



Newsletter



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

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Editorial

Dear readers,

To celebrate the 1500th Year of the Birth of the Prophet Mohammed^{pbuh}, our Centre IRCICA has organized a series of cultural activities highlighting the deep significance of this blessed anniversary for humanity. In the thematic light of Surah al-Anbiya (21:107) which says “We have sent you ‘O Prophet’ only as a mercy for the whole world”, we developed the concepts of two main events - a scholarly conference and a public poetry competition – that aimed to reflect the understandings and representations of the life and the traditions of the Prophetsaw as expressed/ recorded by Muslims in different regions of the world. The OIC General Secretariat collaborated with IRCICA in both activities, which were undertaken within the framework of the extensive resolution (nr. 15/51-C) adopted by the 51st Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC Member States (21-22 June 2025, Istanbul) on the “Commemoration of the 1500th Anniversary of the Birth of Prophet Muhammad ^{pbuh}”. Thus, the 4th OIC–IRCICA–Awqaf SA International Conference on Islamic Civilization in Southern Africa dedicated to the 1500th Birth Year of the Prophet Mohammedsaw, on “The Representation of Prophet Mohammedsaw in Islamic Scholarship and Literature in Africa”, was organized with the valuable cooperation of the National Awqaf Foundation of South Africa (Awqaf SA) in Cape Town, South Africa. Under the high auspices of the Presidency and the Government of South Africa, with the contributions of the City of Cape, and thanks to the close collaboration of Awqaf SA in all respects of the organization, the conference received a wide range of high-quality contributions and met great interest in the academic circles concerned, among the general public and in the cultural press. By revisiting the references to the Prophetsaw in Islamic erudite literature and in popular culture and arts in Africa, the event also expressed a joint tribute to the Prophetsaw as a source of light and inspiration, a model of wisdom and ethics, a unique exemplary figure who has a special place in the hearts and minds of Muslims. Furthermore, another important contribution of the conference was that

with this purview, it highlighted the contributions of African peoples to the works of arts and literature about the Prophetsaw and to scholarship on the sira al-nabawiyya. Different aspects or areas of representations of the Prophet in scholarship and literature were reflected through the papers. One aspect is related to the comprehensive or partial records that include information on the history of the Prophet’s lifetime period. This is documentation of inestimable value about the life of the Prophet, the process of the Divine Revelation, transmission, recording and dissemination of the Quran, and also, information on the foundational developments including the formation of the Muslim community, society organization, political administration, educational activities, relations with non-Muslims, the Hijra, the Charter of Madina, the establishment of mosques and waqfs, and geographical expansion of the faith. Another aspect of the studies is related to the historiography of the sira, which traces and analyses the provenance and contents of written records. Still another is the focus on sira as a separate genre of literature. In each area, the studies need to be contextualized according to geographical and linguistic regions and to historical periods. Sira studies are further focalized according to the areas of impact of the Prophetic traditions such as political governance, trade and finance, legal matters and jurisprudence. These methodological features of the studies were also reflected during the sessions.

IRCICA’s second event dedicated to this noble anniversary is the International Naat al-Sharif Poetry Competition, which will be finalized with the announcement of its results in December 2025. The awarded poems will be posted on the special website we opened for the purpose. I would like to thank all the participants for their interest in this event.

In addition to these, this issue also contains outlines of various other events in which IRCICA participated as co-organizer or as paper presenter. We hope these activities will meet your interest.

Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol KILIÇ
Director General, IRCICA



51st Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC Member States

Istanbul, Türkiye, 21-22 June 2025

The 51st session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC Member States was held on 21–22 June 2025 in Istanbul, under the theme of “The OIC in a Transforming World.” The session was opened by H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of the Republic of Türkiye; President Erdoğan stressed the importance of the session, considering the events unfolding in the Muslim world during the period, notably the Israeli aggressions on the Gaza Strip and the Islamic Republic of Iran, underscoring his support for the OIC.

