



Newsletter



OIC RESEARCH CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC HISTORY, ART AND CULTURE

H.E. Adama Barrow, President of The Gambia, visited IRCICA

45th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC Member States (Dhaka, Bangladesh)

10th Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM) (Dhaka, Bangladesh)

International congress on «Korea and the Muslim World: Historical and Cultural Encounters», organized by IRCICA and International Research Lab for Korean Studies in the Middle East, Hanyang University, Korea (Istanbul, Turkey)

International Roundtable "Dialogue of Cultures - The Heritage of Chingiz Aitmatov" organized by IRCICA, the Group of Strategic Vision "Russia-Islamic World" and Writers' Union of Turkey (Istanbul, Turkey)

Newsletter



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Editorial

Dear readers,

This issue goes to printers at the beginning of May, as the Foreign Ministers of OIC Member States would be concluding their 45th annual session in Dhaka, capital city of Bangladesh. An outline of the session is therefore included in the issue, which otherwise covers the activities of the period from January-April 2018. One of the top agenda items of the Foreign Ministers session was the United States' decision to move its Embassy to Al-Quds / Jerusalem, later implemented on 14 May, in clear violation of international law and legitimacy and in clear contempt of the international community's position regarding Jerusalem. In an immediate reaction, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) firmly rejected and condemned in the strongest terms this illegal decision by the US Administration and declared that it considers this action "as an attack on the historical, legal, natural and national rights of the Palestinian people, which undermines the standing of the United Nations and rule of international law and thus represents an affront to international peace and security" as expressed at the Extraordinary OIC Islamic Summit held in Istanbul, Turkey on 13th December 2017 and also by the international community at the UN General Assembly held on 21 December 2017. Regarding the same issue, the 45th session of the OIC Council of Ministers adopted the Resolution no. 2/45-PAL titled "The Capital of the State of Palestine Al-Quds Al-Sharif". As usual, the Council of Ministers had numerous other issues on its agenda pertaining to political, economic, cultural and other issues of concern to the OIC Member States. In its sessions on cultural topics, the Council approved the

activity reports and work programs of IRCICA for 2017, 2018 and 2019.

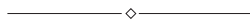
One of the objectives of IRCICA's activities is to encourage positive outlooks and reinforce mutual understanding in international relations world-wide by drawing attention to the cultural heritage of long-standing interaction among peoples of the world. As defined by its mandate, IRCICA's history studies refer to the time period since the advent of Islam, i.e. the history of Islamic civilization. They are comprehensive as to their subject areas since they cover all interactions having taken place through cultural, scientific, artistic, etc. channels between the Muslim world on one hand and peoples of different faiths and cultures on the other. IRCICA's activity programs serving this objective were launched many years ago. Some examples of the activities carried out in connection with regions and countries outside the OIC membership were: the three congresses on "China and the Muslim World" coordinated jointly with Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) in 2012, 2015 and 2017 respectively, the symposium on "Interfaith Dialogue and Peaceful Coexistence in Multicultural Societies" organized jointly with Devawongse Varopakarn Institute of Foreign Affairs of Thailand in 2016, the two congresses on "Islamic Civilization in Southern Africa" held in 2006 and 2016, the five congresses on "Islamic Civilization in Volga-Ural Region" held in Tatarstan and Bashkiria from 2002-2012, among others. Two more events, with the same objective but different geographical focuses, have been organized this year. The first one, held in March, was the International

Round Table on "Cultural Interactions and the Heritage of Chingiz T. Aitmatov" convened by IRCICA jointly with the Group of Strategic Vision "Russia-Islamic World" and Writers Union of Turkey, with the cooperation of the Ministry of Culture of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Muras Foundation of the Historical and Cultural Heritage of the People of Kyrgyzstan under the Office of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic. The meeting was held on the occasion of the 100th birth anniversary of the world-famous Kyrgyz author, statesman and diplomat Chingiz T. Aitmatov, who contributed to international cooperation and cultural dialogue through his writings and his diplomatic initiatives. The participants exchanged paper presentations and discussions on diverse headlines around the theme of international cultural relations, with frequent references to Aitmatov. The second event organized by IRCICA was the international congress on "Korea and the Islamic World: Historical and Cultural Relations" held in April; it was coordinated jointly with the International Research Lab for Korean Studies in the Middle East, Hanyang University, Korea, with the cooperation of the Korean Studies Promotion Service at the Academy of Korean Studies. These congresses, probably first of their kinds on their respective themes, reveal previously unexplored aspects of shared histories; they help to strengthen acquaintances between the peoples concerned by reviving the memories and underscoring the heritage of their common experiences.

IRCICA was honoured to receive His Excellency the President of the Gambia Mr. Adama Barrow at its headquarters on 13 February. It was an excellent opportunity for us to brief the President and the accompanying governmental delegation on IRCICA's activities. The period under review was also marked by meetings with government officials, researchers, artists and representatives of cultural institutions from various other countries. All these meetings brought forth new ideas for cooperation in joint activities.

I wish all our readers pleasant and productive summer months.

Dr. Halit Eren
Director General, IRCICA



Presidential visit to IRCICA

H.E. Adama Barrow, President of The Gambia visited IRCICA

13 February 2018



H.E. Adama Barrow, President of the Republic of The Gambia, visited IRCICA on 13 February 2018, within the framework of his state visit to Turkey. The program of the visit started with the welcoming meeting at IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren's office.

President Barrow was accompanied by a delegation comprising: Mr. Ousainou Darboe, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Gambians Abroad; Dr. Isatou Touray, Minister of Regional Integration and Employment; Mr. Habib S. Drammeh, Secretary General and Chief of Public Services at the Presidency of the Republic; Mr. Kemesseng Jammeh, Ambassador of The Gambia to Turkey, and a number of other high officials from the Presidency, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Investment and Export

Development Board, and professionals from various other sectors. The Ambassador of Turkey in The Gambia, Ambassador Sefa Yüceer was together with the visiting delegation.

Following the meeting at the Directorate General, Dr. Halit Eren guided the President and his entourage to two exhibitions which were prepared on the occasion in the halls of the Centre: the first exhibition consisted of award winner plates in IRCICA's calligraphy competitions and the second, historical photographs of Makkah al-Mukarrama, Madina al-Munawwara and Al-Quds selected from the albums of Sultan Abdulhamid II and the collection of Fahreddin Turkkan Pasha (Defender of Medina during World War I).

Dr. Halit Eren gave information to the President and his entourage on the artifacts and publications displayed.



The program continued with the visit to IRCICA Library, where Dr. Eren introduced the President with samples from the library collections and IRCICA's publications. Then the President and his entourage were seated in the Conference Hall, where a 10-minute documentary film on IRCICA's activities was presented.

IRCICA Director General gave a welcoming address in which he said that The Gambia was one of the earliest OIC Member States to activate cooperation with IRCICA. Furthermore, The Gambia was represented in the Governing Board of IRCICA for eight years during the 1990s, by Ambassador Prof. Omar Jah. At the end of his address, as a souvenir of the visit, Dr. Eren presented the President with a plate bearing the verse 13 of Sourah 49 (Al-Hujurat) of the Holy Quran which IRCICA adopted as its motto: "وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعَارَفُوا إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتْقَاكُمْ" - "We made you into nations and tribes that you might get to know one another. Surely the noblest of you in the sight of Allah is he who is the most righteous. Allah is All-Knowledgeable, All-Aware" calligraphed by Hasan Çelebi, a master calligrapher from Turkey. Dr. Eren also offered

to President Barrow two publications of IRCICA: the facsimile edition of the copy of the Quran attributed to the time of Caliph Othman R.A. which is kept at Topkapı Palace Museum in Istanbul, and the album of historical photographs of Makkah al-Mukarramah and Madina al-Munawwara.

President Barrow signed the Visitors Book, expressing his pleasure to be visiting the Centre. President Barrow and Director General Eren paused for a souvenir photo together with the Gambian delegation and the officials of the Centre.



OIC conferences

45th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC Member States

Dhaka, Bangladesh, 5-6 May 2018

The 45th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) took place in Dhaka, People's Republic of Bangladesh, on 5-6 May 2018. The session was held around the theme of: "The Islamic Values of Sustainable Peace, Solidarity and Development."

