



Newsletter



OIC RESEARCH CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC HISTORY, ART AND CULTURE

"Islamic Civilisation In Central Asia"
international congress, Astana, Kazakhstan
4-7 September 2007

The Thirty-Fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign
Ministers (Session of Peace, Progress and Harmony) held in
Islamabad, Pakistan

IRCICA Activities

"Al-Quds/Jerusalem 2015" Program: fact-finding mission

History congress to mark the centenary of the
1908 Constitution of the Ottoman State

Cultural activities organised in Damascus: Exhibitions, concert

International congress on "Employment of Traditional Handicrafts in
Architectural Projects", in Tunis, on 2-7 June 2008

Lectures, exhibitions at IRCICA

Cultural Events

Cultural Institutions

A glimpse at some programs of Oriental Studies in
Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan

Book Survey

IRCICA Publications

Newsletter



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Editor in Chief

Halit Eren

Editorial Board

Zeynep Durukal
Mohammed Tamimi
Semiramis Çavuşoğlu
Mihin Lugal

Address

Yıldız Sarayı, Seyir Köşkü
Barbaros Bulvarı,
Beşiktaş 34349
İstanbul, Turkey

Tel. (90 212) 259 17 42

Fax (90 212) 258 43 65

e-mail ircica@ircica.org

website <http://ircica.org>

Graphic Design

Selahaddin Uygur

In this issue

2

"Islamic Civilisation in Central Asia"
international congress: Astana, Kazakhstan
4-7 September 2007

10

The Thirty-Fourth Session of the Islamic Conference
of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Progress and
Harmony) held in Islamabad, Pakistan

17

IRCICA Activities

"Al-Quds/Jerusalem 2015" Program:
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Exhibitions, concert

International congress on "Employment of Traditional
Handicrafts in Architectural Projects",
in Tunis, on 2-7 June 2008

Lectures, exhibitions at IRCICA

22

Cultural Events

25

Cultural Institutions

A glimpse at some programs of Oriental Studies in
Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan

27

Book Survey

30

IRCICA Publications

Editorial

The principal theme of this issue is the international congress on "Islamic Civilisation in Central Asia" which was held in Astana during the first week of September. It was a most remarkable congress; richly diverse approaches, opinions and research findings were contributed by participants from various specialisations. We are including an outline of its proceedings in this issue in order not to delay it until the next, September-December issue due to appear next January. The Ministry of Education and Science of Kazakhstan, through its Institute of Oriental Studies named after R.B. Suleimenov, cooperated with us in implementing this congress. President Nursultan Nazarbaev, President of Kazakhstan, extended his patronage and addressed a message to the congress. The Secretary General of OIC Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu addressed the opening ceremony. The importance thus given to the congress reflected a concerted effort to further promote cultural relations and academic cooperation between Kazakhstan and the OIC-IRCICA Member States. It also underscored the need and the will to draw inspiration and experiences from the centuries-long coexistence of different faiths in Central Asia towards diffusing positive values that would help to strengthen the spirit of peaceful coexistence among the present and the future generations of peoples. The objective of inviting those specialists and researchers of Islam in Central Asia to contribute in this direction by communicating their ideas and findings was included in our Centre's work plans a few years ago. This constitutes another step in our series of congresses focusing on the history and the heritage of Islam in the various regions where the latter expanded and flourished.

It has been exactly one year since the congress on "Islamic Civilisation in Southern Africa", in Johannesburg, South Africa (see Newsletter nr.71, September-December 2006). It had opened a new avenue for studies on the history

and the living heritage of Islam in Southern Africa. In the same way, the Astana congress opened another new avenue in research and studies. It provided an overall coverage of the history of nations in Central Asia, the contacts between the different religions and their joint cultural achievements, enabling the participants to confirm and enlarge or to revise and amend their knowledge. In the light of the participants' deliberations at the plenary session, it was decided that the congress be given a periodical character. As I had the opportunity of announcing it at the concluding plenary session, we shall make the necessary arrangements to hold it once every two years.

We are in the process of preparing our work plan for the year 2008; it will be finalized by the Governing Board of IRCICA which will meet in October, for its ultimate adoption by the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers. In 2008, we will organise what will be our fourth congress on the history of the Muslim world during the Ottoman period; namely, the congress to commemorate the centenary of the Second Constitutional period of the Ottoman State, to be held in April. The themes of the earlier three congresses are "Learning and Education in the Ottoman World" (Istanbul, 1999), "Bilad al-Sham in the Ottoman Era" (Damascus, 2005), and "Egypt in the Ottoman Era", which is to be dealt with in the forthcoming congress to take place on 26-30 November in Cairo. The lists of participants and papers for this congress are finalized; we shall publish an outline of its proceedings in the next issue of the Newsletter. Currently we are receiving the titles and abstracts of the papers proposed on the theme of "The Second Constitution/Meşrutiyet on its Centenary". On this occasion I would like to convey my thanks and appreciation to the scholars and specialists of the field who have already confirmed their participation, for the interest they have shown towards this congress.

Dr. Halit Eren

"Islamic Civilisation in Central Asia" international congress: Astana, Kazakhstan 4-7 September 2007

An international congress on "Islamic Civilisation in Central Asia" was organised jointly by the R.B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies of the Ministry of Education and Science, Republic of Kazakhstan, and IRCICA, on 4-7 September 2007 in Astana, Kazakhstan. H.E. Nursultan Nazarbaev, President of Kazakhstan, addressed a comprehensive message to the congress, which was read by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan H.E. Mr. Marat Tazhin. H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoglu, Secretary General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, delivered a speech at the opening session. It was the first congress to be devoted by IRCICA to studies on Central Asia; it was perhaps also the first to address the theme comprehensively under all its aspects, covering such topics as the expansion of Islam in the region, developments concerning state and society, the achievements in the fields of philosophy, urbanism, architecture, the contributions of Central Asian cultures to universal civilization, and their interactions with other cultures around the region. One hundred and twenty specialists of the field participated in the congress.

In his message read by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, President Nursultan Nazarbaev stressed that the congress being convened with such a large scale testified to the significance it carried for Kazakhstan with respect to the employment of the positive potential of Islam and the study of its history, its culture and its heritage. The President said "In the history of human kind no other civilization has developed autonomously and always upheld the achievements of other cultures. The universal character of Islam has covered all spheres of human activity and establishes conditions for self-

perfection of the Islamic civilization. For several centuries Islam in Central Asia was a crossroads of civilizations and has acquired some specific features, the study of which becomes very important. Scholars from this region have contributed valuably to the advancement and the status of Islamic culture. Kazakhstan being a secular state, in its cultural and civilisational aspect is no doubt part of the Islamic world. The coexistence, during many centuries, of different ethnicities, cultures and confessions, defined the specific features of the progress of Islamic civilization in the region." President Nazarbaev said that Kazakhstan attaches importance to its relations with the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, under the umbrella of which the congress was held. He affirmed support to the trends of reform and reorganization undertaken with the initiatives of the OIC Secretary General; "only a flexible structure of this Organisation can enable us to lead the efforts of different member countries towards establishing dialogue to overcome the challenges of today." The President said that notions of a so-called threat of Islam have become so widespread that it became a question of not only of such threat but of the need to protect Islam as such. Kazakhstan as many other countries seeks the solution of this problem through an interaction of the various civilizations; this reliance upon an interaction of various beliefs was always typical of Islam. In this regard President Nazarbaev referred to Kazakhstan's endeavours aimed at establishing inter-faith dialogue in cooperation with various organizations, recalling the two Congresses of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions (Astana, 2003 and 2006), and said that the present congress had provided another such major event.



From the left: Prof. E. İhsanoglu, OIC Secretary General; Mr. Janselt Tuimebaev, Minister of Education and Science; Mr. Marat Tazhin, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Chief Mufti Absattar Kaji Derbisali

Then, the Secretary General of the OIC Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu addressed the opening ceremony, expressing his thanks and appreciation to President Nursultan Nazarbayev and the Government and people of Kazakhstan for the opportunity given to participate in the congress. The Secretary General said that throughout the years of his studies on Islamic civilization, few subjects had fascinated him more than the rich history and tradition of the Islamic civilization that grew up in the Central Asian region. The region produced great masters of Islamic law and scholarship such as Imam Bukhari, Jalaluddin Rumi, Imam Tirmizi, Ibn Sina as well as diplomats, academics, historians, doctors, philosophers, geographers, poets and traders. The Secretary General invited the participating scholars not to confine themselves, in their studies, to highlighting past achievements, but also to put their ideas together to envision a road map to move ahead into the future to highlight the correct teachings and interpretations of Islam. Recalling the attempts made in the Western world to defame and shadow the image of Islam on basis of the actions of some groups of people, he said that that the OIC had undertaken to reach out to other civilizations to engage in a dialogue and underscore that Islam is a religion founded on everything that modern civilizations aspire for: tolerance, peace, moderation, to fight extremism and terror. He expressed his pleasure that Kazakhstan has become a place of dialogue between religions that has been demonstrated by two Congresses of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, with the participation of not only leaders of religious beliefs, but also academics and political actors in Europe and Asia. He said that the OIC

warmly welcomes Kazakhstan's decision to hold a Ministerial Conference on Dialogue among Civilizations in 2008.

H.E. Mr. Jansait Tuimebaev, Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan, delivered an address. The Minister stressed that the processes of international relations around the world and their repercussions on the definition of paths of development in various countries and regions have necessitated that references be made to religion. In this respect Kazakhstan and Central Asia are no exception; the role of religion as the spiritual and moral source in the formation of culture and heritage has increased during the years of independence. This reflects not only the general global trends but also the domestic trends. The Minister said "The key factor in increasing the role of religion is the specific features this country possesses: the inter-ethnic and inter-faith concord, which is a factor that can be used to promote social harmony and peace in the country." Mr. Tuimebaev underlined the importance of correctly designed education policy in the upbringing of young generations as a guarantee of overcoming inter-confessional and inter-ethnic conflicts. For the purpose, one of the most effective ways is the development of curricula geared to promoting tolerance and spreading a profound knowledge on the history, the cultures and the religions of nations on the basis of objective studies of the historical processes of cultures and religions and an understanding of the common achievements of peoples of the world, "Dissemination of spiritual education towards science is very important", said the Minister, and "promoting scientific research and understanding the spiritual world depend on the formation of highly educated and spiritually



From the left: Prof. Meruert Abussetova, Director of the Institute of Oriental Studies; Dr. H. Eren, IRCICA Director General; Mr. Mr. Jansait Tuimebaev, Minister of Education and Science of Kazakhstan



The conference was held in the "Pyramid" building

developed young generations capable of contributing to cultural progress in the country and to global civilization. This has become the basis for the formation of cultural tolerance and good neighbourhood."

In his address, IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren pointed out that the theme of Islamic civilization in Central Asia offers an inexhaustible area of research; Central Asia is one of the regions where Islam expanded the earliest, from mid-seventh century, and interacted productively with the faiths and cultures that pre-existed in the region. In this region scholarship, sciences and arts recorded one of their most brilliant epochs in all history. World-renown scholars in Islamic theology and jurisprudence, astronomy and mathematics, humanities and literature, emanated from

here. At the same time, some of the most eminent cities marking the development of urbanism and architecture in Islam grew in Central Asia. These developments endowed the countries of the region with distinct cultural heritage assets that drew academic as well as public interest, as is shown towards its historical sites and archeological monuments, the authentic works of science and culture, the music, the social traditions and other cultural riches. The Director General said that for IRCICA the holding of this congress was an objective put forward years ago within the framework of its activities focusing on the history and the heritage of Islamic civilization in various regions of the world. He also briefly reviewed the development of scholarly relations and cultural cooperation between IRCICA and the Governments and cultural institutions of its Member States in Central Asia: starting from the 1980s, the Centre established contacts with academic and cultural institutions of the region, as well as with researchers and specialists working in fields relating to its own. These contacts gained pace in the 1990s, especially after a number of Central Asian states became members of the OIC and IRCICA. Researchers, artists, etc. from those countries participated increasingly in events organised by IRCICA such as symposiums, art festivals, training programs and architectural workshops. Works of art and archeological samples from the region were displayed during the Islamic Countries Cultural Week commemorating IRCICA's 25th anniversary in 2005 and the Kyrgyzstan Cultural Week in 2006. Dr. Eren said that this congress would contribute to enhance the status of Central Asian studies in connection with the different social sciences. He also recalled that the progress of these studies since the 1990s had benefited from the supportive policies extended by the Heads of State and





Government of the OIC Member States in Central Asia toward developing scholarship and international cooperation, with the Islamic countries in particular, as was seen in the fruitful relations established with the OIC in many fields, and with IRCICA in the field of culture and research in particular, as exemplified in the support and encouragement graciously expressed by H.E. President Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of Kazakhstan, to the congress.

Then, H.E. Absattar Kaji Derbisali, the Chief Mufti of Kazakhstan, addressed the opening ceremony. Referring to the evolution of faiths and cultures side by side all over Central Asia, Mufti Derbisali said that one of the most notable examples of this trend was the school founded by the Sufi scholar Ahmed Yesevi which was the major source of inspiration of Islam in Kazakhstan. The Yesevi school played an influential role in the history of Kazakhstan. It helped in strengthening solidarity among the Kazakh people, a nation strongly tied to its traditional values.

Central Asia was a meeting point of the world religions: Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, the other classical and traditional religions and the non-traditional religions. It was also a meeting point of the Turkish-Mongol, Indo-European, Ogrik, Sino-Tibetan cultures. The accompanying various historical facts and events resulted in a spirit of Eurasian history, an integration of the cultural processes. As underlined by Prof.Dr. Meruert Abusseitova, the Director of R.B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies in her keynote report, there is a need to enlarge the historical source data base for studies on the region, towards which this congress will surely contribute. The first session of the congress was a



plenary session comprising the keynote reports presented by Prof.Dr. Meruert Abusseitova, Director, Institute of Oriental Studies, Prof.Dr. Bayram Balci, Director, the French Institute for Central Asian Studies (IFEAC) (Paris, France), Prof.Dr. Rostislav Rybakov, Director, Institute of Oriental Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences (Moscow, Russia) and Mr. Michael Karlen, Secretary General, Comprehensive Dialogue among Civilizations (CDAC) (Geneva, Switzerland).

