



# Newsletter



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

**MAY-AUGUST 2020**

**112**

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**“Urban History of the Islamic World  
and Prospects for  
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## Newsletter

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## Editorial

The present *Newsletter* reaches you directly from IRCICA's headquarters, our Centre having resumed office work on 1<sup>st</sup> June after operating from distance for two and a half months. As we briefly reported in our last issue, after the immediate lockdown of many cultural sectors, IRCICA was able to convert some of its planned events to online formats, launch platforms of videoconferencing and distance teaching, and reorient its library towards online services. Thus we launched webinars, some of them on themes relating to the global challenges brought by the pandemic. Our first webinar focused on "Turning points in history and effects of epidemics". Another one was on "Urban history of the Islamic world and prospects for the post-pandemic era". These webinars will continue in series, each edition to host speakers from different disciplines or different regions of the world. Meanwhile, virtual meetings on themes other than the pandemic included the videoconference on the "Role and Contribution of Bukhara to Islamic Civilization" convened by the Government of Uzbekistan, where IRCICA was co-organizer. It was held on the occasion of the program "Bukhara Islamic Cultural Capital 2020" adopted by the Ministers of Culture of the OIC Member States. The cultural legacy of Islamic civilization in Uzbekistan and the history of science and education in all Central Asia was also evoked at the international online scientific conference which was organized by the Government of Uzbekistan on the 600<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ulugbek Madrasa. IRCICA's presentations at these and other academic meetings convey information and evaluations obtained through the diverse research projects it conducted over the years on the history of science and culture in the Muslim world and the achievements recorded in these fields in the different regions of this world. These and other conferences we attended in this period are outlined in the following pages. On the other hand, it has also been possible recently to conduct some real activities and face-to-face encounters. For example, we had the honour and the pleasure to present a special copy of IRCICA's publication titled "Kuwait in Ottoman Documents: selected documents from the Ottoman Archives in Istanbul 1850-1900" to His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Emir of the State of Kuwait, to be transmitted by H.E. Ambassador Ghassan Al-Zawawi, Ambassador of the State of Kuwait in Turkey, who kindly received it at

an international ceremony and press conference held on 7 July 2020 at IRCICA's headquarters. This publication came out within our series of volumes containing studies on official documents – decrees, communications, orders – issued by the Ottoman State on matters concerning the Arab countries. The documents, chosen from the Ottoman Archives preserved in Istanbul, constitute first-hand sources on the history of the peoples and lands they relate to. The research program will continue, leading to further volumes on the history of Member States in the Arab region. Our regular desk work consisting of research, editing and publication continues uninterrupted. We have the pleasure of introducing some new publications in this issue, including two new books on the history and heritage of cultural contacts between Korea and the Muslim world, one new book on Islamic studies in Uzbekistan, and new issues of the IRCICA Journal.

In this period, our Centre actively takes part in discussions ongoing in the OIC's and other international platforms about the digital transformation in cultural activities ensuing from the pandemic. Our communicating IRCICA's policies and experiences in the current period offers exemplary cases contributing to those discussions, especially due to the diversity of the types and the subjects of our activities. Institutions and organizations working in cultural fields generally agree that the pandemic has severely affected many sectors of culture and culture-related activities which by definition cannot be made virtual but at the same time, it has revealed the unlimited possibilities culture offers for virtual activities. The inevitable digital transformation will certainly bring time and space-saving advantages and increase the technological capabilities of humankind. Digital work and videoconferences also have the advantage of enabling world-wide access and attendance. IRCICA's presently greater emphasis on online activities is reflected in the *Newsletter* with brief reports. The previous issue (no. 111) contained a detailed article on the training courses on Islamic calligraphy which IRCICA conducts online. The present issue has a section outlining the activities carried out by IRCICA's Library and Archive Department.

Thank you for your interest and continual communication with our Centre.

Prof. Dr. Halit Eren  
Director General, IRCICA



PROF. DR. HALİT EREN PRESENTED THE BOOK TO AMBASSADOR GHASSAN AL-ZAWAWI, AMBASSADOR OF THE STATE OF KUWAIT IN TURKEY, FOR ITS PRESENTATION TO HIS HIGHNESS THE EMIR OF KUWAIT

Presentation of a special copy of IRCICA's publication  
“Kuwait in Ottoman Documents 1850-1900”  
to His Highness  
Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah,  
Emir of Kuwait

7 July 2020

Prof. Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, presented a special copy of the research work titled “Kuwait in Ottoman Documents: selected documents from the Ottoman Archives in Istanbul 1850-1900” prepared and published by IRCICA, to His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Emir of the State of Kuwait. An international ceremony and press conference were held on 7 July 2020 at IRCICA's headquarters in Cağaloğlu, Istanbul, where IRCICA Director General Prof. Dr. Halit Eren entrusted the special copy

to H.E. Ambassador Ghassan Al-Zawawi, Ambassador of the State of Kuwait in Ankara, Turkey, for its presentation to His Highness the Emir of Kuwait.

The ceremony was attended by members of academic and cultural institutions and representatives of the local and foreign media.

In his address at the ceremony, Prof. Dr. Halit Eren referred to the research projects, academic publications, congresses, art exhibitions and training programs carried out by the Centre on the history of Islamic civilization and

the history of Islamic countries. He said that the Centre aims to contribute to advancement of scholarly studies on Islamic civilization across the world, correctly and widely make known the Islamic civilization, promote cultural exchanges and rapprochement between Islamic countries and with other countries; to this aim the Centre undertook projects and activities in various fields, including studies on the Holy Quran, history of Muslim nations, history of science, history of arts, archaeology, fine arts and handicrafts and

preservation of cultural and architectural heritage. Director General Prof. Eren explained that the results of these activities are disseminated worldwide for the use of researchers and all interested, through the Centre's publications consisting of more than 350 reference books and research works on Islamic cultural heritage, historical manuscripts, Islamic world's history of sciences, history and awqaf of al-Quds, and its prestigious albums of historical photographs of major cities of the Islamic world, in the first place the sacred cities of Islam, namely Makkah al-Mukarrama, Madina al-Munawwara and al-Quds. Prof. Eren said that the sources of scholarly and historical information to which IRCICA refers for these studies include the collections of documents and manuscript works contained in the archival institutions, libraries and museums of the OIC member countries. He explained that being located in Istanbul, which was the capital of the Ottoman State, IRCICA has the possibility of using the collections of the Turkish State's Ottoman Archives which are preserved in the same city and that it published a large number of historical studies and publications on the basis of these archives. Among them, the series of books titled "History of Arab countries in the Ottoman period in the light of Ottoman documents" has essential reference value for scholars and researchers around the world who are working on that period of history. Prof. Eren said that the book "Kuwait in Ottoman Documents/ Selected documents from the Ottoman Archives in Istanbul 1850-1900" is the outcome of a meticulous and delicate work based on these archives. He recalled that the idea of the project to prepare this

book had emerged in the light of the keen interest and emphasis expressed by His Excellency Ambassador Ghassan Al-Zawawi, Ambassador of the State of Kuwait, through his inquiries about historical information related to Kuwait as contained in the Ottoman archives documents, which had shown that there was a need for such a study. He explained that the book covers an important part of the history of Kuwait during the second half of the nineteenth century; the documents contained reveal the position of the Ottoman Empire regarding the events that took place in the region, and the high status enjoyed by the rulers of Kuwait - Al Sabah family, in the esteem of the Ottoman Sultans.

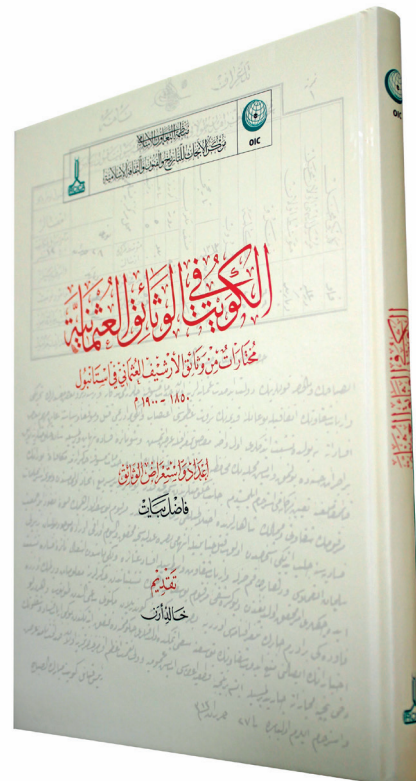
The Ambassador of Kuwait in Ankara, H.E. Ambassador Ghassan Al-Zawawi, expressed his appreciation of the project and the resulting important book. He underlined the significance of

this book since its sources, the Ottoman Archive documents, are of great value for the Islamic countries and on account of the historical information they contain. Ambassador Al-Zawawi expressed the hope that the study will be continued and further reference works will be published on the basis of these archives.

Then Prof. Dr. Halit Eren entrusted the special copy prepared for His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Emir of the State of Kuwait, to H.E. Ambassador Ghassan Al-Zawawi, for its presentation to His Highness the Emir.

Prof. Dr. Fazıl Bayat, senior expert at IRCICA who prepared the study, briefed Ambassador Al-Zawawi on the contents and methodology of the book.

Prof. Dr. Halit Eren and Ambassador Ghassan Al-Zawawi then answered the questions of press members. 🟢



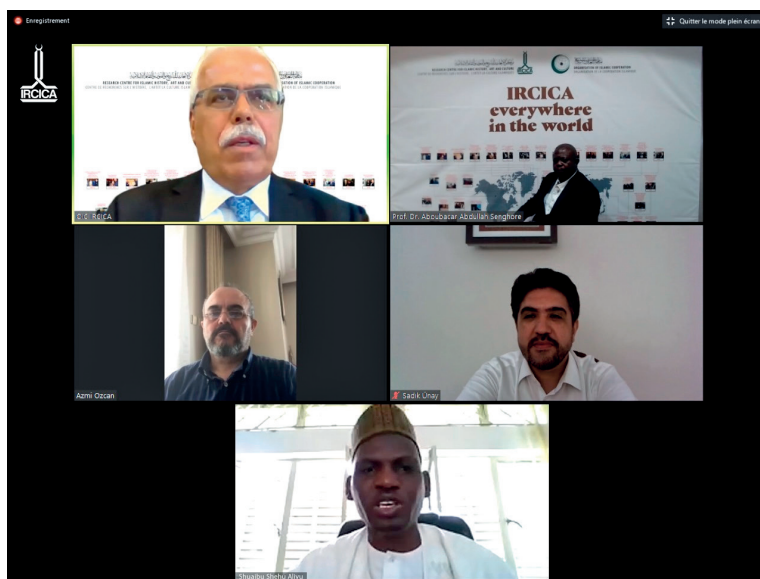
## IRCICA's Webinar on “Turning Points in History and Effects of Pandemics”

20 May 2020

IRCICA's Webinar series were launched during the period of the COVID-19 pandemic with the meeting on “Turning Points in History and Effects of Pandemics” held on 20 May 2020 at 13.00 (GMT+3).

