

January - April 2017, No. 102



# Newsletter



OIC RESEARCH CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC HISTORY, ART AND CULTURE

Thirty-third Session of IRCICA Governing Board

"Islamophobia in Europe, Past and Present"  
International Conference, Istanbul

OIC Expert Group Workshop for Evaluating the  
First Decade of the OIC Islamophobia Observatory,  
Istanbul

Seminar on the project "Islamic Heritage in Aral  
Caspian Region", Almaty

Calligraphy Exhibition, Training Sessions and  
Lectures, Beirut

International Conference: "Urbicide II – Iraq,  
Palestine, Syria, Yemen - Post-War Reconstruction  
and Development", Beirut

Islamic Urban Heritage program, with Al-Turath  
Islamic Heritage Foundation, Jeddah

# Newsletter



Research Centre for Islamic History,  
Art and Culture (IRCICA)

January - April 2017, No. 102

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## Editorial

Dear readers,

The present issue gives you an outline of IRCICA's activities conducted during the first four months of 2017. A quick glance will show geographical, as well as thematic, diversification of the activities during this period. New projects were launched in some subject areas. Cultural events were organized in some Member States for the first time. One of the main focuses was the problem of "Anti-Muslim Extremism" or "Islamophobia", a permanent agenda item for the OIC and a subject addressed by IRCICA. Two international conferences were held on this subject: The OIC Expert Group Workshop for Evaluating the First Decade of the OIC Islamophobia Observatory, coordinated by the OIC General Secretariat and IRCICA early April, and the conference on "Islamophobia in Europe, Past and Present" organized by IRCICA and the Center for Balkan and Black Sea Studies, Yıldız Technical University, in January. The OIC workshop brought together specialists from international organizations, diplomatic and university circles. As to the conference on "Islamophobia in Europe, Past and Present", it gathered conceptual and factual studies, producing a specialized body of references on the phenomenon as it evolved. The outcomes of this conference provided valuable inputs to the OIC workshop.

Another theme underscored during this period and treated from different angles was the preservation and restoration of cultural and architectural heritage. This is a permanent program title at IRCICA with several projects under it. Recently on this matter, IRCICA cooperated with the Center for Arts and Humanities, American

University of Beirut, Lebanon, in organizing the International Conference: "Urbicide II – Iraq, Palestine, Syria, Yemen – Post-War Reconstruction and Development", in Beirut last April. This highly specialized scholarly conference brought together eminent scholars and specialists in urban reconstruction and directors of reconstruction programs from international organizations. Additionally, a multi-dimensional art event was co-organized with the Center for Arts and Humanities, American University of Beirut. The one week event comprised an exhibition of calligraphic works, training sessions, and lectures on the arts of calligraphy and gilding. It was received with great interest by art circles, professionals and art students. The Calligraphy Exhibition and the International Conference on Post-War Reconstruction and Development were respectively the first art event and the first academic conference to be co-organized by IRCICA in Lebanon.

Still another new project launched in this period is related to the historical scholarly sources and the cultural heritage of Kazakhstan. IRCICA cooperated with the R. B. Suleimanov Institute of Oriental Studies, Ministry of Education and Sciences of Kazakhstan, Almaty, in organizing a seminar and launching a joint project on the sources and studies on the Islamic heritage located in Aral-Caspian Region. Details on the project's stages are given in this issue. The seminar was held at the end of March in Almaty. Cooperation with Kazakhstan's scholarly institutions, R. B. Suleimanov Institute of Oriental Studies in particular, had given its first outcome in the congress on "Islamic Civilization in

Central Asia" held in Astana in 2007. Then in October 2016 in Astana, I participated in the conference on "Oriental Studies Research in Kazakhstan: Achievements and Prospects" where I highlighted the contributions of Kazakhstan's cultural institutions to strengthening international cooperation and cultural relations between Kazakhstan and other countries, particularly OIC Member States, and IRCICA's activities and experiences in this direction.

This issue also outlines the activities conducted within the framework of the Eleventh School Program on "Islamic Urban Heritage. Research, Preservation, Management" studying the historical quarters of Jeddah. IRCICA and Al-Turath Islamic Heritage Foundation, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, will continue to organize this series of short-term schools with the next one planned to be held in Morocco.

As reflected by these events and activities, one of the principal missions of IRCICA within the OIC system is to coordinate research and international collaboration for the study, recording, restoration and preservation of cultural and architectural heritage. In line with international terminology, "heritage" here is understood to include the written assets, i.e. the printed and manuscript sources, the architectural, archeological and other tangible assets, and the intangible assets in the form of traditional skills and practices, customs and oral traditions, etc. IRCICA's activities on these subjects are varied, including conferences, research projects and training programs, and planned to be further diversified in subject

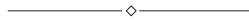
and geographical directions, as achieved for example through the above-mentioned conferences and art events. Forthcoming in this field is the international conference on "Protecting the Cultural Heritage of the Muslim World" which IRCICA and ISESCO will jointly organize on 1-2 November this year in Istanbul. A number of other new projects are under preparation: The Governing Board of IRCICA meeting on its Thirty-Third Session on 3 April examined and adopted the Centre's work program for 2018.

I have the pleasure of recording that on 8 May, as this issue was going to press, we were honoured by the visit of H.E. Dr. Yousef bin Ahmed Al-Othaimen, Secretary General of the OIC, to our headquarters. It was an excellent opportunity to brief H.E. the Secretary General on the spot about the departments of the Centre in charge of the different projects and the outcomes of their activities. H.E. the Secretary General's keen interest in the activities has been a source of encouragement for me and my colleagues.

We hope the activities reflected in this issue will serve as reference and help to promote further cultural cooperation between institutions and individuals concerned in the OIC member countries and beyond.

Thank you for your interest.

*Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren*  
*Director General, IRCICA*



# Thirty-Third Session of IRCICA Governing Board

Istanbul, 3 April 2017



Mrs. Mehla Talebna, Director General of Cultural, Social and Family Affairs at the OIC General Secretariat, Dr. Abdul Aziz Bin Abdullah Bin Turki al-Subai, State of Qatar (Chairman of the Board), and Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren, Director General, IRCICA

The Governing Board of IRCICA held its thirty-third session at the Centre's headquarters at Yıldız Palace, Istanbul, on 3 April 2017.

H. E. Dr. Youssouf Ben Ahmed Al Othaimen, OIC Secretary General, was represented at the session by Mrs. Mehla Talebna, Director General of Cultural, Social and Family Affairs at the OIC General Secretariat. The Chairman and following members were present: Dr. Abdul Aziz Abdullah Turki al-Subai, form the State of Qatar (Chairman of the Board); Dr. Saad Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Rashid (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia); Prof. Amadou Cissé Ndiéguène (Republic of Senegal); Prof. Mehmet İpşirli (Republic of Turkey); Mr. Khalaf Alezainah (State of Kuwait); Sheikh Boureima Abdou Daouda (Republic of Niger); Mrs. Saraya Arbi (Malaysia); Mr. Syed Junaid Akhlaq (Islamic Republic of Pakistan), Dr. Halit Eren, Director General, IRCICA. Mr. Alamine Moukhtar Adoum, the Governing Board member representing the

Republic of Chad, was not able to participate in the session. Ambassador Musa Kulaklıkaya, Director General of SESRIC, Ankara, attended the session with the status of Observer. The members of the Executive Committee of IRCICA present at the session were Dr. Nazih Marouf, Dr. Fazıl Bayat, Mrs. Zeynep Durukal, Dr. Sadık Ünay, Mr. Abdullah Topaloğlu, Ms. Turuncan Kevser, Ms. Najat Khalil and Mr. Fayçal Benaissa.

Dr. Halit Eren in his welcoming address conveyed his gratitude to OIC Secretary General H. E. Dr. Youssouf Bin Ahmed Al Othaimen for his close support to the Centre's activities. Dr. Eren alluded to the difficult situation the Muslim world passes through which places particularly the OIC before the challenges that require solutions to attacks directed to Islam and Muslims. Therefore there is an urgent need to redress the situation, to conduct activities and projects relating to acceptance of the Other and at the same time to revise the programs



in order to counter the trends of terrorism that target the Muslim world and threaten world peace on global scale. The Director General then presented a report on the activities carried out in accordance with the work program for 2016. He expressed his warm thanks to the Republic of Turkey, host country of the Centre, for the support extended to the Centre. He expressed his gratitude to ex-Secretary General H. E. Mr. Iyad Amin Madani for the invaluable support extended to the Centre's activities.

Dr. Abdul Aziz Bin Abdullah Bin Turki al-Subai, Chairman of the Governing Board, praised the role played by the Republic of Turkey, host country of the Centre, and its support of the Centre's activities. He reaffirmed the importance given by the Board members to IRCICA and their appreciation of its commitment which made of it a great cultural centre and a source of proud for the Muslim world. He expressed his satisfaction on renewal of the term of office of the Director General of IRCICA by the OIC wishing him success on behalf of all Board members.

Mrs. Mehla Talebna, representative of the OIC Secretary General, read the address of the Secretary General expressing his appreciation for the work of IRCICA. The Secretary General praised the host country, the Republic of Turkey, for the headquarters allocated to the Centre and thanked the Chairman and members for their

advice helping the Centre in its efforts to counter the currents of terrorism which Islam and the Muslim world are facing. He underlined the need to converge efforts in order to dissipate the doubts alleged to Islam, reinforce Islamic solidarity, increase contacts with minorities in non-Muslim countries, encourage dialogue between cultures and peoples of the world, which can lead to strengthening cooperation in all fields of mutual understanding and development. The Secretary General underlined also the need to pay attention to the issue of al-Quds and Palestine, counter Israeli plans to judaize al-Quds, endeavour to make recommendations to combat Islamophobia. He pointed to the role of IRCICA in reinforcing the unity of Muslims and promoting the heritage of Islamic civilization.