The papers presented at the sessions were:

History I

Chair: Frederick de Jong, Department of Oriental Languages & Cultures, Rijkuniversiteit (Utrecht, Netherlands)

Co-Chair: Prof.Dr. Altayi Orazbaeva, R.B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies (Almaty)

Secretary: Dina Mederova, R.B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies (Almaty)

Presentations:

Prof.Dr. Naseem Ahmad, Department of Islamic Studies, University of Shah Kashmir (Srinagar, India): Early Muslim Settlements in Central Asia: A Study on Interaction, Assimilation and Co-Existence

Prof.Dr. Ahmet Taşagül, Mimar Sinan University (Istanbul, Turkey): Ethnic Distribution of the Turkish Tribes in Central Asia during the Spread of Islam

Prof.Dr. Hua Tao, Institute of Mongol-Yuan Studies, Nanjing University (Nanjing, China): Ethnic Identity of the Qarakhanids and its Meaning

Assist.Prof.Dr. Mesut Idriz, International Islamic University of Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia): Ahmad Yasawi as a Leading Early Central Asian Sufi: Re-examination of His Perceptions on Sufism

Dr. Ali Jusubaliev, Osh State University (Osh, Kyrgyzstan): The Yasawi Influence on the Spread of Islam among Kyrgyz People

Mr. Ilyas Kamalov, ASAM (Ankara, Turkey): The Influence of Religious Tolerance of Cengiz Khan and His Sons on Turkish World (Central Asia and Volga - Ural Region)

Prof.Dr. Yingsheng Liu, Director, Institute of Korean Studies, Nanjing University (Nanjing, China): Xiaojing Scripts among Chinese Muslims



Prof.Dr. Devin DeWeese, Indiana University (Bloomington, USA): A Sixteenth-Century Interpretation of the Islamisation of the Mongols

Dr. Zhengyin Liu, Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (Beijing, China): Khwajas and the Development of Islamic Power in the Tarim Basin (16-18th Centuries)

Mr. Tynystan Arzybaev, Institute of History, Kyrgyz Academy of Sciences (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan): Islam and the Qarakhaniid State

Prof.Dr. Altayi Orazbaeva, R.B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies (Almaty): The Role of Religion in Nomadic Civil Organization in Kazakh History

Dr. Kenje Torlanbayeva, R. B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies (Almaty): Usage of the Term 'Qara' in Religious Practice of Turkic Peoples

Dr. Zikiriya Zhandarbek, R.B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies (Almaty): The Role of Religious Factors in the Formation of Kazakh People

Prof.Dr. Ali Özek, Foundation for Research in Islamic Sciences (ISAV, İstanbul): Al-Djawhari

History II

Chair: Prof.Dr. Devin DeWeese, Indiana University (Bloomington, USA)

Co-Chair: Prof.Dr. Gulnara Mendikulova, R.B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies (Almaty)

Secretary: Asel Berlibaeva, R.B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies (Almaty)

Presentations:

Prof.Dr. Ali Arslan, Department of History, Istanbul University (Istanbul): The Contributions of Turkestan to Ottoman Development

Prof.Dr. Tomohiko Uyama, Slavic Research Center, Hokkaido University (Hokkaido, Japan): The Islamic Alternative: The Role of Islam in the Kazakh National Movement of the early 19th Century

Prof.Dr. Gulnara Mendikulova, R.B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies (Almaty): The Role of Islam in the Kazakh History of Migration in the 20th Century

Prof.Dr. Nadir Devlet, Department of International Relations, Yeditepe University (Istanbul): Modernization (Djadidism) in the Steppe and Turkestan Governance, Bukhara Emirate and Kokand Khanate

Assist.Prof.Dr. Meryem Hakim Kırmılı, Department of International Trade, Çankaya University (Ankara): Islam among the Kazakhs of Eastern Turkestan in the Twentieth Century

Dr. Kalybek Koblandin, R.B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies (Almaty): Religious Characteristics of the Kazakhs in Uzbekistan in the 20th Century

Mr. Nozim Muminov, Department of Philosophy, Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages (Samarkand, Uzbekistan): Extra-somatic and Culturologic Receivership in Sufi Central Asia (19th and 20th Centuries)

Historiography and Source Studies

Chair: Prof.Dr. Ahmet Taşağul, Mimar Sinan University (Istanbul)

Co-Chair: Prof.Dr. Ashirbek Muminov, R.B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies (Almaty)

Secretary: Katipa Kusainova, R.B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies (Almaty)

Presentations:

Prof.Dr. Sabahat Deniz, Marmara University (Istanbul): "The Epic Tales of Dedem Korkut" as the First Examples of Duânâmes

Dr. Stanislav M. Prozorov, St. Petersburg Branch, Institute of Oriental Studies, the Russian Academy of Sciences (St. Petersburg, Russia): Intellectual Elite of Mawarannahr and Khorasan on the Eve of the Mongolian Invasion (Based on the Al-Andarabani's Biographical Dictionary)

Dr. Akram Khabibullaev, University of Chicago (Chicago, USA): Arabic Literature in Khwarezm (11th - 13th Centuries)

Prof.Dr. Abderrahim Alami, University of Sidi Mohammed Ben Abdellah (Morocco): Aspects of Islamic Civilization in Central Asia in Moroccan Travel Literature

Prof.Dr. Omirali Qopabaev, Rector, the Kunaev University (Almaty): Qadir-'Ali Jalayiri and the Oral Historical Tradition of the Kazakhs



Prof.Dr. Ahmet Kazım Ürün, Selçuk University (Konya, Turkey): Famous Islamic Scholar al-Zamakhshari and His Contributions to Arabic Language and Literature

Dr. Ahmad Khan, Centre for the Protection of Arabic Manuscripts (Islamabad, Pakistan): Al-Saghani's Contribution to the Arabic Lexicography

Dr. Abdulkahhor Saidov, Institute of History, Archaeology and Ethnography, Academy of Sciences, Republic of Tajikistan (Dushanbe, Tajikistan): The Medieval Written Sources on the Problems of the Relations between Bukhara and Balkh in the XVIIth Century

Prof.Dr. Ashirbek Muminov, R.B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies (Almaty): New Collections of Islamic Manuscripts in Central Asia

Assoc.Prof.Dr. Abdullah Gündoğdu, Ankara University (Ankara): Religion and Tradition in Kazakhstan in 19th Century According to Tawarikh-i Khamse-i Sharqi

Prof.Dr. Anvarbek Mokeev, Manas Kyrgyz - Turkish University (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan): The Concept of the Islamic History among the Kyrgyz People

Mr. Nusratulla Zakirov, Institute of Philosophy, Academy of Sciences, Republic of Tajikistan (Dushanbe): "Mi'yar al-Tadayun" (The Measures of Religion) of Ahmad Danish: a Religious-Philosophic Source from the 19th Century

Assoc.Prof.Dr. Abdulvahap Kara, Mimar Sinan University (Istanbul): Life and Works of the Scholar of Religion Akit Ulimciuli who tried to enlighten the Kazakh people by his poems

Assist.Prof.Dr. Dilyara Usmanova, Kazan State University (Kazan, Tatarstan, Russia): Source Issues in the Study of Muslim Sects in the Russian Empire: Vaisov's Godly Regiment of Muslim Old Believers (19th and 20th Centuries)

Assoc.Prof.Dr. Mustafa Eravcı, Afyon Kocatepe University (Afyon, Turkey): Islamic Structure in Turkestan Khans of the 19th Century according to English Travelers

Prof.Dr. Alfina Sibgatullina, The Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences (Moscow): The Russian Federation State Archive Materials on the Muslims of the Steppe Region

Dr. Damira Ibragim, Fatih University (Istanbul): "Oyan Kazakh!" and Myrjaqyp Dulatuly and his Views on Islam

Dr. Manasbay Kojanuli, Ministry of Education and Science (Astana): About the Meaning of Some Ethnonyms in the Ancestral Genealogy of the Kazakh Lesser Juz

Mrs. Dina Mederova, R.B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies (Almaty): Religious Rythms in the Kazakh Epic Poems

Mr. Kuandyk Murat, R.B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies (Almaty): The Spread of Islam in the Siberian Khanate

Archaeology and Ethnography

Chair: Prof.Dr. Irina Popova, Director, St. Petersburg Branch, Institute of Oriental Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences (St. Petersburg)

Co-Chair: Prof.Dr. Raushan Mustafina, Eurasian National University (Astana)

Secretary: Dr. Aitjan Nurmanova, R.B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies (Almaty)

Presentations:

Prof.Dr. Irina Popova, Director, St. Petersburg Branch, Institute of Oriental Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences (St. Petersburg): Russian Explorations in Central Asia

Mrs. Deborah Dunham, Project Managment Consultant (United Kingdom): The Emperor's New Close: Reconstructing Babur's Burial Garden in Kabul

Prof.Dr. Anne-Marie Vuilleminot, Université Catholique de Louvain (Belgium): Contemporary Popular Islam in Kazakhstan, the Case of "Baqsıs"

Prof.Dr. Raushan Mustafina, Eurasian National University (Astana): Islam among the Kazakhs in the Context of Ethnographical Research (19th-20th Centuries)

Assoc.Prof.Dr. Seyfi Başkan, Gazi University (Ankara): Archeological Detections about the Samarkand Shah-i Zinde Structures and an Assessment in Terms of History of Turkish Arts

Mrs. Jipargul Tokkazieva, Kyrgyz National Historical Museum (Bishkek): The Medieval Ceramics of Chuy in State History Museum

Mrs. Irina Selezneva - Alexander Seleznev, Omsk State University (Omsk, Russia): Astana: The Sacred Places within a Cult of Saints in Siberian Islam



Contemporary Development of Islam in Central Asia

Chair: Assoc.Prof.Dr. Arshad Islam, International Islamic University Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur)

Co-Chair: Dr. Laura Yerekesheva, R.B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies (Almaty)

Secretary: Dr. Zaur Jalilov, R.B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies (Almaty)

Presentations:

Prof.Dr. Mikhail Meyer, Director, Institute of the Peoples of Asia and Africa, Moscow State University (Moscow): Islam in Turkey and Its Influence upon Central Asia

Prof.Dr. Gulnara Byrbaeva, R.B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies (Almaty): Islamic Identity and Soviet Inheritance in Central Asia

Dr. Lola Dodkhudoeva, Institute of History, Archaeology and Ethnography, Academy of Sciences, Republic of Tajikistan (Dushanbe): The Republic of Tajikistan: 10 years of Signing of the Peace Treaty and Newspaper "Najot"

Dr. Marat Terterov, Oxford University (Oxford, UK): Cooperation between Central Asia and the Arabian Peninsula

Dr. Zaur Jalilov, R.B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies (Almaty): Features of Islamic Revivalism and Religiosity in Contemporary Kazakhstan. A Sociological Approach

Dr. Sergei Abashin, Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology, Russian Academy of Sciences (Moscow): Descendants of Muslim Saints in Central Asia: from Ancient Cults to Modernization

Mr. Iain Shearer, Institute of Archaeology, University College London (London): The Ghurids of Afghanistan: Nouveau Muslims? Recent fieldwork at the Minaret of Jam

Dr. Asylbek Izbaïrov, R.B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies (Almaty): Evolution of Islamic Doctrines in Central Asia: the Model of Traditional Islam

Dr. Muammer Öztürk, Turkish Airlines (Istanbul): The Unity of Language and Alphabet as a Geopolitical Possibility for Turkic Republics of Central Asia

Mr. Baurjan Bokaev, Eurasian National University (Astana): Tolerance in Modern Kazakh Society

Mr. Ildar Valeev, Tashkent State Institute of Oriental Studies (Tashkent, Uzbekistan): Central Asia and Islamic Civilization. Prospects of Interaction

Mr. Nozim Z. Dalibaev, Tashkent State Institute of Oriental Studies (Tashkent): Revitalizing of Islamic Civilization in Uzbekistan: Lessons of the Past and Present

Before the opening of the congress, on 4 September 2007, the Secretary General of the OIC Prof. E. İhsanoğlu and the Director General of IRCICA Dr. H. Eren were received by the President of Kazakhstan H.E. Nursultan Nazarbayev. The President expressed appreciation of the development of his country's relations with the OIC and confirmed Kazakhstan's willingness to play a more constructive role in all the activities of the Organisation and its various bodies.

Culture and Art

Chair: Academician, Prof.Dr. Akbar Hakimov, Institute of Arts (Tashkent, Uzbekistan)

Co-Chair: Prof.Dr. Shaizada Tokhtabaeva, R.B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies (Almaty)

Secretary: Dr. Risalat-bibi Karimova, R.B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies (Almaty)

Presentations:

Prof.Dr. Elmira Gyul, Institute of Arts (Tashkent, Uzbekistan): Development of Islamic Art in Central Asia (11th - Early 13th Centuries)

Assoc.Prof.Dr. A. Melek Özyetgin, Ankara University (Ankara): Buddhist Uighur Cultural Influence on the Development of Early Islamic Period of Turkic Culture

Prof.Dr. Mansura Haidar, Centre of Advanced Study in History, Aligarh Muslim University (Aligarh, India): Sufis in World Culture

Prof.Dr. Shaizada Tokhtabaeva, R.B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies (Almaty): Islam and Popular Art of Central Asia: Artistic-Semantic Parallels

Assoc.Prof.Dr. Baktykan Torogeldieva, Academy of Management at the Presidency of the Kyrgyz Republic (Bishkek): The Muslim Renaissance and Cultural Development in the Qarakhanid Khanate

Mr. Aslı Sağıroğlu Arslan, Erciyes University (Kayseri, Turkey): Ceramic Art in the Age of Timur

Prof.Dr. Amir Pasic, IRCICA: Preservation and Development of Islamic Architectural Heritage in Central Asia

Prof.Dr. Ataullah Bogdan Kopanski, International Islamic University of Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur): Islamic Civilization and Role of Central Asian Muslims in Russian Art and Photography (19th-20th Centuries)

Dr. Risalat-bibi Karimova, R.B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies (Almaty): Muslim Architecture of Medieval Cities in Eastern Turkestan

Zuraini Nordin, International Islamic University of Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur): Bibi Khanum Mosque in Samarkand: The Reality and Legend of Construction

Mr. Bakhit Paluanov, Karakalpakstan State University (Nukus, Uzbekistan): The Role of the Islamic Civilization among the Karakalpak Culture and Literature

Mr. Umed Mamedsherozdshoev, Central Asian University (Khorog, Tajikistan): The Historical Development of Islamic Art in Pamir

The Thirty-Fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Progress and Harmony) held in Islamabad, Pakistan

The 34th Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Progress and Harmony) was held in Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, from 15-17 May 2007. The conference was opened with the inaugural address of H.E. General Pervez Musharraf, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The President pointed to the many challenges the Muslim world faces in the present period and said that it was imperative to address its vulnerabilities and weaknesses and effectively utilize its tremendous natural and human resources. In this regard, President Musharraf stressed the need to focus on three specific areas: addressing socio-economic disparities through greater attention to education and science and technology; addressing the internal religious upheaval by neutralizing the challenges posed by obscurantist, extremist and sectarian elements and strengthening the forces of moderation and enlightenment; and, resolving political disputes. President Musharraf emphasized that the OIC must strengthen its conflict resolution mechanism. The President also underscored the importance of fighting misperceptions about Islam, both within the Muslim world and outside. Following the address of the President, H.E. Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Chairman of the 33rd Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, delivered a speech, in which he highlighted that sweeping changes around the political landscape of the world demand OIC Member States to be united in meeting the challenges facing them. Towards this end, OIC Member States need to reaffirm their commitment to Islamic solidarity, including support to the Member States which are facing threats, as mandated by the OIC Ten-Year Programme of Action, and to continue their efforts towards conflict resolutions and dispute settlements on the basis of the norms and principles of international law. He expressed Azerbaijan's sincere gratitude to the Muslim world and the OIC Secretary General for continued support to the just cause of Azerbaijan to eliminate the consequences of the armed aggression by Armenia.