The webinar was opened with the speech of IRCICA Director General Prof. Dr. Halit Eren. It was moderated by Prof. Aboubacar Abdullah Senghore, Assistant Director General, IRCICA. The theme of the pandemic was taken up from two different perspectives: an overview of humanity's experience in pandemics was given by Prof. Dr. Azmi Özcan. An evaluation-estimation of economic outcomes of the pandemic were provided by Prof. Dr. Sadık Ünay. In the half-hour time that was left for discussion, questions were received from Chad, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, and Tatarstan (Russia), enriching the contents of the session.

Prof. Dr. Halit Eren opened the webinar by depicting the trends and consequences of the Coronavirus pandemic with regard to various sectors of activity and international relations. Relating to culture, Prof. Eren said that it is one of the sectors severely hindered in consequence of the pandemic but at the same time, culture acquired added functional importance for the vast possibilities of virtual activities, contacts and exchanges it offers. IRCICA, the OIC's research centre which works to promote research and learning and strengthen



international cultural cooperation, redirected a considerable part of its activities towards subject areas that would be pertinent for addressing the crisis and challenges it poses. Prof. Eren said that IRCICA is concerned with consequences of the pandemic especially in their various cultural, academic, artistic, educational and social dimensions. By creating avenues of scholarly research, cooperation and platforms of exchanges in these areas, it helps towards accurate understanding of the crisis and draws upon the power of culture towards reinforcing mutual support between cultural and academic communities and among all peoples. IRCICA Director General outlined the activities organized by IRCICA online through videoconferencing.

Prof. Dr. Aboubacar Abdullah

Senghore, a scholar in comparative law and diplomat, who moderated the webinar, elaborated upon the meeting's theme and structure emphasizing that one particularity of the crisis which makes it most severe is that its causes, ways of eruption and expansion and its eventual consequences are unprecedented and unknown. The larger part of the OIC Member States area is affected seriously and the whole Muslim world together with global community is striving to overcome it.

Prof. Dr. Azmi Özcan, historian, specialist world political history and Asian history, said that many epidemics have been influential in changing the course of history. Prof. Özcan cited some major epidemics which played roles in changing the course of history, from the viewpoint of

political and religious history. He evoked societies' attitudes and reactions associated with them, particularly the questioning, in religious terms, of the bad fate those epidemics represented for peoples. The plague that started in 156 AD in Europe decimated the Roman Empire. The Justinian Plague dated 541 is said to have contributed to dissolution of the Byzantine Empire and start of the Middle Ages. The Black Death plague which started in 1346 killed almost half of Europe's population. It gave lessons as to sanitation and prevention of diseases. The cholera epidemic of mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, the flu pandemic of late 19<sup>th</sup> century, all spread across continents to reach peak mortality rates. The 1918 epidemic called the Spanish Flu hit Europe and surrounding continents during World War I. The Asian Flu of mid-20<sup>th</sup> century spread to the world from China. The Hong Kong Flu of 1968 caused up to four million deaths. The HIV pandemic which started in 1976 killed 40 million people across the world. Experiences of past epidemics can give ideas as to how far their consequences can go. Insights can be drawn from them on possible effects of various practices and measures, such as performances in group versus isolation, among others. The present crisis is definitely also one that changes the course of history.

Prof. Dr. Sadık Ünay, specialist in international economics, addressed the economic and governance impacts of the crisis. Even in the 1929 Great Depression, he said, humanity did not see such emergencies and such a complete halt of the economic activity as in the present pandemic. To keep supplies flowing for their populations, countries had to ban or limit exports of cereals and other food items and basic commodities. Thus one of the consequences is an increase in protectionist trends. A new



economic nationalism can be said to have started. Furthermore, most countries have put up packages of fiscal stimulus to maintain economic vitality. Thus a new Keynesian area has started, with governments intervening through fiscal measures to stimulate their economies. Inflation rates will increase due to higher production costs. Unemployment rates rose everywhere. Developing countries among them the OIC countries, disadvantaged from the start, are struck in a conundrum. Another issue after the pandemic, will be the monopolies of those countries which will hold the vaccines. In brief, in these hard times, cooperation between countries gains more importance.

Prof. Senghore, moderator of the meeting, said that entire spectrums of societies are affected while free trade, tourism and industries are locked down. Developing clear visions of issues involved is gains all the more importance. Then he opened the floor for questions. During the questions and answers, it was underlined that

- \* the historical dimensions are important because they help to understand the issues in depth and in content
- \* cultural dimensions include the observation that the present

pandemic is different from the earlier ones as electronic communications and the digital era allow everybody to be informed of the disease, its progress and how to handle it; for the same reasons, it allows sharing and cooperation more than before

- \* with regard to culture and lifestyles, the vital importance of hygiene and washing, which is part of Muslims' everyday practice, has been clearly understood in this pandemic

- \* various positive and negative scenarios are being suggested for future trends of world economy; what is certain is that greater efforts will be needed for cooperation and new forms of aid between countries will need to be developed

- \* it has become clear that it is time for countries and peoples to leave aside political divergences and unite.

In his closing remarks, Director General of IRCICA Prof. Dr. Halit Eren thanked the participants and attendees who joined from different countries for their interest. He said that IRCICA's online forums will continue in this and the other diverse fields of activities. 🌍



## IRCICA's Webinar on "Urban History of the Islamic World and Prospects for the Post-Pandemic Era"

16 June 2020

Leading experts of urban history and architectural planning contributed their views and recommendations to the webinar on "Urban History of the Islamic World and Prospects for the Post-Pandemic Era" conducted by IRCICA on 16 June 2020 at 13.00 (GMT+3).

Prof. Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, opened the meeting with a reference to IRCICA's engagement, with permanent activity programs and several different projects, in studies on urbanism, architectural history and heritage of the Muslim world and conservation of cultural heritage. He said that in this context, IRCICA undertook scholarly consultations and research on the effects of the pandemic and possible needs and transformations of post-pandemic times in the Islamic cities with special focus on heritage sites and monuments. Prof. Eren said that the effects of the pandemic

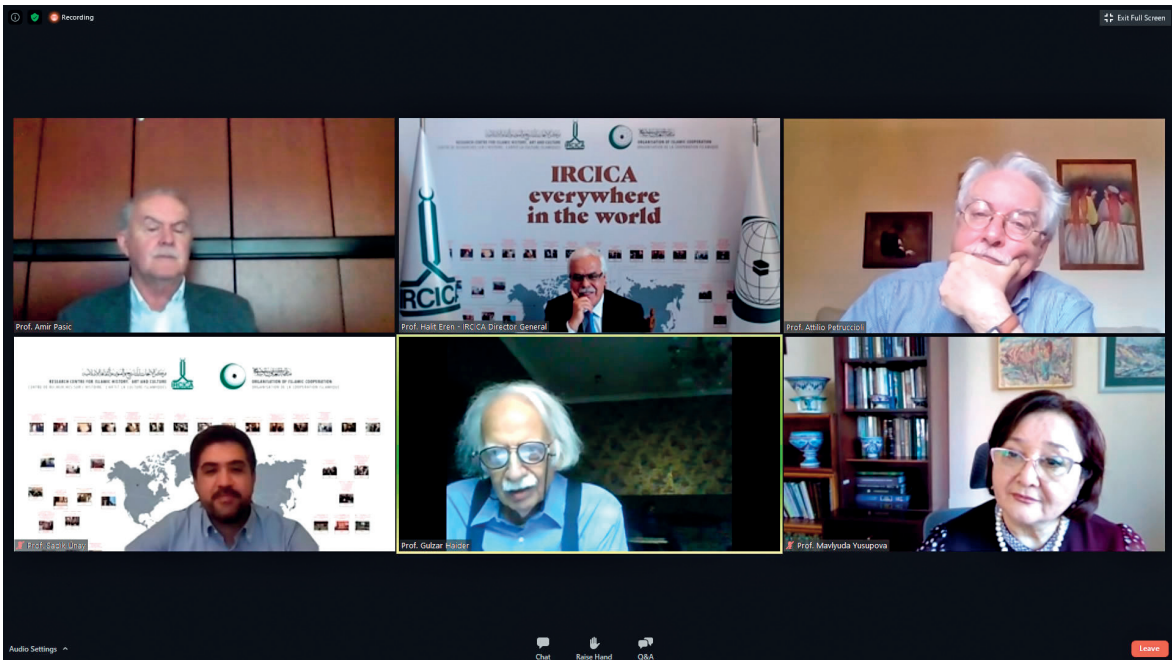
on cities will differ according to existing conditions of those cities but generally the need for space and air circulation and sanitary requirements in infrastructures will be priority concerns in all planning and construction, as was the case in world capitals during and after the epidemics of recent history.

The webinar was moderated by Prof. Dr. Sadık Ünay, Consultant to the Director General of IRCICA. After Director General's opening address, Prof. Ünay first invited to the floor Prof. Dr. Gulzar Haider.

Professor Gulzar Haider, Dean of Razia Hassan School of Architecture, Beaconhouse National University, Pakistan, gave remarks on educational aspects, in architectural studies and beyond it, of reactions to the pandemic. He said that human minds have always been taught of the world as a beautiful planet that keeps functioning regularly;

then when the sudden unforeseen, the epidemic erupts, people, by a reaction that is only human, fail in being able to convincingly explain the fate and objectively react to it. In his closing remarks at the end of the meeting, Prof. Haider underlined the urgent need to take new measures to protect cultural and architectural heritage sites and collections which are under higher threats in periods of virtual visits and remote activities.

Prof. Attilio Petruccioli, professor of landscape architecture, University of Bari, Italy, pointed to the fragility of cities, with case examples of recently founded, "instant" cities. These have become a model for Middle Eastern and also Western cities; however, their "resiliency" which is so much praised, did not work in the face of various unexpected situations. The reason is that "sustainability" has until now been taught in terms of quantitative issues instead of pragmatic issues.



Instead of a segmented philosophy in city planning and building, there has to be its opposite, what Prof. Petruccioli calls “organic” philosophy. Sustainability is not related to beauty or perfection of individual buildings. It depends on relations between the different elements of a city. In this connection, he evoked the “oasis” which is a whole system: it is not only geographical, it is a philosophy that makes settlements sustainable, because it departs from the need to survive and all its elements are interconnected. Prof. Petruccioli suggested that the “oasis” approach be applied in the city. In this he said, not an “inter-disciplinary” but a “disciplinary” approach should be adopted, meaning that specialists of the different fields must not remain confined to making inputs from within their fields but they must work together for the same agreed aims, ready to concede from elements of their particular discipline.

The next speaker, Prof. Arch. Amir Pasic, Commissioner for National Monuments, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Former Head of Architecture Department, IRCICA, made a presentation on screen analyzing the basic elements of cities for people to live in urban environment, from where suggestions can be developed on future re-arrangements in cities. Every city is a process of transformation, he said, the typical starting elements of Islamic cities being the mosque, the marketplace, and the house structures rooted in traditional modes of life. He gave examples of traditional houses which enabled full relationship of human beings with their environment- with sunlight, water, good view etc. while ensuring privacy. Every generation comes in with its new technologies, the resulting combination is not always positive due to lack of coherence. He said that the significant characteristic of the historical urban settlements

is continuous change. The transformation is always associated with adaptation of the current modern technology to construction and economic activity, along with exceptional forces, such as wars, natural hazards and epidemics. The challenge for the future is, in the same way, to build the right balance between constantly advancing technologies and the basic principles about “philosophy of life” which have been there for centuries. Prof. Pasic stressed that the strategy of sustainable urbanism can only be realized by all professionals from different areas working together.