The conference was inaugurated by H.E. Sheikh Hasina, Honorable Prime Minister of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. In her opening address, the Prime Minister laid special focus on the conditions of the Rohingya minority, calling on the OIC to firmly stand in solidarity with the Rohingya people in their quest for security and dignity. She also called for pursuing international pressure on the Myanmar authorities to honor their obligations for solving this problem.

In his statement at the opening, H.E. Dr. Youssef A. Al-Othaimeen, OIC Secretary General, stated that the OIC's broad geography places upon it momentous responsibilities towards multiple and varied issues, foremost of which that of the coordination currently underway between the Governments of Afghanistan and Saudi Arabia to call for an international conference on Afghanistan whose convening in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will represent a major watershed in favour of laying the foundations for peace and overcoming obstacles that stand in the way of a national reconciliation that would anchor Afghanistan in stability and security. He said that the General Secretariat had hosted recently a meeting between officials from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, to put the final touches to this



important event. The Secretary-General added that the years 2017 and 2018 have marked a very difficult stage that has put the Palestinian issue to extreme tests with the world community manifesting an unprecedented incapacity that further aggravates the situation. He considered a peaceful, equitable and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian issue would offer a broader and more comprehensive way out for many of our issues, as a real test to our states' actual will and resolve to make advantageous use of their collective stand in international fora and their common drive to impress upon the international community to take action and rise up to its responsibilities vis-à-vis this issue that has been dragging for over seven decades (www.oic-oci.org).

H.E. Mr. Marcel Amon-Tanoh, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Côte d'Ivoire and Chair of the 44th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, underscored the need to meet current challenges by adopting a strong and cohesive Islamic position in line with Member States' aspirations (www.oic-oci.org).

H.E. Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, said that the Muslim world is currently confronted with tremendous challenges, including Islamophobia, extremism, inequality, the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories, and terrorism (www.oic-oci.org).

Speaking on behalf of the Arab Group, H.E. Mr. Adel Al-Jubeir, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, stressed that the Palestinian cause has absolute priority and emphasized the necessity to achieve fair and comprehensive peace. He also underlined the need to support Muslim minorities across the world, particularly the Rohingya Minority (www.oic-oci.org).

H.E. Mr. Bekir Bozdog, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, insisted on the need to root out extremism, put an end to the Syrian crisis, and eradicate all terrorist groups (www.oic-oci.org).

Speaking on behalf of the African Group, H.E. Mr. Sidiki Kaba, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Senegal, emphasized the central importance of the Palestinian cause, and highlighted the recurrent Israeli violations against the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque, a source of great concern. He called for putting an end to the political crises in Yemen, Syria, Libya and Central Africa, and for establishing mechanisms to guarantee the non-recurrence of these violations (www.oic-oci.org).

H.E. Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada, Special Guest of this session, addressed the crisis of the Rohingya minority, stressing her country's firm stance against what she considered as ethnic cleansing which is perpetrated against this minority and which must go down in human history (www.oic-oci.org).

In their working sessions the Foreign Ministers adopted a large number of resolutions under the following main headlines of the conference agenda:



- Political issues:
 - 1- The cause of Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict: Developments in Palestine and the City of Al-Quds Al-Sharif; The Occupied Syrian Golan; Israel's occupation of Lebanese Territories; The current situation of the Peace Process in the Middle East; The Islamic Office for the Boycott of Israel
 - 2- Conflicts in the Muslim world
 - 3- International issues: Combating international terrorism; Rejection of unilateral economic sanctions on Member States; Reform of the United Nations and expansion of the Security Council Membership; Coordination and voting patterns of Member States at the United Nations and other multilateral fora; Disarmament issues; Cooperation between the OIC and other international and regional organizations and groupings
 - 4- Reform of the OIC
 - 5- Islamophobia and the defamation of religions
 - 6- Situation of Muslim Communities and Minorities in non-Member States
- The OIC 2025: Programme of Action
- The OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC)
- Humanitarian Affairs
- Legal and Organizational Affairs
- Information Affairs
- Administrative and Financial Affairs
- Economic Affairs
- Science & Technology
- Information Technology Department
- Dialogue and Outreach Directorate

- Cultural, Social and Family Affairs.

In the context of Cultural, Social and Family Affairs, the Council reviewed the reports of the OIC's subsidiary organs working in the cultural field, among them IRCICA. In its resolution relating to IRCICA, the Council commended the activities completed by the Centre during 2017 and those undertaken within the framework of the current program relating to 2018; it adopted the projects planned for 2019. The Council referred to IRCICA also within the framework of other resolutions on cultural matters, among others: calling for continuation of the Centre's efforts to continue to strengthen inter-cultural and inter-civilization dialogue through concrete and sustainable initiatives, conferences and symposia, and separately, requesting IRCICA to continue to work on preservation of Islamic heritage in AL-Quds and Palestine, Iraq, Libya, Mali, Yemen, and Syria.

Within the framework of the session's program, a visit of a ministerial delegation was organized to Cox Bazar to visit the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. Thus the visitors were given the opportunity to hear first-hand reports on crimes and violence that compelled the Rohingya people to take refuge in Bangladesh. Information gathered during this visit contributed towards the Council's work on the subject. An OIC committee was formed to handle the Rohingya issue.

Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA participated in the session, accompanied by Prof. Dr. Sadık Ünay, Acting Assistant Director General. Dr. Halit Eren was also a member of the delegation visiting the Rohingya people.

IRCICA Director General's contacts and meetings during the period of the 45th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers Dhaka, 5-6 May 2018

Following the inaugural session, Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA greeted and congratulated Her Excellency Sheikhha Hasina, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, on the occasion of Bangladesh hosting the 45th Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers.

During the period of the session, Dr. Halit Eren met with H.E. Mr. Abul Hassan Mahmud Ali, Member of Parliament and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

During the period of the conference, a Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between IRCICA and Dhaka University towards establishment of an OIC-Chair at the University. The Memorandum was signed by IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren and Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof. Dr. Md. Akhtaruzzaman in Dhaka, on 5 May 2018.



IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren greeting Prime Minister of Bangladesh H.E. Sheikhha Hasina on the occasion of the 45th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers



IRCICA DG Dr. Halit Eren with H.E. Mr. Abul Hassan Mahmud Ali, MP, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, during the 45th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers

On the sidelines of the conference IRCICA Director General also met with ministers and delegates of the participating states (pls. see *Visits, Meetings, Cooperation* in this issue).

10th Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM)

Dhaka, Bangladesh, 5-7 February 2018

The 10th Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM) was held in Dhaka on 5-7 February 2018. The conference was inaugurated by H.E. Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina. In her address H.E. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said tourism is one of the areas where Islamic countries can work together to explore greater opportunities and potential. "Tourism is the fastest-growing sector greatly contributing to economy and employment across the world. Tourism is one of the areas where we have greater opportunities to work together," she said; "Scopes and opportunities abound to work together for the betterment and welfare of the people of the Muslim world. In view of the current global scenario, the relationship among the OIC member-states should be based on mutual trust, understanding and cooperation".

H.E. Dr. Yousef bin Ahmed Al-Othaimeen, Secretary General of the OIC, addressed the conference focusing on ways and means to be taken for bolstering cooperation of OIC Member States in tourism. He presented a highlight of the implementation of the OIC Framework for Development and Cooperation in the field of Tourism in terms of promoting tourism, celebratory activities of Islamic tourism capitals, organizing tourist exhibitions, establishing tourism portal, tourism capacity building programs, tourism publications, and tourism statistics and studies.

During the working sessions of the conference, H.E. Ambassador Hameed A. Opeleyeru, Assistant Secretary General of the OIC for Economic Affairs addressed the meeting on behalf of the Secretary General of OIC. Ambassador Opeleyeru drew



the attention of the meeting to the need for the implementation of the OIC programmes, including the need to give prominence to infrastructure development, cross-border projects, private-public partnership and regional and international cooperation. Emphasizing the role of the private sector, he suggested that some editions of the OIC Tourism Fair be held on the sidelines of each session of the ICTM. The meeting examined the progress report of the General Secretariat on the Implementation of the Framework for Development and Cooperation in the Domain of Tourism between OIC Member States and the recommendations it contained. The following institutions presented their reports on their activities related or contributing to tourism development: IRCICA, COMCEC, SESRIC, ICDT, SMIIC, ICYF-DC, and representatives of UNWTO and Arab Tourism Organization.