In his address, Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the OIC, reviewed the various initiatives and reforms introduced in the internal work of the General Secretariat and the work relating to the Programme of Action which will empower the Islamic world "to turn the challenges it is facing to an opportunity to act." He pointed out that Member States should seize this moment and define their destiny rather than leaving the others to define it according to their agenda. The Secretary General reviewed the actions undertaken by the General Secretariat concerning the major political issues, such as Palestine, Iraq, Afghanistan, Kashmir, Nagorno-Karabakh, Cyprus, etc., in addition to the conditions of Muslim communities in non-member states, in particular Philippines and Thailand. He outlined the OIC's efforts in the field of information and the media especially to promote the true image of Islam and defend Muslims in the face of the hate campaign waged against Islam and its followers. The Conference also heard the addresses of H.E. Mr. Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri, Foreign Minister of Pakistan; H.E. Hamid Albar, Foreign Minister of Malaysia, representing the Chair of the Tenth Islamic Summit; and, as the representatives of the three geographic groups of the OIC

Member States, the Foreign Minister of Brunei Darussalam, for the Asian Group, the Foreign Minister of Guinea, for the African Group and the Minister of Sudan, for the Arab Group.

The Conference adopted a number of resolutions grouped as political affairs, information, legal affairs, Muslim communities, science and technology, economic affairs, cultural and social affairs, Dawa activities and reactivation of the Committee on Coordination of Joint Islamic Action, organic, statutory and general questions, administrative and financial matters. The Conference affirmed the necessity of reaching a just solution to the Palestinian cause on the basis of international law and legitimacy and the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, and of establishing an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital. It reaffirmed the necessity of finding a just solution to the problem of Palestinian refugees in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy, particularly UN General Assembly resolution 194 (1948). It welcomed the Resolution of the Ninth Session of the Arab Summit to activate the Arab Peace Initiative and reiterated its commitment to supporting the Initiative. The Conference reaffirmed its support of the Palestinian National Unity Government and undertook to provide it with assistance.

Under another agenda item, the Conference reiterated its support for Lebanon in its efforts to complete the liberation of all its territories up to the internationally recognized borders; it demanded the UN Security Council to act toward preventing the repeated Israeli violations of Lebanon's sovereignty in land, air and sea, and to force Israel to pay damages for all the losses sustained by the Lebanese territories as a result of its continuous aggressions against Lebanon. Relating to Iraq, the Conference strongly affirmed its respect for Iraq's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national unity. It also affirmed its respect for the will of the Iraqi people to decide their political future and stated that the realization of security and stability is the responsibility of the Government of National Unity, the Iraqi constitutional institutions and political leadership, and dependent on the support of Islamic and neighboring states. The Conference stressed the importance of international support for security and stability in Iraq and welcomed the communiqué issued by the meetings of Iraq's neighboring States in Baghdad and Sharm Al-Sheikh in March and May 2007 respectively.

The Conference reaffirmed its support to the people of Jammu and Kashmir for their legitimate right to self-determination, in accordance with the relevant UN Resolutions. It called for respect of the human rights of the Kashmiri people; furthermore, the Conference expressed its strong support to the ongoing Peace Process between Pakistan and India. The Conference endorsed the recommendations of the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir; it also took note of the memorandum presented by the True Representatives of the Kashmiri people and reaffirmed the OIC's commitment to promote a just and peaceful solution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the wishes and aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

The Conference emphasized the importance of maintaining the unity, stability and the integrity of the territory of Somalia. It

called upon all OIC Member States to provide financial assistance to the National Reconciliation Congress. The Conference also urged OIC Member States to consider the possibility of providing support and assistance to the peace keeping forces in Somalia. Regarding the Sudan, It emphasized its full solidarity with the Republic of the Sudan in firmly establishing the foundations of peace and stability all over the country, to achieve national reconciliation, and to defend its sovereignty, unity, independence and territorial integrity. The Conference appealed to the international community to honor its commitments agreed to in the Oslo Conference for Reconstruction of the Sudan and to the enforcement of the peace agreement in Darfur, with a view to firmly establishing the foundations of peace in the country.

The Conference expressed its firm support for the just cause of the Muslim Turkish people of Cyprus and, within the context of the call made by the UN Secretary General in his Report of 28 May 2004 and of the previous OIC resolutions, reiterated its decision to put an end to the unjust isolation of the Turkish Cypriots. It strongly called on the international community to take, without further delay, concrete steps to end this isolation. Recalling the UN Comprehensive Settlement Plan aimed at establishing a new state of affairs in Cyprus in the form of a new bi-zonal partnership with two equal constituent states, the Conference acknowledged that neither side may claim authority or jurisdiction over the other and that the Greek Cypriots do not represent the Turkish Cypriots. The Conference expressed its deep disappointment about the unwillingness on the part of the Greek Cypriot side to find a comprehensive settlement to the Cyprus issue on the basis of the UN plan; it called on the international community to urge the leadership of the Greek Cypriots to this end. Through a unanimously adopted resolution, the Conference once again requested the Member States to closely associate with the Turkish Cypriots and to increase and expand their relations in all fields. It encouraged the Member States to exchange high-level visits and business delegations, develop cultural relations and sports contacts with the Turkish Cypriot side. Relating to the continuing aggression by Armenia against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, which constitutes a blatant violation of the principles of the UN Charter and international law, the Conference reiterated its condemnation of the aggression and called for total, unconditional, and immediate withdrawal of the Armenian forces from all the occupied Azerbaijani territories.

The Conference appreciated the generous donations of some Member States to the Assistance Fund for the Afghan People and appealed to all Member States to further donate in order to enhance the capacity of the Fund. It also appealed to the international community to speedily provide the assistance it pledged to Afghanistan during the Tokyo (2002), the Berlin (2004), and the London (2006) Donor Conferences.

The Conference hailed the peace agreement signed on 4 March 2007 in Ouagadougou by President Laurent Gbagbo and Mr. Guillaume Kigbafori Sori and encouraged the signatories of the peace agreement and the new government of national unity to continue the effective implementation of the agreement's provisions. It also invited Member States, Islamic financial institutions and donors to extend their assistance for the reconstruction of Cote d'Ivoire and decided on convening a donor conference to this aim.

The Conference appealed to the Member States, Islamic financial institutions, as well as the donor and humanitarian assistance bodies to provide soonest appropriate assistance to assist the Government of Niger in achieving food self-sufficiency. It invited all Member States, the civil society and charitable organizations of the Muslim world as well as financial institutions to participate in the Donors Conference for Niger (Doha, Qatar, 12-13 June 2007) and to make substantial contributions to the financing of development projects in Niger.

The Conference reaffirmed its condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and emphasized that terrorism contradicts the teachings of Islam, which urge tolerance, mercy and non-violence. It also condemned any connection between terrorism, race, religion and culture. It emphasized that measures to address conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism must also address the root causes of terrorism. It renewed the call for an international conference under the aegis of the United Nations to set a legal definition for the concept of terrorism and distinguish it from the people's national liberation struggle against foreign occupation and alien domination. It invited the OIC Ministerial Committee on Combating International Terrorism, comprised of 13 Members, headed by Malaysia, to convene a meeting as soon as possible in order to make the necessary recommendations with regard to fighting international terrorism, to engender the ideal understanding of Islam and its principles, and to coordinate the activities between the OIC and other international and regional organizations concerned with fighting terrorism.

The Conference emphasized that the question of reform and expansion of the UN Security Council continues to be the primary preoccupation of the UN membership, including all OIC Member States. It, therefore, called on its Member States to actively and constructively take part in the UN reform process, in accordance with the resolutions and statements issued by the OIC. It emphasized the importance of enhancing the transparency, accountability, representative quality and democratization of the Security Council through the improvement of its working methods and legitimacy of its decision-making process.

The Conference reaffirmed the need for general and complete nuclear disarmament and for the destruction of weapons of mass destruction. It proposed the convening of a special session of the United Nations General Assembly as soon as possible with a view to evolving a new and balanced consensus, taking into account the existing and emerging challenges in the area of disarmament and nonproliferation.

The Conference reaffirmed the inalienable rights of Member States to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes; it declared and supported firmly that Iran's nuclear issue should be settled exclusively by peaceful means and through negotiation without precondition. The Conference urged the Human Rights Council to adopt a Universal Declaration to criminalize the defamation of religions; it warned of the dangers arising from anti-Islamic campaigns hostile to Muslims and the spread of Islamophobia in all its forms, and requested the Secretary General to work through his activities and visits to highlight the deep concerns of the Member States over these issues. The Conference expressed its support to Alliance of civilizations initiative which is co-sponsored by Turkey and Spain under aegis of the UN Secretary General, aiming at facilitating

harmony and dialogue by emphasizing the common values of different cultures and religions, and invited all members of the international community to support the initiative. Among other subjects addressed, there were: the implementation of the OIC Ten-Year Programme of Action, the special needs of the Least Developed Member States as regards the implementation of the poverty alleviation programme foreseen in the Programme of Action; issues related to the Muslim minorities, the situation of Muslims in Southern Thailand, Southern Philippines, the Turkish Muslim Minority in Western Thrace. The next, 35th Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers will be held in Kampala, Republic of Uganda; meantime, the Islamic Summit Conference will hold its 11th session in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, on 13-14 March 2008. *(Excerpted from the Final Communiqué of the Conference. For the complete texts of the resolutions, www.oic-oci.org).*

The 34th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers adopted Resolution 7/34-C on the OIC's Subsidiary Organs. In the section A of this Resolution concerning IRCICA, the Conference expressed the following:

1. Notes with satisfaction the successful implementation of a variety of projects and activities by the Centre in the fields of research, publication and promotion of scholarly studies on various subjects, holding a number of scientific symposia, cultural lectures, exhibitions in fields of its concern in its headquarters and in the Member States; praises the efforts of the Centre in achieving various projects in cooperation with cultural and academic institutions in the member states and worldwide.

2. Notes with appreciation the contribution made by the Centre towards the implementation of the relevant projects assigned to IRCICA within the OIC Ten-Year Programme of Action, in particular the activation of dialogue among civilizations through its research, publications and congresses and organizing of cultural forums and international activities aiming to improve the image of the Muslim world and Islamic civilization.

3. Praises the progress made by the Centre for finalizing the publishing of a critical edition of the Mushaf (Quran copy) that is attributed to the third Caliph, Othman bin Afan and called upon IRCICA to continue its efforts for surveying and compiling bibliographies of translations of the meanings of the Holy Quran.

4. Commends the efforts made by IRCICA for successfully organising the International Symposium on Islamic Civilization in Southern Africa in Johannesburg.

5. Commends IRCICA for organising the third Symposium on the theme of Islamic Civilization in the Balkans.

6. Takes note of the successful organization of the International Congress on: Tourism and Traditional Handicrafts, International Award for the craft innovators in the Muslim World and the variety of exhibitions of artisans at work which took place in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 7-14 November 2006 under the High Patronage of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz and organised in cooperation with the Supreme Commission for Tourism in Saudi Arabia.

7. Commends the Centre's taking part in the seminar organised by the Council of Europe on "Contact and interaction: the image of the Muslim world in history learning in Europe" held in Strasbourg on 9 and 10 October 2006.

8. Praises the efforts of IRCICA for organising the meeting of the initial planning session of the Advisory Committee of the International Architectural Heritage Program entitled: Jerusalem 2015 organized jointly with the University of Al-Quds which held at its premises on 21 and 23 February 2006, and the seminar organized on 25 and 26 November 2006 with the participation of students from universities from Istanbul and Politecnico di Bari, Italy.

9. Commends the progress been made by the Centre towards implementation of the project launched under the generous initiative of HRH Prince Sultan bin Salman, Secretary General of the Supreme Commission for Tourism, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in order to document and classify archeological and historical Islamic sites and monuments in the Member States, and build a data bank of these sites and monuments.

10. Notes with appreciation the Centre's project to hold the First International Symposium on "Islamic Civilization in Central Asia" in Kazakhstan, in cooperation with the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan, on 4-7 September 2007.

11. Lauds the project of the Centre to organize the third international symposium on "Islamic Civilization in Volga-Ural Region" in 2008, jointly with academic institutions in the region; takes note with appreciation of the Agreement of cooperation signed between IRCICA and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Tatarstan under the patronage of The President of Tatarstan H.E. Mintimer Shiamiev and H.E. the Secretary General of OIC Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu during the visit of H. E. the President to IRCICA on 02 Feb. 2007.

12. Welcomes the project of IRCICA to organize the international congress on "Egypt during the Otoman Period" in Cairo on 26-30 November 2007.

13. Commends the Agreement of Cooperation signed between the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Turkey, IRCICA and UNESCO for establishing the Süleymaniye Book Hospital Project which comes within the context of the cooperation of IRCICA with UNESCO in its capacity as a focal point for OIC-UN cooperation in the field of arts, crafts and promotion of heritage.

14. Expresses its thanks and appreciation to all the Member States for the moral and material support they are extending to IRCICA, thus enabling it to fulfill its mission, in particular the host country of IRCICA, the Republic of Turkey, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the host country of the OIC; notes with gratitude the support and patronage extended by the Sovereigns, Heads of State and Government of the Member States, which found eloquent expressions recently in the visits to IRCICA by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques His Majesty King Abdallah bin Abdulaziz, during the King's official visit to Turkey, accompanied by H. E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister of Turkey on 10 August 2006, and more recently, in the Prime Minister's graciously accepting the IRCICA Award for Patronage of Inter-Cultural Dialogue, presented to him by H.E. the Secretary General of OIC and the Director General of IRCICA at a ceremony held on 2 February 2007, as another manifestation of the support and encouragement extended to the Centre's activities.

Distinguished visitors at IRCICA

Visit of H.E. Dr. Najah al-Attar, Vice-President of the Syrian Arab Republic, to IRCICA 5 May 2007



IRCICA was honoured by the visit of Her Excellency Dr. Najah al-Attar, Vice-President of the Syrian Arab Republic, to its premises on 5 May 2007. H.E. al-Attar first met with Director General Dr. Halit Eren. The meeting was a good opportunity for a review of the progress of cooperation between the Government, the universities and cultural institutions of Syria on one hand and IRCICA on the other. On this occasion, appreciation was expressed on the successful results obtained from the International Seminar "Arabesque in Traditional Crafts of OIC Countries" which was organized jointly by the Ministry of Culture of Syria and IRCICA, in Damascus, 1997; the seminar was held under the high patronage of the late President Hafez el-Asad, and opened on behalf of the President by Dr. Najah al-Attar, then Minister of Culture of Syria. Another major event was the International Congress on "Bilad al-Sham in the Ottoman Era" which was held under the patronage of President Dr. Bashar al-Asad, in Damascus, 2005, and organised jointly by the Ministry of Culture of Syria and IRCICA. The Director General also recalled with appreciation that Syria had actively participated in the Islamic Countries Cultural Week, which was held in November 2005 in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of IRCICA. Syria contributed to the Week's program with a concert of classical music and a large collection of artifacts and handicrafts which were displayed at the various exhibition venues.