The next speaker was Prof. Dr. Mavlyuda Yusupova, Head of the Department of Architecture, Fine Arts Institute, Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan, Tashkent. In a comprehensive presentation on screen titled “Architecture of Historical Cities of Uzbekistan in the Post-Pandemic Era: Aspects of Tourism”, Prof. Yusupova

outlined the development of the tourism sector in Uzbekistan and the related state strategy which emphasized valorization of the architectural heritage and historical sites. She dwelt upon the relationship between preservation of architectural heritage on one hand and tourism development on the other from various angles, evoking the difficult sides as well such as preserving traditional architecture from being demolished to be replaced by lucrative touristic and other businesses. The pandemic has severely affected the tourism, hotel and other hospitality business sectors. Nevertheless, in many countries, including Uzbekistan, active preparations are underway for alternative tourism destinations and resorts for the post-pandemic era, such as ecologically pure natural environments and mountain resorts. Measures are being taken towards sanitary-hygienic and epidemiologic preparation of regions and historical cities for receiving foreign tourists during the post-pandemic period. Prof. Yusupova cited the new norms of post-pandemic city planning and architecture, aimed at improved ventilation, favorable solar and humidity conditions, finishing materials adapted with improved antiseptic and disinfectant properties. Urban planning will fundamentally change, she said, and the space of the house will gain new value; we will have to rethink the principles of urban densification and think about its risks and consequences; social distance will be at the forefront, and many more new norms will come. The new standards of post-pandemic architecture will also be taken into account when building tourism infrastructure.

After the presentations, the moderator Prof. Ūnay invited comments or questions by the attendees. Dr. Mounir Bouchnaki, former Director General of ICCROM, Advisor to the Director General of ICCROM and the Director General of UNESCO, joined the meeting online. Dr. Bouchnaki said he agreed with the points mentioned regarding challenges facing cities of the world, faced similarly by Islamic cities, in the pandemic period. He expressed his appreciation that these issues were taken up by IRCICA. New guidelines will have to be created, including with regard to cultural heritage. He gave examples of action undertaken in some countries towards preservation of historical sites, and said that the work should continue on the spot as well and not contend with virtual visits.

Dr. Nouman Ahmad from the Department of Architecture and City Planning, NED University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi, Pakistan, joined the meeting. Dr. Ahmad gave remarks on impending impacts of the pandemic on cultural heritage. In general, governments will have to reconsider their policy priorities. In particular, much of the activities that were related to heritage sites will not happen anymore, but new modes will have to be found. The new age will bring more dependency on electronic means and people will have to see how to use these means to enlarge public access to virtual visits.

The speakers underlined the urgency of the issues and the need to maintain the platform created through this webinar.

Director General Prof. Dr. Halit Eren concluded the meeting thanking the participants and the attendees. He said the remarks raised and suggestions formulated will be recorded, for reference in the continuation of the studies. 



## “Role and Contribution of Bukhara to Islamic Civilization”

videoconference co-organized with the Government of Uzbekistan on the occasion of “Bukhara Islamic Cultural Capital 2020”

28 May 2020

An academic videoconference commemorating “Bukhara Islamic Cultural Capital 2020” was co-organized by the Centre of Islamic Civilization of Uzbekistan, the International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan, the Ministry of Culture of Uzbekistan, IRCICA and ISESCO, on 28 May 2020. The conference theme “Role and Contribution of Bukhara to Islamic Civilization” was covered comprehensively by academicians and experts participating from universities and research centers from various countries. About 100 attendees from 20 countries followed the conference.

The opening session heard the addresses of:

Ambassador Dr. **Shoazim Shoislomovich Minovarov**

Director of the Center of Islamic Civilization in Uzbekistan

**Prof. Halit Eren**

Director General of IRCICA

**Dr. Salim Muhammad al-Malik**

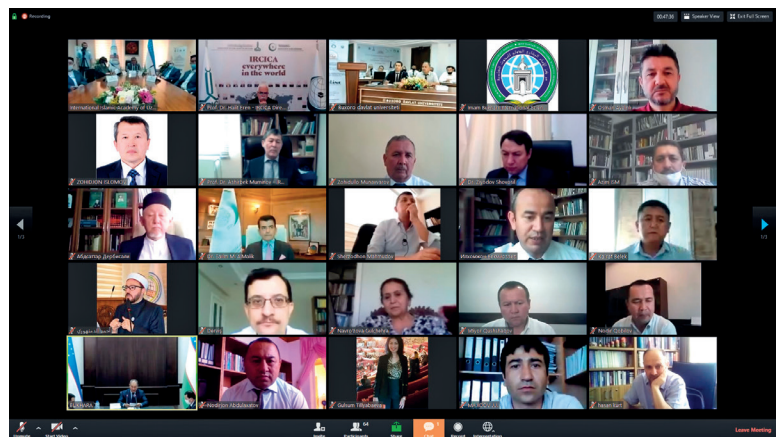
Director General of ISESCO

**Mr. Karim Jamolovich Kamolov**

Mayor of Bukhara region

**Mrs. Kamola Boltaboevna Akilova**

Deputy Minister of Culture of Uzbekistan



**Prof. Obidjon Khafizovich Khamidov**

Rector of Bukhara State University.

In his scholarly address on the role and contributions of Bukhara within the Islamic civilization, Prof. Halit Eren underlined the distinguishing features of this role and these contributions. One of these features is the diversity of fields of science and knowledge in which outstanding contributions came from Bukhara, as illustrated by examples world renown scientists, Islamic scholars, monuments and artworks from Bukhara. Another feature is the length of the time period, due to

the accomplishments recorded throughout history, as shown by continuity and sustained success of the cultural and educational institutions such as libraries and medreses.

The working sessions featured presentations highlighting the general theme and major aspects of it, i.e. “Role and Contribution of Bukhara to Islamic Civilization” (first session), “The spiritual heritage of Bukhara in Islamic civilization and its study by foreign and Uzbek scientists” (second session), and “Islamic culture and art in Central Asia: past and present” (third session). 🌱

## Activities within the framework of the “IRCICA Chair for Islamic History and Source Studies” at the International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan

### Tashkent, Uzbekistan

The “IRCICA Chair for Islamic History and Source Studies” was instituted at the International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan (IIAU), in Tashkent, and launched during the period of the international workshop on “Islamic Studies in Uzbekistan: Achievements and Perspectives” that was jointly implemented by the Academy and IRCICA on 24 June 2019.

Within the framework of the Chair, seminars and lectures are being held on line, PhD studies are being conducted, on topics in Islamic history and source studies.

On 27 June 2020, IRCICA and the International Islamic Academy organized the on-line conference devoted to the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Professor of “IRCICA Chair History of Islam and Source Studies” Prof. Dr. Akhadjon Hasanov. Prof. Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, had sent a congratulation letter to Prof. Hasanov, in which he emphasized the cooperation between IRCICA and the Academy contributes to strengthening cultural affinities between Uzbekistan and the other OIC-IRCICA Member States and also creates the basis for further enhancement of ties in the field of academic research. The conference was attended by Prof. Rustam S. Kasimov, Advisor to the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Ambassador Shaazim Minovarov, Director General of the Center for Islamic Civilization in Uzbekistan,

Prof. Shukhrat Yovkochev, First Vice-Rector of the International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan, Prof. Nur-Islam Tukhliev, Head of the Encyclopedia of Uzbekistan, and other dignitaries. Prof. Ashirbek Muminov, Head of Research and Publication, IRCICA, took part in the conference with a paper on the topic: “Prof. Hasanov as the Researcher of Early Islamic History”.

A joint session on 25 July 2020 heard the following PhD dissertations: Mirzaev Nasriddin Mukhritdinovich, “Documents About Social Relations Considered by Tashkent Qadi Courts at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> and during the 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries”; Joniev Muzaffarkhon Fayzullaevich, “Haj Visits of Uzbekistan Muslims (end of 19<sup>th</sup> century –1980s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century)”. The two dissertations were recommended for continuation of the PhD degree process.

On 28 July 2020, IRCICA and International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan held the on-line seminar on the theme: “Religion, Art and Culture in Central Asia” for the faculty members of the “UNESCO Chair on Religious Studies and Comparative Study of World Religions”. The Lecturer was Prof. Dr. Ashirbek Muminov (IRCICA). More than 30 persons took part in the seminar. The main results of IRCICA's activities in the study of Islamic history, art and culture in Central Asia were

analyzed and described during the seminar.

The activities of the IRCICA Chair continued on 10 August 2020 with an online seminar on “Modern methods of research on sources.” The speaker was Prof. Dr. Ashirbek Muminov, as guest professor at the seminar. The latter was attended by faculty members (more than 75 persons) from a number of educational institutions, representatives of various ministries, organizations and agencies, and students. The seminar evaluated the volume of scientific articles in Islamic studies presented at local and international conferences and/or published; it explored the ways of accelerating cooperation in the field, improving the means and methods of educating qualified personnel, effective use of modern methods of research on sources, and competitiveness between educational institutions. Prof. Muminov spoke of the procedures and requirements for research and articles published in international scientific and practical journals, including questions relating to authors' qualifications, and stressed the need for a thorough mastery of both centuries-old and modern knowledge, while meeting the specific new requirements of research and development. “We live in the era of advanced information and communication technologies,” said Prof. Muminov. “Every industry needs to develop

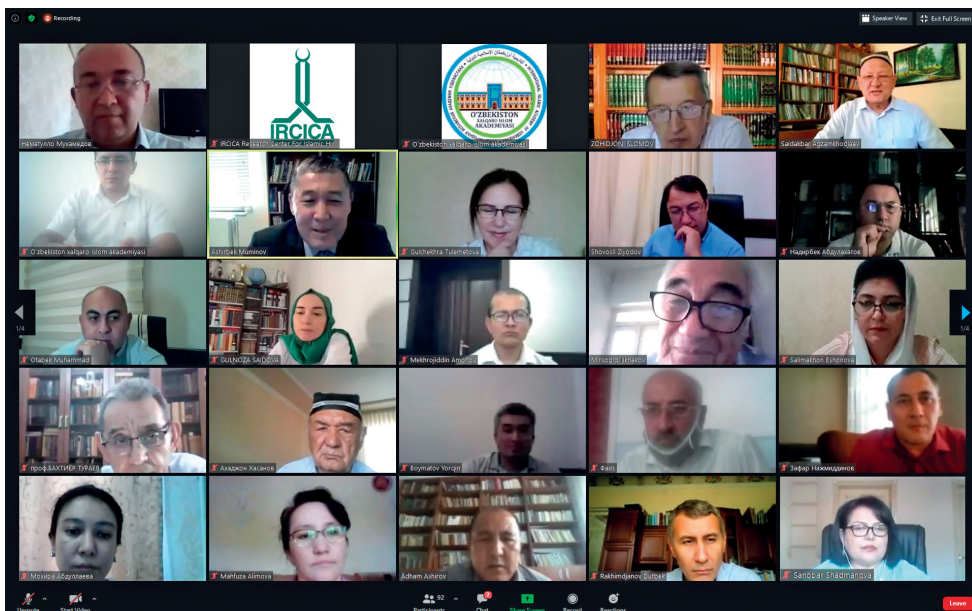
with modern methods over time. Knowledge gained from teachers and life experience gained over the years is important. Of course, the role of talented young people in the development of any industry is important. Reputable higher education institutions and teachers have played an important role in their upbringing. The International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan is one of the educational institutions with great potential in this area. I think that young scientists have an urgent task to study the scientific and spiritual heritage of the great scientists who have grown up in our countries, to bring it to the attention of the general public and the world. Indeed, there is no doubt that world-renowned great thinkers and scholars, such as Imam Bukhari, Imam Termizi, and Imam Maturidi, will be born and raised in our homeland, and that they will continue to have worthy successors.” Other issues underlined by the speaker included the following: the need for awareness of the procedures

for educating young scientists who could compete with their peers in foreign educational institutions, effective use of opportunities and conditions created by the government, in-depth study of the scientific and spiritual legacy of ancestors, resources and their utilization. Issues such as continuous learning and self-training, adopting a critical-analytical approaches, treatment of new findings of research, were also discussed. Scholars and specialists from Uzbekistan spoke about the work being done in their country to access and use the sources of knowledge, and the activities of the funds created to support these processes.