Reports were presented by OIC Member States, on Tourism Occupational Skill Standards (TOSS) by Turkey, Human Resource Development on Tourism by Bangladesh, Islamic Tourism and Heritage by Indonesia, Islamic Culture and Heritage by Bangladesh, Investment opportunities in Tourism Sector, by a private sector representative from Bangladesh.

Dr. Nezhil Maruf, Advisor to the Director General of IRCICA presented the message of HE Dr. Halit Eren, Director General, giving a brief on the activities of IRCICA which contribute directly to development of cultural tourism. He mentioned in this regard the international symposium on "Konya in Islamic Civilization" held in Konya in December 2016, the festivals on handicrafts of the OIC member countries, and the various artistic and documentary exhibitions organized by IRCICA.

The conference reviewed the presentation by Bangladesh on the tourism infrastructure development project and agreed to recommend it for implementation by Secretary General in coordination with relevant OIC institutions and international partners. The conference also considered the recommendations on tourism infrastructure projects received from the Member States and the OIC institutions.

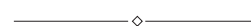
The conference commended the offer of the Republic of Azerbaijan to host the 11th Session of ICTM in 2020.

The following countries were selected as members of the OIC Coordination Committee on Tourism for the Committee's next term of four years (2018-2022): People's Republic of Bangladesh, Republic of Iraq, Republic of Indonesia, Republic of Cameroon, State of Palestine, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Republic of Senegal, Republic of Turkey, Republic of Uganda.

The Coordination Committee held a meeting to select the OIC City of Tourism for 2019 and 2020. The representatives of the following members of the Coordination Committee on Tourism attended the meeting: Bangladesh; Iraq; Niger; Saudi Arabia; Turkey; Uganda. IRCICA, SESRIC and ICDT reported on their respective assessments of the nominated cities in order to guide the Committee in the selection process. Finally, Dhaka (Bangladesh) was selected for 2019 and Gabala (Azerbaijan) for 2020. The Committee recommended that commemoration of OIC City of Tourism should include, in addition to the existing activities, two other major activities, namely a cultural/arts/heritage festival and development of one tourism infrastructure project. The OIC City of Tourism for 2018 is Tabriz, Iran.

A large number of resolutions were taken by the conference to boost cooperation in the implementation of projects undertaken within the OIC framework to develop tourism in all its aspects, including human resource development, investment, private sector encouragement, etc. (<https://www.oic-oci.org/confdetail/?cID=32&lan=en>).

During the period of the ICTM session Dr. Nezhil Maruf, Advisor to Director General of IRCICA, had a working session with some officials from both the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism and the Ministry of Cultural Affairs of Bangladesh, focusing on activities to be undertaken jointly with IRCICA especially in the field of preservation of cultural and architectural heritage.



Congresses

International Round Table on “Cultural Interactions and the Heritage of Chingiz T. Aitmatov”

Istanbul, Turkey, 24 March 2018

An International Round Table on “Cultural Interactions and the Heritage of Chingiz T. Aitmatov” was organized by IRCICA jointly with the Group of Strategic Vision “Russia-Islamic World” and Writers Union of Turkey, with the cooperation of the Ministry of Culture of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Muras Foundation of the Historical and Cultural Heritage of the People of Kyrgyzstan under the Office of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic. The meeting underscored the theme of international cultural interactions on the occasion of the 90th birth anniversary of Chingiz T. Aitmatov, the eminent Kyrgyz author cited among the first three most widely read of the world according to UNESCO data, at the same time a statesman and diplomat having contributed to international cultural exchanges and dialogue and taken part in the establishment of the Group of Strategic Vision “Russia-Islamic World”.

The meeting was held in the presence of Ambassador Dr. Venjamin Popov, Coordinator of the Group of Strategic Vision “Russia-Islamic World”, Mr. M.K. Satarovich, former Minister of Culture, currently Advisor to the President of the Kyrgyz Republic and Chairman of the Muras Foundation of Kyrgyz Republic; Mr. Askar Aitmatov, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kyrgyzstan and son of Chingiz Aitmatov; Mr. M.S. Shoislamovich, Director of the Centre for Islamic Civilization under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan; Mr. A. Aidar, Director, International Center for Cultures and Religions, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Civil Society, Republic of Kazakhstan; Ms. L. Fazleeva, Deputy Prime Minister of Tatarstan (Russia), Mr. R. Valeev, Deputy of the State Council and People’s Poet of Tatarstan (Russia); Prof. Sami Güçlü, former Minister, Turkey; the Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Turkey; the Ambassador



of the Kyrgyz Republic to Turkey; Heads of Writers Unions of Russia, Chechnia (Russia), Kyrgyzstan and Turkey; heads of libraries, heads of museums, literary critics and journalists from various countries.

Thus the Round Table received scholarly contributions from a total of 35 representatives and participants from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Uzbekistan and Turkey. In his inaugural address, Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA stated that one of the world's regions which saw fastest progress of cultural interactions in recent decades is that of the OIC Member States Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkey and OIC's Observer State the Russian Federation on one hand, and the entire OIC membership on the other. Dr. Eren said that Muslims of Russia, Central Asia and the Turkic world share common historical processes with the other Muslim countries, similar features of language, social traditions and faith. These factors contribute to their common historical memory and promote present cultural relations. They found realistic humanitarian interpretations in the writings of Aitmatov, whose writings about the shared memory of his region reflect conditions and experiences shared by all peoples of similar cultures and traditions. Addressing the opening session, Ambassador Dr. Venjamin Popov, Coordinator



Chingiz T. Aitmatov

of the Group of Strategic Vision "Russia-Islamic World", underlined the significance of the meeting as an international scholarly event on its own and within the cooperation between Russia and the Islamic world. Mr. R. S. Akimovich, Adviser to the President of the Kyrgyz Republic, read the message of Kyrgyz President S. Jeenbekov. Mr. R. Gimatdinov, Adviser to the President of Tatarstan (Russia) read the message of Tatar President R. Minnikhanov. Prof. M. K. Arıcan, Chairman of the Writers Union of Turkey, delivered an address. The Ambassador of the Russian Federation and the Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic also addressed the opening session.

During three working sessions, the speakers presented results of studies on the literary



importance and international impact of Aitmatov's works, which have been translated into more than 150 languages. Focuses were given during these presentations to different aspects of his authorship, including his philosophy, his spirituality and his humanism and their role in encouraging social harmony within societies and affinities between different peoples; his reflecting the social memory of his region and the peoples of the region; the place and role of his works in the Islamic culture and civilization; the theme of tradition and modernity; the theme of inter-faith communications; cinematographic interpretations of Aitmatov's novels in different countries, among others.

The International Round Table constituted a significant event within the framework of IRCICA's cultural cooperation with the collaborating States and with the Group of Strategic Vision "Russia-Islamic World".

Mr. Askar Aitmatov, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kyrgyzstan, son of Chingiz Aitmatov



International Congress on "Korea and the Islamic World: Historical and Cultural Encounters"

Istanbul, Turkey, 24-25 April 2018

IRCICA and Hanyang University (Korea) jointly held an international academic congress on "Korea and the Islamic World: Historical and Cultural Encounters" at IRCICA's headquarters in Istanbul on 24-25 April 2018.

The congress brought together more than twenty prominent scholars and experts of Asian studies from Korea, China, USA, Uzbekistan, Bulgaria, Iran and Turkey. The congress addressed social, cultural, economic, literary and artistic dimensions of the interchange between Korea and the Muslim world within the framework of historical development and present legacy of the interrelations.

The opening speeches of the congress were delivered by Dr. Halit Eren, IRCICA Director General; Prof. Hee Soo Lee, Director, Hanyang University International Research Lab for Korean Studies in the Middle East; and, Prof. Jongmyung Kim, Director of Korean Studies Promotion Service at the Academy of Korean Studies. In his inaugural speech IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren stated that although Korea and the Muslim world are culturally distinct from each other as well as from the rest of the world, they share similarities of values and ethics and social traditions. Dr. Eren also maintained that the shared common memories and interactions deriving from trade,



L-R: Prof. Hee Soo Lee, Director, Hanyang University International Research Lab for Korean Studies in the Middle East; DR. Halit Eren, Director General, IRCICA; Prof. Jongmyung Kim, Director of Korean Studies Promotion Service at the Academy of Korean Studies

travels and educational exchanges add to the mutual understanding between peoples. Equally important for the cooperation between the parties is the living memory of Turkish military's serving with UN Command in Korea from 1950 to 1953. All these factors contribute to the rapprochement of countries and promote further cultural relations. In this respect, Dr. Eren concluded, the congress marked an area for study at the crossing between Islamic studies and Korean studies. It underlined the academic fields of Korean studies in the Muslim world and Islamic studies in Korea. These are very important contributions reflected in the objective of the joint initiative behind this congress and expected to come from it.