After the meeting, the distinguished guest visited the library of the Centre, saw a collection of books relating to Syria, its history, its arts and culture, and examined the Centre's publications. She saw an exhibition of photographs, reproduced on this occasion, entitled "A glimpse at the many memorable occasions reflecting the patronage and support extended by the Syrian Arab Republic to IRCICA and the fruitful cooperation developed between Syrian cultural and academic institutions and IRCICA". Then Dr. Al-Attar met with guests from the literary and art circles of Istanbul who were invited by Dr. Eren on this occasion. Her impressions about IRCICA, recorded in the Visitors Book, are (translated from Arabic):

"I had the opportunity to get acquainted with the accomplishments of your Islamic centre and to note with great appreciation the serious scholarly researches it undertakes, the care it takes in preserving cultural heritage; its important publications; the symposiums it organises, and the international awards it distributes in the fields of architecture and Arabic calligraphy. These works I saw give us confidence and assure us that these achievements will bring many other even greater and more global ones and that they will have an even deeper impact on the place of culture, history and arts in our lives in the contemporary world; these achievements will expand and flourish thanks to the glamour of Islam in its intellectual dimension, enlighten our universe just as the Moon does and link, by the same, its glorious past to its present. Dear staff of this illustrious centre, I greet you all, and I am convinced that you have acquired enough knowledge and experience to render your work fruitful towards the good we aspire at. I also greet this dear country, this friendly and neighbouring country, with which we are linked together by indissoluble bonds, a marvelous heritage which brings us together under all circumstances, current concerns marked by friendship and sympathy, and common interests that contribute in strengthening our roles at regional and international levels."



Dr. Najah Al-Attar examined the Centre's publications

Visit of H.E. Mr. Jorge Sampaio, High Representative of the United Nations for the Alliance of Civilisations, to IRCICA

26 June 2007

IRCICA was honoured to receive H.E. Mr. Jorge Sampaio, High Representative of the United Nations for the Alliance of Civilisations, former President of Portugal, at its headquarters on 26 June 2007.

First, talks were held at the Director General's office, where Dr. Eren briefed Mr. Sampaio and his colleagues on the activities of the Centre, especially those research and conference programs concerning the history of Islamic civilisation, Islam-West relations and the dialogue of civilisations. He expressed IRCICA's readiness to contribute to the work of the Alliance with its studies, accumulated sources and expertise.

Then, Mr. Sampaio and his colleagues visited the library of the Centre, where they saw a display of books relating to these themes that were selected from the Centre's library.

His impressions recorded in the Visitors' Book were as follows: "It is with great respect that I visited the OIC Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture and I wish you all the continuation of such decisive work, which constitutes a major contribution to the understanding and respect between peoples."

The Alliance of Civilizations initiative is co-sponsored by H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, the Prime Minister of Turkey, and H.E. Mr. Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, the Prime Minister of Spain. The initiative, officially launched in 2005, is conducted under the auspices of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Within this framework, a High-Level Group of the Alliance of Civilizations was formed under the co-chairmanship of the Minister of State of Turkey H.E. Prof. Mehmet Aydın and former Director-General UNESCO H.E. Prof. Federico Mayor. The group, comprised of twenty scholars and specialists from around the world, prepared a report formulating tangible proposals for the establishment of a network of relations among the major civilizations through dialogue which would be based on mutual respect, understanding and tolerance. The report was presented to H.E. Mr. Kofi Annan, the Secretary-General of the UN then, at a ceremony held on 13 November 2006 in Istanbul, following the last meeting of the High-Level Group. Substantial progress has also been made in the process initiated at the beginning of 2007, under the leadership of H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, the current Secretary-General of the UN. In addition, it was decided that a world-renowned personality should assume the role of the High Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General in order to carry on with the initiative, provide the vision and leadership required, especially to promote the Alliance of Civilizations as a credible and viable attempt to diminish the dangerous tensions between diverse societies and their



Mr. Jorge Sampaio visited the library, signed the Visitors' Book, and saw an exhibition being held at the Centre

threat to international stability, as assessed in the report of the High-Level Group of the Alliance of Civilizations, and provide leadership in the implementation phase which requires wide support from the international community. In consultation with the Prime Ministers of Spain and Turkey, the co-sponsors of the Alliance of Civilizations, UN Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki-moon appointed the former President of Portugal, H.E. Mr. Jorge Sampaio, to this post, after consideration of a number of candidates. In an interview earlier, President Sampaio said: "The aim of the Alliance is to support, through a network of partnerships, the development of projects that promote understanding and reconciliation among cultures globally and, in particular, between Muslim and Western societies. The Alliance does not intend to duplicate or replicate the work others are already doing. Rather, our goal is to help expand efforts that are already underway." (Source, and for more information: www.unaoc.org).

The initiative taken by Turkish Prime Minister Erdoğan in co-sponsoring the Alliance together with Spanish Prime Minister Zapatero was one of His leading endeavours for which IRCICA expressed its gratitude and appreciation through the IRCICA Award for Patronage of Inter-Cultural Dialogue. This Award was presented to Prime Minister Erdoğan on 2 February 2007 (Newsletter nr. 72, April 2007).



From the right: Ambassador M'Balo Fall, Ambassador Alfredo Lopes Cabral with Dr. Halit Eren

* H.E. Mr. Alfredo Lopes Cabral, Ambassador of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau to the United Nations, and H.E. M'Balo Fall, Ambassador of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau in Senegal, visited IRCICA on 9 July 2007. The two ambassadors were in Istanbul to participate in the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries that Turkey hosted around that date. The meetings with Dr. Halit Eren centered on IRCICA's activities and the possible ways and means of developing its cooperation with the cultural institutions of Guinea-Bissau. Particular areas of concern are the development of information exchange between the educational and cultural institutions of Guinea-Bissau and IRCICA, and especially, encouraging greater participation of researchers, artists, etc. from Guinea-Bissau in the various events and activities implemented by IRCICA.

At the end of the visit, Ambassador Cabral wrote his impressions in the Visitors' Book: "I am very honoured to visit IRCICA and to see all the valuable books and maps illustrating the richness and importance of the Islamic art and culture through the many centuries ..."

* H.E. Mrs. Hayya Rashid Abdallah al-Khalifa, Chairperson of the United Nations General Assembly on its 61st session, visited IRCICA on 9 July 2007 at the invitation of the Director General. Mrs. Al-Khalifa saw samples of the Centre's publications and received information on the research activities. Recording her impressions, she said "On this occasion, I was pleased to note the importance given by this Centre to Islamic culture and the care with which it highlights this culture under its aspects as the 'Islam of peace and brotherhood', the 'Islam of civilisation, openness and fraternity'. I also appreciated my visit to the library, which contains essential references relating to jurisprudence, Quran exegesis, and Islamic culture. It is so good to see that our Governments, as does the Turkish Government, are devoting attention to the Islamic culture in a way that underscores [the concepts of] civilisation, tolerance and openness to the world. I wish the Centre and its staff full success, progress and continuity."



Mrs. Hayya al-Khalifa recorded her impressions about her visit



A copy of the Istanbul photograph album presented to the guest



Mr. Ijaz ul Haq, Minister for Religious Affairs and Minorities, Pakistan, met artists from the Member States who were participating in training programs



The Director General presented the Minister with the album of historical photographs of Istanbul

* On 31 July 2007 IRCICA was honoured by the visit of H.E. Mr. Muhammad Ijaz ul Haq, Minister for Religious Affairs and Minorities, Islamic Republic of Pakistan. This visit was an excellent opportunity to brief the distinguished guest on the activities undertaken by the Centre. On this occasion, Director General Dr. Halit Eren gave an overview of the cooperation between the Government and the cultural institutions of Pakistan on one hand and IRCICA on the other, a progress which continued since the earliest years of the Centre's activities. The very first IRCICA congress relating to the history of Islamic civilisation in various regions of the world was held in Pakistan: it was the international seminar on Islamic History, Art and Culture in South Asia, organised jointly with the Islamic University, Islamabad, in 1986, under the patronage of the then President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan the late General Mohammad Zia ul Haq, the father of Minister Ijaz ul Haq. Dr. Eren recalled

that General Mohammad Zia ul Haq had visited IRCICA on 10 October 1987, and extended continuous support to the Centre's activities. In later years, another major event, organised jointly by the Ministry of Culture, its Lok Virsa Institution and IRCICA, was the First International Islamic Artisans-At-Work Festival held in Islamabad, in 1994, and the accompanying seminar on "Creativity in Traditional Islamic Crafts". H.E. Mr. Muhammad Ijaz ul Haq recorded his impressions on his visit to the Centre, as follows: "It is a great pleasure for me to visit the OIC Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture. Great work, which is being carried out in various fields, is a great contribution to Islamic heritage, under the able leadership of H.E. the Director General whose personal interest in developing the projects is going to be remembered by Muslims all over the world. With my very best wishes and prayers for the Director General and his very able staff."

* H.E. Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, Founder and Chairman of Al-Furqan Islamic Heritage Foundation, London, visited IRCICA on 21 July 2007. Sheikh Yamani is closely acquainted with the work of the Centre and has extended his support, at personal level and through the institutions he chairs, to various activities of IRCICA. On this visit, Sheikh Yamani graciously extended funding for the publication of the Arabic edition of the Al-Quds album being prepared by the Centre. His impressions of this visit were: "Each time I have the honour and chance of visiting IRCICA, I am filled with happiness by seeing the formidable work being done for the study and the preservation of our great Islamic history. In this regard, I greatly appreciated seeing this time what will be concretised in future, with the help of God, in the context of the big project relating to al-Quds al-Sharif; the colonial powers are trying to veil its Islamic identity. In fact, this gigantic work will make the truth clearer and brighter... I pray to God for the success of the immense efforts you are making in order to preserve the truths of our great history".



Sheikh Zaki Yamani, and OIC Secretary General Prof. E. İhsanoğlu, examined the facsimile edition of the Quran copy dating from Caliph Othman's time and kept at Topkapı Palace

IRCICA Activities

"Al-Quds/Jerusalem 2015" Program: a fact-finding mission completed

IRCICA has undertaken a long-term program of activities which involves studies and workshops on the subject of the architectural and cultural heritage of Al-Quds and Palestine. The University of Al-Quds, and a team of architects from around the world, are collaborating with the Centre. The calendar of activities was adopted in 2006 and a first seminar was held at IRCICA on 25 November 2006, with the participation of experts from Al-Quds itself, Europe and Turkey (see Newsletter 71, August-December 2006). Recently, on 1-5 June 2007, a fact-finding mission was implemented whereby a team of twelve researchers, academics and professional experts visited the historic city. The purpose of this trip was to explore the prospects for collaborative, long-term architectural conservation projects in the walled city, including the feasibility of working partnerships with experts in the city and the eventual implementation of physical restoration works. The mission included extensive field-based exploration and documentation in the city, high-level consultations with prospective partners and experts working in Al-Quds, collection of documents from local sources, and daily discussions regarding high-priority issues and concerns about the built environment of the city. A comprehensive report was issued at the end of the visit, detailing the conditions of the city and the buildings, and proposing architectural and academic activities specially designed to meet the needs and help preservation efforts. IRCICA is in the process of revising its planned program in the light of the report of the fact-finding mission. The program will contribute to the protection and preservation of the heritage of Al-Quds, help its urban development, and demonstrate the potential for cooperation among concerned professionals under challenging circumstances such as these encountered in this case.

Originally, the idea of the project was developed during the visit of the Director General of IRCICA to Palestine accompanying the Secretary General of OIC on his official visit to Palestine on 23-24 May 2005. Contacts were held with the authorities and specialists concerned, in the light of which the project guidelines were elaborated. Then, the OIC Six-Member Committee on Palestine, at the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of its Member States (Pakistan, Senegal, Guinea, Palestine, Malaysia) held on 19 September 2005 at UN Headquarters in New York, recorded its "support of the initiative of the OIC Secretary General concerning the project Al-Quds 2015 organised by IRCICA". The Committee called upon the OIC Member States, universities and specialized institutions to provide assistance to this project. The calendar of activities was adopted in 2006 and a first seminar was held at IRCICA on 25 November 2006, with the participation of experts from Al-Quds itself, Europe and Turkey.

History congress to mark the centenary of the 1908 Constitution of the Ottoman State

IRCICA is organising an international congress on "The Second Constitution/Meşrutiyet on its Centenary", to be held in Istanbul on 7-10 May 2008. The proclamation of the Constitution for the second time in 1908, after 1876, was one of the turning points in the history of the Ottoman State and marked the beginning of the dynamic processes that shaped the geo-political picture of the Middle East and the Balkans today. In this congress, the Second Constitutional period and its consequences will be analysed from interdisciplinary perspectives, taking into consideration the historical background and conditions leading to the second constitutional period, the intellectual, cultural, literary, artistic etc. developments, and its repercussions – its immediate and continuing impacts observed in the Muslim world and in the countries with which the Ottoman State held relations. The ensuing administrative and political transformations will be highlighted, the results of the ideological and intellectual dynamics involved will be evaluated. The main themes are:

I) Dynamics leading to the Second Constitution

1. Formation of the idea of the Constitution in the Muslim world (ideational currents in the Ottoman Empire, Iran and other regions)
2. Ideational currents and political movements (e.g. Ottomanism, Islamism, Westernism, Turkism; New Ottomans, Young Turks, centralization/decentralization)
3. Attempts at reform and renewal

II) The Young Turks Revolution and declaration of the Second Constitution

1. The 1908 Constitution and the reforms
2. The impact of the 1908 Constitution on Ottoman State and society
3. The international impact of the 1908 Constitution

III) Repercussions of the 1908 Constitution in the Muslim world

1. The Balkans
2. The Middle East
3. Central Asia
4. North Africa

IV) Ideological and political developments in the aftermath of World War I

1. Movements of nationalism and independence (in the Muslim world, Turkistan, India, etc.)
2. The ascendancy of ideologies in the Muslim world (e.g. Socialism, Liberalism, Nationalism)
3. Democratisation processes and political parties
4. Legal developments, rights and liberties.

Prospective participants are kindly requested to send their abstracts by 31 October 2007 to the Congress Secretariat at: IRCICA, Yıldız Sarayı, Seyir Köşkü, Barbaros Bulvarı, Beşiktaş, Istanbul, Turkey, or to congress@ircica.org.

Cultural activities organised in Damascus: Exhibitions, concert

The Centre held a series of cultural activities in Damascus, capital city of Syria, during the period from 16 to 27 July 2007. The program was implemented in the context of IRCICA's ongoing cooperation with the authorities and institutions of Syria at various levels and in various fields. Specifically, the Governorate of Damascus cooperated with the Centre in organising the events. The Ministry of Culture of Syria extended its assistance for the success of the activities.

- An exhibition of historical photographs of the city of Damascus dating from the end of the 19th - beginning of the 20th century. Eighty photographs, selected from the archives of IRCICA, the majority from the Yıldız Palace Albums, were displayed. They show archeological sites, architectural monuments, and scenes from social and cultural life in Damascus at the time. A catalogue of the exhibition was distributed to the visitors.