On 12 August 2020, the Chair organized the online seminar with Prof. Rafik Mukhametshin, Rector of the Russian Islamic Institute, Kazan, Tatarstan, Russian Federation. The topic of the seminar was “Jadidism and Islamic Reformism in the History of Islam in Russia”. Prof. Ashirbek Muminov

took part in the seminar with a presentation on the Islamic Legacy of Shihab al-Din al-Marjani.

IRCICA Chair for Islamic History and Source Studies was opened by the First Vice-Rector of IIAU Prof. Dr. Shukhrat A. Yovkochev and the Director General of IRCICA Prof. Dr. Halit Eren. The same day, 24 June 2019, the Honorary Doctorate of the International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan was presented by Prof. Dr. Shukhrat A. Yovkochev to Prof. Dr. Halit Eren, in recognition of his valuable contributions to strengthening international academic cooperation and promotion of studies on the history of Islamic scholarship in Uzbekistan. Later on the same day, Prof. Eren gave a lecture for the Academy’s members and students, consisting of an overview and evaluation of the prospects of international cultural and academic relations between Muslim countries. 🌍



## International online scientific conference “Samarkand State University – Successor of Ulugbek Madrasa”

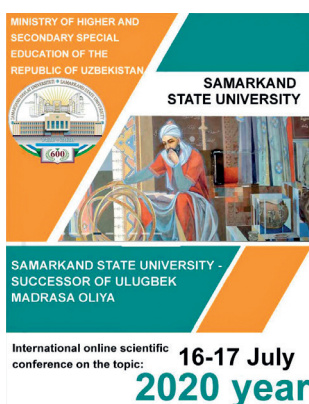
organized by Uzbekistan Government on the 600<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
of Ulugbek Madrasa, IRCICA’s participation

16 July 2020

An international online scientific conference on the theme “Samarkand State University – Successor of Ulugbek Madrasa” was organized by the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Special Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan on 16 July 2020, to commemorate the 600<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Samarkand State University, which is the successor of Ulugbek’s madrasa. The Uzbek astronomer and ruler Ulugbek had established his grand-scale madrasa for higher studies in the year 1420 at Samarkand. In Ulugbek Madrasa, mathematics and astronomy were taught together with religious sciences. During the 1420s Ulugbek also established his astronomical observatory.

Ulugbek Madrasa’s present-time continuation in Samarkand State University is traced and established on the basis of historical sources and scholarly research, as also underscored by some of the papers presented in this conference.

The online conference organized to commemorate the 600<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Samarkand State University heard addresses and papers by nearly 50 speakers consisting of ministers, university rectors and presidents of academies, heads of international



organizations and agencies, and scholars from various countries in Asia and Europe.

IRCICA Director General Prof. Dr. Halit Eren was invited to address the Introduction session. Prof. Dr. Halit Eren pointed out that the foundation of Ulugbek Madrasa in Samarkand was a golden achievement in the history of science and education. He said that Ulugbek’s madrasa evolved into modern times as embodied in Samarkand University, acquiring the tradition of a deep-rooted institution of learning. In this sense, said Prof. Eren, “Samarkand State University constitutes an example of the evolution of a classical higher educational institution, the madrasa, into a modern university. This is a link between the past to the present in the continuum of science,

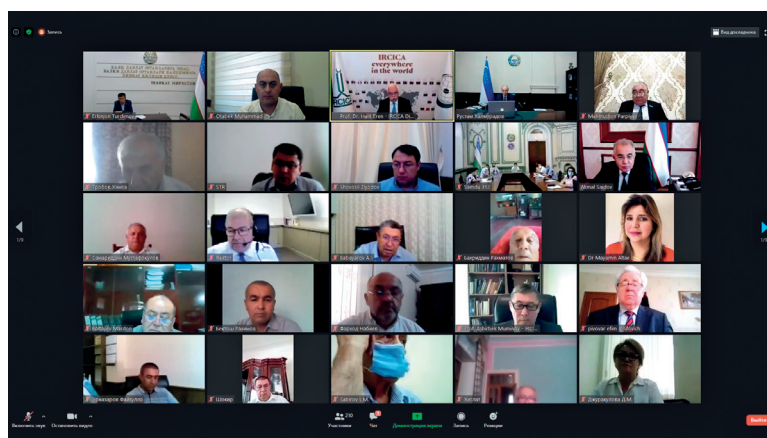
knowledge and education.” Prof. Eren also described the aims, scope and implemented projects relating to the involvement of IRCICA, the OIC’s cultural subsidiary organ, in the study of the history of science and education in the Islamic world. He said that a large number of symposiums, research projects, and reference books including biographical and bibliographical publications, have been devoted by IRCICA to the sciences, scientists, and institutions of science and learning in the history of Islamic world. In the context of these activities, frequent references occur to madrasas and universities. Prof. Eren then gave highlights of the historical evolution of madrasas: he said that rulers of the successive Islamic states were also patrons of science and higher education; madrasas and libraries were established in many cities of the Middle East, Central Asia, North Africa and Al-Andalus; and, exchanges of know-how took place between the science capitals of the Islamic world. For example, Ulugbek’s *Zij*, which was prepared in the Samarkand observatory, became a significant manual for Ottoman astronomers in preparing calendars; the Samarkand school of geography and astronomy also provided the primary sources for the Islamic world’s knowledge of geography and cartography.

Ottoman astronomers Kadızade Rumi and Ali Kuşçu worked and taught in Samarkand madrasas. Observing that for centuries madrasas played a crucial role as educational centers in the development of societies, Prof. Eren recalled that a number of the 21<sup>st</sup> century universities in various regions of the Islamic world are continuations of former madrasas.

The same, Introduction session of the conference moderated by Prof. Rustam Ibragimovich Khalmuradov, Rector of Samarkand State University, was addressed by dignitaries, rectors and scholars including Mr. È. O. Turdimov, Governor of Samarkand region, Dr. I.U. Madjidov, Minister of Higher and Secondary Special Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Prof. B.S. Yuldashev, President of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Mr. I. Y. Abdurahmonov, Minister of Innovative Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Prof. Mahmud Ak, Rector of Istanbul University, Prof. Wang Shugo, President of Xi'an Jiatong University, China, Prof. U.P. Umurzakov, Chairman of the Republican Council for Higher Education, Uzbekistan, Prof. I.N. Gafurov, Rector of Kazan Federal University, Russia, Prof. E. I. Pivovarov, President of the Russian State University for the Humanities.

This was followed by the sessions of lectures. Another contribution by IRCICA was given within the framework of the lectures: Prof. Ashirbek Muminov, Head of Research and Publications, IRCICA, spoke on the theme "Continuity of scientific traditions in the madrasas of Central Asia".

The lectures delivered a wide-range of themes, including madrasas and the education system, such as: "The role of translation in intercultural communication" by



Dr. Shaazim Minovarov, Director of the Center for Islamic Civilization in Uzbekistan; "Classification of sciences studied at Ulugbek Madrasa (based on the research of Academician B. Valikhodjaev)" by M. Tursunova, Samarkand State University; "Historical roots of Samarkand State University (for the 600<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Samarkand State University)" by Academician Sh. A. Ayupov, Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan; "History of formation of madrasas - higher education system of Uzbekistan (transformation of madrasas into universities in the 1920s)" by Prof. B. Èrgashev, Samarkand State University; "Samarkand State University: yesterday and today" by Dr. H.N. Normurodov, Chairman of the Nuroniy Foundation of Samarkand Region; "Samarkand madrasas and their libraries" by Dr. Sh. Yu. Ziyodov, Director of Imam Bukhari International Scientific-Research Center, Uzbekistan; "About Mirzo Ulugbek Madrasa and its processes" by Dr. T. Mahmudov, Samarkand State University; "Great Architecture of Central Asia: Past, Present, Future" by Dr. Ona Vileikis, UCL, UK; "Role of the Madrasa education system in the renaissance of Amir Temur and the Temurids (on the example of Ulugbek Madrasa in Samarkand)" by Prof. U. M. Mavlonov, Academy of Public Administration, Uzbekistan; "«Turkiston Collection»

is a source for studying the Samarkand education system" by Prof. Sh. A. Hayitov, Bukhara State University, Uzbekistan; "From the history of madrasas in Uzbekistan" by Prof. Sh. S. Gafforov, Samarkand State Medical Institute; "Role of the spiritual and enlightenment environment of Samarkand in the life and creative activity of Alisher Navoi (historical-synergetic analysis)" by B. Tursunov, Imam Bukhari International Scientific-Research Center; "Middle ages madrasas and mosques of Kazakhstan on archeological materials" by Prof. Dmitry Voyakin, Director of the International Institute of Central Asian Studies, Kazakhstan; "A look at the current potential of Samarkand State University" by Prof. I. Mirzaev, Samarkand State University; "Understanding foreign education systems – orientalist views and modern approaches" by Prof. Eva Orthmann, University of Göttingen, Germany.

The conference also heard a number of studies specific on academic cooperation between universities in Uzbekistan and other Central Asian countries, Germany, Great Britain, France, Japan, India, Italy, Poland, Russia and U.S.A. Other papers focused on specialized issues, including digital technologies in research. 🌐



## Videoconference commemorating the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Russian Federation’s Observer Membership in the OIC, IRCICA’s participation

30 June 2020

On the occasion of the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Russian Federation’s Observer Membership in the OIC, a videoconference has been organized by the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation jointly with the Group of Strategic Vision “Russia-Islamic World”. The videoconference, titled “15 Years of Partnership between the Russian Federation and the Organisation Islamic Cooperation: History and Prospects” was hosted from the OIC General Secretariat

in Jeddah on 30 June 2020. The conference was opened with the addresses of H.E. President Rustam Minnikhanov, President of the Republic of Tatarstan, Russian Federation, and Chairman of the Group of Strategic Vision “Russia–Islamic World”; H.E. Dr. Yousef Al-Othaimen, Secretary General of the OIC; Ambassador Ramazan Abdulatipov, Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the OIC, ex-Secretary General of OIC Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, the

members of the Group of Strategic Vision “Russia-Islamic World” and the Permanent Representatives of OIC Member States, among other dignitaries.