H.E. Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha, Secretary General of the OIC, addressed the opening, emphasizing the cause of Palestine and Al-Quds as being at the forefront of the unprecedented challenges faced by the OIC,

especially with regard to the ongoing crimes perpetrated by Israel, the occupation force, as evidenced by the military aggression on the Gaza strip, genocide, forced migration, starvation, destruction, settlement policies, Judaization of Al-Quds city and the targeting of the UNRWA. The Secretary General pointed out the blatant aggressions against the Islamic Republic of Iran; he reiterated the OIC General Secretariat’s vehement condemnation of these aggressions and its solidarity with the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Secretary General pointed to many other political problems faced in the Muslim world. (<https://cfm51.oic-oci.org/2025/06/23/president-of-turkiye-inaugurates-proceedings-of-the-51st-cfm-session-in-istanbul/>).

In his address, H.E. Mr. Hakan

Fidan, Turkish Foreign Minister and chairperson of the 51st CFM session, stressed that his country will continue the efforts made by the Republic of Cameroon (since the 50th session for the Council of Foreign Ministers held in Yaoundé, Cameroon, on 29-30 August 2024) in all areas of concern of the OIC. Mr. Fidan highlighted that the large-scale participation by the Member States in the current meeting, despite the circumstances, was standing witness to the high consideration they give to the issues of the Muslim world. Then, H.E. Mr. Lejeune Mbella, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cameroon and chairperson of the previous session, addressed the meeting, expressing his appreciation for holding the donor conference on the Sahel

region and the Lake Chad at the OIC Secretariat General in December 2024. He also reviewed the activities achieved by the OIC during his country's chairmanship of the Council of Foreign Ministers.

At the end of its deliberations on an extensive list of agenda items in various areas, the Council of Foreign Affairs adopted the following Declaration:

We, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), participating in the 51st Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), held in Istanbul, Türkiye, on 21-22 June 2025,

Reaffirming our firm commitment to the purposes, objectives and principles of our Organization as well as to all the resolutions adopted by the OIC Summits and the Council of Foreign Ministers,

Determined to further strengthen the bonds of unity and solidarity among the Islamic Ummah,

1. Express the aspiration of OIC, the second largest international organization after the UN, to play an increasing role in an environment of international fragmentation, weakened

international institutions and transforming world, and, the need of accelerating reforms to scale up OIC as a major international actor in terms of regional and global stability, shifting geostrategic balances, multilateralism, rule based international system,

2. Reaffirm the centrality of the Palestinian cause for the OIC, established in 1969 following the arson attack on Masjid Al Aqsa, firm support for the establishment of a sovereign, independent, contiguous Palestinian state on the 1967 lines with East Jerusalem as its capital and that two-State solution is the only viable solution to reach peace and stability in the region for all,
3. Reaffirm the importance of convening, as soon as possible, the United Nations High-Level Conference on the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution and relevant United Nations resolutions, under the co-chairmanship of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the French Republic; resuming the work of the

working groups established pursuant to the conference; and redoubling efforts to ensure its success; and call all UN Member States to participate actively in the conference once its new date is announced,

4. Condemn the ongoing Israeli campaign of genocide against the Gaza Strip, which has continued for over 19 months, as well as the systematic campaigns of destruction and killing in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, aimed at eliminating the Palestinian cause, including the Palestinian people's right to self-determination; reaffirm the importance of achieving a permanent and sustainable ceasefire and of implementing Security Council Resolution 2735, with a view to ending the aggression, advancing the Arab-Islamic recovery and reconstruction plan for the Gaza Strip, and ensuring the provision of political and financial support to the Palestinian Government to enable it to assume its responsibilities in the Gaza Strip, as it does in the West