- An exhibition of the works of Syrian calligraphers who won awards at the Seventh Calligraphy Competition organised by IRCICA. The competition was finalised in April 2007. 32 Syrian calligraphers, living in Syria and abroad, were given awards in the various categories; in other terms, a total of 46 awards, amounting to US\$ 40,000 in total, were presented to Syrian calligraphers in the categories of the thuluth, naskh, taliq, kufi and diwani scripts.

These two exhibitions were opened on 16 July at the Cultural Palace known as "Maktab Anbar", which is one of the historical buildings of the Old City. On this occasion, the award-winner Syrian calligraphers, who had come from different parts of Syria and from other Arab countries, received their certificates and their prizes.

After the opening of the two exhibitions and the distribution of prizes, the audience was invited to the Opera Hall to hear the Concert of Soufi music which was given by the Istanbul Historical Turkish Music Ensemble of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey. The concert, conducted by the well-known musician and singer Ahmet Özhan, met great admiration and applause.

The exhibitions received a large number of visitors; their duration was extended at the request of the interested circles. During the period, Dr. Halit Eren made official contacts and visits; he was received by H.E. Dr. Najah al-Attar, Vice-President of the Syrian Arab Republic. He visited Dr. Ali al-Qayyim, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Culture. Dr. Eren also visited H.E. Dr. Bisher al-Sabban, Governor of Damascus, who is already acquainted with the Centre's activities, having visited IRCICA less than a year ago, on 18 December 2006. The main subjects of discussion in all these meetings were the avenues offered for continuous cooperation.



The big square and the memorial of telegraph line in Damascus



Restoration wagon in the Umayyad Mosque



Damascus Governorate building

IRCICA gives importance to traditional handicrafts as a vital sector of culture, tourism and economic activity. One of the main avenues by which traditional handicrafts found varieties of expressions and applications and penetrated the lives of peoples in the past and the present, is architecture. The Handicraft National Agency of Tunis, attached to the Ministry of Trade and Traditional Industries, and the Research Center for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA), in cooperation with the Tunisian Ministry of Culture and Heritage Preservation, will organise the international congress on "Employment of Traditional Handicrafts in Architectural Projects: Characteristics, Advantages and Economic Contributions", to be held in Tunis, on 2-7 June 2008.

The Congress activities will include exhibitions of traditional handicrafts, masterpieces from the Islamic world; artisans-at-work exhibitions, and the possibility to appoint two distinguished artisans reflecting the best of the country in the field of traditional industries employed in the architectural projects and in home furnishings. Other activities of the congress will be as follows:

- An exhibition of traditional industries products which can be used in the architectural projects of the Member States;
- Exhibitions of artisans-at-work;
- Exhibition of albums, catalogs and books published on the subject of traditional industries, which are being used or could be incorporated into architectural installations in the Member States.

The Congress will deal with aspects relating to tourism, culture and heritage, and study the methods that ensure a good use of traditional handicrafts sector in architectural projects, the benefits that can be obtained through the revival and development of this sector, the preservation of its traditional originality, and the ways of promoting and making it known through the available channels. The themes will cover all aspects of the traditional industries as applied in architecture in the various Member States, the various schools and the multiple types of designs used, raw materials, applied techniques, their current situation, and the mutual influences with Western enterprises.

The congress will draw participants from the OIC member countries, international and regional organisations concerned, experts of the traditional industries in architectural projects, architects, designers, internal decor specialists, traditional manufacturers, etc. It seeks to provide an opportunity for them to meet, exchange views and experiences on the means of making best use of the sector and establish a permanent and practical policy to revive it.

The Congress aims to issue recommendations on the following subjects: Increasing the level of employing the traditional industries products in the architectural and renovation projects in order to stimulate the sectors of tourism, culture and heritage, by promoting acquaintance with the esthetic aspect of the traditional-industry products in the Member

States and the characteristics of creativity and innovation in this field; Seeking the fields in which the economic role of the traditional industries would be activated; discussing the means to create jobs; creating a data-base on the current situation of the traditional industries sector and employing it in the Member States' architectural projects, through the research papers to be presented; Establishing a specialized library of all the publications issued in this field; activating competition and creativity among young artisans, in order to encourage innovations and provide incentives for the production of authentic and renewed products; crowning the research papers with an academic document to meet the needs of concerned institutions in the Member States, and publishing the "proceedings book"; developing a strategy of international cooperation towards developing the traditional industries and using them in architectural projects.

Specifically, the congress will deal with the following traditional industries:

1. Decoration and miniatures; 2. Gypsum and sculpture;
3. Ceramics and porcelain; 4. Wood crafts; 5. Metal crafts; 6. Furniture and internal decoration; 7. Weaving and embroidery; 8. The relationship between traditional industries and architecture; 9. The traditional architecture and the available skills and patterns; 10. The situation of the traditional industries in urban planning projects; 11. Employment of traditional industries in architecture; 12. Coordination between the designer, architect, and the traditional manufacturer.

These themes will be dealt with under their various aspects: social, economic, tourism, marketing, heritage efforts, originality; cultural dialogue and mutual influence; education; training; the role of the government and private sector efforts; media and raising awareness on the importance of the sector and its constructive contributions to society. The languages of the congress are Arabic and English.



IRCICA hosts public lectures on Saturdays twice a month, from September to June inclusive, and occasionally at other times. These lectures are delivered by specialists, authors and researchers from Turkey and abroad on various subjects relating to the Centre's fields of activities, especially on the history of Muslim countries and peoples, art, architecture, history of art, history of science, language, literature, etc. The lectures are recorded on cassettes and kept as reference materials.

"Twin Cities" by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Adem Esen, 12 May 2007

Dr. Adem Esen, the Mayor of Selçuklu Municipality in the province of Konya, Turkey, gave a conference on twin cities, with special reference to the town of Selçuklu and the city of Hama in Syria which were declared twin cities by a protocol signed between the two municipalities on 9 October 2002. Within this framework, delegations were exchanged and cooperation in cultural, economic, artistic and social fields took place. Thanks to the bridge that was established between Konya and Hama, a number of administrators and businessmen from Hama were invited to Konya and also some members of the Municipal Council and businessmen in Konya were invited to Hama.

The lecturer said that Hama means "castle" in eastern languages. It is said that the founder of this city is Hams b. Kenan, one of eleven sons of Kenan. It was also called Medinat al-nawair (water mill city) because of the water mills at the bank of Orontes River. The history of the settlements in the city goes back to 5000 B.C. The castle is the first settlement in the city. As to Selçuklu, it is a major township of Konya as regards its population and level of development. It has many historical monuments including Ince Minare, the Museum of Stone and Wooden Works, Alaaddin Kiosk, and remains of the Palace. In his lecture, Dr. Adem Esen pointed out that the above project was realized in



Dr. Adem Esen's (at left) lecture: Dr. H. Nuhoğlu (IRCICA) introduced the lecturer to the audience

line with the resolution number 112 of the European Council dated 1979. The Council of European Municipalities and Regions and the International Union of Local Authorities are the major organs of the European Council dealing with this project. Dr. Esen stated that the twin city arrangements improve the quality of municipal services; and in this way both cities become better known; many other benefits are derived from such cooperation, such as in the areas of trade and tourism. Dr. Adem Esen said that the offer to declare Hama as the twin city of Selçuklu came from the Syrian side with the objective of establishing a closer cooperation between the two countries. The populations of these two cities are almost the same (450-500 thousand people), a factor which was taken into consideration in the agreement. The lecturer pointed out that not only big metropolitan centers, but small towns as well should enter into such arrangement. Dr. Esen recommended that the subject should be included in Internet sites of municipalities and supported by local administrations. The formation of twin cities particularly among Muslim countries should be encouraged.



The visitors at the exhibition "Photographs of Hama" were briefed by Mr. İbrahim Divarçi, photographer. Ambassador Mr. Walid Hezbor, Consul General of Syria, received information on the photographs.

Exhibitions

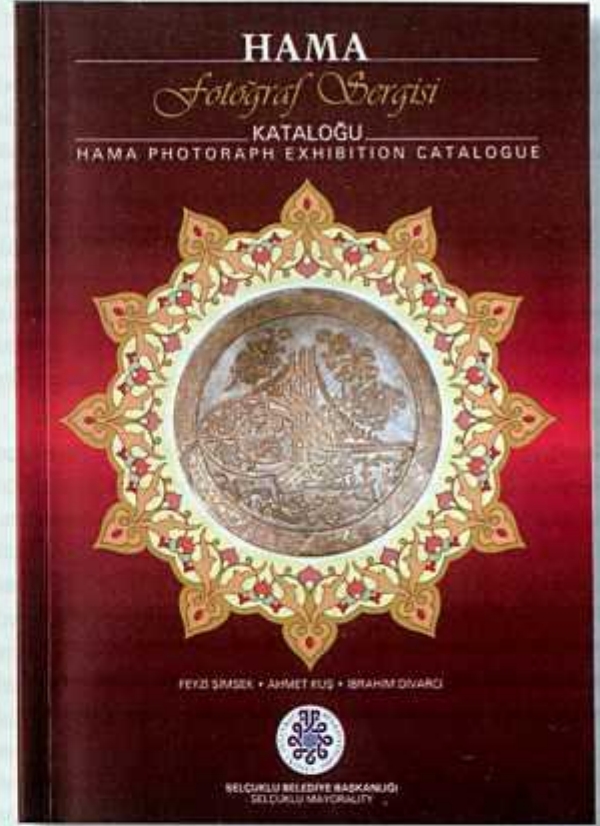
“Photographs of Hama” exhibition

An exhibition of “Photographs of Hama” was opened at IRCICA on 11 May 2007, in presence of the Consul General of Syria H.E. Ambassador Mr. Walid Hezbor, photographer Mr. İbrahim Dıvarcı, who took some of the photographs displayed in the exhibition, members of the Association of People from Konya and other guests.

Fifty photographs of 70x100 cm. dimensions and outstanding quality were displayed at the exhibition. These were the works of photographers Mr. Feyzi Şimşek, Mr. Ahmet Kuş and Mr. İbrahim Dıvarcı. After the opening at IRCICA, the exhibition traveled to Konya, Ankara and finally to the city of Hama in Syria.

The photographs were related to historical monuments such as Al Nuri Mosque, Kasrul Azam Palace, the Great Umayyad Mosque, the stone bridge, the Old Mosque, the Clock Tower; Hama Archaeology Museum, Mosaic Museum, the water mills on the side of Orontes River which are characteristic elements of Hama, archways, old streets and old stone houses, and a general view of the city.

A beautiful catalogue of the exhibition was published by Selçuklu Municipality.



Illumination and marbling exhibition

An exhibition of the traditional Turkish arts of illumination and marbling was opened in IRCICA on 6 July 2007. Forty-six works by three staff members of the Centre were displayed, consisting mainly of illuminated calligraphy plates, works of marbling (ebru), and traditional floral motifs. The artists were: Mrs. Derya Soyyiğit, Ms. Nurcan Toprak, and Ms. Özlem Bulut. Each had participated previously in various national and international exhibitions.



Cultural Events

International conference on "Uzbekistan's Contribution to the Development of Islamic Civilization", held in Tashkent and Samarkand

A high profile international conference took place under the patronage of H.E. Islam Karimov, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, in several sessions held in Tashkent and Samarkand on 14 and 15 August 2007. The conference was organized to celebrate the designation, by the OIC's specialized institution ISESCO (Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, Rabat), of Tashkent, the capital city of Uzbekistan, as the Capital of Islamic Culture in 2007. More than 100 experts, scholars, officials, public and religious figures from about 30 countries participated in the conference.

The plenary Opening Session heard the greetings of President Karimov in His message read by Vice Prime Minister Mr. Rustam Kasymov. President Karimov said that for centuries, the territory of modern Uzbekistan served as a bridge which linked the East and West through the Great Silk Road; it was an important crossroads of the various mutually interlaced civilizations and cultures. The President said "The names of Imam Bukhari and Imam Tirmizi, Imam Maturidi and Makhmud Zamakhshari, Burkhaneddin Marghinoni and Bakhaudhin Nakshband, Khoja Akhror Wali, our scholars and scientists such as Muhammad Kharezmi and Akhmad Farghani, Abu Raikhan Biruni and Abu Ali ibn Sina, Mirza Ulugh Beg and Ali Shir Navai are closely interlaced with Islamic culture and civilization to such an extent that we can never imagine our religion without those great persons, and the names of those great persons – without the religion of Islam." The President continued, "We are not mistaken to say that the role and significance of the rich and invaluable heritage of our great ancestors, which incorporated broad encyclopedic knowledge, ideas and views, and by now did not lose both its scientific and humane value is unique in finding the solution for many contemporary complex problems, objectively interpret and propagate the true meaning and essence of our religion, as well as beaconing the right path for the young generation that now joins our ranks with a profound hope. We highly value our religion and Islamic civilization as an inseparable part of the world civilization, human development and culture. It is also the main factor and criterion in spiritually purifying the people and strengthening the eternal values such as the gratitude, living in peace and tranquility, interethnic and interfaith tolerance, mutual respect, solidarity in their minds. Basing upon such foundation, and most importantly, by apprehending of what great people the descendants we are and what a unique heritage we are the masters of, it is our noble goal to build our free, sovereign and prosperous future, build a life second to none's, and secure the deserved place in the Muslim world and international community. ..."

Then the session was addressed by: Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the OIC, Dr. Amr Musa, Secretary General of the League of the Arab states, as well



as the representative of ISESCO Dr. Muhammd Ali, the Chairman of the UNESCO General Conference Mr. Musa bin Jafar Hassan, and the Director General of IRCICA Dr. Halit Eren. Following these addresses, Mr. Said Nedjad, the Mayor of the city of Isfahan (last year's Capital of Islamic Culture) in Iran, addressed the session and handed over the Symbolic Key of the Capital of Islamic Culture to Mr. A. Tokhtayev, the Mayor of the city of Tashkent. The ceremony was also addressed by Ministers and high-level officials from various OIC Member States.

"Islam in Uzbekistan dates back to the days of the Third Caliph of Islam, Osman ibn Affan", recalled the OIC Secretary General Prof. İhsanoğlu. "Indeed, some of the founders of Islamic tradition and universal scholars were natives of this region. Over the centuries, the region between the Amu Darya and Syr Darya developed in such a way as to make of this country one of the cradles of world civilization. Uzbekistan can take pride that its place in Islamic history reflected in the bravura of Tashkent, Samarkand and Bukhara, indeed match the contemporary cultural centers of Baghdad, Cairo, Cordoba and Istanbul." The Secretary General then asked, "One wonders, without the contributions of such illustrious figures as Ibn Sina, Khwarezmi, Biruni and Ulugh Beg, would human civilization be able to reach its present status in philosophy, in various fields of science; mathematics, astronomy and medicine? Would the traditions of Prophet Mohammed reach us if Imam Bukhari and Imam Tirmizi had not recorded collections of the Prophet's teachings? Would we be able to develop our present understanding of the Holy Quran without the works of Abu Layth Samarkandi and Zamakhshari? Would Islamic law reach its present level of sophistication, weren't the contributions of Serahsi and Nasafi?" The Secretary General expressed his belief that the conference would not only serve to give a renewed sense of

pride in the people of Uzbekistan of their Islamic identity but will also inspire them doing what is necessary to project and uphold the true image of Islam and interests of Muslims.