The Board members deliberated and made recommendations on the activities. They all expressed their happiness and appreciation of the renewal of the Director General's term of office. On the subject of publicizing the Centre's activities, it was recommended that social media be used more extensively. Dr. Saad Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Rashid affirmed that the Centre rested continually on solid grounds and was placed among the most important international institutions of the world. He conveyed the greetings of H. R. H. Prince Sultan Bin Selman, Chairman of the Saudi Commission for Tourism and Antiquities

(Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) to the members of the Board. He gave the information that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia implements currently the project of the "Custodian of the Holy Places of Islam" aiming to preserve the civilizational heritage of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. In this context the Saudi Commission for Tourism and Antiquities undertook a program titled "The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: Destination of Pilgrims (Umra and Hajj) and Muslim Visitors" which shows the attention and care extended to the sites of Islamic heritage, notably Mecca and Madina.

The work program and the budget proposed for 2018 were examined. Regarding the Centre's project on preparation of a comprehensive book on Islamic history and civilization, Dr. Saad Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Rashid said that complementary scholarly information can be provided by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia including, among others, the new archeological discoveries made in Saudi Arabia. He spoke of a new project titled "Oasis of the Holy Quran" which consists of a cultural centre and a specialized museum containing exhibitions of artifacts and audio-visual presentations concerning the Holy Quran. The project aims at linking the history of the Holy Quran to the phase of advancement towards the future, at offering an educational establishment displaying all that is related to the Holy Quran and providing public education through the Oasis' cultural and social activities and conferences, scientific forums and

educational programs benefiting youth and their families.

Mr. Syed Junaid Akhlaq cited the projects in which the Islamic Republic of Pakistan could participate more actively, particularly in the field of arts and culture, and the studies carried out by IRCICA on the ancient manuscripts of the Quran. With regard to the latter, he requested that these studies be translated into Urdu, while indicating the availability of Pakistan to conclude a cooperation agreement with IRCICA for this purpose. He said that his country was ready to provide IRCICA with all information and data relating to Islamic sites and monuments in Pakistan in order to integrate them into the Prince Sultan Bin Selman Islamic Architectural Heritage Database. He referred to the forthcoming international congress on calligraphy to be co-organized by IRCICA in Pakistan.

Prof. Mehmet İpşirli lauded the volumes published by the Centre on al-Quds. Referring to the sources of IRCICA's studies, he indicated that the Turkish Prime Ministry's Ottoman Archives contain two hundred million documents pertaining to thirty-three States in the Muslim world.

Ms. Saraya Arbi commended the Centre's 2018 work program proposal, including its studies on the Holy Qur'an and the activities organized in the field of cultural dialogue. She expressed her interest in the Centre's intention to organize a





Dr. Saad Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Rashid  
*(Saudi Arabia)*



Mr. Khalaf Alezainah  
*(Kuwait)*



Prof. Amadou Cissé Ndiéguène  
*(Senegal)*



Prof. Mehmet İpsirli  
*(Turkey)*



Mrs. Saraya Arbi  
*(Malaysia)*



Mr. Syed Junaid Akhlaq  
*(Pakistan)*



Sheikh Boureima Abdou Daouda  
*(Niger)*

festival of handicrafts in Southeast Asia and her willingness to cooperate to place the festival in Malaysia.

Professor Amadou Cissé Ndiéguène paid tribute to the former OIC Secretary General, Mr. Iyad Ameen Madani, and commended his accomplishments during his tenure and his support for the Centre. He congratulated the Director General of the Centre and his staff for the professionally prepared reports, as was the case in previous years. He addressed the problem of adversity currently faced by Islam and Muslims around the world and called for combining efforts and taking the necessary measures to combat this scourge.

The Governing Board adopted the activity report for 2016, the work program and the budget proposed for 2018. These documents will be submitted to the Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC Member States for adoption, through the Joint General Assembly of the OIC subsidiaries (i.e. the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs, on its 40th session, held on 25-27 April 2017 in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia).



## Congresses, Workshops

### **"Islamophobia in Europe: Past and Present", International Symposium organized by IRCICA and the Center for Balkan and Black Sea Studies, Yıldız Technical University**

Istanbul, 13-14 January 2017

IRCICA and the Center for Balkan and Black Sea Studies (BALKAR), Yıldız Technical University, Istanbul, jointly organized an international symposium on "Islamophobia in Europe: Past and Present" on 13-14 January, 2017. The event brought together prominent scholars and young academicians who dealt with various aspects of Islamophobia in Europe. The participants, 16 in total, came from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Belgium, Croatia, Finland, Germany, Greece, India, Kosovo, Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Sweden and Turkey.

Welcoming addresses were delivered by Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA and Prof. Bahri Şahin, Rector of Yıldız Technical University. Part of the panels dealt with theoretical and conceptual issues pertaining to Islamophobia such as fear mongering, terrorism, Eurocentrism, neo-colonialism, neo-orientalism, patriotism, racism, xenophobia, immigration, refugees and efforts towards the multiculturalism. Others focused on practical situations and country-specific trends. Some participants examined the roots and manifestations of Islamophobia in certain countries such as Netherlands, Germany, Finland, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and Greece.

In the first session, the terminology and content of Islamophobia in Europe was explored. It was shown that Muslims in distinct regions of Europe presumably were exposed to different forms of Islamophobia. In this respect, it was suggested that there may be more accurate ways of understanding the events labeled too often without much thought as "Islamophobia". Islamophobia no longer seemed entirely unique to the period since "9/11". Moreover, it also failed to be easily identifiable. The experiences are so disparate, the forms in which Islamophobia are



expressed, felt, experienced, and resisted, so distinctive, that any single conclusion proves impossible. Often, the only way to judge just what may be considered Islamophobic was to actually move outside the common points of reference of conventional studies on European xenophobia. The resulting complexity of how Muslims of various backgrounds actually experienced individual or collective prejudice could only be fully evaluated in comparison.

The following panels focused on: "Central and Western Europe", "Refugees and Islamophobia", "Eastern Balkans", "Western Balkans". In these panels, speakers examined Islamophobia from the

angle of the image of Islam and Islamic empires/ states in Europe (press, historiography, school education, textbooks, literature, art etc.); Muslim communities and minority groups in Europe and their religious organizations, the minority policies of European countries, status of Islam in Europe; instruments of anti-Muslim propaganda, publications, nationalist or racist political organizations and parties and their propaganda against Islam and Muslims; attacks and repression against Muslim communities and minorities in Europe in the past and present; activities and responses in the Islamic world against the Islamophobia in the West.

The conference offered participants and the audience a strong argument for both expanding the studies further and doing so with a specific comparative and inter-disciplinary focus. In addition to deepening knowledge of the dimensions, trends and diversity of Islamophobia in Europe, the symposium was an occasion to assess the extent to which Islamophobia has been a subject of academic research and to encourage young academicians in that direction.



Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA



Prof. Bahri Şahin, Rector of Yıldız Technical University





## **OIC Expert Group Workshop: “Evaluating the First Decade of the OIC Islamophobia Observatory: The Role of OIC Islamophobia Observatory in Bolstering Muslim World’s Efforts to Address Islamophobia Around the World”**

**Istanbul, 4-5 April 2017**

The OIC General Secretariat and IRCICA organized, with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, an Expert Group Meeting themed: “The Role of OIC Islamophobia Observatory in Bolstering the Muslim World’s Efforts to Address the Issue of Islamophobia around the World”. The meeting was held in Istanbul on 4-5 April 2017. The main objectives were, to review and evaluate the experience gained through the OIC Islamophobia Observatory after its first ten years of existence and make recommendations for efficiency of its future activities in the light of present circumstances. Thus the meeting

- reviewed the current challenges of Islamophobia and issued a set of recommendations on the roles and actions to be undertaken for addressing those challenges,
- cultivated ideas in terms of the new ways and means to help reenergizing the OIC Islamophobia Observatory,
- dwelt on the roles that can be played by the Muslim diaspora in combating Islamophobia and countering intolerance and discrimination based on religion,

- shared best practices for combating Islamophobia, intolerance, and discriminatory practices in various geographical regions,
- discussed ways of laying a strong institutional base for coordination and collaboration in the field of Islamophobia,
- suggested practical measures to improve and strengthen the OIC Islamophobia Observatory and improve anti-Islamophobia policies in OIC Member States.

The meeting started with the welcoming address of IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren. The Director General said that the OIC Observatory’s mission has gained further importance since its establishment, because Islamophobia not only persisted but acquired new forms and dimensions. “It came to be used as a tool for ill-intentioned actions such as to instigate xenophobia and separatism. It entrenched itself in Western societies as a political mindset and discourse. Anti-Muslim prejudice is a real life problem for Muslims in Europe and U.S.A.” He pointed out that the issue is of concern not only to Muslims in the West but also to the societies where they are living as minorities. Dr. Eren also outlined



the activities undertaken by IRCICA to contribute to international efforts aimed at countering Islamophobia.

The statement of H.E. Dr. Yousef A. Al-Othaimeen, Secretary General of the OIC, was read by Amb. Dr. Bashir Ansari, Director of the Dialogue and Outreach Department, OIC. The Secretary General pointed to the causes of the rise of anti-Muslim discrimination and hatred in many parts of the world which include the rise of xenophobic political discourse and movements, the upsurge in extremist ideologies and related terrorist attacks across the world, the global migration crisis due to unresolved political issues, and promotion of negative stereotypes and misinformation about Islam by various media. Dr. Al-Othaimeen underlined the need to counter all types of radical extremist discourse, including through education as well as the media, particularly the Internet, in order to delegitimize the violent and manipulative acts committed in the name of religion, ideology or claim of cultural superiority. "Discrimination and hatred do not represent a threat to Muslims

only. It constitutes a threat to the very principles of justice, equality, freedom and harmony" said the Secretary General, and added "this brings out the need to address all forms of discrimination and hatred, in particular on the basis of religion or belief, by applying universal standards to provide equal protection to all targeted groups and religions, in all parts of the world."