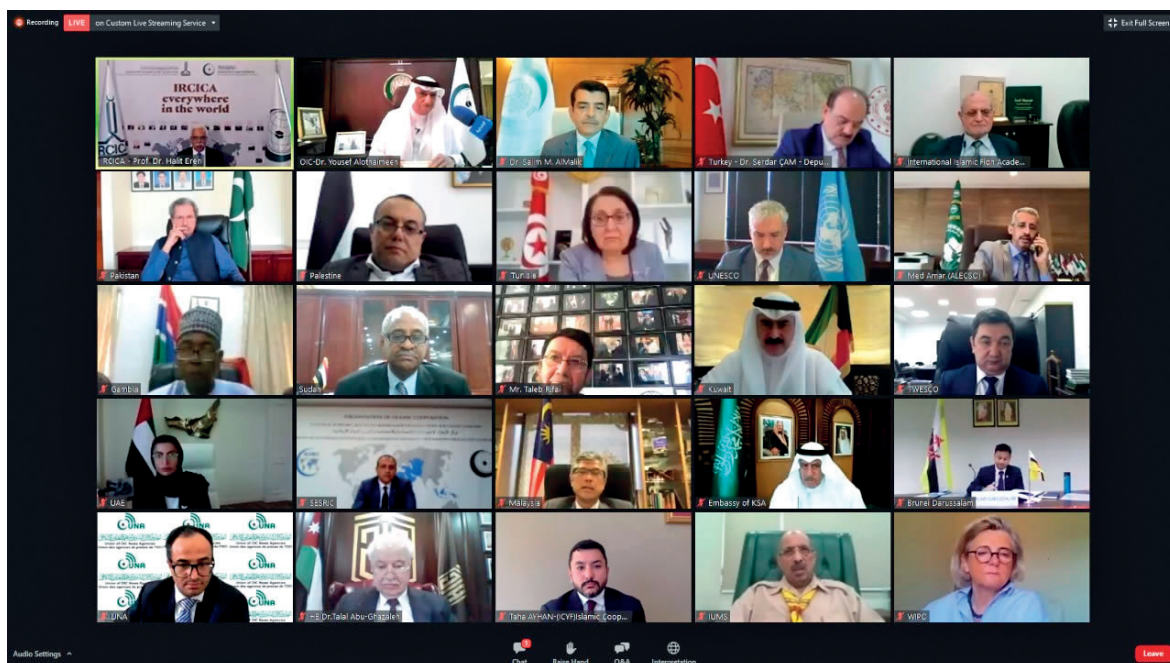
The Secretary General of OIC H.E. Dr. Yousef Al-Othaimen stated that there is ongoing cooperation and consultation between the OIC and the Russian Federation in various fields, particularly on the Palestinian cause, on issues of peace and security, inter-religious and inter-cultural dialogue and

on combating terrorism and extremism. The Secretary General affirmed that the OIC accords great importance to its relations with the Russian Federation and looks forward to continuing dialogue and strengthening exiting fruitful cooperation between the two parties. He also expressed hope that the OIC Member States would nurture more constructive cooperative relations with the Russian Federation, which can contribute to resolving regional and international issues.

IRCICA Director General Prof. Dr. Halit Eren delivered an address at the videoconference in which he evoked the deep-rooted, centuries-long history of inter-cultural, inter-faith and international relationships of the peoples of Russia and the Islamic world. "Coexistence, mutual recognition and harmony have been landmark concepts of this relationship" he said. Prof. Eren underscored the role that culture and cultural relations had played in laying the foundations and ensuring the evolution of this relationship. He described this process by tracing a brief history of contacts and cooperation between the Russian Federation's cultural and academic circles and IRCICA, the OIC's cultural centre. This history goes back to the 1990s. Prof. Eren recalled that at that early stage, mutual visits and scholarly lectures were exchanged between Russian academicians and IRCICA. A seminal step was taken in 2001 by launching the series of international congresses on Islamic Civilization in Volga-Ural Region. Five congresses in total were held in Kazan, Tatarstan and Ufa, Bashkiria in from 2001 to 2012. Their papers have been published by IRCICA in the form

of books. Furthermore, some publications of IRCICA relating to the history of the Muslim world were translated into Russian and published in cooperation with academic circles in Moscow. A joint research and publication project with academic circles in Tatarstan, Russian Federation, resulted in the very first publication in English on the history of the Tatars. Furthermore, in 2005, collaborated with Kazan Municipality for the reprint, on the occasion of the millennium of Kazan, of the 1803 Kazan edition of the Holy Quran. The relations also covered the field of arts, beginning in 2002 with an exhibition and a lecture on Tatar decorative arts held at IRCICA. Later IRCICA organized exhibitions of calligraphy in Kazan, Tatarstan. Prof. Eren said that with Russia's Observer Membership in the OIC, this relationship between Russian Federation and IRCICA continued to expand. On the basis of these developments, Prof. Eren pointed to the instrumental and effective role that culture played over the years through all these activities, in opening channels of exchanges and avenues of cooperation between Russia and the member states of the OIC. With all these features, said prof. Eren, the relationship between Russia and the Islamic world is a unique and remarkable case in world's history of multilateral relations.

Russian Federation had become an Observer State of the OIC in 2005. The Group of Strategic Vision "Russia-Islamic World" was established in 2006 in order to promote the development of relations between the Russian Federation and Muslim countries through inter-cultural and inter-civilizational cooperation. In 2014, the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin entrusted its Chairmanship to President of the Tatarstan Republic Rustam Minnikhanov. The Group has 33 state and public figures from 27 Muslim countries as its members. (<https://russia-islworld.ru/en>). IRCICA Director General Prof. Dr. Halit Eren is a member of the Group. IRCICA regularly participated in the annual meetings of the Group and was co-organizer of the first conference in the Group's series of conferences of intellectuals and writers "Aitmatov Readings" (Istanbul, 2018). 🌍



## IRCICA’s participation in the Extraordinary Virtual Conference of Culture Ministers of the oic Member States held under the theme “Sustainability of Cultural Action in the Face of Crises (COVID-19)”

17 June 2020

IRCICA Director General gave an address evaluating the digital transformations in cultural activities, during the Extraordinary Virtual Conference of Culture Ministers of the OIC Member States held under the theme “Sustainability of Cultural Action in the Face of Crises (COVID-19)”, IRCICA Director General, Prof. Dr. Halit Eren reaffirmed that culture was one of the sectors most severely hindered in consequence of the pandemic, but at the same time, culture acquired added

functional importance on account of the vast possibilities of virtual activities, contacts and exchanges it offers. The Zoom Conference, held on June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020, with the participation of 50 countries and 22 international organizations, was hosted by the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO), an OIC specialized institution, and chaired by H.E. Noura Al-Kaabi, Minister of Culture and Knowledge Development, United Arab Emirates.

H.E. Dr. Yousef Al-Othaimeen, Secretary General of the OIC, highlighted the repercussions of COVID-19 on the cultural sector. He said that since the OIC countries started taking precautionary measures to curb the spread of the pandemic, the field of culture has been negatively affected. Dr. Salim M. Al-Malik, ICESCO Director General, emphasized that the current global transformations in various fields make it imperative for the Member States to lead the march

of the new cultural movement to build a prosperous future and safe societies for future generations. The Ministers of Culture, together with the heads and representatives of the participating regional and international organizations, expressed their commitment to promote the position of culture in tomorrow's societies to face future challenges, support and develop digital culture and raise awareness of the importance of cultural heritage.

Prof. Dr. Halit Eren, in his address, reaffirmed that IRCICA, in its capacity as an intergovernmental organization working to enhance cooperation among the OIC Member States as stipulated in the charter of the organization, was following up the pandemic's repercussions on the academic, educational, artistic and other spheres of life in its Member States and elsewhere. He pointed out that IRCICA continues its research projects, academic conferences and publications on Islamic history and cultural heritage, its training programs and international award programs on arts and handicrafts of Islamic countries, noting that in the period of the pandemic the Centre seeks during the implementation of activities scheduled in its work program, to bring up specific topics and aspects of its areas of work that would highlight relevant issues and experiences in the context of the epidemic. IRCICA Director-General cited the Centre's activities conducted during the pandemic period. "We launched a series of virtual conferences on subjects of actual relevance for understanding and coping with the impacts of the crisis. Some of our recent events were: the webinar on "Urban History of the Islamic

World and Prospects for the Post-Pandemic Era" and the webinar on "Turning points of history and effects of the pandemic". We were, also, pleased to be a co-organizer of the videoconference on the "Role and Contribution of Bukhara to Islamic Civilization" organized by the Government of Uzbekistan", he said. Prof. Dr. Eren added that the present crisis had severely affected many sectors of culture which by definition cannot be made virtual. At the same time, it revealed unlimited possibilities culture offers for virtual activities. He reiterated IRCICA's objectives at present which are:

- \* to generate policy recommendations through its studies and platforms of experts, about how to ensure the sustainable continuation of cultural activities that involve direct contacts with artworks, performances, monuments, museums and libraries.
- \* to adapt the Centre's work programs on cultural heritage to remote modes considering that for nearly 40 years IRCICA's architectural program was carried out with series of architectural workshops involving field studies. These will be redesigned with distancing.
- \* to prevent unvisited heritage property and properties in conflict zones from the now higher risks of neglect, damage and looting.

IRCICA Director-General indicated that the Centre's programs on preservation and recording of manuscript collections in different regions of the Muslim world will continue, that were going on in cooperation with Kyrgyzstan, Mali, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. He added that IRCICA's archival studies on al-Quds and Palestine were going on and that up to now 40 volumes had been published. Moreover, specific mention was made of IRCICA's Digital Library which serves readers on a 24-hour basis. In closing, Prof. Dr. Eren lauded the cultural initiatives of UNESCO, most notably "UNESCO Digital Home" and "Distance Culture," as well as the incentive awards of creativity. He renewed his invitation for cultural authorities, experts and scholars of the OIC Member States to participate in IRCICA's videoconferences stressing that sharing views and experiences can contribute positively to Muslim world's solidarity against negative impacts of the pandemic. 🌍

# IRCICA Bâb-ı Âli Talks

“IRCICA Bab-ı Ali Talks” host senior scholars and cultural figures once a month on a Saturday, inviting them to share their professional memories and experiences.

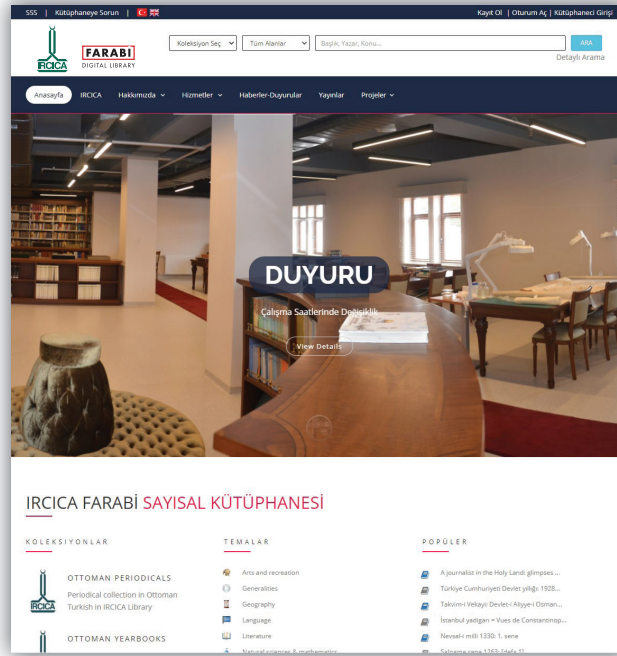
The speaker of the lecture held online on 29 May 2020 was Mr. **Lütfi Doğan**, former President of Religious Affairs of Turkey (1968-72), senator and parliamentarian (1973-2002). Mr. Doğan shared his memories of his professional career with the large number of attendees, which included scholars and students from faculties of history and theology. During his talk Mr. Doğan was joined online by two other ex-Presidents of Religious Affairs: Mr. Mustafa Sait Yazıcıoğlu (1987-92, presently represents the Republic of Turkey in the Governing Board of IRCICA) and Prof. Dr. Ali Bardakoğlu (2003-2010).