- Bank, including Eastern Al-Quds,
5. Support the intensive diplomatic efforts of the Ministerial Committee established by the Joint Arab-Islamic Summit on Gaza to press for an immediate ceasefire, the delivery of humanitarian aid to all areas of the Gaza Strip, and the initiation of practical steps toward the implementation of the two-State solution,
 6. Condemn the actions of Israel, the occupying Power, in using starvation as a method of genocide by obstructing the entry of humanitarian assistance and preventing United Nations humanitarian agencies from carrying out their mandates, with the aim of forcibly displacing the Palestinian population. In this regard, we call for the rejection of all forms of forced displacement of the Palestinian people, the urgent opening of crossings and borders, the unimpeded and adequate delivery of humanitarian aid, and the provision of protection for the Palestinian civilian population,
 7. Express support for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency in the Near East for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) which plays an irreplaceable role in providing services to Palestine refugees and call on the international community to continue their support to UNRWA both politically and financially in the face of worsening humanitarian situation in the occupied Palestinian lands, including al-Quds,
 8. Express our unequivocal rejection of any schemes aimed at forcibly displacing Palestinians from their land, as such action constitutes a liquidation of the Palestinian Cause and a grave violation of international law; and also reject Israel's systematic targeting of the essential life necessities in Gaza with the deliberate intention of creating impossible living conditions and thus forcing Palestinians to leave their land,
 9. Affirm our support for the Arab-Islamic Plan for Early Recovery and Reconstruction of the Gaza Strip, which demonstrates that it is possible to reconstruct the Strip without the need to displace Palestinians; and commend Egypt's humanitarian efforts to ensure the delivery of humanitarian and relief aid to the Strip.
 10. Express our deep concern over the Israeli attempts to alter the civilizational features of the City of Al-Quds Al-Sharif, distort its Arab and Islamic character, and undermine its legal status—particularly efforts aimed at changing the status quo at Al-Aqsa Mosque, and stress the need to preserve the identity of the Holy City as a symbol of tolerance and coexistence among the three monotheistic religions, and to support its steadfast inhabitants. In this regard, we commend the efforts of Al-Quds Committee and its executive arm, the Bayt Mal Al-Quds Al-Sharif Agency,
 11. Condemn destabilization policies of Israel in the region and its recent attacks on Iran, Syria, and Lebanon, constituting flagrant violation of sovereignty and security of these countries and international law; call on the international community to take deterrent measures to stop this aggression and make Israel accountable for crimes committed; decides to establish an open ended Ministerial Contact group, which will be tasked with establishing regular contacts with the relevant regional and international parties, in order to support descalation effort, stop the aggression against Iran and to achieve a peaceful settlement,
 12. Condemn firmly the aggression of Israel against the Islamic Republic of Iran, stress the urgent need to stop Israeli attacks and their great concern regarding this dangerous escalation, threatening human, economic and environmental situation in the region.
 13. Express solidarity with the government and people of Pakistan, express our deep concern over the recent military escalation in the South Asia region, including the unjustified strikes carried out on multiple locations in Pakistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and stress the need to exercise maximum restraint and avoid actions that would destabilize the region,
 14. Emphasize that the ceasefire, announced on 10 May 2025, must be faithfully adhered to, in the interest of regional peace and stability; Acknowledge, with appreciation, the efforts made by various Member States for de-escalation of tensions;
 15. Call for strict adherence to bilateral agreements, including Indus Waters Treaty; and stress the importance of a broad-based dialogue for peaceful