Director of Korean Studies Promotion Service Prof. Jongmyung Kim stated that Korea and Middle East had been in contact with each other by maritime

and land routes since the 8th century. Prof. Jongmyung Kim also stated that Korea has a strong tie with "brother country" Turkey in particular, because Turkey helped Korea during the Korean War in 1950s. Prof. Jongmyung concluded that the congress was important also because it was the first of its kind to take up this theme and was going to contribute to the knowledge in the scope of a regional science.

Director of International Research Lab for Korean Studies in the Middle East (Hanyang University), Prof. Hee Soo Lee, in his address, pointed out that the history of Korea and Muslim world relations is more than 1300 years old, as evidenced among others by artefacts showing their commercial and political relations. However, in discovering, studying and transmitting cultural heritage little attention has been paid to the wider range of the cross-cultural aspect between Korea and Muslim world mainly due to lack of experts and the shortage of reliable sources. Prof. Lee maintained that in order to close this intellectual gap, it is very time to dig out some illuminating facts on Korea-Muslim world encounters over a long history. In this sense academicians could and should do more to have deeper understanding about the history and culture of the Muslim world. Prof. Lee said that the conference, with 19 authentic papers, was going to reveal insightful academic achievements related to Korean studies and Korea-Muslim world relations from ancient time to contemporary, from



cultural and historical approaches to economic issues.

The first two sessions, moderated by Prof. Jongmyung Kim, heard five papers each. The first session focused mainly on historical aspects of Korean-Muslim world relations and the second, on literary and cultural aspects. The third session was moderated by Prof. Habil Alexander Fedotoff in which intellectual encounters were handled with their geographical, socio-cultural and historical implications. The fourth and last session addressed economic, industrial and commercial aspects of the relations between Korea and the Muslim world in general. Subsequently, a final open floor discussion session was held for participants to discuss the main conclusions drawn and formulate recommendations for future joint projects.

The papers of the congress will be published in the form of a book.



Persian edition of IRCICA's *History of Ottoman State and Civilisation* published and launched by Encyclopedia Islamica Foundation, Iran

Tehran, Iran, 1st May 2018

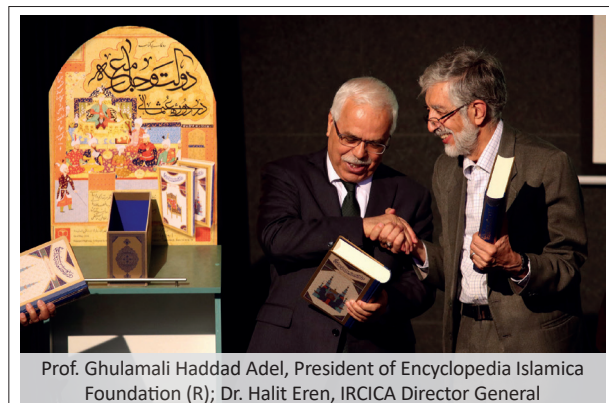
IRCICA's publication titled *History of the Ottoman State, Society and Civilisation* has been translated and published in a Persian language edition by the Encyclopedia Islamica Foundation, Islamic Republic of Iran. The Persian edition, titled *Davlat va Jamaa dar Davla Othmani* (State and Society in the Ottoman State) came in two volumes, the first one devoted to history with all its aspects and the second to culture and civilization.

The Persian edition was launched on 1st May 2018 at Bagh-e Kitab (Book Garden) in Tehran. The event was addressed by: Prof. Ghulamali Haddad Adel, President of Encyclopedia Islamica Foundation; Dr. Halit Eren, Director General, IRCICA; and Ambassador Rıza Hakan Tekin, Ambassador of Turkey in Tehran. Were also present Prof. Mahmut Erol Kılıç, Secretary General of the Tehran-based Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUIC), and personalities from academic and cultural circles. Guest speaker Dr. Mohammad Ali Movahed, an eminent literary figure of Iran and translator of Ibn Battuta's travel book into Persian, spoke about the contents and the importance of the book.

History of the Ottoman State, Society and Civilisation was published by IRCICA originally in Turkish,



English and Arabic during the 1990-2000s. Editions of this book in the Bosnian, Russian and Albanian languages appeared in 2005, 2006 and 2009 respectively. Translations and editions in Urdu, Kazakh and Macedonian languages are in preparation.



Prof. Ghulamali Haddad Adel, President of Encyclopedia Islamica Foundation (R); Dr. Halit Eren, IRCICA Director General

Arab Cultural Heritage Forum, IRCICA's participation

Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, 6-8 February 2018

Under the patronage and in the presence of His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Sharjah, the Arab Cultural Heritage Forum was organized by the Regional Centre in Sharjah of ICCROM (International Center for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property), from 6-8 February 2018. The forum emphasized philosophical principles and approaches based on local and/or regional perceptions aimed at promoting and preserving heritage places and artworks in the Arab world. Thematic sessions, discussions and daily workshops were held, to identify challenges in this area and devise strategies to address them. Discussants elaborated upon the concept of cultural heritage for the region; they emphasized the importance of defining it in a contextually relevant manner and identifying where conservation work is needed. Connected issues were amply discussed such as the role of media and education, protection of cultural heritage from violence and threats to cultural heritage, especially in countries that suffer from instability and conflicts.

The Forum was inaugurated by His Highness Sheikh Dr. Al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Sharjah. The Minister of Culture and Knowledge Development of the United Arab Emirates, Ms. Noura Al Kaabi, delivered the speech of the United Arab Emirates Government. The forum was attended by a large number of officials, and heads and members of many cultural heritage institutions from the United Arab Emirates, the Arab region and other parts of the world and international organizations including UNESCO and the Arab World Institute. The participants included global experts in architecture, planning, and conversation and preservation, more than



150 in total.

IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren was invited to the Forum. Delivering his address, Dr. Eren alluded to the linkage of the Forum with the Abu Dhabi Conference on Safeguarding Endangered Cultural Heritage, Abu Dhabi (2-3 December 2016); the Joint OIC-French Colloquium on "Preservation and Conservation of Cultural Heritage in the OIC Member States", Jeddah, 14-15 May 2017, and the International Conference on Protecting Cultural Heritage of the Muslim World organized by IRCICA in cooperation with the OIC General Secretariat and ISESCO in Istanbul, on 1-2 November 2017. Dr. Eren described the concepts defining and surrounding cultural and artistic heritage and their importance in orienting policies and actions of heritage conservation and restoration. He said that protection is not limited to physical preservation of built assets but also ensures permanence of intangible products, including the culture of heritage preservation. He underlined the importance of the forum for all those who work with cultural heritage in the Muslim world at large due to their shared interest in protecting and developing cultural heritage in the most professional way and for the benefit of all. Dr. Eren outlined IRCICA's activities in the field in its capacity as the OIC's subsidiary for research in Islamic civilization.

Opening of the program "Tabriz Capital of Tourism 2018", IRCICA's participation

Tabriz, Iran, 25 April 2018

The program "Tabriz Capital of Tourism 2018" was opened on 25 April 2018 by President Hassan Rouhani, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The opening was attended by Iranian parliamentarians and government officials, diplomats, members of cultural and tourism circles. Addressing the event, President Rouhani hailed the nomination, saying that "Tabriz has always been Iran's gateway to the western world and will remain a link between the east and the West." He stated that the expansion of tourism paves the way for constructive collaboration with the world and leads nations to gain a correct understanding of their history.



Tabriz was selected as the OIC capital of Islamic tourism in 2018 by the 9th Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers of the Member States of the OIC which was held in Niamey, Niger, on 21-23 December 2015.

The program will feature artistic performances, exhibits, workshops, meetings, concerts of indigenous music and ritual dances.

The Director General of IRCICA Dr. Halit Eren was among the invitees to the event.