MR. LÜTFİ DOĞAN



## LIBRARY AND DOCUMENTATION



## IRCICA's Farabi® Digital Library operates online

Within IRCICA Library, and its component the Farabi® Digital Library are operating online on 24-hour basis since the beginning of social isolation entailed by the COVID-19 pandemic. It plans to maintain these services in the aftermath of the restriction period in order to continue to serve remote library users.

IRCICA Library is one of the top special libraries in social sciences and humanities. The emphasis of its collection is on history, geography, religion, science, philosophy, arts, architecture and letters, and the Islamic culture and civilization. It contains 85.000 books and dissertations in 145 languages, 120.000 items of periodicals under 2.250 titles, 12.250 items of grey literature, 4.300 offprints, 1.700 maps, 264.000 archival documents, 1.650 audio and video cassettes, 750 CDs

and DVDs, 23.500 transparencies, 1.150 microfiches and microfilms.

Rare printed books contained in the collection include early translations of the Holy Quran in Latin (e.g. Robertus-Hermannus Dalmata Ketenensis, *Machvmetis saracenorum principis, eius que Alcoran, Zürich, 1550*; Alcorani textus universus, translated by Ludovica Marravvia, Padova, 1698); some rare books in European languages (e.g. Guillaume Postel, *Des Histoires orientales et principalement des Turkes ou Turchikes, Paris, 1575*; Michel Bavdier, *Histoire generale dv serrail et de la covr du grand seigneur empereur des Turcs, Paris, 1626*) and early printed books in the Ottoman State, i.e. İbrahim Muteferrika prints. Among the periodicals are sources on regional histories such as the Journal of The Royal

Asiatic Society, Index Islamicus, Takvim-i Vekayi, Tasvir-i Efkâr and Madjallat al-Athar.

IRCICA's Library and Archive Department operates the library together with the archive of historical photographs. This archive, unique for some of its aspects, comprises the Yıldız Albums Collection dating from the period of Ottoman Sultan Abdulhamid II (end of the 19<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> century) together with 90 distinct personal photograph archives that used to belong to personalities from historical, cultural and academic circles around the world including the Emir of Sharjah H.H. Sultan bin Mohamad Al Qassimi, Zaki Ali, M.D. from Switzerland, Ambassador Wilfried Hofmann from Germany, Prof. Yusuf Ibish from Lebanon, Fahrettin Pasha the “Defender of Medina”, Ziyad

Ebuzziya and Nuri Arlasez from Turkey.

### OCR system

Optical Character Recognition (OCR) enables both printed and manuscript texts to be recorded on computer in readable and treatable formats. IRCICA made an authentic contribution in this field by developing the OCR for Ottoman language which was lacking. Systems existing for Arabic and Persian did not allow treatment of texts in Ottoman. For this reason, IRCICA worked as of 2011 on developing an OCR for Ottoman which it put up as a unique software conform to international standards.

IRCICA obtained the Trademark Registration Certificate for OCR in Ottoman from the Turkish Patent Institute. With this system, it is possible to search words in books printed in Ottoman script, that is, in a voluminous body of literature produced during the period from the introduction of printing techniques to the Ottoman Empire in 1729 until the adoption of the Latin alphabet in Turkey in 1928. This material comprises works in Ottoman authored in all fields of sciences, culture, arts and history and printed with varying fonts at different printing houses.

### UHF RFID system

IRCICA Library has set up the RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) system in the UHF (ultra-high frequency) band, as a result of an R&D project it undertook in 2006. A study was made to evaluate the applicability of the said technology in library processes; then, software appropriate for the Centre's needs was developed with the help of experts. The system enabled fast and accurate execution of processes such as counts, search and location,

lending, security, stickering, correction of misplacements and various reporting.

### Digital Library

IRCICA conceived the IRCICA Farabi Digital Library as of 2008. In 2020 it combined the Farabi Digital Library with the Farabi Integrated Library Software and put it at the service of users through a single interface. Here, materials in handwritten, printed, visual and audio forms are subjected to OCR procedures through scanners compatible with set standards and then transferred to the electronic medium in readable, treatable and usable format.

Collections have been formed in the Farabi Digital Library on a wide range of subjects within the Centre's fields of interest in order to allow users to reach the largest possible number of sources. Thus it comprises collections of copies of the Holy Quran, calligraphic works, maps, yearbooks, periodicals, early printed books and historical photographs. The collections that are selected for digitization are mostly related to Islamic culture and civilization. Among them are chronicles that list historical events by title and date, original sources on the history of the Muslim world, palace records such as calendars and war reports, complete sets of newspapers and journals, and some publications of IRCICA.

By means of the OCR system, Farabi Digital Library offers the word search facility across texts in any language. It allows readers to compose their own digital collections and to add and delete notes or lines on their documents.

### Farabi Integrated Library Software


Farabi Integrated Library Software

developed by IRCICA is in full use at IRCICA Library since 2015. It is a special system that uses the latest professional and technical systems and combines all processes from purchase orders to end-use reports under one umbrella.

### Cooperation and technical assistance

The library serves visitors from all over the world in addition to the research needs of its own departments. On remote basis, IRCICA Library cooperates with cultural authorities and libraries and archive institutions in the Member States and, also, other countries possessing Islamic collections, by exchanging information, extending expertise and technical assistance towards classification, recording and digitization of library holdings. This is also a service to preservation of cultural heritage that is in written or printed form, in the form of artworks, sound or video recorded for storage, or treated electronically.

### Training programs

The Centre organizes training programs for librarians and archivist from the Member States on restoration and conservation of old books and archival documents, in order to upgrade the skills of the concerned staff and to meet the needs of the Member States, as well as the needs relating to Islamic manuscripts in surroundings regions outside the Member States. These programs are held at the request of the countries which nominate trainees. Groups of trainees from universities are occasionally trained in IRCICA Library on librarianship in Islamic studies on agreement with their institutions. 

## IRCICA Calligraphy Competitions Award-winning works 1986 – 2016

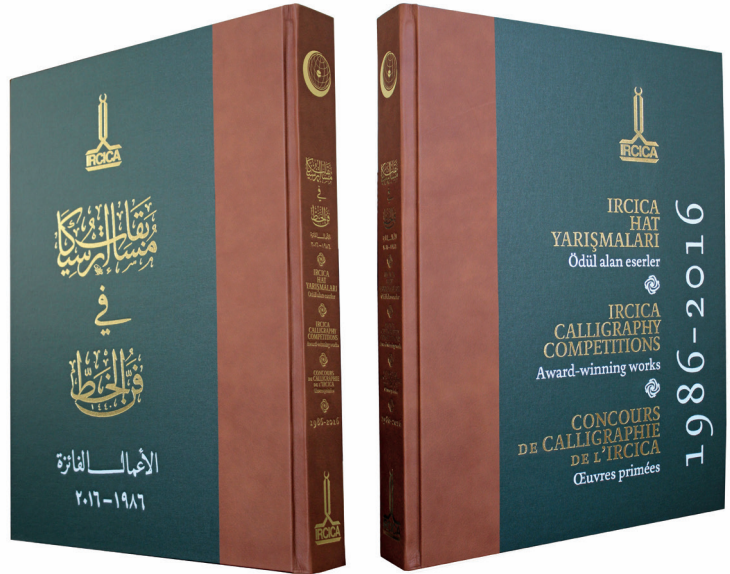
PROJECT DIRECTOR: HALIT EREN, PREPARED FOR PUBLICATION BY: SAID KASIMOĞLU, NURCAN TOPRAK;  
ISLAMIC CULTURAL HERITAGE SERIES NO. 3; IRCICA, 2019, XXXVI, 567 P.: COL. ILL.; 40X53 CM.  
(TEXT IN ARABIC, ENGLISH, FRENCH, TURKISH)  
LEATHER-BOUND DELUXE EDITION

IRCICA has published the complete collection of the award-winning works of the first ten rounds of its international calligraphy competition which were held from 1986 to 2016. This unique collection of previously unpublished calligraphic works consists of the best ones in different style categories selected from among thousands of entries presented at each round of the competition.

The album contains 235 calligraphic works by 140 artists which were awarded one of the first three prizes in each category. Each competition was conducted in at least ten categories corresponding to the styles of writing most widely used across the Islamic world. The works were illuminated after each competition. Hundreds of other works having won mentions and incentive awards are also included, setting a full record of the artistic activity rewarded in the competition.

The book came out in a large-size leather-bound deluxe edition printed on archival-quality paper. A standard-size edition is forthcoming.

IRCICA's international calligraphy competition, held every three years, aims to promote the performance and raise the appreciation of the classical art of Islamic calligraphy around the world, preserve and further



enrich this authentic asset of the Islamic cultural heritage. The growing number and cultural diversity of the participants over thirty years and improvement of the average artistic quality of the entries reflected the positive impact of the competition in stimulating interest in this art and encouraging creativity coupled with thoroughness.

Over the past thirty years, the competition has given birth to an “IRCICA generation” of calligraphers, who have contributed to the accomplishments of this art in different parts of the world with their works and their teaching. IRCICA is proud that in this way,

its competition program has touched positively the careers of thousands of calligraphers worldwide.

IRCICA regularly disseminates the results of each round of the competition to audiences interested across the world. To this aim it publishes a catalogue of each round and organizes exhibitions of winners' works on various occasions. Half of the nearly 200 exhibitions of artworks held by IRCICA until the present have included calligraphic works selected from among prize-winners in the competition. These exhibitions have taken place in various OIC member countries,



competition was finalized in 2019; the twelfth will be launched in 2021, to be finalized in 2022. By now IRCICA's calligraphy competition has won recognition in world's art circles as a focal event in its field. Publications resulting from IRCICA's activities relating to Islamic calligraphy are used as textbooks and references. Its publications other than the present album include: the scholarly and artistic book entitled *The Art of Calligraphy in Islamic Heritage* which was published in the English, Arabic, Japanese, Malay and Turkish languages during the 1990s; reprints of selected calligraphy exercise books (mashqs) prepared by eminent masters of this art for the thuluth, naskh and riq'a styles of writing; and, catalogues of the various exhibitions.

and among others, on the sidelines of conferences of the OIC Member States and during the IRCICA International Gathering on Islamic Calligraphy (Istanbul, 2014), the international symposium on "Female Calligraphers" (Istanbul, 2010); the "IRCICA Regional Calligraphy Competition in South

East Asia 2018" (Singapore, 2018), in a travelling exhibition in Canada (2018) and on the 2015 OIC Day at UNESCO, Paris, France. Through these activities, the award-winning works have been introduced worldwide to artists and art lovers.