Ambassador Ahmet Yıldız, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Turkey, gave a speech in which he expressed Turkey's deep concern in the face of the growing Islamophobia problem. As the current Chair of the Islamic Summit and the host of several OIC institutions, Turkey actively takes part in efforts to counter Islamophobia and takes steps in this regard at bilateral and multilateral levels and within the framework of international institutions. Mr. Yıldız said that the subject of countering Islamophobia is a permanent item in the OIC agenda. Pointing out that one of the most important activities of the OIC in this regard is the operation of the Islamophobia Observatory, he called for support and cooperation of the



OIC Member States and all parties concerned towards continuous efficiency and accuracy of its work. He invited all participants to give their expert opinions in contribution to this effort.

Mr. Necmeddin Bilal Erdoğan, President of World Ethnosport Federation, gave a greeting speech conveying examples from experiences related to international relations and outlooks of the Western world towards other peoples. Mr. Erdoğan first drew attention to the inappropriateness of the term "Islamophobia" which suggests fear, however Islam is not something to be afraid of. He replaced this term with "anti-Muslim extremism", as used by Dr. Fared Hafez in his report "Anti-Muslim Extremism in Europe" published by IRCICA. Then Mr. Erdoğan spoke of the global imbalances and seclusion of parts of the world's population due to differences in economic and military power and lack of equality in terms of respect for the different cultures. He concluded by expressing that the Muslim world should seek to empower its culture and its heritage again by coming together in a union of brothers, as an Ummah, thus creating a synergy for enhancing its economic power and cultural power.

Throughout the working sessions the meeting received active participation and contributions from academics, scholars, journalists and representatives participating from 25 OIC Member States. Four OIC subsidiaries participated in the meeting namely IRCICA, the OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Council (IPHRC), the Islamic Conference Youth Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation (ICYF-DC) and the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic countries (SESRIC). The sessions were conducted with six panelists, namely: Amb. Ufuk Gokcen, Deputy Director General of the Division for OIC, ECO and D-8 Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey and former OIC Representative to the UN, New York; Dr. Bashir Ansari, Director of Dialogue and Outreach Department, OIC; Dr. Hasan Abedin, Director, Muslim Minorities Division, OIC; Mr. Doudou Diène, Former United Nations Special



Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance; Dr. Fared Hafez, Lecturer, Salzburg University, Austria; Mr. Adam Abdelmoula, Director at Human Rights Council and Treaty Mechanisms Division, UNHR Office of the High Commissioner, Geneva, Switzerland. There were three moderators, namely Prof. Ali Köse, Dean, Faculty of Theology, University of Marmara, Istanbul; Prof. Muhammed Abu Nimer, Senior Advisor, KAIICID, Vienna, and Prof. Sadık Unay, IRCICA.

The panel discussions emphasized the following themes:

1. Reviewing the first decade of the OIC Islamophobia Observatory, focusing on:
  - Mandate, structure, roles and works performed by the OIC Islamophobia Observatory.
  - Current challenges of Islamophobia and anti-Muslim extremism; and expected roles to be played by the OIC Islamophobia Observatory.
  - New ways and means to reenergize the OIC Islamophobia Observatory.
2. The role of Muslim Diaspora in Combating Islamophobia and Countering Intolerance and Discrimination Based on Religion, focusing on:
  - Actions against acts of intolerance, discrimination, xenophobia at all levels;
  - Promotion of interfaith dialogue at different levels;
  - Best practices from various regions.
3. The Role of Member States and OIC Institutions in Combating Islamophobia and Countering Intolerance and Discrimination Based on Religion, focusing on:

- Best practices in OIC Member states;
- Existing platforms and measures applied in different countries for combating Islamophobia, intolerance and discrimination based on religion;
- Mechanisms for collaboration and coordination between the OIC Islamophobia Observatory, Member States and OIC Institutions in Combating Islamophobia.

It was noted that since the 9/11 attacks, but particularly after the Danish cartoon crises in 2005, Islamophobia had been one of the important agenda items of the OIC; unfortunately, it is now a permanent one. Islamophobia, anti-Muslim extremism and hate speech have been on the rise, particularly in the framework of political campaigns conducted in Western countries. At the same time, there are many reports from Europe and the US indicating a serious surge in hate crimes and attacks against individuals perceived to be Muslims, mosques and community centers. Discrimination and intolerance against Muslims is increasing day by day. Populist politicians are trying to unleash hatred towards Muslims by taking advantage of the negative sentiments and concerns caused by the large movement of refugees and migrants. What is most alarming is that Islamophobia and its articulation is becoming politically and popularly acceptable for the larger public opinion and mass-media.

Some of the meeting's recommendations were:

- To encourage legal and civic advocacy by the Muslim community leaders in order to oppose normalization of Islamophobia in the mainstream political and media discourses in Europe and the US.
- To pay special attention to the problems of the

European Muslims, i.e. by taking the necessary action to operationalize the Contact Group on Muslim Minorities in Europe with the objective of contributing to the spirit of dialogue and cooperation for supporting cohesive and harmonious societies.

- To establish linkages with non-Muslim religious institutions/organizations to promote interfaith dialogue and understanding.
- To think of reviewing the terminology including 'Islamophobia'; since 'phobia' literally means 'being afraid of something', while Islam is not something to be afraid of.
- To consider using the term "anti-Muslim extremism" instead; as it better encapsulates the present trends gaining speed in the Western world.
- To create partnerships with non-Muslim institutions and individuals to implement concrete actions; i.e. policies, development assistance, relief work, etc.
- Engage in a constructive and meaningful dialogue with Non-Muslims in order to develop a successful mechanism to counter all types of discrimination against Muslims.
- To develop tools for objectively measuring Islamophobia through statistical methods.
- To emphasize Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms in combating Islamophobia.
- There is a need for a shift in dealing and addressing the issue of Islamophobia from ideological (religious/political) perspective to adopting a human rights framework.
- To leave aside Huntington like conflict based approaches and instead to rely on laws and rights concerning freedom of religion and other basic rights.



- To have the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the UN as the base and core framework to address Islamophobia.
- To use the existing UN treaties on religious freedoms, freedom of expression, prohibition of racial discrimination etc. as tools to combat Islamophobia.
- To shift and adopt an integrated approach to countering Islamophobia rather than a geographical one.
- To change hearts and minds by providing information about positive human experiences when Muslims and non-Muslims interact.
- To engage intensively with Muslim communities in Western countries to raise awareness on new forms of discrimination.
- While Islamophobia is being transformed and taking new appearances, OIC's actions should also be transformed in line with the transformation of the challenge.
- To promote civic activism as well as solidarity with other vulnerable or advocacy groups.
- Taking into account the current politicization of Islamophobia, there is an overwhelming need for joint political action, since political efforts are the cornerstone of all other efforts.
- To change negative misperceptions and attitudes; a well-designed and systematically applied intervention has to include three conditions: provide new information (change ways of thinking); provide a positive experience in the interaction with the hated Other; provide an opportunity to jointly work together on a concrete action.
- To create alliance with other marginalized and dehumanized groups on the basis of racism, discrimination, and xenophobia is also an effective strategy for Muslim diaspora.
- To form links with those groups who fight anti-Semitism and Christian-phobia.
- To start thinking on power relations and power structures that serve the dominant majority groups, while linking Islamophobia to racism and class differences.
- To create centers for the study of Islam in Western societies on the examples of the few that already exist (Georgetown, Harvard, etc.)
- Muslim societies and states need to internally address issues and factors that contribute to the creation of negative images of Islam and Muslims, because domestic reforms (freedom of speech, participatory governance, policies of inclusion and against discrimination) are essential to prevent further dehumanization and prejudice against Muslims outside these countries.
- To align with Civil Societies and young people in implementing programs and actions for addressing the issue.
- To closely work with concerned stakeholders in Europe with a view to changing the hearts and minds of Non-Muslim Westerners that immigrants are not necessarily a threat to the values and principles of European societies.
- To challenge the ongoing myth of "Islamization" of the West as nurtured by xenophobic, populist parties that are on the rise across Europe and elsewhere.
- To work for countering media reports which propagate stereotypes and stigmatize Muslim populations.
- To encourage Member States and Institutions to draw a line and take concrete action towards seeking an end to the systematic pattern and increasing frequency of events that stigmatize and alienate Muslims and constitute an affront to their dignity.
- To encourage Member States to take all appropriate measures including necessary legislation against such acts that lead to incitement to hatred, discrimination and violence against persons based on their religion.
- To continue condemning all acts of terrorism irrespective of wherever they take place and whoever commits them.
- To give high priority to the implementation of "OIC Media Strategy in Countering Islamophobia and its Implementation Mechanism" which was adopted on 21 December 2016 by the 11th Session of the Islamic Conference of Information Ministers held in Jeddah.
- To strategize and enhance dialogue (interreligious, intercultural, and inter-civilizational).
- To work more for displaying to the world what Muslims are, rather than simply denying what the extremists have been saying or doing.

# **Seminar on the Project “Islamic Heritage in Aral Caspian Region” organized Jointly with R.B. Suleimanov Institute of Oriental Studies, Ministry of Education and Science, Kazakhstan**

Almaty, 29 March 2017

A seminar was organized jointly with R.B. Suleimanov Institute of Oriental Studies, Ministry of Education and Science of Kazakhstan, Almaty, on 29 March 2017, discussing and launching a joint project to deal with “Islamic heritage in Aral Caspian Region”. The project will consist of three stages to be conducted in the next couple of years, concerning: the monuments of Islamic Culture in Bokey-Orda (1801-1845), the monuments of the “Maulimberdi” Educational and Memorial Complex (1860-1930), and the monuments of “Khan Zirat” in Zhantöre Khan Complex (1759–2 November 1809).

Opening remarks were given by Dr. Halit Eren, Director General, IRCICA; Prof. Derbisali Absattar Baghisbayuli, Director, R.B. Suleimanov Institute of Oriental Studies; and, Prof. Meruert Khuatovna Abusseitova, correspondent-member of the National Academy of Sciences, Republic of Kazakhstan. Following participants were also present: Prof. Ashirbek Muminov (Head of Research Department, IRCICA), Dr. Kamarova Ruziia Islamovna, Astana; Dr. Nurmanova Aitzhan, Almaty; Dr. Mederova Dina, Almaty; Mr. Dyusenov Baghdad, Almaty; Dr. Ismurzin Zhanibek, Oral; Mr. Safullin Zhantas, Oral; Mr. Kabzhanov Qazibek, Oral; Mr. Kurimbaev Aibolat, Oral; Mr. Zhahatov Muratbek, Oral.