On the same day after the ceremony, Dr. Eren had meetings with: Dr. Ali Asghar Mounesan, Vice-President and Head of Handicrafts, Cultural Heritage and Tourism Organisation, Islamic Republic of Iran; Dr. Iraj Shahan Baher, Mayor of Tabriz Municipality, and Prof. Ali Keynejad, President of Tabriz Islamic Art University.



Artistic and documentary exhibitions

"Al-Quds Al-Sharif / Jerusalem 100 Years Ago" exhibition at Arab League Headquarters

Cairo, Egypt, 12 March 2018

IRCICA organized an exhibition of historical photographs of the city of Al-Quds, at the headquarters of the Arab League in Cairo, on 12 March 2018. The exhibition was placed within the framework of the Arab Cultural Heritage Day organized by Arab League's Department of Culture, Social Affairs Division.

The opening of the exhibition was officiated by Dr. Mohamed Mokhtar Gomaa, Minister of Awqaf, Arab Republic of Egypt, Mr. Makram Mohamed Ahmed, President of the Supreme Council for the Regulation of the Media, Ambassador Badr al-Din Alali, Assistant Secretary General of the Arab League for Social Affairs, Dr. Mohamed Al-Hajri, Director of the Department of Culture of the Arab League, Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, with the participation of officials, cultural circles and representatives of international institutions.

Dr. Al-Hajri, Director of the Department of Culture, Arab League, underlined the objective of the Arab Cultural Heritage Day consisting of an effort to highlight the Arab cultural heritage, underline its aspects of civilisation and human values and promote creativity towards a sustainable development of this heritage. On behalf of the Secretary General of the Arab League, Assistant Secretary General Ambassador Badr al-Din Alali welcomed the audience and announced the League's decision to commemorate the date of 27 February each year as the Arab Cultural Heritage Day. The sad memory behind it is the destruction of the museums of Mossul, Iraq by blind terrorism, to be recalled on that occasion in order to always keep the subject under attention and endeavour to protect the Arab cultural heritage.



The Minister of Awqaf of Egypt Dr. Mohamed Mokhtar Gomaa underlined the importance of the occasion and pointed to the impact of colonialism in the past and terrorism and extremism in our time, on cultural heritage; he said "Certainly our Arab nation possesses a rich human, moral and cultural heritage we are proud of and which our enemies wanted to eliminate throughout history; therefore, preserving this heritage means at the same time preserving our Arab and Islamic identity". The Minister underlined also that Arab civilization is based on tolerance, pluralism and diversity.

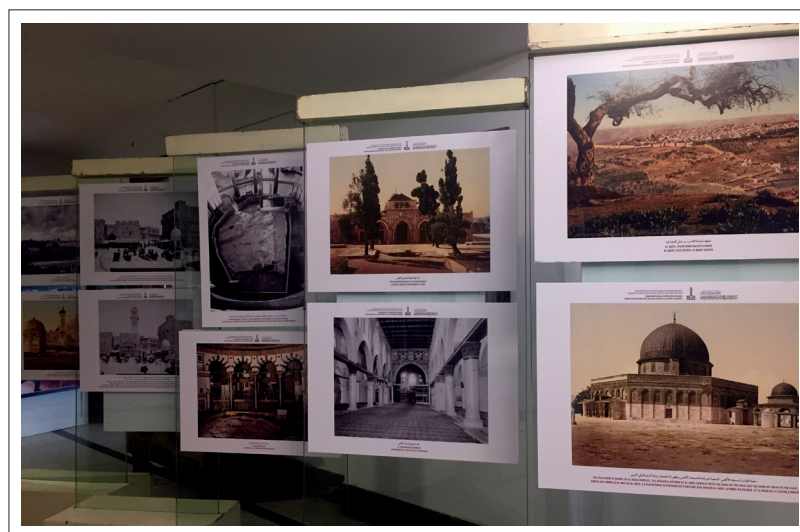
Within the framework of the commemoration program, working sessions were held, where Counsellor Mr. Khalil Qaraja Al-Rifai, Dean of the Centre for Islamic Heritage and Research (Bait Al-Maqdis) and Undersecretary of the Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs presented a study



titled "The impact of colonialism on cultural heritage". Prof. Dr. Ahmed Mahmoud Amin gave a paper on "The impact of terrorism and extremism on cultural heritage in the Arab world". Papers were presented on the arts, architecture and heritage sites of some Arab countries and issues related to protection of heritage. A final communique was adopted, including among others, articles condemning the Israeli violations aiming to destroy the identity of the Arab and world cultural heritage in Al-Quds and Palestine, underlining Al-Qods as the capital of Arab heritage and adopting the theme "Heritage of Al-Quds is heritage of the Arab nation".

The program included exhibitions reflecting different aspects of Arab cultural heritage (costumes, paintings, food, drinks, jewellery, ceramics, handicrafts) which were organized by member countries of the Arab League as well as artifacts, photographs, books, etc. displayed by organizations working on heritage preservation.

IRCICA's exhibition of historical photographs titled "Al-Quds Al-Sharif / Jerusalem 100 Years Ago" was inaugurated following the opening addresses. Dr. Halit Eren, Director General, IRCICA, briefed the participants about the activities of IRCICA in general and the exhibition in particular. Dr. Eren also gave interviews to the press and television channels.



"Al-Quds in Historical Photographs" exhibition organized jointly by IRCICA and ALESCO on the occasion of the 42nd Palestinian Land Day

Tunis, Tunisia, 29 March 2018

An exhibition titled "Al-Quds in Historical Photographs" was opened jointly by IRCICA and ALESCO, on 29 March 2018 at ALESCO Headquarters in Tunis on the occasion of the 42nd Palestinian Land Day. Within the same commemoration program, ALESCO and the Embassy of the State of Palestine in Tunis held a symposium on the theme "Al-Quds belongs to Palestine".

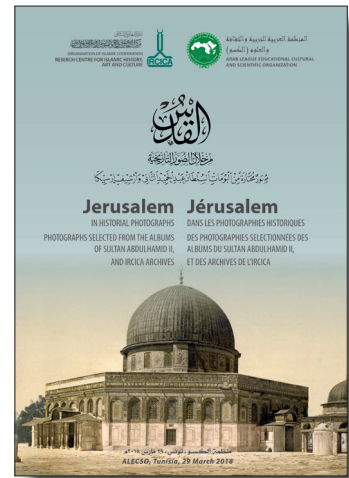
The exhibition was officiated by Dr. Ihab Bseiso, Minister of Culture of Palestine and Dr. Mohamed Zine El Abidine, Minister of Culture of Tunisia. The Director General of IRCICA Dr. Halit Eren, the Director General of ALESCO Dr. Saud al-Harbi, Ambassadors of Arab and Islamic countries in Tunis were present. An audience from cultural, academic and media circles attended the opening.

On display at IRCICA's exhibition were selections from the collections of photographs dating from the period of Sultan Abdulhamid II (late 19th – early 20th centuries) contained in the archives of IRCICA.

The same day after the opening, IRCICA Director General paid a visit to H.E. Dr. Mohamed Zine El Abidine, Minister of Culture of Tunisia, at the Ministry. IRCICA Director General Dr.

Halit Eren also paid a visit to Dr. Saud Hilal al-Harbi, Director General of ALESCO, in his office, after the opening of the exhibition.

On the occasion, Dr. Eren presented to H.E. Dr. Ihab Bseiso, Minister of Culture of the State of Palestine a copy of the major album of historical photographs of al-Quds published by IRCICA.



The Minister of Culture of Palestine and the Minister of Culture of Tunisia visiting the exhibition together with the Director General of ALESCO and the Director General of IRCICA

Exhibition of "Historical Photographs of Bursa" organized by IRCICA

Bursa, Turkey, 20 March-20 April 2018

At the invitation of Bursa Municipality's Department of Museums, IRCICA organized an exhibition of "Historical Photographs of Bursa" which was opened on 20 March 2018 at the Museum of Waqf Culture, Bursa. The exhibition featured 72 plates bearing reproductions of photographs selected from the albums of Sultan Abdulhamid II (late 19th-early 20th centuries). The exhibition aroused interest in cultural, touristic and architectural circles.