In his address, Dr. Halit Eren referred to the remarkable production of knowledge that emanated from Uzbekistan starting from the early centuries of Islam which contributed tangibly to the development of Islamic civilization through the works of the illustrious figures in astronomy, mathematics, medicine, metaphysics and the various religious sciences. "Parallel to that", he said, "it saw the growth of cities such as Bukhara, Samarkand, Khiva, which represent the urban spirit of Islam which is one of the main features of civilisational process. These developments endowed Uzbekistan with its distinct cultural and architectural heritage well known to the international community today, its historical sites registered in the world heritage list, and the numerous manuscript and printed works produced in this region and their reproductions which are part of library collections around the world and on which studies are conducted." Dr. Eren outlined the activities of IRCICA in which the scientific, architectural and cultural aspects of Uzbekistan were highlighted; among them, the international symposium on Science and Technology in the Turkish and Islamic World organized in 1994 on the occasion of Ulugh Beg's six hundredth birthday, jointly with the Uzbekistan Academy of Sciences, the Turkish Society for History of Science, Bosphorus and Marmara Universities, UNESCO and the Turkish Institute for Scientific and Technical Research.

After the opening, six scholarly themes were treated in parallel sessions; twelve papers were presented at each session by participants from around the world. The themes were:

- Peculiarities of the Formation and Development of Islamic Civilisation in the territory of Uzbekistan
- Development of Muslim Theology and Secular Sciences in the Epoch of Eastern Renaissance
- The Role of Central Asian Thinkers in the Development of Islamic Thought
- Development of Muslim Architecture and Art
- Manuscripts and Material Monuments of Uzbekistan and the Heritage of All-Islamic Civilisation
- International and Inter-confessional Dialogue is the Basis of Tolerance.

On the second day of the conference, the sessions were held at the Ulugh Beg Medrese in Samarkand: the proposals formulated during the first day's sessions were summed up and the conclusions and recommendations of the conference were announced.

The conference program included visits to the renovated and reconstructed historical monuments and the newly built mosques and medreses in the cities of Tashkent and Samarkand.

The Ninth congress of the World Heritage Cities on "Heritage and Economy" held in Kazan, capital city of Tatarstan

The city of Kazan hosted the Ninth Congress of the Organisation of World Heritage Cities (OWHC). The congress was opened by H.E. President Mintimer Shaimiev, President of Tatarstan, at a grandiose ceremony held at Kazan City Hall on 19 June 2007. In parallel to the congress sessions, the program included participation in the traditional Tatar Sabantouy Festival highlighting the cultural and architectural diversity of Kazan. Addressing the opening ceremony, the President of Tatarstan emphasized that preservation of cultural heritage, handing it over to descendants and making it known to the whole world is a noble and important task which requires patience, enthusiasm and perception of its historical importance. Mr. Ilmour Metshin, the Mayor of Kazan, recalled that Kazan was recognized as a world heritage city in 2000 further the inscription of the Kazan Kremlin – the ancient capital core – in UNESCO's world heritage list. At the same time, Kazan has been the seat of the Regional Secretariat of OWHC for Euro-Asia. Eng. Marcelo Cabrera Palacios, President of OWHC and Mayor of Cuenca, Ecuador, said that the cultural heritage of the cities is a major asset for economic development, which must be ensured by taking into account social values, spiritual values and historic values; the 215 world heritage cities have it in common that they all share these values. Mr. Palacios said that the theme of "Heritage and Economy" was chosen for the congress as an appropriate framework for the formulation of innovative policies in the field of world heritage. One of the objectives was to develop a clear understanding of the relationship between heritage and economics, propose tools and guidelines to help mayors face the challenges with greater insight, and generate answers to the key question of: "How can heritage preservation contribute to the sustainable economic development of a city while safeguarding its cultural identity?"

Speaking at one of the thematic working sessions of the congress, IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren underlined the importance of the congress theme with regard to the fact that interdependencies between the various sectors of life are growing and that the same is observed with regard to the preservation of heritage. On one hand, national and international efforts have been growing in response to due awareness of the importance of heritage as a sector of cultural activity and an integral part of cultural identity and image building, while on the other, requirements are growing, towards the protection and reproduction of the scarce resources, generating income, promoting tourism, providing transport and communication technologies and ensuring the well-being of growing populations and expanding urban centres. Challenges of economic growth versus conservation arise since on one hand, historic structures must be preserved with their traditional, esthetic, cultural and/or spiritual features, and on the other, city facilities have to be modernized in providing housing, building markets and encouragement of investments. Policies of the two sectors



can involve competing or even conflicting considerations. But at the same time, preservation of heritage has economic impacts, and this in turn can help to boost and sustain heritage preservation. The Director General said that the relationship between tourism and the economy is underlined in the OIC's Conferences of Tourism Ministers together with many other aspects of tourism. As to IRCICA, it conducts studies on the preservation of architectural, arts and crafts heritage in the Muslim world and its aspects that are relevant for tourism. Dr. Eren expressed his appreciation for the excellent and highly active cooperation ongoing between the Republic of Tatarstan and IRCICA, which, under the patronage of H.E. Mintimer Shaimiev, President of Tatarstan, led to many innovative activities, including two international symposiums on the theme: "Islamic Civilisation in Volga-Ural Region", in 2001 and 2005 respectively, where the theme of cultural and architectural heritage and its importance for cultural and economic advancement was also addressed. The Director General also referred to the cooperation agreement signed between the Municipality of Kazan and IRCICA in 2001 and the Memorandum of Cooperation between

the Ministry of Culture of Tatarstan and IRCICA signed in February 2007. He reiterated his gratitude to President Mintimer Shaimiev for having visited IRCICA on 2 February 2007 and for his continuous support to IRCICA's cooperation with the cultural institutions of Tatarstan.

The Congress comprised the following events (detailed in a comprehensive brochure published on the occasion): thematic sessions and main presentations on the themes: "How do you promote economic development based on heritage?", "How do you share the benefits of economic development?", "How do you manage the development pressures?" What kinds of practical tools can be used to achieve the goals of enhancing both heritage and economics in historic cities?"; a panel of Mayors on the theme "Is tourism enough?"; a poster session of case studies on how a city can manage the economic implications of its heritage in theory, in policy and in practice; a students' session; meetings of the regional coordinators of OWHC, the General Assembly of OWHC, and elections to the Board of Directors of OWHC.

The Third Conference on the Development of Handicrafts in the Arab Countries, Marakesh, Morocco, and IRCICA's participation

The Third Conference on the Development of Handicrafts in the Arab Countries, held in Marrakesh on 18-20 July 2007, focused on the theme "Toward an Arab partnership for strengthening the competing power of handicrafts". The conference was organised by the Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organisation (AIDMO), in cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism, Handicrafts and Social Economy of the Kingdom of Morocco and the Islamic Development Bank.

IRCICA was represented at the meeting by Dr. Nazih Maarouf, Director of the Craft Development Program; Dr. Marouf presented a paper entitled: "The use of modern technology to develop and strengthen the competing power of handicrafts while preserving their authenticity and cultural identity" and chaired the conference session on "Investment, financing and marketing of craft products in the Arab countries".

Various exhibitions of crafts, photographs and publications were held during the conference period, in which IRCICA participated with an exhibition of its publications relating to handicrafts. The conference brought together around 130 representatives of craft institutions from all Arab countries, professionals engaged in the craft sector, and officials from international organisations. The conference adopted recommendations, by which it requested AIDMO to take the necessary measures toward establishing an Arab union of handicrafts, emphasized the importance of using modern technology without damaging the authenticity of handicrafts, and proposed the following, among others: the use of modern information media for the marketing of craft products, establishment of craft villages to be visited by tourists, and creating public awareness on the importance of this sector of activity.

Cultural Institutions

Oriental Studies in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan

A glimpse at the activities of R.B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies, Kazakhstan, the Department of Turkish Studies of the Tashkent State Institute of Oriental Studies, Uzbekistan, and the Department of History and Economy of Arab Countries of the Institute of Oriental Studies after Academician Z.M. Bunyadov, Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan, three institutes from the institutional setup of oriental studies in Central Asia and Caucasia which has been growing constantly since the 1990s. The information below was extracted from their introductory publications.

R.B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies, Kazakhstan

This Institute is located in Almaty, and affiliated with the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Its objective is to promote comprehensive research on mutual relations of Kazakhstan with countries of the Eastern hemisphere regarding historical, cultural, socio-economic and political aspects of these relations. Thus its themes of interest include the following: the interactions among countries of Central Asia and the East during ancient and medieval times; search for previously unknown and untapped sources on the history, religion and cultures of these countries; studies on the oriental written texts on the history and culture of Kazakhstan; the role and place of Kazakhstan in international relations; interactions of different faith systems in Central Asia; the socio-economic, national and cultural processes in China within the context of further development of Kazakhstani-Chinese relations; modern socio-economic and political development in Central Asian and Eastern countries; developing conceptual approaches to the relations of Kazakhstan with these countries; prospects of development of international relations in Asia, among others. The Institute organised more than fifty international and thirty national-level conferences. Its network of cooperation reaches institutions in China, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Turkey, Uzbekistan, the USA. It conducts year-long lectures in memory of Kazakh orientalists R.B. Suleimenov, G.S. Sadvakasov, V.P. Yudin. The departments of the Institute are: the Department of Near East and Middle East Studies, comprising Arabic, Turkish and Iranian studies; the Department of Central and Southern Asian Studies which deals with the Middle Asian, Indian and Mongolian studies; the Department of the Pacific Ocean and Far Eastern region concerned with Japanese and Korean studies; the Department of Studies on Oriental Sources; the Department of History of Culture; the Department of International Relations; the Center of Uighur Studies; the Center of Sinology.

The Institute publishes the series titled Kazakhstan Oriental Researches which comprise a wide array of research and reference books on the history and cultures of Kazakhstan and

Central Asia. Other series of publications include the conference proceedings and textbooks and reference books for secondary and third level of education. The Institute takes part in the implementation of the State Program named "Cultural Heritage" that was initiated by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan. It undertook to publish twenty-one volumes of oriental sources that were written in Arabic, old Chinese, Persian, Russian, Turkish and Mongolian languages. Sources of this type already published by the Institute include, among others, a Collection of Materials Relating to the History of the Golden Horde by W. Tiesenhausen, Volume One: Excerpts from Arabic Works; also, Djamal al-Qarshi. Al-Mulhaqat bi-s-surah (Introduction, Supplements and Commentary by Sh. Kh. Vokhidov and B.B. Aminov), and a Collection of Ancient Written Sources (Orhon, Enisei, Talas), Compilation and Commentary by N. Bazylkhan). Another publication is the quarterly titled Shygys, which contains articles in various languages written by authors from Europe and Kazakhstan. The journal monitors and promotes research on history, philology, political science, economy, religion, culture and arts. The address for correspondence is: 29 Kurmangazy Street, 050010 Almaty, Republic of Kazakhstan. Tel: 7 3272 61 16 01, Fax: 7 3272 61 28 35, e-mail: investoknursat.kz

Tashkent State Institute of Oriental Studies, Department of Turkish Studies, Uzbekistan

Tashkent State Institute of Oriental Studies, created in 1918, is one of the oldest higher educational institutions in the Central Asian region to train specialists in oriental studies. Its Department of Turkish Studies was set up in 1991, first as the Division of Altaic Studies, where the Uighur, Turkish, Korean and Japanese languages were taught. It grew into the present Department, where leading specialists are conducting research and where teaching is provided at undergraduate and graduate levels. Undergraduate courses include contemporary Turkish, literature, ancient Turkic inscriptions, ancient Turkic languages, grammar of the Turkic languages; graduate courses cover historical and theoretical aspects of Turkish language and literature. Faculty members also teach at other departments of the Institute, such as Classical Oriental Philology, Oriental Philosophy, History of Central Asian Nations, all of which touch upon such subjects as the history of Turkic cultures and languages, the faiths and philosophies of ancient Turkic nations, the history of states, the history and development of social and political views in the Turkic world. Uighur language is taught at the Departments of Turkish Studies and Chinese Studies, as an eastern language. Grammar, which is at the intersection of



research and teaching at the various Departments, is covered by the Department of Turkish Studies.

One of the major contributions of the Institute is that its faculty members are writing textbooks and teaching materials for higher education, representing the first such undertaking in its field in Uzbekistan universities. Thus K. Sadikov, H. Hamidov, Z. Hudayberganova, L. Aminova have prepared the textbook *Türk Tili* (Turkish language); K. Sadikov wrote the textbooks *Kök Türk Bitiklari: matn va uning tarixiy talqini* (Göktürk inscriptions: the text and its historical analysis), *Kadimgi turkiy halklarning diniy-falsafi qarashlari* (the religious and philosophic views of ancient Turkic nations), *Türkiy yozma yodgorliklar tili: adabiy tilning yuzaga kelisi ve tiklanishi* (The language of Turkic inscriptions: the formation and development of the written language); H. Hamidov wrote the book titled *Türk tili grammatikasi. Morfologiya* (The grammar of Turkish language. Morphology), Z. Hudayberganova the book *Özbek va turk tillarida soda gapning struktur-funksional hususiyatlari* (The structural-functional features of the simple sentence in the Uzbek and Turkish languages), are among the major works published in the field.

Institute of Oriental Studies after Academician Z.M. Bunyadov, Department of History and Economy of Arab Countries, Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan

Azerbaijani culture is closely related to the cultures of the Middle East, the Turkic world, and Muslim countries in general. The Institute of Oriental Studies, named after Z.M. Bunyadov, was established in 1958, with the objective of studying these cultures under their historical and contemporary aspects, focusing on each part of those regions and their specificities. Thus social aspects, the languages and literature, the economy, as well as the political and cultural history of the Middle East and the Turkic world came under focus. Special attention is given to research on the cultural products of Azerbaijani scholars and authors in the Arabic, Turkic and Persian languages. The Institute conducts research in the following main areas: political, socio-economic and cultural development of the Near Eastern and Middle Eastern countries; the historical, philological, religious and philosophical heritage of the Near Eastern and Middle Eastern countries; study, translation and publication of their written works; history of religion and thought in the Near Eastern and Middle Eastern countries; inter-cultural relations; research on historical and cultural ties between Azerbaijan and the Near Eastern and Middle Eastern countries; prospects of, economic, diplomatic and cultural relations; the development of literature in the countries of the Arab East, Iran and Turkey. The Institute organised the symposium on "Islamic Civilisation in Caucasia" (jointly with IRCICA, Baku, 1998); the conference devoted to the 700th anniversary of the Ottoman State (Baku, 1999); the conferences devoted to the illustrious Persian poets Hafiz Shirazi and Saadi Shirazi; the conference devoted to the 200th anniversary of Mirza Kazem-bek (in cooperation with UNESCO, Baku, 2003); the conferences on "Globalisation and Islam" (Baku, 2004, 2005).