## **Seminar Sessions:**

Moderator: Prof. Ashirbek Muminov

## **Presentation of Projects**

1. Safullin Zhantas (Oral) – Chief of the group “Maulimberdi” Educational and Memorial Complex
2. Kabzhanov Qazibek (Oral) – Chief of the group “Khan Zirat”, Zhantöre Khan Complex
3. Kurumbaev Aibolat (Oral) – Chief of the group “Zhangir Khan”
4. Nurmanova Aitzhan – Chief of the group, project «Islamic Heritage in Aral-Caspian Region»

## **Discussions: Practical Issues and Timetable for Preparing Books:**

- A. Monuments of the “Maulimberdi” Educational and Memorial Complex (1860-1930)
- B. “Khan Zirat”, Zhantöre Khan Complex
- C. The Book-Album “Monuments of Islamic Culture in Bokey-Orda (1801-1845)”

# Conference on "Scientific Readings Dedicated to the Memory of Outstanding Kazakh Scholar in Oriental Studies Dr. Timur Kasymovich Beisembiyev (1955-2016)"

30 March 2017 and IRCICA's Participation

After the conclusion of the seminar on the project "Islamic Heritage in Aral Caspian Region", the next day in Almaty, IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren and Head of Research Department Prof. Ashirbek Muminov participated in the conference on "Scientific Readings Dedicated to the Memory of Outstanding Kazakh Scholar in Oriental Studies Dr. Timur Kasymovich Beisembiyev (1955-2016): The Issues of Kazakhstani Source Studies and Historiography". The conference was organized by R. B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies, Ministry of Education and Science, Kazakhstan.

Beisembiev was a scholar in history, culture, source studies and cross-cultural contacts between Central Asia, Kazakhstan, Middle and Near East and South Asia in the 10th-19th centuries.

The conference gathered a number of specialized research papers in and around the field of Oriental Studies. After welcoming remarks by Prof. A. Derbisali, Director, R. B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies and Dr. Halit Eren, Director General, IRCICA, the following sessions were conducted:

## Session I.

**Moderator:** A. Derbisali

Zh. N. Zhunusova, Department of Theoretical and Applied Linguistics, L.N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University, "*Poly-lingual Personality of Interpreter as a Mediator Between Cultures (On the Basis of Texts Translated by T. K. Beisembiev)*"

M. Kh. Abusseitova, Director, Republican Informational Centre for the Study of Historical Materials at the R. B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies, "*T. K. Beisembiev's Contributions to Kazakhstani Source Studies*"

K. U. Torlanbaeva, Head, Department of Ancient and Medieval History of Kazakhstan and Neighboring Countries, Ch. Valikhanov Institute of History and Ethnology, "*Worthy of the Most Worthy Sons of the Kazakh Land*"

## Session II.

**Moderator:** G. M. Duisen, Deputy Director, R. B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies

K.Sh. Khafizova, Academician Member, Kazakh National Academy of Natural Sciences, "*Iran and China: A Conjugation of Civilizations on the Example of the "Book of Changes" ("I Ching")*"

R. U. Karimova, Head, Center for Uighur Studies at the R.B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies, "*China and Eastern Turkestan: Towards the Question of Cultural Interaction*"

Z. G. Jalilov, Head of Department, R.B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies, "*Science and Medicine of the Muslim Orient: A Connection Between Antiquity and the Western Middle Ages*"

Sh. Zh. Tokhtabaeva, Chief Research Fellow, R.B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies, "*Images of the Space and the Time in Kazakhs' Jewelry*"

M. B. Chermanova, G. M. Duisen, R. B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies, "*Towards the Issue of Documentary History of Kazakh Elites (Photographic and Genealogical Sources of the Shormanovs Kin)*"

L. G. Yerekesheva, Deputy Director on International Affairs, R. B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies, "*Features of Islam and the Cultural-Religious Tradition in Central Asia (On the Example of "Serindia" by A. Stein)*"

A. K. Kushkumbayev, Department of Regional Studies, L.N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University, "*Main Written Sources on the Tactical art of Mongols of 13th Century*"

S. Abdullo, Ablai Khan Kazakh University of International Relations and World Languages, "*Tadhkira (anthology) 'Lubob al-albab' by Muhammad 'Awfi Bukhari as the Most Important Literary and Historical Source*"

N. Bazykhan, R. B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies, "*On the Official Seal of the Mongolian Empire: Historical and Source Studies Analysis*"

G. A. Kambarbekova, R.B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies, "Intercultural Relations Between the Eastern and the Western Peoples on the Data of 'Javami' al-Hikayat" by Sadid ad-Din Muhammad al-'Awfi"

G. M. Molotova, R.B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies, "The Image of Rulers and Sufis in Kissa-yi Ibrahim ibn Adham"

Ye. I. Rudenko, R. B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies, "T. K. Beisembiev as a Researcher of Central and South Asian Interaction"

E. U. Baydarov, Head of Department, R. B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies and Eurasian Research Institute (ERI) at the Akhmet Yassawi International Kazakh-Turkish University; A. Kh. Ryskildin, Ufa, Republic of Bashkortostan, "Imitation models of identity in postmodern conditions (On the Example of Modern Historiography of Bashkirs)"

B. Sh. Batyrhan, R.B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies. Iranian Studies in Kazakhstan, "T. K. Beisembiev as Specialist in Source Studies and Iranology"

H. V. Masimova, R.B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies, "Grammatical Features of Derivational Affixes in Written Sources of the Eastern Turkistan"

E. M. Molotova, R. B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies, "Information of Javami' al-Hikayat on the Qarakhanids, Samanids, Ghaznevids and Seljuqids"

### Session III.

**Moderator:** Ashirbek K. Muminov, Head of the Research Department, IRCICA

Ashirbek Muminov, "Historical Documents from the Mausoleum of Khwaja Ahmad Yasawi: Approaches to Their Classification"

Sh. Nurmanova, R. B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies, "Regional Features of Epigraphic Monuments in Kazakhstan"

R. I. Kamarova, Department of Regional Studies, L. N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University, "West-Kazakhstan Regional Historiography"

Zh. N. Safullin, R. B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies, "Educational and Memorial Complex of Mawlimberdi – The Last Haven of Scholars"

Zh. Ismurzin, R. B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies, "Hazrat Mawlimberdi and His Descendants"

D. Ye. Mederova, R. B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies, "Motives of Qulpitas (Gravestones) Inscriptions (On the Basis of Materials from Western

Kazakhstan)"

B. Dyusenov, R.B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies, "Lexical Features of Epitaphic Texts: Case of Western Kazakhstan"

K. K. Kabzhanov, R.B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies, "On the Monuments of Historical Figures in the Territory of Aqzhayiq District (West Kazakhstan Region)"

M. Zhahatov, Researcher, "Historical Personalities, Verses of the Quran, Hadiths, Dugha and Other Amazing Epigraphical Texts from Bokey-Orda District (West Kazakhstan Region)"

A. Sh. Kurumbayev, R. B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies, "History of Study of the Khan Zirat Monuments in Bokey-Orda District (West Kazakhstan Region)"

### Session IV.

U. A. Sultonov, Humboldt Foundation, University of Bonn; Institute of Oriental Studies, Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan, "Comparative Analysis of Genealogies of Siddiqid Khwajas of Tashkent: The Descendants of Shaykh Zayn al-Din Ku-yi 'Arifan (1164-1259)"

R. N. Shigabdinov, Institute of History, Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan, "Some Aspects of Kazakh History (XVIIIth–First Half of the XIXth centuries)"

B. B. Aminov, Doctorate in History, Head of Sector, Coordination and Methodological Centre on the Issues of Recent History of Uzbekistan, Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan, "Poetry in Gravestone Inscriptions from Mawarannahr"

A. S. Erkinov, Alisher Navoi Tashkent State University of Uzbek Language and Literature, Uzbekistan, "Legitimizing Fiction in the Kokand Khanate Under 'Umar Khan (1810-1822): How 'Bakhtiyarnamah' by Daqa'iqi Samarqandi Formed the Basis of 'Altun Bishik' Legend"

Ya. V. Pilipchuk, Department of the Eurasian Steppe, A. Yu. Krymsky Institute of Oriental Studies, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, "Uzbek-Kyzylbash Wars of the 16-18th centuries" Zh.M. Sabitov, Department of Regional Studies, L. N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University, "Alty san Alash and the Origin of the Term 'Alash'"

U. A. Utepbergenova, R. B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies, «On one Document from the Mausoleum of Khwaja Ahmad Yasawi»

D. A. Saiynov, K. Zhubanov Aktyubinsk Regional State University, "Muslimism and Religious Situation in the Western Region of Kazakhstan (XIXth– to early XXth Centuries)"

# Preservation of Architectural Heritage

## International Conference on "Urbicide II –Iraq, Palestine, Syria, Yemen–Post-War Reconstruction and Development" organized Jointly with the Center for Arts and Humanities of the American University of Beirut, with the Cooperation of UNESCO's Beirut Office

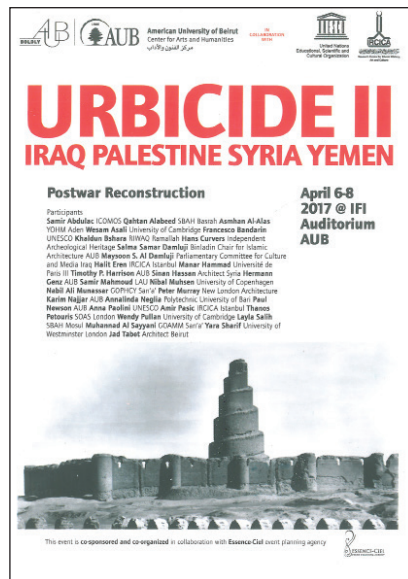
Beirut, 6-8 April 2017

IRCICA and the Center for Arts and Humanities (CAH) of the American University of Beirut organized jointly, with the cooperation of UNESCO's Beirut Office, the Second International Conference on "Urbicide II –Iraq, Palestine, Syria, Yemen– Post-War Reconstruction and Development". The conference was held in Beirut, Lebanon on 6-8 April 2017. Experts from around the world and concerned representatives of international organizations participated. Conference's aim was to reflect on the implications of the destruction of urban space and shed light on post-war reconstruction and development in the region. It followed a first conference on "Urbicide, Syria" which was convened in April 2016 by Università Iuav di Venezia, Italy, bringing together an interdisciplinary group of professionals from institutions including Cambridge University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and AUB.