Speaking at the opening of the event, Mr. Şükrü Köse, Deputy Mayor of Bursa, said that Bursa's history is better known and documented thanks to the collections of photographs which were composed at the orders of Sultan Abdulhamid II. These albums also reflect the importance and care given to Bursa in Ottoman times. Prof. Dr. Sadık Ünay, Acting Assistant Director General of IRCICA, said that the photographs of Bursa contained in Sultan Abdulhamid II's albums were the city's first photographs to be included in the Yıldız Palace collections. Prof. Ünay briefed the visitors on the activities of IRCICA in general and its archives of photographs in particular.



Visits, Meetings, Cooperation

Visit of the Chairman and members of the Center for Research and Development for Religious Literature and Heritage, Agency of Research, Development, and Training, Ministry of Religious Affairs of Indonesia, and signing of Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation. 4 April 2018: IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren received Dr. Muhammad Zain, Chairman of the Center for Research and Development for Religious Literature and Heritage, of the Agency of Research, Development, and Training of the Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, and researchers from the Center, on a working visit to IRCICA on 4 April 2018. The main purpose of the visit and the ensuing collaboration is the Exploration and Preservation of Religious Manuscripts.



Dr. Eren informed Dr. Zain and his colleagues on IRCICA's activities, particularly those concerning historical manuscripts. Guiding them to the Library, Dr. Eren also gave them information on the technical work carried out with respect to classification, scanning, digitization, and publication of studies on collections of manuscripts.



At the end of the visit, a Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation was signed between IRCICA and the Center for Research and Development for Religious Literature and Heritage, Agency of Research, Development, and Training, Ministry of Religious Affairs of Indonesia.

A group of five **professors** and twenty students from the **Faculty of Islamic Studies, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (The National University of Malaysia)** visited IRCICA on 7 April 2018. Prof. Madya Dr. Roziah Sidik, Deputy Dean, Faculty of Islamic Studies; Dr. Kaseh Abu Bakar from the Center for the Middle East and Nusantara,

Faculty of Islamic Studies, and their colleagues met with Director General Dr. Halit Eren. The Director General guided the visitors around the Centre's premises and gave them information on the activities. Areas of information exchange and cooperation were agreed upon.

IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren was received by **Dr. Ali Ashgar Mounesan, Vice-President and Head of Handicrafts, Cultural Heritage and Tourism Organisation, Islamic Republic of Iran**. The meeting took place in Tabriz on 25 April 2018, following the opening of the program "Tabriz Capital of Tourism 2018". The subjects of focus were the areas of cooperation between Iranian cultural institutions and IRCICA, particularly those relating to handicrafts and tourism development.



Dr. Halit Eren met with **Dr. Iraj Shahen Baher, Mayor of Tabriz Municipality** on 25 April 2018, following the opening of the program "Tabriz Capital of Tourism 2018". The meeting was an excellent occasion to brief Mayor Baher about IRCICA's activities, especially joint activities with Iranian institutions. As a souvenir of the meeting, Dr. Eren presented Mayor Baher a plate of calligraphy bearing the verse 49:13 of the Holy Qur'an which IRCICA adopted as its motto.



Dr. Halit Eren, IRCICA Director General, met with **Prof. Ali Keynejad, President of Tabriz Islamic Art University** in Tabriz on 25 April 2018. Interest and intention was affirmed towards further progress of cooperation between IRCICA and Tabriz Islamic Art University in organizing festivals and exhibitions of handicrafts.





Prof. Dr. Mahmut Ak, President of Istanbul University, and Dr. Pervin Bezirci, Head of the Department of Library and Documentation, Istanbul University, visited IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren on 10 April 2018. The talks centered on developments in social sciences and librarianship and cooperation between IRCICA and Istanbul University.



IRCICA DG Dr. Halit Eren received H.E. Ambassador Vladimir Imamovich Norov, Director, Institute of Strategic and Interregional Studies under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, ex-Minister of Foreign Affairs, on 10 April 2018, accompanied by Mr. Jahongir Parmanov, Consul, Consulate General of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Ambassador Imamovich presented to Dr. Eren the "Certificate of Honor" of the Republic of Uzbekistan in appreciation of his contributions to cooperation. As a souvenir of the visit, Dr. Eren presented to Ambassador Imamovich a plate bearing the verse 13 of Sourah 49 (Al-Hujurat) of the Holy Qur'an adopted as IRCICA's motto..



Professor Hee Soo Lee, Director, International Research Lab for Korean Studies in the Middle East, Hanyang University, Korea, visited IRCICA on 5 October 2017. This visit paved the way towards the International Congress on "Korea and the Muslim World: Historical and Cultural Encounters" organized jointly by the Research Lab and IRCICA, on 24-25 April 2018.



A group of **calligraphers from China** visited IRCICA on 11 January 2018. The calligraphers, specialized in Chinese artistic writing, received information on IRCICA's modalities of promoting the teaching and practice of the art of calligraphy. The visit was part of the group's program organized by the Municipality of Üsküdar, Istanbul.



IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren paid a visit to **Dr. Saud Hilal al-Harbi, Director General of ALECSO**, in his office on 29 March 2018 after the opening of the "Al-Quds in Historical Photographs" exhibition, which was organized jointly by IRCICA and ALECSO on the occasion of the 42nd Palestinian Land Day at ALECSO Headquarters. Talks were exchanged on needs and further possibilities of the cooperation between IRCICA and ALECSO in areas of common concern. Dr. Halit Eren presented Dr. Saud Hilal al-Harbi, Director General of ALECSO, with a copy of IRCICA's album of historical photographs of al-Quds.



Dr. Halit Eren, IRCICA Director General, paid a visit to **H.E. Dr. Mohamed Zine El Abidine, Minister of Culture of Tunisia**, at the Minister's office in Tunis on 29 March 2018, following the opening of the exhibition titled "Al-Quds in Historical Photographs" at ALESCO Headquarters. The meeting with Minister Zine El Abidine underscored existing and prospective developments in the cooperation between Tunisian cultural institutions and IRCICA. Mr. Ömer Faruk Doğan, Ambassador of Turkey in Tunis, accompanied Dr. Eren on this visit. IRCICA Director General presented to Dr. Zine El Abidine a copy of the album of historical photographs of al-Quds published by IRCICA.



Cooperation between the cultural authorities and institutions of the Republic of Cameroon was reviewed and ways recommended for its advancement, during Director General Dr. Halit Eren's meeting with **H.E. Mr. Adoum Gargoum, Minister Delegate to the Minister of External Relations in charge of Relations with the Islamic World, Republic of Cameroon** (in the middle of the photograph) and his delegation. The meeting took place in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 5 May 2018 during the 45th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC member States.

IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren met with the **Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Maldives H.E. Mr. Mohamed Asim and H.E. Ambassador of Maldives to Bangladesh Mrs. Aisha Sham**, on 5 May 2018, during the 45th Session of the OIC's Council of Foreign Ministers held in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The meeting was a good opportunity to underscore interest in giving a new impulse to contacts and cooperation between the Maldives and IRCICA.

OIC-IRCICA Chair to be set up at Dhaka University

IRCICA and Dhaka University signed Memorandum of Cooperation towards establishment of an OIC-IRCICA Chair at Dhaka University. The Memorandum was signed on 5 May 2018 at Dhaka, by IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren and the Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof. Dr. Md. Akhtaruzzaman. The signing of the Memorandum was in presence of the Assistant Secretary General of the OIC for Humanitarian Affairs H.E. Ambassador Hesham Youssef, and Mr. Md. Kamaluddin, Treasurer, Dhaka University.

The OIC-IRCICA Chair will focus on the following subjects:

- Highlighting the outstanding contributions to Islamic civilization and world civilization that emanated from within and around the region of Bangladesh and wider South Asia and Southeast Asia
- Promoting the culture of dialogue between peoples of different cultures and faiths in order to strengthen exchanges and coexistence, within and outside the region



Memorandum signed by IRCICA DG Dr. Halit Eren and Prof. Dr. Md. Akhtaruzzaman, Vice-Chancellor, Dhaka University, 5 May 2018; on the left: H.E. Ambassador Hisham Youssef, Assistant Secretary General of OIC; on the right: Mr. Md. Kamaluddin, Treasurer, Dhaka University

- Diffusing the spirit of moderation, tolerance and understanding of different faiths and cultures
- Evaluating and improving the treatment of the images of the Other in university curricula and mass media
- Encouraging and promoting cultural and scholarly exchanges in the field of studies on Islamic civilization between OIC member countries within and outside the region
- Studying the history of Muslim peoples in South and Southeast Asia with special focus on Rohingya Muslims.

