second edition has the Preface of Prof. Mahmud Erol Kılıç and the Foreword of Dr. Selim Argun, Vice-President of Religious Affairs in Türkiye. It is a rich reference on the life and activities of the scholar and the surrounding history of the Muslim community in South Africa in the 19th century.

Markaziy Osiyoda Islom Sivilizatsiyasi: O'tmish va Hozirgi Zamon. III Xalqaro Ilmiy Amaliy Konferansiya Materiallari To'plami

2022 yıl oktyabr, Toshkent, O'zbekiston

Proceedings of the 3rd International Scientific-Practical Conference Islamic Civilization in Central Asia: Past and Present

October 2022, Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan



OCTOBER 2022, TASHKENT, REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN. FOREWORD: MUZAFFAR KAMILOV; PREFACE: MAHMUD EROL KILIÇ; RESPONSIBLE EDITOR: KAMRONBEK ABDULAZIMOV, CHIEF EDITORS: ZOHIDJON ISLOMOV, NE'MATULLA MUHAMEDOV, ASHIRBEK MO'MINOV; INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC ACADEMY OF UZBEKISTAN, TASHKENT, 2023, 472 P. (MAINLY IN UZBEK AND ENGLISH)

This book resulted from the international conference which was organized by IRCICA and the International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan (IIAU) through the IRCICA Chair for Islamic History and Source Studies on 17 October 2022. The online conference, coordinated from Tashkent, was opened by Dr. Muzaffar Kamilov, Adviser to the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Cooperation with Public and Religious Organizations, Rector of the International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan, and Ambassador Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç, Director General of IRCICA. The first two conferences in the series were held on 14 October 2020 and 14 October 2021 respectively; subsequently, their proceedings were published by the two institutions. The online session was followed by a conference of young researchers which was led by the IRCICA Chair in the halls of the Academy with the participation of more than 100 graduate students and young academicians.

According to its original concept, the conference encouraged the presentation of papers on highly diverse topics in Islamic studies which were contributed by scholars and researchers from universities in Central Asia and IRCICA. As indicated by Prof. Mahmud Erol Kılıç in the Preface, the diversity of topics covered in this book reflects the varied cultural and civilizational characteristics of Central Asia: "From the written legacy of the great scholars to spiritual and social traditions, from calligraphy and the arts of the book to public institutions and monuments, an unlimited range of cultural traits and assets of Central Asian countries and peoples are observed and recorded through the lenses of researchers from different disciplines."

The book contains a total of 150 papers, written in Uzbek or in English. The titles of the Chapters are as follows:

I. "Islamic Culture and Art in the Central Asian Region"

II. "Scientific and Spiritual Heritage of Central Asian Scholars"

III. "Epigraphy and Architecture of Historical Monuments in Central Asia"

IV. "Commonalities and Particularities in the Customs and Traditions of the Central Asian Peoples".

IRCICA