The Urbicide II Conference dealt with the four heritage zones cited in its title. On account of its relevance for the conference's purview, an extra session was held on architectural heritage in Lebanon.

The conference started with a moment of silence in memory of recent tragic events in the region. IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren was not able to participate in the opening having to attend

the Expert Meeting on the OIC Islamophobia Observatory (Istanbul); his address was read by Prof. Arch. Amir Pasic (Head, Department of Architectural Heritage Preservation, IRCICA). Prof. Nadia Cheikh, Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, AUB, and Prof. Abdulrahim Abuhusayn, Director, CAH/AUB gave talks in the opening ceremony. Prof. Cheikh said that this conference reflected the urgent need to engage with and think critically about the ongoing destructions in Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Palestine. Prof. Abuhusayn said that "Cultural heritage constitutes the memory of peoples, it reflects their history and frames their future." He pointed out that cognizant of this fact, the world community had engaged in assessment and reconstruction of heritage in conflict zones, underlining in this regard the crucial roles of UNESCO, IRCICA, ICOMOS and ICCROM in particular as leading organizations in the area.



In his address Dr. Halit Eren underlined that IRCICA was directly concerned with the urban heritage in the conflict zones under study, and all of them being part of the geography of the OIC and IRCICA members. He said that the Centre's engagement in assessment, preservation, reconstruction, management and re-use of cultural and architectural heritage took shape in diverse programs and projects carried out since the beginning of the 1990s. Its ten-year

program of annual architectural workshops in Bosnia and Herzegovina was followed by a continual project on rehabilitation of the Old City of al-Quds. Dr. Eren spoke of the Centre's current studies on Syria that focus on the Old City of Aleppo and Damascus. He also informed the audience of IRCICA's other projects related to heritage in conflict areas that were outside the focus of the present conference, namely Jammu and Kashmir, Karabagh in Azerbaijan and northern Mali.

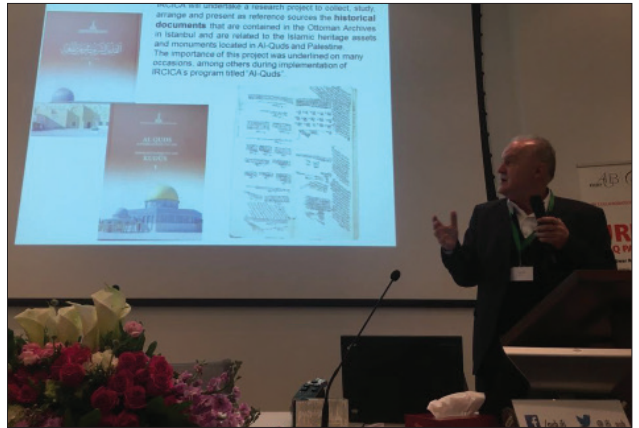
Then Dr. Cristina Menegazzi, representing UNESCO as manager of its Emergency Safeguarding of Syrian Cultural Heritage program, gave the keynote address outlining collaborative work between the international community and local stakeholders for reconstruction and recovery even during conflict, and offered recommended action to reduce the impact of conflict and raise funds to implement well-studied solutions.

Prof. Arch. Amir Pasic's presentation at the conference described the experiences and outcomes obtained by IRCICA in its architectural programs involving studies on rehabilitation of the historical cities of Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina), al-Quds/Jerusalem and Aleppo (Syria).

And the concluding remarks came from Prof. Arch. Wendy Pullan from the University of Cambridge.



Prof. Abdulrahim Abuhusayn  
Director, CAH/AUB



Prof. Amir Pasic (IRCICA)



**Participation in international activities relating to architectural heritage in war-torn and conflict areas, UNESCO, Paris**

23-24 February 2017

IRCICA was represented by Prof. Arch. Amir Pasic, Head of the Department of Architectural Heritage Preservation, IRCICA, in the International Coordination Conference on Safeguarding of Cultural Heritage in Liberated Areas of Iraq which was organized by UNESCO with the support of the Government of Iraq, at UNESCO in Paris, on 23-24 February 2017. The meeting discussed actions for the safeguarding and longer-term recovery of the heritage sites.

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**IRCICA and Al-Turath Islamic Heritage Foundation (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) "Islamic Urban Heritage. Research, Preservation, Management" Eleventh Program**

Jeddah, 31 March-7 April 2017



IRCICA and Al-Turath Islamic Heritage Foundation (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) are carrying on their collaboration with their joint program of short-term architectural schools titled "Islamic Urban Heritage. Research, Preservation, Management". One Summer School and one Spring School are held each year with lectures and study visits to heritage sites and monuments. They are designed for graduate and undergraduate students and young professionals trained in architecture, urban planning, archaeology, art history, history, civil engineering or project management. The eleventh program, which is the fifth Spring program,

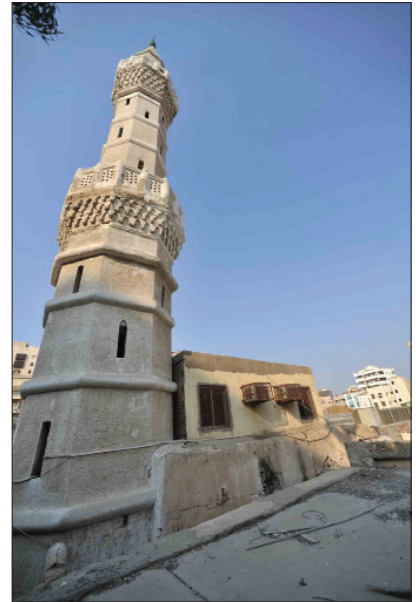
was held in Jeddah on 31 March-8 April 2017, with 25 participants. The studies focused on five mosques, six historical buildings serving as governmental offices, and four structures of special value with respect to urban morphology.

Lectures on theoretical and technological aspects of survey, design and documentation in conservation of historical structures were given by Dr. Osama bin Mohamed Al-Gohary, Secretary General, Al-Turath Islamic Heritage Foundation; Prof. Arch. Amir Pasic, IRCICA; Prof. Saleh Lamei, General Director of the Centre for Conservation and Preservation of Islamic Architectural Heritage (CIAH,

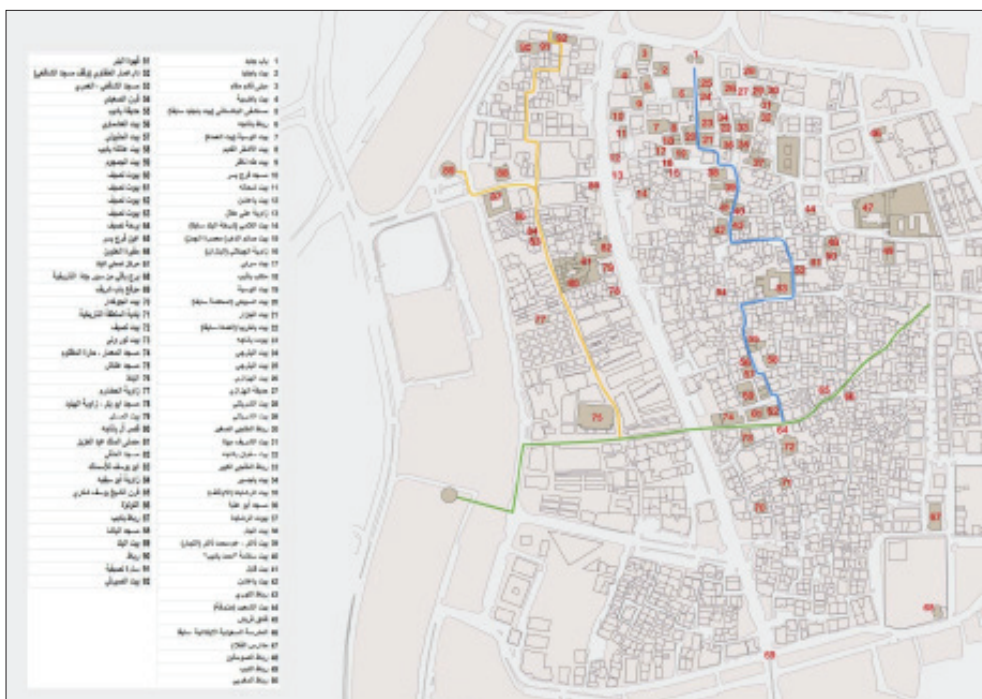
Cairo); Dr. Sameh Abdusalam Abbas, deputy manager for architectural and conservation studies in historic Jeddah; Mr Alija Botic, specialist in laser surveying and modelling, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Arch. Fouad Serrhini, Specialist of conservation, Fez, Morocco. Site visits and surveys of buildings were conducted by Eng. Sami Nawar, Manager, Urban Heritage and Head of the Municipality of Historic Jeddah. Studio works preceded the presentations by groups of trainees on the results of their works.