Following the signing of the Memorandum, a meeting was held between IRCICA and the Department of Islamic History and Culture of Dhaka University to launch and determine the guidelines of cooperation. Together with Dr. Halit Eren, IRCICA Director General, the participants were Prof. Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim, ex-Chair, Department of Islamic History and Culture; Prof. Dr. Md. Aatur Rahman Miazi, Chair, Department of Islamic History and Culture; Prof. Dr. Abdul Basheer, faculty member, Department of Islamic History and Culture, and Prof. Dr. Sadik Unay, Senior Researcher, IRCICA. The two parties agreed to organize an international conference to explore different aspects of the plight of Rohingya Muslims. The conference is planned to be held in December 2018.



Meeting for cooperation between IRCICA and the Department of Islamic History and Culture of Dhaka University: IRCICA DG Dr. Halit Eren with, on his right, Prof. Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim, ex-Chair, Department of Islamic History and Culture; on his left Prof. Dr. Md. Aatur Rahman Miazi, Chair of the Department; and Prof. Dr. Abdul Basheer from the Department (right); Prof. Dr. Sadik Unay, Senior Researcher, IRCICA (left)

Proceedings of the international symposium on Konya in Islamic Civilisation

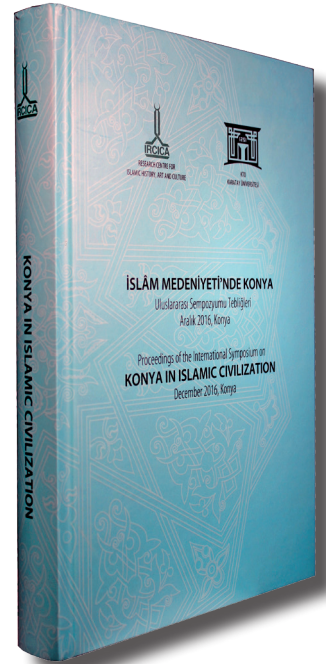
December 2016, Konya

Ed.: Halit Eren, 441+57 p. IRCICA, Istanbul, 2018

The international symposium on "Konya in Islamic Civilisation" was organized by IRCICA, Karatay University of Konya Chamber of Commerce and Konya Metropolitan Municipality on the occasion of the OIC's program "Konya, Islamic World Tourism Capital 2016". The symposium took place on 17-19 December 2016, where its opening date corresponded to the "Sheb-i Arus" Celebrations associated with world-renown Sufi scholar Mawlana Jalal al-Din al-Rumi. T

he decision by the OIC Member States to select Konya as the Islamic World Tourism Capital 2016 was taken at the 4th Coordination Committee Meeting on Tourism (Jakarta, Indonesia, 2014) of the OIC Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC), in accordance with the selection criteria as defined by the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers on its 8th Session (Banjul, Gambia, 2013). Konya is a major center of culture and civilization and known as the capital of the Seljukid State and the home of eminent figures such as Mawlana Jalal al-Din al-Rumi, Sadr al-Din al-Qunawi, Shams Tabrizi, Sahib Ata, Jalal al-Din Karatay, Hacıveviszade Mustafa Sabri Efendi, as well as various madrasas and scholarly and religious organizations.

The symposium was attended by scholars and researchers from 10 countries: Albania, Azerbaijan, India, Iran, Jordan, Oman, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkey and United Arab Emirates. Diverse aspects of Konya as a center of cultural tourism were studied and highlighted during the academic sessions; specifically underlining



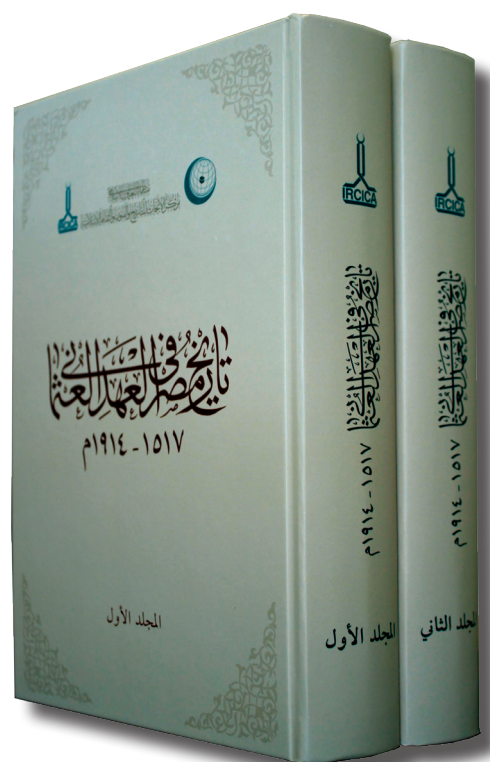
the role, contributions and importance of Konya in Islamic history. The papers addressed topics related to the cultural and scholarly developments in Konya over the course of its Islamic history during the Seljukid, Ottoman and present periods; its eminent religious scholars, educational institutions, social, artistic and literary developments; its urban and architectural heritage and the spirit of tolerance that emanated from the scholarly-mystic atmosphere of Konya making it a world city that symbolizes tolerance and compassion. The book includes twenty research articles.

History of Egypt During the Ottoman Era 1517-1914

History and Culture of Egypt Series: 5; Vol. I: 940 pp., Vol. II: 803 pp.
IRCICA, Istanbul, 2017

The present book offers a new objective review of the history of Egypt during the Ottoman period, i.e. from 1517 to 1914. As part of the Ottoman Empire for more than three centuries, Egypt played an important role in Ottoman politics, economy and culture. Scholarly opinions on aspects and repercussions of this weighty presence in Ottoman history vary. Converging and diverging views as well as research findings are all reflected in this book, which is aimed to cover diverse topics under varying lights in an objective, scholarly methodology that would help to project a true image of this history.

The book is in Arabic. It is organized in two volumes with a comprehensive thematic coverage comprised of 41 articles. The contributing authors are diversified in their specializations and cultural backgrounds. The articles are all based on original documents and first-hand sources. They were authored in different languages; translations into Arabic were done at IRCICA. The idea of the book dates back to 2008, when its Editor, Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, then Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), suggested that a collection of studies on the history of Egypt be prepared. Thus specialists of the field were invited to contribute articles, namely, for Volume I: Ahmed Zakariya al-Shelek, Eric Anceau, Ismail Zinedine, Ilham Dihni, Daniel Crecelius, Süleyman Kızıltoprak, Sayed Mohamed el-Sayed Mahmoud, Abdel-Razek Ibrahim Aissa, Feridun Emecen, Kamal Habib, Magda Makhlouf, Mehmet İpşirli, Mohamed



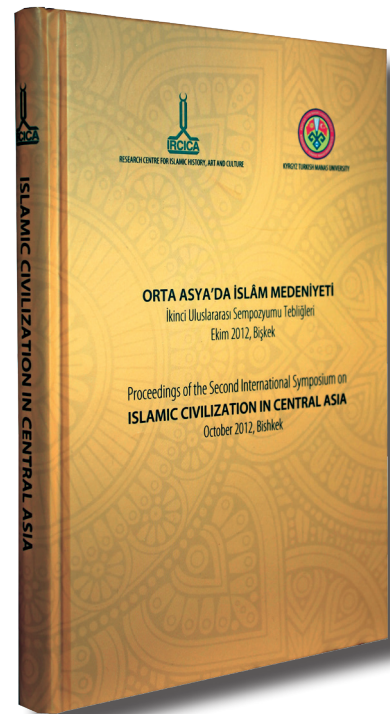
Affi, Mohamed Mabrouk Qutb, Nabil al-Sayed al-Tukhi, Nevin Alwan, Yüksel Çelik; for Volume II: Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Amal Ahmed Hassan al-Omari, André Raymond, Iman Mohamed Amer, Ayman Fouad Sayyid, Peter Gran, Peter Heath, Jaroslaw Dobrowolski Agnieszka, Cengiz Tomar, Said Mohamed Montaser, Saleh Saadawi, Abdelkadir Özcan, Mohammed Sabry al-Dali, Mohamed Afifi, Mahmoud al-Rubaie, Muhittin Serin, Nasser Abdullah Othman, Nelly Hanna.