- settlement of all outstanding disputes between Pakistan and India;
16. Recall the two reports of the UN Security Council Panel of Experts (No. S/2024/65), dated 15 January 2024, and (No. 2025 / 239), dated 14 January 2025,
 17. Express deep concern over growing Islamophobia, a form of racism and discrimination, condemn all acts of violence based on religion or belief, hate speech and extremism motivated by discrimination on the grounds of religion, as well as efforts fueling intercultural divisions and tensions; call on the international community to take effective measures to combat extremism, hate speech, defamation of religions, negative stereotyping and the stigmatization of people on the basis of religion, belief or ethnicity at the national and global level,
 18. Underline that terrorism and extremism cannot be associated with any religion, race, ethnicity or nationality and should be unequivocally condemned regardless of its forms and manifestations that continue threatening the global peace and security,
 19. Affirm the experience and capacity acquired by some member countries during decolonization process are granting to the OIC an important capacity for mediation resolving conflicts between the OIC Member States and other UN member states,
 20. Welcome the progress in the normalization process between the Republic of Azerbaijan and Armenia, including the conclusion of negotiations on the bilateral Agreement on Establishment of Peace and Inter-State Relations, and urge Armenia to address the remaining legal and political obstacles to for its signing, and thus, cease and desist from undermining the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. Reaffirm our full solidarity with the Government and People of Azerbaijan in their efforts to rehabilitate and reconstruct the liberated territories, heavily impacted by Armenian aggression, and call on OIC member states to actively support Azerbaijan's demining efforts, which are vital for ensuring safety, enabling reconstruction, and securing the dignified return of displaced persons;
 21. Express our support for the tangible and commendable efforts undertaken by the OIC Member States: the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, the Federal Republic of Somalia and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in the context of their non-permanent membership in the UN Security Council and their advocacy in support of Islamic causes,
 22. Welcome the efforts of the Syrian interim government for the integration of Syria into the regional and international system, emphasize to sustain political and financial support to Syria in order to ensure stability and security; express support for the initiation of cooperation between the Republic of Türkiye and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group aimed at contributing to early recovery and reconstruction efforts in Syria, and encourage the exploration of joint efforts to address priority needs in sectors such as energy and infrastructure,
 23. Affirm our principled position calling for respecting the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and unity, and non-interference in the internal affairs of all the Member States,
 24. Support the aspirations of the Muslim Turkish Cypriots to secure their inherent rights and stress the importance of finding a negotiated, mutually acceptable, just, lasting and sustainable settlement of the Cyprus issue and emphasize the importance of developing contacts with the Muslim Turkish Cypriots in order to overcome the unjust isolation imposed upon them,
 25. Reiterate our support for the Turkish Muslim Minority of Western Thrace and Turkish Muslim Population of the Dodecanese in Greece to ensure the full enjoyment of their basic rights and freedoms and affirm that their religious and cultural rights should be duly respected,
 26. Express deep concern over the destiny of hundreds of thousands of Azerbaijanis forcibly and systematically expelled from the territory of the present-day Armenia, and condemn the destruction and misappropriation of Islamic cultural heritage therein as a serious violation of international law. Reaffirm the inalienable right of expelled Azerbaijanis to peaceful, safe and dignified return to their places of origin in the territory of the resent-day Armenia in accordance with international law, and deplore Armenia's refusal to engage in dialogue with the Western Azerbaijani

Community, non-governmental organizations advocating for the restoration of the violated human right of the Azerbaijanis expelled from the territory of present-day Armenia.

27. Renew solidarity with the people of Jammu and Kashmir and express full support for their inalienable right to self-determination in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council and OIC resolutions, and the wishes of the Kashmiri people; and condemn the massive human rights violations in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir,
28. Express our concern over the grave human rights violations primarily against the Rohingya Muslim community, as well as other Muslim groups in Myanmar, call for urgent actions to defend the fundamental rights and freedoms of this community, confirm our strong commitment to bring to a successful conclusion of the case filed by the Gambia before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) against Myanmar, and speedy repatriation of the forcibly Displaced Rohingyas to Myanmar, their homeland,

29. Regarding express our deep concern over the destructive policies pursued by the leadership of the Republika Srpska entity, which have placed undue pressure on the judicial system and institutions, thereby undermining the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina and posing a serious threat to the foundations of the Dayton Peace Agreement and the Constitutional order of Bosnia and Herzegovina's constitutional and institutional order and urge all international partners to collaborate in ensuring adherence to the Dayton Peace Agreement and the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina,
30. Commend the vital role of the COMCEC towards addressing the common development challenges of the Member States through its flagship programs and projects, sectoral working groups and project support programs,
31. Commend the efforts of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in protecting and safeguarding the Islamic and Christian holy sites in the city of Al-Quds, and stress the significant role of the historical

Hashemite custodianship of these sanctities in protecting and preserving their Arab, Islamic and Christian identity, and maintaining the current historical and legal status quo,

32. Commend the UNESCO Resolutions designating Al-Aqsa Mosque and Al-Haram Al Qudsi Al Sharif as synonymous names, and reaffirm that Bab Al Magharbeh is an integral part of Al-Aqsa Mosque/Al-Haram Al-Sharif, and the right of the "Directorate of Al-Aqsa Mosque and Jerusalem Affairs" of the Jordanian Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs and Holy Sites to restore Bab Al Magharbeh and undertake the maintenance and preservation of Al-Aqsa Mosque/Al-Haram Al-Sharif, and regulate entry into it, being the sole legal authority with exclusive jurisdiction over Al-Aqsa Mosque with its entire area of 144 dunums, as a place of worship exclusively for Muslims, protected by the international law and the historical and legal status quo,
33. Welcome the upcoming Islamic Summit Conference to be convened in Azerbaijan in 2026 and look forward to its contribution to unity, solidarity, and cooperation within the Islamic world.