The Department of History and Economy of Arab Countries was set up in 1964 within the structure of the Institute, under the chairmanship of the eminent specialist in oriental studies

Z.M. Bunyadov. Its activities expanded continuously. It became an outstanding scholarly center specialized in Arab studies. A new generation of historians and experts in oriental studies were trained there. The Department provides training and guidance for graduate students from various departments of the Academy of Sciences and other universities.

Studies conducted in the Department cover both historical and contemporary aspects of countries of Arab countries, and in general, all Muslim countries. The history of Islam receives particular attention. The Department's major regular activity is the study, translation and publication of books in the Arabic, Persian and Turkic languages. Those sources which contain information on the medieval history, geography and administrative position of Azerbaijan receive special focus. During 1970-1981 the Department published Bunyadov's translations of: al-Bakuvi's *Kitab talhisi-l-aser*; al-Nasawi's *The Life of Sultan Jalaladdin Mang Burnu*; al-Huseyni's *Ahbaru-d-dauleti-s-saldjukiya*, and Ibn Asam al-Kufi's *The Book of Faths*. It also published N. Velikhanly's translation of Ibn Hordadbeh's *Kitabu-l-masalik wa-l-mamalik*, R. Shukurova's translation of *Fazlullah Rashdaddin's Oguzname*; F. Asadov's translations of reference materials in Arabic under the title *Arab Sources on Early Medieval Turks*, S. Suleymanova's translation of *Molla Mohammed al-Jari's King's Chronicle*. In particular, the research and publications of the late Z.M. Bunyadov on medieval history and the historiography of Central Asia, Caucasia and Azerbaijan in particular are known to have contributed remarkably to studies in these fields. Some of them are: *Azerbaijan in the 7-9th Centuries*, *The State of Atabeks of Azerbaijan*, *The State of Khoresmshahs-Anushtekins*. Collection and translation of medieval sources in Arabic concerning the history of Azerbaijan and the countries of the Near East and the Middle East continue. As regards the contemporary aspects of economic, cultural and scientific relations between Azerbaijan and these countries, the publications include *Azerbaijan and the Persian Gulf Countries* by I. Asadov, *Globalization: the Arab East and Problems of Modernization* by B. Nuri.

The Institute also has Departments of: Arab Philology, Iranian Philology, and Turkish Philology which carry out research on the literature of both classical and modern periods. The East-West Department, set up in 2001, undertakes cross-disciplinary studies on exchanges between cultures. Some of the research programs of the East-West Department are related to: inter-religious relations and mass media (directed by A. Azimov), the modernization process of Turkey (R. Rzayeva), Islam in Britain (M. Alizadeh), public opinion in Arab countries and international relations around the Caspian (S. Ibrahimova), Arab lyric and medieval European poetry (A. Jabrailova), the Enlightenment and the development of modern Western philosophy (A. Azimov), the "East-West" paradigm and gender problems (A. Azimov). Another department of the Institute is devoted to the study of the History of Religion and History of Thought: a number of research projects and publications were produced on a wide range of subjects relating to ideological currents, the role and place of religion in political processes of the Middle East, the various interpretations and applications of faith systems. The Department held a number of international conferences: "Urgent Problems of the East: History and Contemporaneity" (2003) and "Globalization and Islam" (2004-2005).

Book Survey

A selection of books received by IRCICA Library

Regions and cultures

SSCB Sonrası Orta Asya Türk Cumhuriyetleri'nde Sosyal, Siyasal ve Ekonomik Değişim/Social, Political and Economic Transition in the Turkish Republics of the Caucasus and Central Asia Following the Disintegration of the Soviet Union, International Congress, 18-21 September 2006. Kocaeli/Turkey, Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality, 2007, 2 vol., pp. 1-848 and 849-1691

This is a rich collection of social science articles relating to the Turkic world. It comprises the papers which were presented by 142 scholars and researchers from 18 countries participating in the First Congress of Social Scientists which was organised in 2006 jointly by the University of Kocaeli and the Municipality of Kocaeli (İzmit) with the support of the Turkish Cooperation and Development Agency – TİKA, the Scientific and Technical Research Council of Turkey – TÜBİTAK and the Islamic Development Bank. The articles are published in their original languages: Turkish, English or Russian. The opening and the concluding chapters are in Turkish and in English. Asst. Prof. Bekir Günay, the Congress Secretary, explains that by assigning this congress a wide range of themes one of their objectives was to apply social scientists' integrative approach to the socio-political, economic and cultural developments of the communities of the Turkic world altogether, assess the achievements and seek solutions through a joint effort of specialists from around the world.

Valuable articles published in this book analyse the formation of the "Newly Independent" States of Central Asia and Caucasasia and the accompanying transformations in public administration, national identity building, educational policies, reorganisation of cultural life, together with the shifts in the intellectual paradigms surrounding each process. Questions of language, identity definition, regionalism, state ideology, and other concepts and facts relevant for a true understanding of the region's realities, are studied with reference to country cases and the internal and external influences effective in each case. With respect to economy, several authors analyse the transition to market economy and its consequences – foreign investments, privatization of enterprises, the labour market. The articles are grouped under the following themes: Central Asia Between a Clash of Civilisations and an Alliance of Civilisations; Central Asia in the Face of Globalisation; Central Asia and the Big Powers; Geopolitics of Central Asia and Regional Powers; Geopolitics of Central Asia in the 21st Century; Religions in Central Asia; Central Asia in the Aftermath of September 11 and Terrorism; Azerbaijan from a Socio-Political Perspective; The Problem of Karabagh; Relations Between

Turkey and the Central Asian Turkic Republics; Education in the Transformation Process in Central Asia; Economic Change and Foreign Investments in the Post-USSR Period; Social Problems during the Changes of the Post-USSR Period; Transformation and National Identity After the Dissolution of the Soviet Union; Economic Formations in the Post-USSR Period; Economic Transition and Poverty After the Dissolution of the Soviet Union; Economic Transitions and Problems in the Post-USSR Period; Socio-Political Transition in the Post-USSR Period; Local Governments and the Transition in Public Administration in the Post-USSR Period; The Kyrgyzstan Model in the Transition of Central and Local Governments; The Kazakhstan Model in the Post-USSR Transition Period.

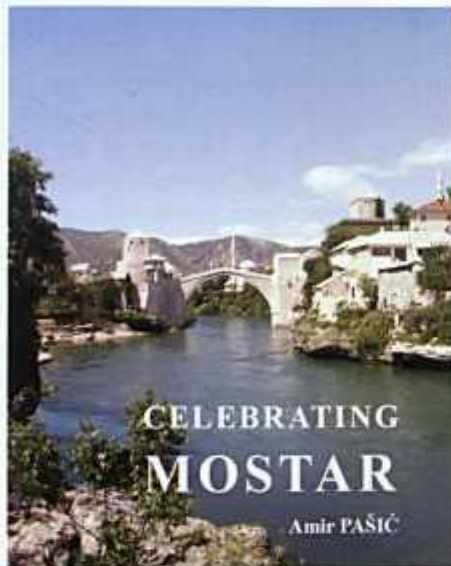
Atlas Tartarii: Evraziya Na Starinnikh Kartakh (mifi, obrazı, prosnranstva), Edited by R. Calikhov, M. Usmanov and R. Khayrutdinov, Prepared by I. Fomenko; Project consultant: Rafael Khakimov, Izdatelstvo FERIA, Moskva, 2006, , 478 p. (in Russian)

This book covers the vast geography known as "Eurasia". It examines the period starting from antiquity and the Byzantine period, extends to the Middle Ages (from the sixth until the sixteenth century), continues till the seventeenth-eighteenth centuries and ends with the subject of the cartography of Russia until 1990s. The work aims to examine how the areas of Skifiya, Carmatiya and Tartaria were formed, to reach the most extensive available information on the history of Eurasia in the light of cartographic information and to show the European outlook on this area. It uses western maps as its sources since cartographic works in Russian were not kept till the sixteenth century.

The maps are in Russian, German, English, French and Ottoman Turkish. These maps contain ethnographic, political and commercial information. There are also war maps, and those related to navigation and aviation. It contains the views of some areas from the space as well as information on settlements and the population.

The book also includes photographs of the people in the region and illustrations of some archaeological finds. There is an extensive bibliography and a CD of the book at the end. The Consultant for the extensive research project leading to this publication was Prof. Rafael Khakimov, Director of Institute of History (Sh. Mardjani), Academy of Sciences of Tatarstan and Political Advisor to the President of Tatarstan, Kazan

Amir Pašić, **Celebrating Mostar: Architectural History of the City, 1452-2004**, Mostar-Gracanica, 2005, Grin, VII, 185 p.



This book presents the architectural history of the city of Mostar in chapters arranged according to the various epochs it underwent. The city is famous for its bridges ("Mostar" meaning "with bridges") and especially the Old Bridge ("Stari Most") which was built in 1566 and was successfully preserved until its destruction in 1990.

The author first gives an outline of the city history starting from 1452 until 2004 when the rehabilitation of the city was completed. In the following chapters he treats the formation and development of the Ottoman Islamic town; the transition from Islamic to the European architectural models; stagnation, fast development and brutal destruction of the city; rehabilitation of the city. This part is an overall history with the most relevant facts, starting from the initial settlement, and describing every key component of its urban structure and the most important architectural achievements. Architectural and urban developments of the period after the 1992-1995 war were elaborated upon in full coverage during IRCICA's Mostar 2004 Program; the latter served as the educational software for rehabilitations, construction and planning activities in the city, restoration of the monumental structures, rehabilitation of historical neighborhoods, and finally reconstruction of the Old Bridge and its surroundings. The book is completed by a plan and a description of the redevelopment project of the city center, symbolized by the Unity Square. The author, Prof. Amir Pašić, architect and urban planner and Head of the Department of Architecture at IRCICA, is the leading expert behind the urban reconstruction efforts in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

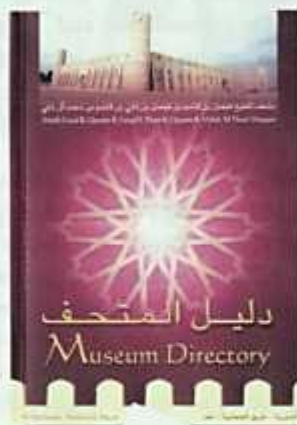
Islamic Art Collection of Sheikh Faisal Bin Qassim bin Faisal Al-Thani, Evaluation and editing: Dr. Talib Al-Baghdadi, Doha, Nov. 2002, 268 p. (in English, French and Arabic)

This magnificent book is the catalogue of the more than 3000 rare pieces located in the collection of H.H. Sheikh Faisal Bin Qassim bin Faisal Al-Thani, of the State of Qatar. The rich collection constitutes the treasures of the Museum named the Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim bin Faisal bin Thani bin Qassim bin Mohammed Al-Thani Museum. The collection contains invaluable representative artifacts from all branches of arts and crafts. The Museum also houses a fascinating collection of historical cars, including a 19th century steam vehicle. The catalogue is divided into chapters according to the categories of artifacts; in each chapter, the photographs of the artifacts are accompanied by information on their origin, date, artist/author, etc. Thus we find the following chapters: Manuscripts and Miniatures; Metals, Bronze and Silver; Islamic Arms (Swords and Daggers); Islamic Arms (Guns and Pistols); Ceramics, Potteries and Glass; Textile and Embroidery; Gold and Silver Jewellery; Islamic and Pre-Islamic Coins; Wood Works. The book is accompanied by a "Museum Directory" introducing the main halls of the Museum and the objects located in them. These halls are the following: Hall No.1: Islamic Art; Hall No.2: Classic Cars; Hall No: 3: Money and Bank Notes; Hall No. 4: Manuscripts and Prints; Hall No. 5: Fossils and Archeology; Hall No. 6: Textile and Embroideries; Hall no. 7: Library. The Library contains over 12,000 books the most important encyclopedia of Arab history and the main books of theology, poetry and romance. The Museum is a member of ICOM (International Council of Museums). H.H. Sheikh Faisal Bin Qassim Al-Thani inherited the rich private collection of the Museum from his father Sheikh Qassim bin Faisal Al-Thani.



As His Highness relates in the Introduction to the book, his father encouraged him and his brothers to visit museums and archeological sites during their holidays. Ever since he was a child, his interest in old objects led him to collect school objects, toys, various stamps and coins, photographs as well as simple items such as stone quivers and fossils that he found in the Qatari lands. Sheikh Faisal Bin Qassim Al Thani began collecting antiques since 1960. In order to enable the others to view his collection, he decided to combine and display his collection in a specialized museum built by himself in his farm, situated in El-Shahaniyeh, approximately 20 km. from Doha. His primary objective in this project was to promote the historical and cultural awareness among the coming generations of Qataris.

The Website of the Museum: www.fbqmuseum.com.



Noyan Dinçal, **Istanbul und das Wasser. Zur Wasserversorgung und Abwasserentsorgung von der Mitte des 19. Jahrhunderts bis 1966** (Istanbul and its Waters. A short history of the provision of water and of waste water from mid-19th century until 1966), München, 2004, R. Oldenbourg Verlag, Südosteuropäische Arbeiten 120, 325 p. (in German)

This interesting book focuses on the history of the systems of provision of water and sewage in Istanbul. Aqueducts, dams and water distribution networks evolved over the Byzantine and the Ottoman centuries. These were not sufficient, however, in the face of the population increase: a big water shortage occurred in the middle of the 19th century. Also, there arose the need – and awareness of the need – to observe the conditions of hygiene in order to make Istanbul a modern city. At the same time, measures were taken regarding waste water disposal. The book deals with the subject in chronological order. It mainly treats the following topics: provision of water and water disposal in the first half of the 19th century; water supply and water shortage during the Ottoman period in the second half of the 19th century; central water distribution systems by private and state companies; establishment of the administration of water and the water supply to the Princes' Islands during the period of 1933-1966; attempts of water disposal between 1939-1966; the problems encountered and the call for aid to the World Health Organization (WHO). The author draws on archival sources, official publications and periodicals.

Mahmoud Zein Alabidin, **The Architecture of Ottoman Mosques**, Dar Qabess Publishing House, Beirut, 2005 (English and Arabic)

Together with a historical overview and description of the evolution and main characteristics of Ottoman mosques, this book has two main focuses: the Ottoman mosques in Syria, and Ottoman mosques' features distinct from those of earlier mosques – the Umayyad, the Abbasid, or the Mamluk. Following a Preface by Prof. Afif Bahnassi, the book begins with a detailed description of the various components of a mosque, pointing out those elements that evolved in different periods under the different dynasties. The second chapter reviews the development of Ottoman mosques in Turkey, with an emphasis on the peak age led by architect Sinan. This chapter examines in detail some major mosques such as the Üçşerefeli and the Selimiye Mosques in Edirne, the Fatih, Beyazıt, Şehzade, Süleymaniye, Sultan Ahmet and Yeni Mosques in Istanbul. Then comes, in the third chapter, a detailed study of the Ottoman mosque architecture in Syria, and of five monuments, namely the Husreviye School, the Adliye Mosque, the Bahramiye Mosque in Aleppo, the Tekke of Suleyman in Damascus, and the Osmaniye School in Aleppo. The book ends with a study of the Ottoman influence on the Arab-Islamic architecture of Syria. A glossary of Turkish, Arabic and English terms related to mosque architecture is added.