Proceedings of the Second International Symposium on Islamic Civilisation in Central Asia

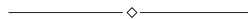
October 2012, Bishkek
Ed.: Halit Eren, 341 p. IRCICA, Istanbul, 2017

IRCICA and Kyrgyzstan-Turkey Manas University (Bishkek) jointly organized the international symposium on "Islamic Civilisation in Central Asia" on 11-14 October 2012 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Within the framework of IRCICA's activities, it was the second symposium focusing on Central Asia; the first one was held in Astana, Kazakhstan in 2007.

The Bishkek symposium gathered 60 specialists, from Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Malaysia, Turkey, U.S.A. and Uzbekistan. The themes revolved around the role and place of Islamic civilization in the cultural history of Central Asia, particularly in the evolution of some distinguishing elements of cultural life in the region such as the coexistence of different faiths and cultures. It was highlighted that Islamic civilization in Central Asia had various aspects yet to be uncovered, in the history of sciences particularly. Fourteen of the papers presented are collected in the book. They address a fascinating range of topics highlighting arts and sciences and also interactions and coexistence of cultures: societal and institutional systems brought by Islam, major historical and literary



works, religious studies and religious scholars; the various sciences and works of philosophy; the sources of history, among others.



Urban Heritage at Bilad al-Sham

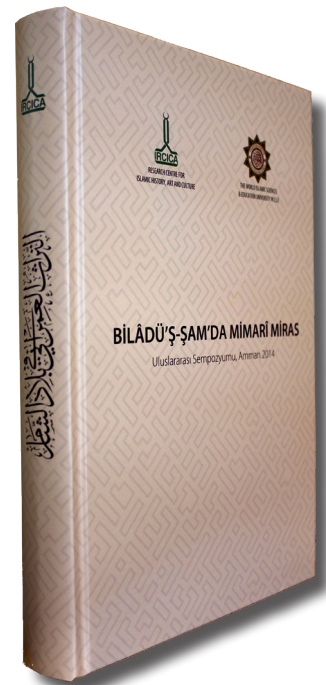
Proceedings of the International Symposium on Ottoman Urban Heritage at Bilad al-Sham

Amman, 2014

Edited by Halit Eren, History of Muslim Countries Series 7, 482 + 58 pp.
IRCICA, Istanbul, 2018

This is a collection of the papers that were presented at the symposium co-organized by IRCICA under the patronage of the Ministry of Culture of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and jointly with World Islamic Science and Education University (WISE University), in Amman, on 3-5 March 2014. Scholars and researchers from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Iraq, Italy, Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Syria and Turkey participated in the symposium.

Bilad al-Sham saw important urban and infrastructural developments throughout the Ottoman period. The history of the numerous monuments spread across the region are evidence of the administrative and architectural activities conducted and the waqfs (endowments, foundations) established. A number of monuments were built in various parts of Bilad al-Sham by the best architects, including the illustrious 16th century chief architect and civil engineer Sinan. Those monuments constitute authentic references for the study of administrative, urban, architectural and art history in the region. The symposium underscored the need to promote research, data collection and evaluation on these monuments. Seventeen articles, of which fifteen in Arabic, were presented at the symposium. They shed light on aspects such as the political and social factors having influenced the course of urban and architectural developments, the schools



and other educational establishments, structures such as fortresses, khans (commercial centers), and markets, contributions of infrastructural and architectural structures to economic and cultural relations between peoples. Studies focusing on major cities and sites were also presented. IRCICA believes this collection of the symposium's papers is a valuable contribution to publications on urban history of Bilad al-Sham.



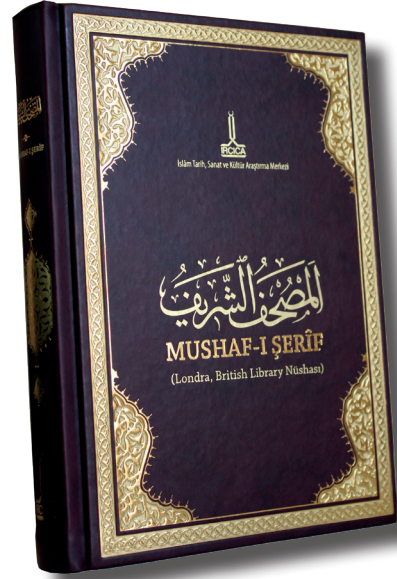
المصحف الشريف

Al-Mushaf Al-Sharif (London, British Library copy)

prepared for publication by Dr. Tayyar Altıkulaç, IRCICA, Istanbul, 2017; 49, 485, 51 pp.
(Text in Arabic and Turkish)

IRCICA publishes scholarly studies on the earliest copies of the Holy Quran that are located in different libraries around the world. These studies trace the process of transmission of the Quran starting from the first manuscripts and examine cases and developments relating to aspects such as script, orthography and physical composition, among others, all with reference to historical periods and geographical locations. Published in 2017 under the said series, the present book examines the copy of the Holy Quran which is located at British Library, London, U.K. and dated to the first century Hijra. It is a partial copy, the extant folios of which comprise 37 sourahs, 29 of them in complete format.

Earlier IRCICA had published books on the following copies of the Holy Quran: two copies attributed to the time of the Third Caliph Uthman bin Affan and preserved, respectively, at Topkapı Palace Museum in Istanbul (2007) and at the Central Library of Islamic Manuscripts attached to the Ministry of Awqaf of Egypt in Cairo (2009); the copy attributed to the time of Ali bin Abi Talib and located in the Manuscripts Library near Sana'a Grand Mosque, Yemen (2011); the copy dated to the period of Uthman bin Affan and preserved at the Islamic Arts Museum in Cairo (2014); the early fragment preserved at the National Library of France, in Paris (2015). The study on the British Library copy is an important addition to the series. IRCICA also published, in 2015, a comprehensive book in Arabic titled "Old copies of the Quran that reached our time.



A study on the earliest copies" which synthesizes the observations and comparisons reached in earlier studies. These books were prepared by Dr. Tayyar Altıkulaç, an authoritative scholar in Quranic studies, former President of Religious Affairs in Turkey. The series will continue with an enlarged research and edition on the Quran copy which is located at Topkapı Palace Museum and attributed to the time of the Third Caliph Uthman bin Affan; the edition will contain a comparison of the physical and orthographical features of the copy with those of the other early copies examined, among other new findings and observations reached through the series of editions.

IRCICA Journal

A Journal on Islamic History and Civilization

Volume III, Issue 6, Fall 2015

The sixth issue of IRCICA Journal has appeared. It is an interdisciplinary refereed journal published in Spring and Fall issues. It includes articles in English, French and Arabic.

This volume focuses on the subject of Anti-Muslim Extremism and Islamophobia in Europe. The articles selected for the volume trace the origins of anti-Muslim sentiments and perceptions, their emergence in certain national contexts and their practice with negative effects for the daily lives of Muslims residing in the Balkans, as well as Central and Western Europe. The articles were selected from among the papers presented at an international symposium organized jointly by IRCICA and the Center for Balkan and Black Sea Studies (BALKAR) of Yıldız Technical University in Istanbul.

The following articles are included in this issue:

Introduction: "Islamophobia in Europe", by Assoc. Prof. Isa Blumi, Stockholm University, Institute for Turkish Studies, Sweden, and Assoc. Prof. Mehmet Hacısalihoğlu, Yıldız Technical University, Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences, Istanbul

"Nothing New: Islamophobia by Default in Postwar Europe", by Assoc. Prof. Isa Blumi, Stockholm University, Institute for Turkish Studies, Sweden

"'Willkommenskultur' in Arab Eyes: Arabic Traditional and Social Media Discourses on Syrian Refugees in Germany", by Dr. Peter Polak-Springer, Qatar University, Humanities Dept., Qatar



"Questioning Islamophobia in the Context of Greece", by Dr. Ali Hüseyinoğlu, Trakya University, Edirne, Turkey

"Muslimphobia as a Western Tool of Fearmongering", by Assoc. Prof. Ali Çaksu, Yıldız Technical University, Philosophy Dept., Istanbul

"Patriotism as the Modern Justification of Islamophobia", by Dr. Elena Lukinykh, Oldenburg University, Germany

"The Social Impact of Islamophobia on Muslims in the Netherlands", by Dr. Leyla Yıldırım, Sabahattin Zaim University, Istanbul.