On the occasion of the 51st Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC Member States held in Istanbul on 21-22 June 2025, IRCICA organized an exhibition of historical postcards of Al-Quds compiled from the private collection of Mr. Murat Kargılı (Türkiye) and published by IRCICA in an album (second ed. 2025); the exhibition was visited by the ministerial delegations. 🇺🇸

4th OIC–IRCICA–Awqaf SA International Conference on Islamic Civilization in Southern Africa dedicated to the 1500th Birth Year of the Prophet Mohammed^(pbuh) “The Representation of Prophet Mohammed^(pbuh) in Islamic Scholarship and Literature in Africa”

Cape Town, South Africa, 12-14 September 2025

The Fourth International Conference on Islamic History and Civilization in South Africa themed “The Representation of Prophet Mohammed^(pbuh) in African Scholarship and Literature” was co-organized by IRCICA, OIC General Secretariat and Awqaf South Africa (Awqaf SA) on 12-14 September 2025 in Cape Town, South Africa. The conference brought together scholars from different countries within and outside Africa to appraise the

reflections of the spiritual and ethical legacy of the Prophet across vast areas ranging from commerce and economics to education, social justice, oral traditions, literature, waqf tradition, governance and migration. Thus, the conference aimed to

- Localize the sira literature about the life and activities of Prophet Mohammed^(saw) in African contexts, including key scholars, text, and traditions.
- Identify key figures, texts, and traditions in African sira studies.
- Investigate the historical and cultural contexts of the image of Prophet Mohammed^(pbuh) in African Islamic scholarship.
- Promote dialogue and collaboration among scholars from diverse African regions and Islamic traditions.
- Contribute to a deeper understanding of the



significance of the legacy of Prophet Mohammed^(pbuh) in shaping African Islamic identity and culture.

- Explore how the ethical legacy of Prophet Mohammed^(pbuh) engaged with, enriched, and was enriched by the diverse moral and cultural traditions it encountered, especially on the African continent.
- Analyze modern interpretations of the Prophet's legacy in African Islamic thought and identity.
- Recognize the spirit of ethical co-existence and solidarity through which the Prophetic message contributed to shared moral visions across different communities and civilizations.
- Foster scholarly networks and publish findings to elevate African sira studies globally.

With this purview, the following themes were addressed:

- Historical representations of Prophet Mohammed^(saw) in African Islamic historiography
- Cultural expressions: art, literature (poetry, Ajami texts), music and oral traditions in honor of Prophet Mohammed^(saw)
- Theological perspectives: African Islamic theology, comparative studies with global scholarship
- Contemporary challenges: representing the Prophet Mohammed^(pbuh) in modern African contexts
- Prophetic pathways to pluralism: Mohammed^(pbuh) in African intercultural and intergroup community-building

The opening ceremony of the conference was addressed by



Sheikh Sadullah Khan (CEO of the Islamia College), Molla Abdulkhaliq Allie (President of the Ulama Council of South Africa), Zeinoul Cajee (Chair of the Academic Committee), Dr. Lhoucine Rhazoui (Director of Cultural Affairs at the OIC General Secretariat) and Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç (IRCICA Director General). Then, two keynote addresses were delivered, by Prof. Dr. Halis Aydemir (Representative of the Presidency of Religious Affairs of Türkiye) and Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç (IRCICA Director General). Discussions were engaged on topics relating to Islamic philosophy and tasawwuf.