السودان في العهد العثماني. من خلال وثائق الأرشيف العثماني

(Ottoman Administration in The Sudan in the Light of Archival Documents), Prepared by Uğurhan Demirbaş et al., Introduction by Halit Eren and Yusuf Sarınoy, translated by Salih Sadawi, IRCICA, 2007, xxxvi+447 p.+ 144 documents and maps (in Arabic)

This collection of the Ottoman archive documents was prepared for publication by archivists at the Department of the Ottoman Archives, Turkish Prime Ministry's General Directorate of the Ottoman Archives, namely Uğurhan Demirbaş, Ali Osman Çınar, Mücahit Demirel, Seher Dilber, Recep Karacakaya, Nuran Koltuk, Ümmihani Ünemlioğlu, Kemal Gurulkan, Yusuf İhsan Genç. Its contents were translated into Arabic and published by IRCICA. The documents reproduced in this book in their translation from Ottoman Turkish into Arabic are official decrees and registers of the Ottoman State concerning the parts of its territory which are included in modern-day Sudan. For example, a major part of the province of Habeş (Abyssinia) is within The Sudan today; therefore, archive registers concerning this important region are included in the book. The aim of this publication is to render these first-hand sources on the history of The Sudan accessible to readers in Arabic. The book is in two parts. The first part has an Introduction and a section titled "Sudan under Ottoman rule". The Introduction gives brief information on the documents: Mühimmes (the series of registers for the imperial council), tapu tahrir defters (population and cadastral registers), name-i hümayuns (autographed orders of the Sultan), ruûs, vakfiye and nişan defters, fermans (firmans), hatt-ı hümayuns (imperial decrees), muahedenâmes (treaties), maps. There are also chronicles and memoirs. The documents reproduced in the first part deal mainly with state administration, the Indian Campaign of the Ottomans which took place with the purpose of protecting the rights of the Muslims in South Asia and on the shores of the Indian Ocean against the attacks of the Spanish and the Portuguese. Following this campaign, the Ottomans organized another campaign in middle Nile in order to protect the rights of the Muslims in this area and to secure their boundaries in Africa. Thus, the Ottomans established a sanjak and a short period afterwards an eyalet in part of present-day Sudan. It was called the province of Habeş. The period from 1555 until the beginning of the 17th century marks the establishment and development stages of this province. A joint Egyptian and British administration was established in The Sudan on January 19, 1899, following the agreement signed between these two states. This agreement marked the end of the Ottoman sovereignty in the Sudan. The second part contains the transcriptions and facsimile reproductions of some important documents. The original Turkish edition will be published by the Department of Ottoman Archives of the Turkish Prime Ministry's General Directorate of State Archives.

"Takvim-i Vekayi"

"Takvim-i Vekayi", the Official Gazette of the Ottoman Empire (published from 1831 to 1923), on DVD/CD

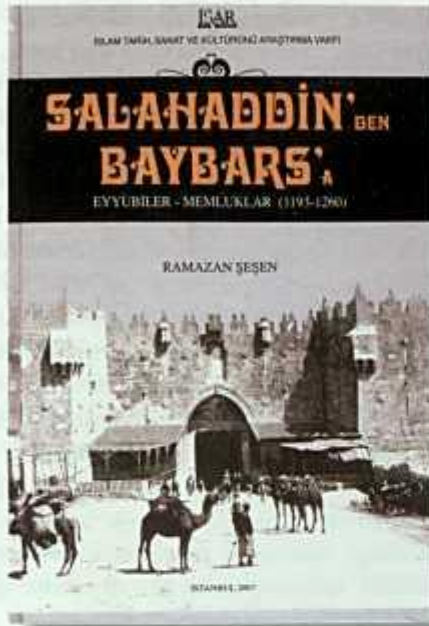
Takvim-i Vekayi, the Official Gazette of the Ottoman Empire, was published from 1831 to 1923. IRCICA made its reproductions available in the form of 11 DVDs and one CD. It is a valuable source of information for researchers in history whose subjects of interest relate to the second half of the 19th century. The gazette was issued with intervals, over three periods: 1 November 1831- 8-9 April 1880, 2139 numbers; 26 March 1891-14 May 1892, 283 numbers; 28 September 1908 - 4 November 1922, 4608 numbers. Thus 7030 numbers were published in total. The gazette not only announced the decisions of the State, but was also a medium of information on actual facts and events. One finds in it official news concerning the State, military news, and also internal news, external news, orders and decisions of the Sultan; laws, regulations, declarations; budgetary and financial news; graduations, medals; economic and health news; scientific news; commercial and industrial news; strange events; public notices. It is an important first-hand source on the history of many countries which were part of or maintained relations with the Ottoman State.

It was published in Turkish and sometimes also in the following languages, although for short periods and irregularly: Arabic, Persian, Greek, Armenian and French. Takvim-i Vekayi is an indispensable source for researchers interested in the late periods of Ottoman history.

ISBN 92-9063-162-7 (set)



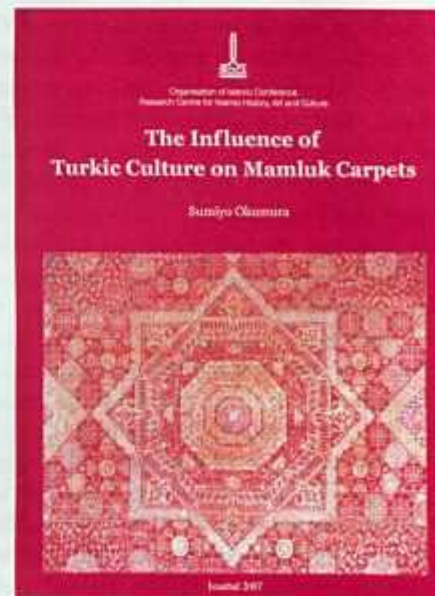
Ramazan Şeşen, **Salahaddin'den Baybars'a. Eyyubiler-Memluklar (1193-1260)** [From Salahaddin to Baybars. The Omeyyads-the Mamluks (1193-1260)], Foundation for Research on Islamic History, Art and Culture (ISAR), Istanbul, 2007, xiv, 456 p., maps (in Turkish)



Professor Ramazan Şeşen, an authority on the history of culture and Islamic manuscripts, and Head of IRCICA's Department of Bibliographic and Manuscript Studies, has produced this other valuable book filling a gap in history studies: though a considerable amount of research and literature is available on Salahaddin al-Ayyubi and the period of his reign, rather few are available on the Ayyubis' history after Salahaddin, that is about the period from 1193 to 1260. Furthermore, the existing publications deal with specific aspects of the period. To produce a comprehensive history, Prof. Şeşen covered the administrative, military, cultural and other aspects of the period, reflecting the political and social environment that surrounded the events at different points in time. After his voluminous book *Salahaddin Eyyubi ve Devri (Salahaddin al-Ayyubi and his time)* (ISAR, 2000) and his preparing for publication Al-Bundari's work *Sana'l-Bark al-Shami* (IRCICA, 2004), which is one of the major sources on Salahaddin, this book completes the history of the Ayyubis, bringing it to the Battle of Ain Jalut in 1260; this date also marks the beginning of Baybars' rule. In his Preface to the book, Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu underlines that "Thanks to the author's remarkable knowledge and interpretation of the sources, especially the unpublished manuscripts, this work will be a major and unique reference highlighting the history of the Ayyubi dynasty, the political, economic and cultural life of Egypt and other Arab countries under Ayyubi rule." The "Review of the Sources and Studies" which follows the author's instructive Introduction provides valuable guidance to the researcher.

Sumiyo Okumura, **The Influence of Turkic Culture on Mamluk Carpets**, Islamic Art Series No. 11, IRCICA, 2007, 277 p., ill.

Carpets and rugs represent an important branch of the traditional arts and handicrafts of the Muslim world. They are studied by IRCICA in its programs relating to arts, handicrafts and history of arts. Within the framework of IRCICA's Craft Development Program, "Carpets and kilims" constitute one of the main categories of the awards for handicrafts of the Muslim world. Furthermore, IRCICA devoted one of its scholarly meetings to this theme exclusively: an international symposium was organized under the title "Traditional carpets and kilims in the Muslim world" jointly with the Ministry of Tourism, Leisure and Handicrafts of Tunisia, in 1999, and its papers were published by IRCICA as a book. The theme is also covered within the framework of the congresses IRCICA organises on arts and the history of arts, with respect to the diverse artistic, aesthetical and functional characteristics carpets acquired in different periods, at different places. As part of this history, the carpets used by the nomadic Turks in Central Asia were, beyond their functional usage, an art which they carried with them in their journey to different lands where they ruled from the tenth and eleventh centuries onwards. They influenced the Mamluk carpets, which constitute the theme of this book. The latter were renowned and most valued until the sixteenth century. This book by Dr. Sumiyo Okumura, a historian of art from Japan, is published by IRCICA. It is an extensive study of Mamluk carpets, their unique features and their evolution, with due regard to cross-cultural influences observable in this process. The author's technical analysis of twenty pieces out of to seventy-seven Mamluk carpets she included in the catalogue section of the book will be highly useful for researchers in the field. The study comes in an amply illustrated beautiful edition.



Sultan II. Abdülhamid Arşivi İstanbul Fotoğrafları/ Photographs of Istanbul from the Archives of Sultan Abdülhamid II, published by the Greater Municipality of Istanbul Kültür A.Ş. and IRCICA, March 2007, 679 p.



History of Natural and Applied Science Literature during the Ottoman Period, prepared by E. İhsanoğlu, R. Şeşen, S. Bekar, G. Gündüz, V. Bulut, Editor: E. İhsanoğlu, Series of Studies and Sources on History of Science No. 13, History of Ottoman Literature of Science Series No. 6, 2 vols., IRCICA, Istanbul, 2006, CXLVIII+1562 pp.

This sixth book in the series titled *History of Ottoman Literature of Science* gives bibliographic information on the scientific works – books, treatises, articles, reports, legal documents, etc. - that were produced in the fields of natural and applied sciences during the Ottoman period (1299-1923) over the geographical area covered by the Ottoman state, together with biographical information on their authors. The branches of science covered in the book are: physics, chemistry, meteorology, botanic, zoology, geology, engineering, agriculture, animal husbandry, forestry, construction, gastronomy, precious stones. A total of 3354 works are recorded. The authors of 2407 of them are known, while the authors of 926 works recorded are unknown. A considerable part of all works recorded are translations. Following the establishment of European-style educational institutions in the Ottoman state during the 18th and 19th centuries, introducing the teaching of modern mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, zoology, botanic and technical subjects in higher education, a reform started and gained momentum with the translation of numerous works from

This album has been prepared and published by the Municipality of Greater Istanbul, through its cultural institution "Kültür AŞ", and IRCICA. It contains 576 photographs of Istanbul taken at the end of the 19th-beginning of the 20th century and showing districts, buildings, scenes of social life and economic activity. These photographs were selected from the Yıldız Photograph Albums, which comprise a total of around 35000 photographs taken all over the Ottoman empire at the time. Their reproductions were made, classified and annotated by IRCICA. The album is supplemented with an introduction on the history of photography, information on the photographers having worked in various parts of the Ottoman empire and photograph studios, and an index arranged according to the photographers. The book has forewords by: Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister of Turkey, the Secretary General of the OIC Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, the Mayor of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Arch. Dr. Kadir Topbaş, and IRCICA Director General Halit Eren. The photographs are grouped by their subject, under the following headings: landscapes, palaces (mansions, waterside residences, residences, pavilions), mosques, tombs, fountains (public fountains, cisterns, aqueducts), monuments, barracks (police stations), hospitals, schools, public buildings, museums, ceremonies and processions, foreign officials, factories, social life, city walls, sports, the 1894 earthquake.

European languages into Turkish and Arabic. From the 1880s onwards innovations made in Europe were followed closely by scientists of the Muslim world, especially in the fields of medicine, agriculture, veterinary science, forestry.

The previous volumes in this series were on the scientific literature in astronomy, mathematics, geography, music, military arts and science. The next publication will cover the literature in medicine, dentistry and pharmacology.



New Publication

Al-Mushaf Al-Sharif Attributed to 'Uthman bin 'Affan (The copy at the Topkapı Palace Museum), Prepared for publication by Dr. Tayyar Altıkulaç, Preface by Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Istanbul 1428 / 2007, Critical editions series; no. 2 (Introduction in Turkish, English and Arabic)

This book contains the critical edition of an original copy of the Holy Quran attributed to the time of Caliph Othman: this is the copy known as the "Othman (R.A.) Mushaf [Quran copy]" located in the Topkapı Palace Museum. The study on this particular copy and its preparation for publication have been done by a leading scholar in Quranic studies, ex-President of Religious Affairs in Turkey, presently Deputy in the Turkish Parliament, Dr. Tayyar Altıkulaç. Earlier, IRCICA had published two other historical copies of the Quran. One was the copy known as Fazıl Pasha Mushaf, written in the name of the Seljukid Sultan Tugrul Bey in 582/1186 and kept in Gazi Hüsrev Bey Library in Sarajevo, which was published by IRCICA in a facsimile edition. The second one was the first Quran copy to be printed in the Islamic world which was printed in Kazan, Tatarstan, in 1803; the copy was reprinted in Istanbul in 2005 at the initiative of the Municipality of Kazan, on the occasion of the millennium of Kazan City, following a technical revision by IRCICA in preparation for printing.

The "Othman (R.A.) Mushaf" also known as the "Topkapı Mushaf" and kept in nr. H.S. 44/32 in the Museum, is one of the oldest manuscripts of the Holy Quran that reached to the present day. Dr. Altıkulaç has done a meticulous comparative study and technical analysis of the copy; the Introduction explains the method followed and the findings obtained. Dr. Altıkulaç further enriches this instructive text with information on the history of Quran copies and recitation of the Quran. With only two pages (23 verses) lacking, "Topkapı Mushaf" is the closest to the complete text of the Quran. As indicated in detail and with examples in the text of Dr. Altıkulaç, certain parts of the manuscript had become unreadable due to the effects of time. With patient and careful research, Dr. Altıkulaç was able to decipher these parts using certain criteria and signs and to reconstitute the original copy.

The funding for the printing of this book was provided by H.H. Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohamed al-Qassimi, Member of the Supreme Council of the U.A.E. and Ruler of Sharjah, and a patron of scholarly activities. Publication of Dr. Tayyar Altıkulaç's work represents at the same time the concretisation of a goal which was formulated by Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu in the early 1980s to print an edition of the "Topkapı Mushaf", given the value and importance of this copy.