The eleventh round of the

The present album represents the culmination of a devoted continuing effort in the search of excellence in Islamic calligraphy art. It is an artistic book of documentary value that promises to be a landmark publication in its field and a superb addition to libraries. 📖



# الكويت في الوثائق العثمانية

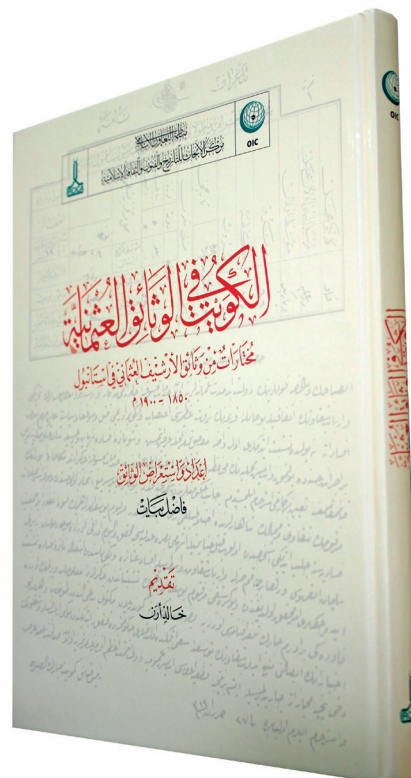
## Kuwait in Ottoman Documents

SELECTED DOCUMENTS FROM THE OTTOMAN ARCHIVES IN ISTANBUL 1850-1900

COMPILATION, TRANSLATION AND STUDY: PROF. DR. FAZIL BAYAT; FOREWORD: PROF. DR. HALIT EREN; HISTORY OF MUSLIM COUNTRIES THROUGH OTTOMAN ARCHIVE DOCUMENTS SERIES N°6; 256 P., IRCICA, ISTANBUL, 2020 (TEXTS OF DOCUMENTS: IN OTTOMAN; TRANSLATION AND STUDY: IN ARABIC)

Those who work on the history of Arab countries during the Ottoman era know it by experience that many aspects of this history are still unknown, and that what has been written often needs to be considered from varying angles because most of the studies conducted on this history are not based directly on original Ottoman documents. For greater accuracy of research on this history, IRCICA attaches great importance to the Ottoman documents and makes use of the rich Ottoman Archive collections which are preserved in the Turkish State's Ottoman Archives located in Istanbul. In fact, the Centre implemented major history projects based on the Ottoman Archives.

The book "Kuwait in Ottoman Documents - Selected documents from the Ottoman Archives in Istanbul 1850-1900" falls within the scope of the scholarly efforts IRCICA is deploying to facilitate the access of researchers to Ottoman documents. It is the first work of its kind to contain a large number of Ottoman documents on Kuwait. The Ottoman Archives in Istanbul contain a large collection of documents related to Kuwait. However, they cannot be limited to one volume. The documents adorning the pages of this book were chosen from among thousands if not tens of thousands of documents reserved in the Ottoman Archives in Istanbul.



They are selections dating back to a specific period of time and not the whole Ottoman presence in the region: they cover an important part of the history of Kuwait during the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. They were chosen by Prof. Dr. Fazıl Bayat considering what could be most important for researchers dealing with the history of Kuwait during that period. They shed light on major events that occurred in the Kuwait region and the relations between the Ottoman Empire and its rulers, Al Sabah family, in that period.

The information they contain has been examined meticulously and with absolute accuracy. A specific method was followed in presenting the documents. The original text of each document is presented side by side with its summary in Arabic. Furthermore, the author examined and analysed each document, outlined it in a simplified form, and added clarifications whenever necessary to facilitate comprehension. As such, the book will be a useful reference to facilitate the task of researchers concerned. 🌱

## Islamic Studies in Uzbekistan

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERSPECTIVES, JUNE 2019, TASHKENT

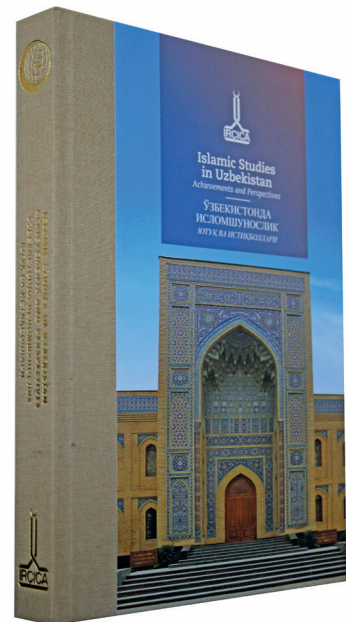
PROCEEDINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON "ISLAMIC STUDIES IN UZBEKISTAN: ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERSPECTIVES", EDITED BY PROF. HALIT EREN, PROF. ASHIRBEK MUMINOV; PREPARED FOR PUBLICATION BY PROF. SHUKHRAT YOVKOCHEV, ZOKHIDJON ISLAMOV, SERIES OF STUDIES ON ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION IN CENTRAL ASIA NR. 44, IRCICA,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

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

The articles deal with the state and prospects of Islamic studies in Uzbekistan with regard to a wide range of aspects and issues involved in the conduct of Islamic studies. From the perspectives of the different disciplines and subject areas these studies comprise, they record experiences, assess needs and estimate future prospects with regard to the various theoretical, technical and operational aspects of the field, thus focusing on research, teaching, training, source studies, academic exchanges and international cooperation, among others. Thanks to the diversity of the authors' specializations, a multi-disciplinary range of subject areas in Islamic studies come into focus such as: religious sciences, including Quranic education, the sciences of Hadith, exegesis, and jurisprudence, Sufism and

schools of theology; history; art; archeology; architecture; source studies; methodological issues, and training of educators and researchers. It is noteworthy that the research and educational environment of Islamic studies in Uzbekistan benefits from the richness and diversity of the topics, materials and sources that the history and scholarly heritage of Uzbekistan offer for study.

In the context of its research and conference programs on the history and heritage of Islamic civilization in the different regions of the OIC-IRCICA membership, IRCICA gives importance to highlighting the contributions that came from the different cultural and linguistic regions of this membership geography to Islamic civilization. Thus IRCICA gives importance to highlighting the scientific and intellectual inputs from Uzbekistan and other countries of Central Asia to this civilization. To this aim various projects were conducted by IRCICA over the past years and series of international workshops were organized in the last couple of years in countries of Central Asia in cooperation with their governments, academic and cultural institutions. The workshop which occasioned the present publication was organized in the same vein. From the viewpoint of IRCICA, the book is a valuable addition to its series of studies on



the history of Islamic civilization in Central Asia. It represents an accurate realization of the objectives sought by the organizers in planning the workshop. IRCICA believes that the book will be an important input to the academic literature relating to Islamic studies and will draw the attention of scholars and researchers worldwide. 🌍

## Proceedings of the International Congress on Korea and the Muslim World

HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL ENCOUNTERS, APRIL 2018, ISTANBUL

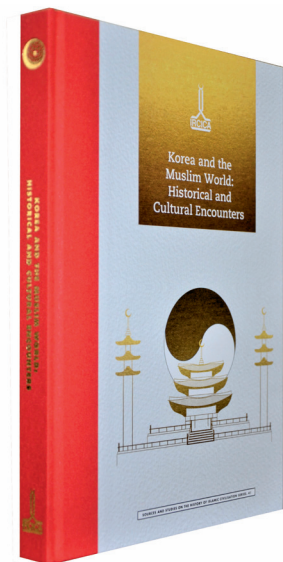
EDITED BY HALIT EREN. SOURCES AND STUDIES ON THE HISTORY OF ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION SERIES NO. 41, ISTANBUL, 2020. 236 P. (IN ENGLISH)

The international congress on “Korea and the Muslim World: Historical and Cultural Encounters” was co-organized by IRCICA and the Research Lab for Korean Studies in the Middle East at Hanyang University of Korea. It was held at IRCICA headquarters, on 24-25 April 2018. It was observed during the congress that although Korea and the Muslim world are culturally distinct from each other, they share similarities in national historical experiences, social values and traditions. Common memories of the past and interactions of their peoples deriving from trade, travels and learning contribute towards their mutual understanding today.

The congress and the resulting book are situated at the crossing between Islamic studies and Korean studies. The articles touch

upon aspects and epochs of relations between the two worlds. At the same time, they reflect some current academic focuses situated at the intersection of Korean studies and Islamic studies. The book contains twelve articles.

The congress was first of its kind, organized through IRCICA’s cooperation with Prof. Hee Soo Lee, Director of the Research Lab for Korean Studies in the Middle East at Hanyang University. In his address at the opening of the congress, Prof. Hee Soo Lee pointed out that the history of relations between Korea and the Muslim world is more than 1300 years old, as evidenced among others by artefacts showing their commercial and political relations. The cross-cultural aspect contained in this history deserves



to be explored; it would yield illuminating facts towards deeper understanding of the relationship and many other aspects of history and culture in Korea and in the Muslim world. The sessions of the congress focused on: historical aspects of Korean-Muslim world relations, literary and cultural aspects, intellectual encounters, and economic, industrial and commercial aspects of the relations. 🟢

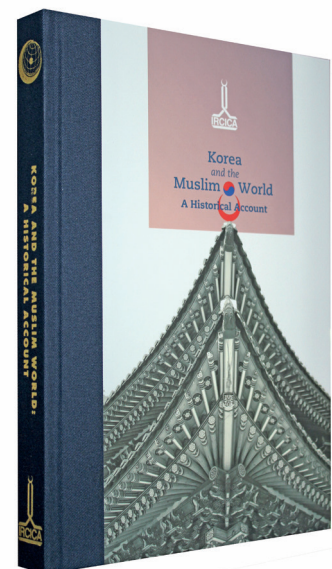
## Korea and the Muslim World A Historical Account

BY PROF. DR. HEE SOO LEE, PREFACE BY PROF. DR. HALIT EREN. SOURCES AND STUDIES ON THE HISTORY OF ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION SERIES NO. 43. IRCICA, ISTANBUL, 2020. 320 P. ILL.

This book by Professor Hee Soo Lee establishes an erudite understanding of cultural relations between Korea and the Muslim world within a comprehensive account of the history of interactions between the two worlds.

Beginnings of cultural interactions between Korea and the Muslim world date back to the first centuries Hijra and are considered

as an outcome of commercial relations that merchants, seafarers and explorers from Western parts of Asia had been maintaining with China, Korea and their surroundings since before the advent of Islam, which they had reached through the maritime Silk Road. The following hundreds of years saw intensified exchanges in cultural spheres as evidenced by geographical accounts written



in Arabic and Persian, official archives and records, travelogues, translations of scientific works, transfers of manufacturing techniques, mutual influences in arts, etc. which altogether reinforced the two worlds' awareness of each other. We learn from this instructive book that this development continued with the influx and increasing impact of Muslim peoples into Korea in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, but that there is no clear evidence that Muslims then settled in Korea permanently or that they tried to spread their religion there. During the reign of the Yuan dynasty (1270-1368) and the early times of the five-centuries rule of the Joseon dynasty (1392-1910) the Muslim community in Korea had no problems in practicing their faith, until the rulers' conservative policies emphasizing neo-Confucianism resulted in the curtailment of Muslims' rituals such as by a royal decree issued in 1427. The following centuries saw a decrease in the presence of and relations with the Muslims due to the overwhelming dominance of European merchant nations in Korea's foreign trade. Contacts of Muslims with Korea re-started in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century during the reign of Sultan Abdulhamid II. Then, the 1920s saw the arrival of a group of Russian Turks in Korea. Later, a new stage began in the mid-1950s with the settlement in Korea of a group of Turkish Muslims who had participated in the Korean War (1950-1953) under the banner of the United Nations. This resulted in the formation of a modern Muslim community in Korea and emergence of Korean Muslims. This book describes each of these stages of a long history of interactions.