The historical part of Jeddah, also known as al-Balad, is on UNESCO's World Heritage List since 2014. The general strategy for the preservation and revitalization of the area is being drawn by the Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage (SCTH) in coordination with Jeddah Municipality and the participation of civil society. Since the third Caliph, Othman

bin Affan R.A., made Jeddah the official port of Mecca, Jeddah has been the gateway for Muslim pilgrims who arrive by sea on their way to Mecca. Jeddah is a multicultural center characterized by a distinctive architectural tradition including tower houses built in the late 19th century by the city's mercantile elites. Its historical part reflects the Red Sea architectural tradition with settlements carrying specific technical and aesthetic solutions to cope with humidity and heat. This quarter has an important architectural history, particular typologies, building materials, decorative patterns, and social and cultural features. It is a living urban environment that hosts residential and commercial activities, with mosques, charitable structures, and one century-old commercial establishments. Its traditional mosques include Masjid al-Shafii, Masjid al-Mimar, the Mosque of Othman bin Affan



or Masjid al-Albanus and Mosque of Abu Anbah, as well as large houses such as Beit Nasif, Beit Zenal and Beit Noor Wali, schools, charity houses (Ribat) such as Ribat Banajah-Hadhramou-th, Ribat al-Khanji Kabir and Saghir and Ribat al-Maghrabi, waqfs, historic landmark buildings and springs such as Ain Qausiyah.





## **"Al-Quds in Historical Photographs" Exhibition in Eastern al-Quds**

14-17 February 2017

**I**RCICA organized an exhibition of historical photographs of al-Quds which was held in Eastern al-Quds, in the newly opened headquarters of Yunus Emre Turkish Cultural Centre. The photographs were selected from the albums of Sultan Abdulhamid II (end of the 19th - beginning of the 20th centuries) and other collections preserved in IRCICA's archives.

Addressing the opening ceremony on 14 February, IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren expressed his pleasure to be contributing to the event, which was organized under the patronage of the Turkish Consulate General and in cooperation with Yunus Emre Turkish Cultural Centre, and presenting valuable photographs selected from IRCICA's archives. He briefed the audience on IRCICA's activity programs and projects on the Islamic history and cultural heritage of al-Quds. In this regard he referred to the research projects and the international conferences concerning the preservation of cultural and architectural

heritage in al-Quds and the publications including albums of historical photographs. In his address, Ambassador Gürcan Türkoğlu, Consul General of Turkey in al-Quds, expressed his appreciation of the special projects and activities carried out by IRCICA on history and cultural heritage of al-Quds. He thanked IRCICA for its contribution to the event. Ambassador Türkoğlu affirmed Turkey's continual support for cultural activities related to al-Quds and wished success to Yunus Emre Turkish Cultural Centre. The opening was



also addressed by Sheikh Ikrima Sabri, former Chairman of the Supreme Islamic Council in al-Quds and Imam at al-Aqsa Mosque, who underlined the importance of the documentation activities concerning al-Quds especially as regards the period of Sultan Abdulhamid, who displayed a noble attitude on the Palestine question and with whom the Palestinians are proud of. The ceremony was held in the presence

of Mr. Adnan Al-Husseini, Minister of Jerusalem Affairs of the State of Palestine; Sheikh Abdul Azeem Husain Abdul Qader Salhab, Chairman of High Islamic Authority of Al Quds; Mr. Azzam al-Khatib, Director of Masjid al-Aqsa Waqf, and representatives of the Palestinian press.

Over three days the exhibition drew a large number of visitors.

## Arts: Calligraphy, Gilding

### The Art of Calligraphy: Exhibition, Lectures and Training Sessions organized by IRCICA and the Center for Arts and Humanities, American University of Beirut

Beirut, 13-17 March 2017

A series of activities on the arts of calligraphy and gilding were organized jointly by IRCICA and the Center for Arts and Humanities of the American University of Beirut (CAH/AUB) in Beirut, Lebanon, on 13-17 March 2017. The program included:

- an exhibition of calligraphy;
- lectures on the arts of calligraphy and gilding;
- a demonstration session on gilding;
- four days of training sessions on calligraphy.

#### Exhibition

The opening of the exhibition on 13 March was addressed by Prof. Nadia Cheikh, Dean of the

School of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, and Prof. Abdulrahim Abuhusayn, Director of the Center for Arts and Humanities of AUB. The Ambassador of Turkey Mr. Çağatay Erciyes, faculty members, artists and art lovers and representatives of the local and international press were present at the opening. After the speeches, Dr. Halit Eren briefed the visitors and the press on the characteristics of the works displayed at the exhibition.

The exhibition featured works of contemporary calligraphy masters of calligraphy and award-winning works in IRCICA's calligraphy competitions. 70 works in 10





Opening of the exhibition

styles of writing were displayed. A Calligraphy Demonstration by Master Calligrapher Dr. Jamal Naja (Lebanon) accompanied the exhibition.

This was the first comprehensive exhibition, training and lectures program on the arts of calligraphy and gilding to be held in Lebanon. Both the courses and the exhibitions drew visitors in large numbers.

### Lectures

- Master Calligrapher Mehmet Özçay (Turkey), gave a lecture titled "The Inscriptions of the Yeni Cami (New Mosque) Fountain and Sebil", on 14 March. In this lecture Mr. Özçay highlighted the main theme, the art of calligraphy, explaining its concept, spirit, significance, methods, rules, applications and development over history. Mr. Özçay illustrated the main properties of this art on the basis of an outstanding example, the inscriptions on Yeni

Cami Mosque in Istanbul written by Ottoman master calligrapher Sami Efendi (1838-1912). The lecturer explained the specific features of calligraphy such as positioning, symmetry, proportions of the letters and the numerous other aesthetical, geometrical and technical specificities of this art as represented in this July Thuluth masterpiece.

- Master Gilder Necati Sancaktutan (Turkey), gave a lecture titled "The Art of Gilding: An Overview of its History, Development and Methods" on 15 March. In his lecture Mr. Sancaktutan underscored the concept, spirit and significance of this art. He gave an overview of the history of development of the art of gilding over the ages in different cultures; its interpretations and advancements in different periods - the Seljukid, the Mamluk, Rumi, Maghribi epochs; the evolution of motifs and patterns, aesthetical and technical trends,



Master Calligrapher Mehmet Özçay



Master Gilder Necati Sancaktutan



Gilding demonstration by Master Gilder Necati Sancaktutan

interactions and mutual influences across cultures.

- In his demonstration session entitled "The Art of Gilding and Its Uses in Manuscripts" master gilder Necati Sancaktutan (Turkey), presented the application of gilding on 15 March. In this session Mr. Sancaktutan introduced the different types of tools and supplies, preparation of the materials, the terms and methods used in the practice of this art. Mr. Sancaktutan then made a demonstration of the application of gilding on paper.



Master Calligrapher Efdaluddin Kılıç

### Training Sessions on the Art of Calligraphy

Master Calligrapher Efdaluddin Kılıç (Turkey) conducted training sessions on the art of calligraphy every day from 14 to 17 March. Due to practical reasons, from among a larger number of applicants, only thirty participants could be accommodated. In this course Professor Kılıç gave a first-level training in the riq'a style of calligraphy. The curriculum included theoretical and practical learning of the tools and supplies (the reed pen, the paper, the ink, and others) their preparation; holding and handling the reed pen; rules and methods to respect; the letters, their positioning, and the myriad other aspects of artistic writing in the Arabic script. Finally, the class practiced writing specific sentences and expressions.



Calligraphy training session conducted by Master Calligrapher Efdaluddin Kılıç



Left to Right: Master Calligrapher M. Özçay; Master Calligrapher E. Kılıç; Prof. A. Abuhusayn (Director, CAH/AUB), Prof. N. Sheikh (Dean, Arts and Sciences); Dr. H. Eren (Director General, IRCICA), Mr. Ç. Erciyes (Ambassador of Turkey); Master Gilder N. Sancaktutan; Mr. S. Kasımoğlu (Program Coordinator, IRCICA); Master Calligrapher J. Naja

# Meetings, Cooperation, Visits

## IRCICA Director General addressed International Conference on "Islamic Solidarity – Harmony of Religious and Cultural Diversity" organized by the State Committee for Work with Religious organizations of Azerbaijan

12 April 2017

An International Conference titled "Islamic Solidarity – Harmony of Religious and Cultural Diversity" was organized by the State Committee for Work with Religious Organizations of Azerbaijan, the Caucasian Muslims Office, the Baku for International Multiculturalism Center and the International Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation, in Baku, on 12 April 2017. Addresses delivered on behalf of the organizing partners and by participating scholars. Experts underlined the importance of forming an atmosphere of tolerance, multiculturalism and intercultural dialogue as a necessary condition for harmony in today's world.

IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren was invited to address the conference. He pointed to examples of inter-faith tolerance and multiculturalism from Islamic history; these principles were rooted

in the constitution of the very first Islamic State that was founded by Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w.) in Madina which guaranteed the protection of the lives, properties, rights to worship and sanctities of the different religious communities. Dr. Eren then pointed to the current trends of cultural and religious discrimination, xenophobia, violent extremism and Islamophobia which are on the rise on global scale. He underlined the need for continual international cooperation to counter these trends. In this respect, he outlined the cultural activities and cooperation carried out by IRCICA to contribute in eliminating those threats and promoting harmony of religious and cultural diversity across the world.



## Memorandum of Cooperation between IRCICA and International Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation (Baku)

12 April 2017

Dr Halit Eren, IRCICA Director General and Ambassador Gunay Afendiyeva, President, International Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation (Baku) signed a Memorandum of Cooperation in Baku, on 12 April 2017. The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to provide a framework of cooperation between the parties in areas of common interest. Activities may be undertaken within this framework include conferences, seminars, workshops and exhibitions.

Foundation is an international organization affiliated to the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States (Turkic Council) with the objective to protect, study and promote the Turkic culture and heritage through supporting and funding activities, projects and programs. Its Member States are Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkey, all are the Member States of the OIC.