The participants in the conference were: Hatice Kavas, ISAM, Türkiye; Lamin Jabbie, Sankore Institute, Gambia; Mukhtar Umar Dagimun, Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto, Nigeria; Samba Diop, Senegal (University of Oslo, Norway); Usman Bugaje, Nigeria; Isa M. Maishanu, Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto, Nigeria; Ensa Touray, University of Gambia, Gambia; Shuaibu Shehu Aliyu, Arewa House, Ahmadu Bello University, Kaduna, Nigeria; Mohamed Hasan, Egypt; Mustafa Efe, Centre for Africa Strategic Studies, Türkiye; Mohammed Kyari, University of Maiduguri,

Nigeria; Ibraheem Mikail Abiola, University of Ilorin, Nigeria; Abdul-Hameed Badmas Yusuf, University of Ilorin, Nigeria; Nimmo Osman Elmi and Wambui N. Kabage, Zuri International Salama School, Kenya; Hamadou Adama, University of Ngaoundéré, Cameroon; Shaykh Abdur-Razaq Majal, Madina Institute, South Africa; Alfred Jana Matiki, ICBM College, Blantyre, Malawi; Ashahadu Asali, Zimbabwe; Muhammed Shaahid Cassim, University of Cape Town, South Africa; Fatima Hendricks, South Africa; Farouk Hoosain, University of Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa; Yousuf Dadoo, University of South Africa; Zahraa McDonald, University of Johannesburg, South Africa; Shuaib Ramjam and Abdullah Bayat, South Africa; Zeinoul Abedien Cajee, Awqaf SA, South Africa; Tombolaza canut Filamant, University of Toamasina, Madagascar; Thulani Zaid Langa, South Africa; Suleman Dangor, South Africa; Quraysha Ismail Sooliman, South Africa; Fatima Cheikh, South Africa.

The participants' presentations were grouped in sessions on business, economic and social justice; historical and literary scholarship; education and pedagogy; oral traditions, songs

and poetry; mawlid, praise poetry; waqfs and governance; culture and migration.

The formal opening in the evening of 12 September 2025 was held with the participation of around three hundred dignitaries from Cape Town. Opening addresses were made by Ebrahim Rasool (Former Ambassador), Sheikh Riad Fataar (President of the Muslim Judicial Council), Mickael Collier (CEO of Awqaf SA), Dr. Lhoucine Rhazoui (Director of Cultural Affairs at the OIC General Secretariat), Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç (IRCICA Director General) and Honorable Thembi Siweya, Member of South African Parliament and Special Counselor to the Deputy President Paul Mashatile.

The participants were invited to a guided tour of the National Botanical Gardens in Kirstenbosch where a Tree Planting Ceremony were held in appreciation of their scholarly contributions. A Mawlid Al-Nabi Program was also organized in the Al Quds Masjid on

the night of 13 September 2025.

The Closing Ceremony of the conference was held on Sunday, 14 September 2025 with the addresses of Zeinoul Cajee (Chair of the Academic Committee), Prof. Muhammed Haron (Deputy Chairman of the Academic Committee), Mickael Collier (CEO of Awqaf SA), Prof. Dr. Aboubacar Senghore (Assistant Director General of IRCICA), Prof. Dr. Sadık Ünay (Senior Consultant to IRCICA Director General), Dr. Lhoucine Rhazoui (Director of Cultural Affairs at the OIC General Secretariat), and Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç (IRCICA Director General).

In his closing remarks, the Assistant Director General of IRCICA Prof. Dr. Aboubacar Senghore drew attention to the climate of spiritual and intellectual enthusiasm that reigned at each moment of the conference, the outstanding quality of delivery and excellent quality of academic papers presented, the high level of attendance and unprecedented

show of commitment and dedication were a true reflection of the special status and standing of prophet Mohammed saw as the best and most honored person ever created by Allah and to whom the Congress was dedicated.

The Director General of IRCICA Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç closed the conference expressing his gratitude, on behalf of IRCICA, to the Presidency and the Government of South Africa for the excellent arrangements and hospitality; to Awqaf SA for their invaluable cooperation and excellent preparations, and to all paper presenters for their inestimable contributions to success of the conference.