Coming to our time, relations between Korea and many Muslim countries of Western Asia have been growing during recent decades particularly through

booming bilateral relations in trade and technology. Concomitantly there has been a sensible growth of cultural exchanges, in the arts and music, languages and letters, between Korea and many Muslim countries. Their peoples having cultivated positive memories and friendly images of each other is supportive of the process and encourages its further development. This last observation, specifically, is a matter of scientific curiosity for the historian, especially the cultural anthropologist, and also tempts the general reader, on what could have been the facts and factors having interplayed in building cultural ties between Korea and the historical cores of the Muslim world. All this despite the fact that they are geographically distant and culturally distinct from each other, but also taking into account similarities in their mentalities and customs.

With these considerations, IRCICA gave importance to promoting research on the contacts and impacts of Islamic culture in East Asia, with historical and present-time perspectives. Consequently, some of IRCICA's congresses in the series on cultural contacts between the Muslim world and other civilizations and several of its publications in the series Sources and Studies on the History of Islamic Civilization, are devoted to East Asia. These include the congresses it held, and resulting publications, on "Korea and the Muslim World: Historical and Cultural Encounters" (co-organized with the Research Lab for Korean Studies in the Middle East at Hanyang University of Korea through the coordination of Prof. Hee Soo Lee in 2018), "China and the Muslim World" (jointly with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing, in 2012, 2015, 2017 and 2019) and "Interfaith Dialogue and Peaceful Coexistence in Multicultural Societies"

(jointly organized by IRCICA and Devawongse Varopakarn Institute of Foreign Affairs, Bangkok, Thailand, in 2016). Specialists of the field participating in those events have confirmed IRCICA's observation that the history of interactions, particularly cultural, between the Muslim world on one hand and the East Asian countries and communities on the other, had not received the interest it deserves in the context of Islamic studies.

This book fills the gap with respect to the historical study of the Muslim world's relations with Korea. The author is Professor in the Department of Cultural Anthropology, Hanyang University, Korea, and Director of the University Museum. His close acquaintance with the Muslim cultures of the West of Asia derives mainly from studies and field works he conducted since 1979 in a number of countries, including Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Egypt, Iran, Malaysia and Uzbekistan. He has devoted years of research to the theme of this book, starting with his doctorate studies in Turkey which resulted in the thesis titled "The spread of Islamic-Turkic culture to East Asia" written in Turkish. At the invitation of IRCICA, the author translated it into English and it came out in 1997 under the title *The Advent of Islam in Korea*. The author's research interest on this topic continued since then, culminating in this new book, *Korea and the Muslim World. A Historical Account*.

The book treats its subject matters in utmost detail and with meticulousness on the basis of ample documentation and original sources. It will be a landmark contribution to sources and studies on history of politics, inter-regional relations, cultural interactions, history of the Muslim world, and certainly open new horizons in related subjects in Islamic studies and world history studies. 📖

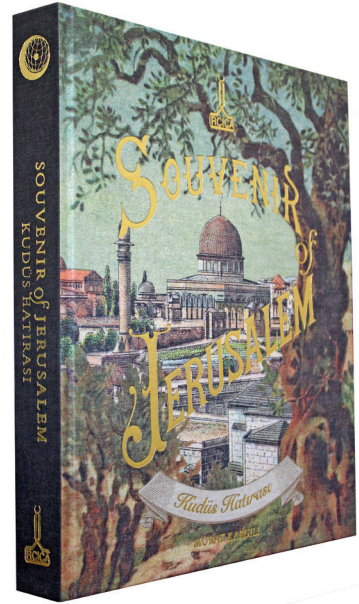
## Souvenir of Jerusalem Kudüs Hatırası

TEXT: M. MURAT KARGILI; PROJECT DIRECTOR AND FOREWORD: HALİT EREN;  
TRANSLATION BY NAFİZ AKŞEHİRLİOĞLU; STUDIES ON AL-QUDS AND PALESTINE 8,  
IRCICA, İSTANBUL, 2020, 290 P., COLOUR ILLUSTRATIONS

Jerusalem/Al Quds is a unique sacred city which had witnessed longest periods of peace and stability under Muslim administrations. Various Muslim states carefully protected the rich civilizational heritage and multicultural character of the city by forming charitable endowments (*awqaf*) for specific purposes ranging from the preservation of architectural monuments to providing social support to the residents. The special position occupied by Jerusalem/Al Quds in the hearts and minds of Muslims stimulated an intense traffic of pilgrimage and other visits to the city throughout history. But especially the introduction of railways, steamships and telegraph systems increased the influx of visitors to Jerusalem from around the world in the last quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Statesman, officials, travelers, pilgrims, authors, poets, painters and photographers who visited this special city attempted to document its rich civilizational heritage via different means and have a souvenir to take back home. These souvenir objects included postcards, photo albums, posters, hand-made objects carved from olive wood or mother of pearl that reminded the visitors their journeys and helped their families to visualize their narratives.

In this context, the most important

advance was achieved with the development of the art and technique of photography. As the quality of photographs and the means of access increased, Jerusalem/Al Quds turned into a real hotspot for photographers of the world. Sultans of the Ottoman State sponsored and supported the formation of prestigious photography archives for sacred cities, in the first place Makka al-Mukarrama, Madina al-Munawwara and al-Quds. Moreover, photographers and painters produced beautiful postcards that carry the memories and civilizational heritage of such cities thousands of kilometers away. With the widespread development of postal services across the world the use of postcards became increasingly popular, rendering the production of postcards a profitable new industry. Postcards produced for special cities and admired locations turned into pieces of art containing a rich reservoir of knowledge about cultural life, social change and anthropological dynamics. Wide collections of postcards produced to honor and remind the civilizational heritage of Al Quds were no exception. These postcards were widely shared among both the state elite and the common population in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, turning into special souvenir objects featuring the city. Therefore, scholars focusing on urban history and social change



utilized these postcards as well as the personal stories inscribed on them as important sources of historical information. Postcards capture the spirit of history by displaying special moments and events, monumental architectural works, urban fabrics, sacred or valuable objects and human-space relationships. Maps, engravings, posters and pictures also perform similar functions as souvenir objects.

This special album of souvenir objects published by IRCICA sheds light on the valuable cultural heritage of Jerusalem/Al Quds via reproductions of postcards, posters, and photographs. The album is a valuable addition to

the IRCICA studies on al-Quds and Palestine and includes the postcards and various objects that were assembled in the personal collection of Mr. Murat Kargılı. Previously, IRCICA has published albums containing historical photographs of al-Quds from the Yıldız Archives (*Al-Quds/Jerusalem in Historical Photographs*, 2009; *Jerusalem in Historical Photographs From Past to Present*, 2015). But this original volume which is based on the personal collection of Mr. Murat Kargılı and presented with annotations represent the first publication by the Centre which focus on postcards and historical artefacts. The materials displayed in the volume offer a large variety and contain crucial information on the urban and social history of Jerusalem/Al Quds.

In the first chapter of the volume, postcards from the period offer the reader a detailed tour around the streets of Jerusalem, the sacred locations and everyday life. Various annotations on the quarters, structures and scenes of life in the city are portrayed along with postcards derived from the works of orientalist painters of the era. The second chapter features a large

variety of printed materials such as posters, trade cards, gravures and maps that advertized various products ranging from medicine to food, tobacco to clothing and well known buildings, monuments, etc. Painted by famous painters and illustrators of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, trade cards present interesting insights into the lifestyles and mindsets of the communities in the period. Finally, the third chapter of the volume is devoted to various souvenir objects acquired from Jerusalem.

As the cultural centre of the OIC, IRCICA attaches great importance to the projects and activities concerning Jerusalem/Al Quds. The Centre undertakes archival research on the history of Al Quds and Palestine on the basis of Muhimme and Court Registers, while pursuing projects for the protection and preservation of cultural and architectural heritage in the area. IRCICA organizes academic seminars, workshops, congresses and exhibitions with the aim of promoting scholarly research on the rich historical and cultural legacy of Al Quds and Palestine. Publication of albums containing historical photographs

from the Yıldız Photograph Collection dating from the period of Sultan Abdulhamid II (late 19<sup>th</sup>-early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries) was a crucial project in this context. Photographs which were included in these comprehensive albums were also displayed to the public in various exhibitions organized in world capitals.

Accordingly, it is extremely fitting that this album of postcards and souvenir objects which reflects the cultural and urban features of the city during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century is also published by IRCICA. The album features more than 150 printed materials such as postcards, maps, engravings, posters, trade cards and pictures of souvenir objects and comes in deluxe edition printed on archival-quality paper. ‘Souvenir of Jerusalem’ will surely be of interest to researchers in cultural and urban history specializing on Al Quds and Palestine. As a landmark publication with a rich primary historical content, it will be a superb addition to public and specialized libraries. 🟢

*Book presentation by Sadık Ünay*





IRCICA Journal is an interdisciplinary refereed journal published in Spring and Fall issues. It includes articles on all themes in Islamic History and Civilization, in the English, French and Arabic languages.

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Dept. of History, Baha-ud-Din  
Zakariya University, Multan,  
and *Asst. Prof. Naumana Kiran*,  
University of the Punjab, Dept. of  
History and Pakistan Studies, Lahore,  
Pakistan

Nine-domes Mosques of  
Bangladesh

*Asst. Prof. Dr. Khoundkar Alamgir*,  
National University of Bangladesh,  
Dhaka, Bangladesh

Political and Cultural History of  
Mughal

*Asst. Prof. Dr. Faraz Anjum*,  
University of the Punjab,  
Department of History, Lahore,  
Pakistan

#### Articles in Arabic:

تطور التنظيم القضائي في العصر العباسي  
(١٣٢-٦٥٦هـ / ٧٤٩-١٢٥٨م)  
أ.م.د. علي سلطان عباس  
كلية التربية للعلوم الإنسانية، جامعة كركوك،  
العراق

The Evolution of the Judicial  
Organization in the Abbasid Period  
(132 – 656 AH) / (749-1258 CE)  
*Asst. Prof. Dr. Ali Soltan*, College of  
Education, University in Kirkuk, Iraq

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of Arts, Al Fashir University, Sudan

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د. كاملجان رحيموف  
معهد البيروني للدراسات الشرقية بطشقند،  
أوزبكستان

Architectural Epigraphy of  
Uzbekistan (Origin, Evolution and  
Characteristics)  
*Dr. Kamilcan Rahimov*, Al-Beruni  
Institute for Oriental Studies,  
Academy of Sciences of the Republic  
of Uzbekistan



متحدون من أجل السلم والتنمية  
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CULTURAL  
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