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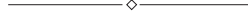
## Participation of IRCICA Director General in the Congress on "Islam and Current Challenges in the Light of the Amman Message"

Under the patronage of H. M. King Abdallah II of Jordan, the congress on "Islam and Current Challenges in the Light of the Amman Message" was organized by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs of Jordan in cooperation with the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Indonesia and the OIC International Islamic Fiqh Academy in Amman on 27-29 April 2017. At the invitation of Dr. Abdul Salam al-Abadi, Chairman of the congress preparatory committee and Secretary General of the Fiqh Academy, IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren participated in the congress and chaired the session entitled "Women's Issues and Current Challenges". Six sessions were held, and titled respectively as following: "Islam and Terrorism: Analysis and Counteraction", "Women's Issues and Current Challenges", "Islamic Discourse and the Question of Islamophobia and Violent Extremism", "Globalisation and the Challenge of Facing It", "Solidarity and Struggle Against

Occupation and Persecution" and "Sustainable Development and the Problems of Poverty and Unemployment". The conference highlighted the contents of the Amman Message, discussed on how to combat the challenges that face Islam and Muslims, and underlined that ignorance of Islam is the most prominent of these challenges. The Amman Message is a detailed statement released in Ramadan 1425 AH/November 2004 by H. M. King Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein in Amman, Jordan. It sought "to declare what Islam is and what it is not, and what actions represent it, and what actions do not." Ministers, scholars and experts from various countries participated in the congress and 35 papers were presented. The Amman congress was organized in continuation of the platform of reflection established by the earlier congress on "Islamic Culture and Peace in the Light of the Amman Message" which was held in Jakarta, Indonesia in 2013.

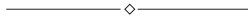
## **The Visit of Ambassador Hasan Hasanov, Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Poland, and Mr. Mesim Hajiyev, Consul General of Azerbaijan in Istanbul**

Ambassador Hasan Hasanov, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, former Prime Minister of Azerbaijan and currently Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Poland, paid a visit to IRCICA in 10 January 2017. The meeting with Dr. Halit Eren, IRCICA Director General, touched upon the many areas of cultural cooperation between Azerbaijan and IRCICA.



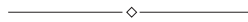
## **Mr. Kemal Yurtnaç, Governor of Yozgat (Turkey), Visited IRCICA**

The Governor of Yozgat province of Turkey, Mr. Kemal Yurtnaç visited Dr. Halit Eren on 27 January 2017. The Director General gave information to Mr. Yurtnaç on the Centre's diverse activities.



## **Prof. Dr. Mustafa Sabri Küçükbaşçı, Director of Topkapı Palace Museum, Istanbul, visited IRCICA**

Prof. Dr. Mustafa Sabri Küçükbaşçı, Director of Topkapı Palace Museum, Istanbul, visited IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren on 3 February 2017. At the same time a faculty member of the Department of History, Marmara University, Istanbul, Prof. Küçükbaşçı was already acquainted with IRCICA's activities and the meeting was a good opportunity to discuss developments in Islamic history studies.



## **Governor of Bilecik (Turkey) Mr. Süleyman Elban and Prof. Dr. Azmi Özcan from the Department of History, Sakarya University, Visited IRCICA**

The Governor of Bilecik province of Turkey Mr. Süleyman Elban together with Prof. Dr. Azmi Özcan from the Department of History of Sakarya University, former Rector of Bilecik University, visited IRCICA on 10 March 2017 and met with Director General Eren.



## **Mr. Adnan Ertem, Director General of Waqfs, Prime Ministry of Turkey, at IRCICA**

Mr. Adnan Ertem, Director General of Waqfs, Prime Ministry of Turkey, and Mr. Davut Benli, Head of External Relations, visited Dr. Eren on 22 March 2017. One of the topics of the meeting was the International Forum on al-Quds Waqfs which was then under preparation by the Directorate General of Waqfs and during which IRCICA organized an exhibition of historical photographs of al-Quds (8-9 May 2017).

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## **Visit of Mr. Abdelmadjid Chikhi, Director of the National Archives of Algeria**

The Director of the National Archives of Algeria Mr. Abdelmadjid Chikhi visited IRCICA on 31 March 2017. IRCICA had participated in the Colloquium "Khaireddine Barbarossa and the Emergence of the Algerian State in the 16th Century" organized by the National Archives of Algeria on-10 November 2016.

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## **Visit of Ambassador Suvat Chirapant, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand in Ankara, to IRCICA**

The Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand in Ankara, Turkey, Mr. Suvat Chirapant visited Dr. Eren on 31 March 2017. The main focus was on the project relating to the International Symposium on "Interfaith Dialogue and Peaceful Coexistence in Multicultural Societies" that was organized in Bangkok, Thailand on 11-12 January 2016 jointly by IRCICA and Devawongse Varopakarn Institute of Foreign Affairs (DVIFA) of Thailand. Ambassador Chirapant had coordinated the project with Dr. Eren. Organization of a second symposium is envisaged.



## **Visit of High-Level Delegation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam Chaired by Haji Mohd Yusra Haji Mohd Saleh, Deputy Permanent Secretary General, to IRCICA**

A delegation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Brunei Darussalam visited IRCICA on 6 April 2017. Haji Mohd Yusra Haji Mohd Saleh, Deputy Permanent Secretary General and Haji Muhammad Fakhri Haji Md Taib, First Secretary, Department of International Organizations, together with Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of Brunei Darussalam in Ankara Mr. Osfinita Tahir received information on IRCICA's activities. Ways of strengthening further the existing cooperation of Brunei institutions with IRCICA were discussed.



## Catalogue of Winners' Plates in the Tenth International Calligraphy Competition In the Name of Hafiz Osman (1052-1110 / 1642-1698)

IRCICA, Istanbul 1437/2016

The tenth competition in the series of international calligraphy competitions organized by IRCICA in every three years was finalized in May 2016. Results were announced at a press conference held in Istanbul on 17 May 2016. Out of 688 participants from 36 countries, 113 participants from 18 countries won awards. The competition was conducted in eleven major categories of writing styles. In terms of works entered, 122 out of 975 won prizes in different style categories.

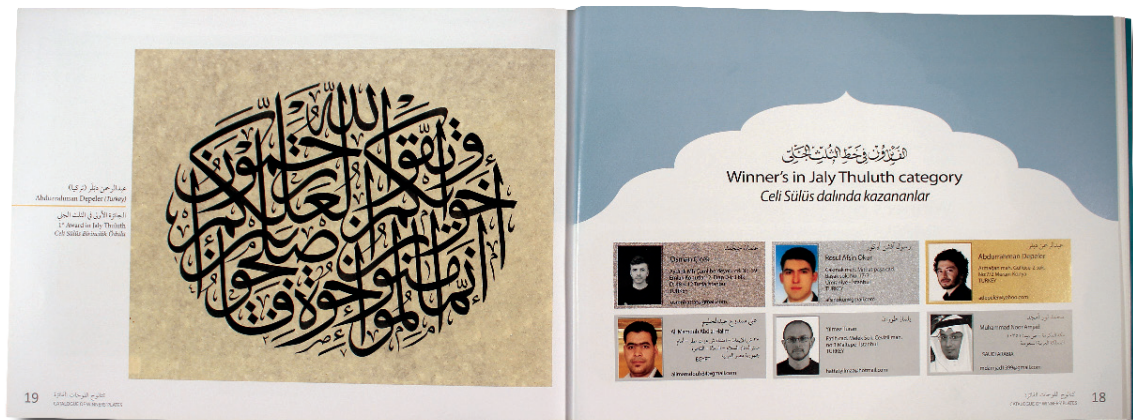
In accordance with IRCICA's tradition to dedicate each competition to an illustrious master of this art, the tenth competition was held in the name of Hafiz Osman, who lived in Istanbul during 1642-1698 and made seminal contributions to the advancement of this art particularly through his contribution in perfecting the writing styles.

The catalogue containing reproductions of the award-winner works in the competition has been published by IRCICA. The book is arranged in sections divided according to the style categories. In order to promote communication between the artists, the names and the addresses of the calligraphers are given together with the



reproductions of the works. At the beginning of the book, readers will find a biography of master Hafiz Osman and an outline of his contributions to this art.

On account of the remarkable interest shown by calligraphers and art lovers to the catalogues of the competitions, some of the earliest already out of stock, IRCICA plans to publish a cumulative catalogue of award-winning works in all ten competitions it organized over twenty years (1986-2016).



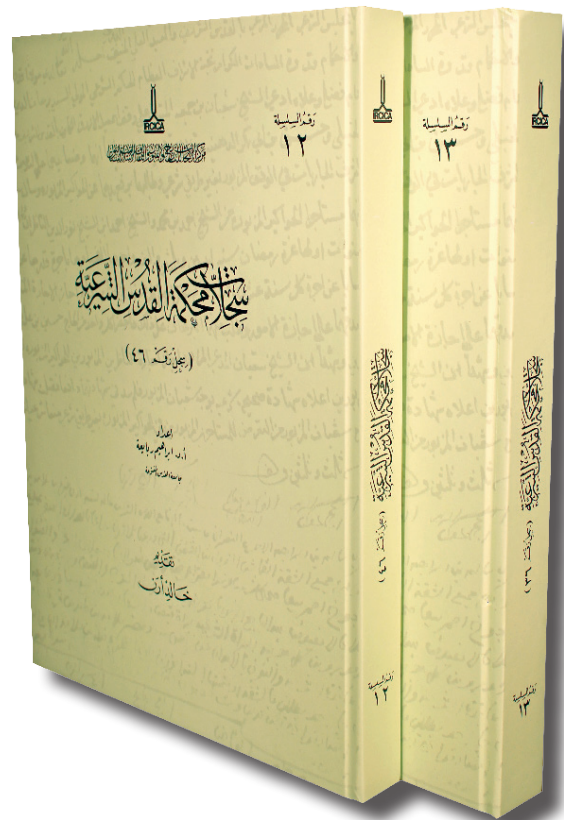
## Series on the Sharia Court Registers of Jerusalem 2 New Volumes: Registers no. 46 and no. 36

Prepared for Publication by Ibrahim Rabaia, Preface by Halit Eren  
IRCICA, Istanbul, 2017 (in Arabic)

IRCICA publishes a series of volumes on the registers of the Sharia courts held in Al-Quds/ Jerusalem during the Ottoman period. There are altogether 412 registers, dating from 1529 to 1909. These registers are valuable first-hand sources that record cases reflecting daily life in the region, the relations between the local administration and the people, interaction among different faith communities and people of different social statuses. Therefore the court registers reliably complement other sources. The index of terms, places, communities and professions are very useful additions. The first volume published in 2013 is related to the register no. 107 which comprises the period between 5 August 1623 and 10 April 1624 and contains cases reflecting social and economic life in the region. The three volumes published in 2014 contain the following registers: register no. 119 of al-Quds Sharia Court (23 Jan. 1632-13 Nov. 1632), register no. 149 (20 Nov. 1653-20 Dec. 1654), register no. 183 (22 Jan. 1680-20 Feb. 1681),

The volumes published in 2015 are related to al-Quds Sharia Court registers no. 78 (4 Jan. 1597 - 21 Feb. 1598), no. 96 (18 Nov. 1614 - 9 Sep. 1615), no. 136 (26 Jan. 1646 - 2 Feb. 1646), no. 167 (26 Oct. 1666 - 19 Sep. 1667).

The volumes published in 2016 are related to al-Quds Sharia Court registers no. 67 (dated 10 May 1587 - 10 Dec. 1588), no. 191 (dated 6 Sep. 1688 - 11 Jan 1690) and no. 201 (dated Aug 1707 - Jul. 1703).



The volumes published in 2017 are related to al-Quds Sharia Court registers no. 46 (dated 12 Oct. 1564 - 30 April 1565), no. 36 (dated 26 March 1558 - 28 Nov. 1558).

They methodology employed in this volume is same as the previous ones.

## Al-Quds in Muhimme Registers (1545-1594), Volume I

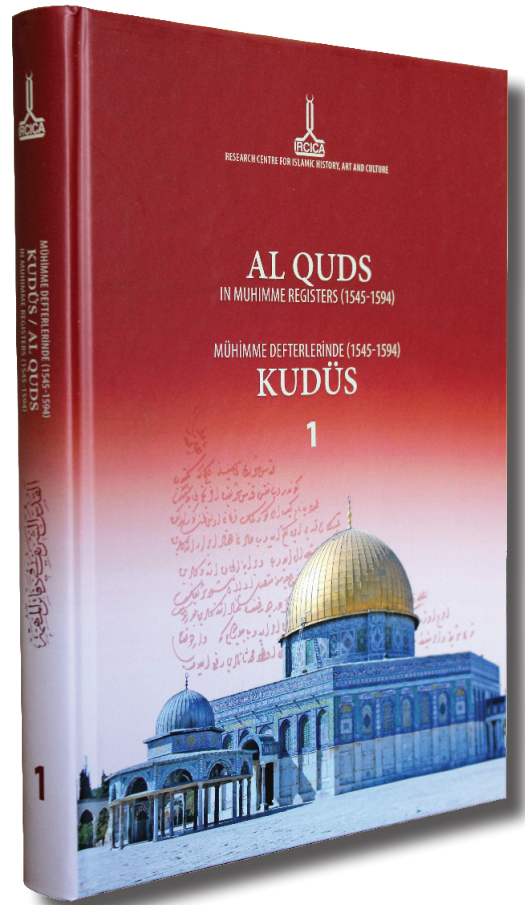
Prepared for Publication by Assoc. Prof. Murat Uluskan, Assoc. Prof. Yüksel Çelik, Assoc. Prof. Davut Hut and Assoc. Prof. Cengiz Tomar; Editor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Halit Eren, Istanbul, 2017; 385 p

(Arabic Translation: Fazıl Bayat; English Translation: Prof. Sadık Ünay)

IRCICA has long been aware of the importance of selecting, analyzing and publishing historical documents on al-Quds in order to overcome the major language barrier for Muslim and international researchers and facilitate efforts concerning the history and civilizational heritage of al-Quds. Therefore, IRCICA has started a long term project for the publication of documents in the Prime Ministry Ottoman Archives of the Turkish Republic concerning the history of al-Quds, and this book is the first outcome of the project.

IRCICA has published the records on al-Quds in the Mühimme Registers which include the most important Ottoman documents containing Divan Al Humayun decisions as the first step of the project to publish documents in the archive concerning al-Quds. These documents which contain the decisions of the Council of Ministers at the time include the highest level decisions taken on the city by the Ottoman State. The First Volume of the Mühimme Registers include important information concerning the social, economic, cultural and architectural heritage of al-Quds in the 16th century.

IRCICA aims to highlight the history of al-Quds under Ottoman administration by presenting these documents to the attention of scholars and researchers in their originals, transcriptions, and



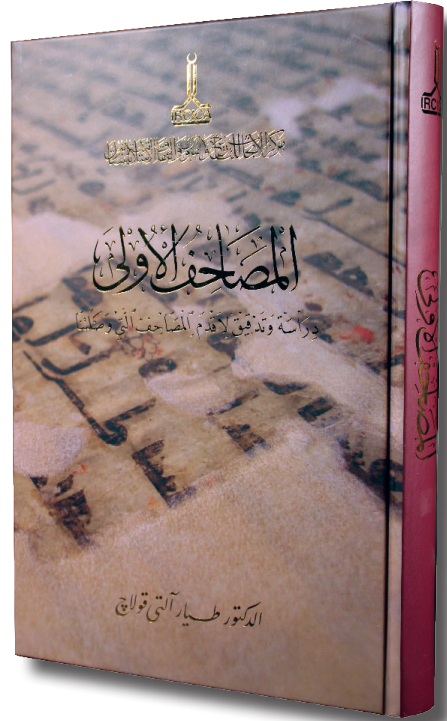
English, Arabic and Turkish summaries. This book contains the documents in the Mühimme Registers concerning al-Quds in the 16th century. IRCICA aims to publish historical registers concerning the history of al-Quds under Ottoman rule from different centuries as soon as possible.

## Old Copies of the Quran that Reached Our Time. A Study on the Earliest Copies

prepared for publication by Dr. Tayyar Altıkulaç, published by IRCICA, Istanbul, 2016; 375 p. (in Arabic)

IRCICA carries out a research program on the earliest copies of the Holy Quran that are located in various libraries around the world. The aim is to trace the process of transmission of the Quran starting from the first manuscripts and examine cases and developments relating to various aspects such as script, orthography and physical composition, with reference to historical periods and geographical locations. In this context IRCICA published seven studies until present: the copies attributed to the time of the Third Caliph, Uthman bin Affan and preserved, respectively, at Topkapı Palace Museum in Istanbul (2007) and at the Central Library of Islamic Manuscripts attached to the Ministry of Awqaf of Egypt in Cairo (2009); the copy attributed to the time of Ali bin Abi Talib and located in the Manuscripts Library near Sana'a Grand Mosque, Yemen (2011); the copy dated to the period of Uthman bin Affan and preserved at the Islamic Arts Museum in Cairo (2014); the early fragment preserved at the National Library of France, in Paris (2015); the early fragment preserved at the Library of the University of Tübingen in Germany (2016).

The present book represents the culmination of the rich findings and experiences accumulated from the previous works. It synthesizes the observations and comparisons obtained from the study of earliest copies of the Quran and presents them in a concise and instructive format. Introduction underlines the importance of the comprehensive field of research related to copies of the Quran and evokes efforts made in this field in the Muslim world and in Europe. Section 1 is on the origins and history of development of the Arabic language and the Arabic script. Section 2 is a comprehensive history of the earliest copies, including the processes of compilation of the Quran in book form, the "Rasm al-Uthmani", i.e. the script and orthography of the copies made



under the supervision of Caliph Uthman bin Affan and the different scholarly opinions about the necessity of conformity with it, the assignment of vowel signs, reading signs and punctuation signs to the Quranic text and many other subjects. Section 3 outlines the works and contributions of Orientalists in Quranic studies and collection of Quran copies. Section 4 examines the copies attributed to the period of Uthman bin Affan and Section 5, those attributed to the period of Ali bin Abi Talib. Section 6 outlines the findings of detailed studies conducted within the framework of IRCICA's project on the copies located at the National Library of France, the Islamic Arts Museum in Cairo and the library of Tübingen University, Germany. The book was authored by Dr. Tayyar Altıkulaç, an authoritative scholar in Quranic studies and former President of Religious Affairs in Turkey.

# Proceedings of the International Congress on Oman in Ottoman Documents (5-6 October 2012)

Edited by : Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA,  
Prepared for Publication by: Prof. Cengiz Tomar, Prof. Sadık Ünay, IRCICA, Istanbul, 2016

This book comprises the proceedings of the International Congress jointly organized by IRCICA and the Directorate of National Archives of Oman on 5-6 October 2012 and includes presentations by renowned experts on Ottoman-Oman relations both in Turkish and Arabic.

Prof. İdris Bostan from the History Department of İstanbul University in Turkey contributed to the book with an article on "Hurmuz and Muscat Wars in the Oman Sea as Turning Points in Ottoman-Portuguese Competition". Director General of the Prime Ministry Ottoman Archives, Dr. Önder Bayır contributed with an article on the "Importance of Ottoman Archives in terms of Research on Oman History". Prof. Mustafa Lütfü Bilge contributed with an article on "Ottoman-Oman Relations in the 19th Century".

As far as the contributions in Arabic are concerned, Saied Bin Mohamed Al-Hashmi contributed to the book with an article on "Ottomans in Masqat:1551 - 1581" (with historical photographs on Omani-Ottoman Relations). Dr. Nahed Abdul-Karim contributed with an article on the "Strategic Importance of Omani-Ottoman Relations: From the Rise of Al-Bo Saied State in 1744 to the death of Al-Sayed Saied Bin Sultan in 1856". Finally, Turkeya Bint Hamad Bin Hamod Al-Farsi contributed with an article on "The



Role of Ottoman Archives in Revealing Omani-Ottoman Relations". This book which comprises the proceedings of the congress organized by IRCICA and the National Archives of Oman constitutes a crucial reference source for scholars and researchers focusing on the historical evolution of Omani-Ottoman relations.