Final Resolutions of the conference were announced by the journalist and writer Mr Shafiq Morton which proclaimed a long-term research agenda on the broader legacy of Prophet Mohammed^(saw) in social life, economics, governance, faith and culture to be pursued with a series of academic events in the years to come. 🟩



Commemoration of the 1500th Birth Year of Prophet Mohammed^{pbuh}: International Naat al-Sharif Poetry Competition

An International Naat al-Sharif Poetry Competition has been launched by IRCICA to commemorate the 1500th Birth Year of the Prophet Mohammed^{pbuh}. The competition is organized by IRCICA with the cooperation of the OIC General Secretariat and Konya Metropolitan Municipality, under the patronage of the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye. Poems in Arabic, English, French, Persian or Turkish are to be submitted by 15 November 2025. The competition will be finalized in December 2025. A special website is opened by IRCICA for this competition. Numerous poems have been received as soon as it was announced.

Naat al-Sharif is a general term used for poems praising the

Prophet^{pbuh}. The pioneering examples of this genre were written in Madina al-Munawwara during His lifetime. The poets included the companions of the Prophet^{pbuh} such as Hassan ibn Thabit, Ka'b ibn Malik, Ka'b ibn Zuhayr and Abdullah ibn Rawaha. The main motive of the poets of Naat Al-Sharif is to express their deep love and admiration for the Prophet^{pbuh}. Thousands of Naat al-Sharif were written across the Muslim world; each poet took care to place Naats in his/her diwan.

Naat al-Sharif can be written in different forms, but their distinguishing feature is the sincere and personal manner in



which they are addressed to the Prophet himself. Writing and reciting Naat al-Sharif became a strong tradition that has continued uninterrupted until today. 🌹

Director General Prof. Mahmud Erol Kılıç addressed the 10th International Theological Scientific and Educational Conference “Bigiev Readings”

Moscow, Russian Federation, 22-23 September 2025

The 10th International Theological Scientific and Educational Conference “Bigiev Readings” on the topic “Musa Bigiev: Life, Legacy, Research” was opened in Moscow, Russian Federation, on 22 September 2025, for a period of two days. The Plenary Session was moderated by Prof. Dr. Damir Mukhetdinov, First

Deputy Chairman of the Religious Board of Muslims of the Russian Federation. The session received the opening address of Grand Mufti Sheikh Ravil Gaynutdin, Chairman of the Religious Board of Muslims of the Russian Federation, followed by the addresses of governmental and religious authorities and scholars of

Islamic thought from the Russian Federation and from Belarus, Egypt, Holy See, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Palestine, Qatar, Türkiye, and United Arab Emirates. The speakers included Mr. Andrey Fursenko, Aide to the President of the Russian Federation; Dr. Mahmoud Al-Habbash, President’s Advisor for Religious Affairs and

Islamic Relations of the State of Palestine, Supreme Judge of the State of Palestine; Prof. Dr. Mehmet Görmez, former president of Religious Affairs in Türkiye; Dr. Mohammed Bechari, Secretary General of the World Muslim Communities Council, UAE; Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç, Director General of IRCICA, and a number of other scholars in the history of Islamic sciences and philosophy. The large-scale conference was conducted in parallel sessions, with paper presentations on the multiple aspects of the thought and the work of Jarullah Musa Bigiev (1875-1949). The paper of Prof. Mahmud Erol Kılıç themed “The Contribution of Musa Jarullah to Modern Islamic Thought” highlighted Musa Bigiev’s ideas of continuing relevance regarding the methodology of Islamic law - usul al-fiqh in particular. Centering his thought strictly around the Holy Quran and the Hadith and Sunna of the Prophet Mohammedsaw, Jarullah Musa Bigiev called for the use of reason, which is a faculty granted by Allah Almighty to human beings, for understanding and interpreting these sources Bigiev wrote numerous works in



all fields of Islamic religious sciences, analyzing his topics always within the framework of real life and the conditions of Muslim communities and generally all societies. After the Plenary, IRCICA Director General Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç was presented with the “Musa Bigiev Medal” on the occasion of the 150th Birth Year of Musa Bigiev. Prof. Dr. Kılıç, together with Prof. Dr. Cengiz Tomar, Chief Advisor/Head of Research and Publications, IRCICA, attended the sessions and exchanged information about the state of studies and publications around the world on key scholars who contributed to



preserving the traditions of Islamic religious sciences in changing times. 🌱

IRCICA Director General Prof. Mahmud Erol Kılıç conducted a series of cultural activities with scholarly institutions in Indonesia

Jakarta, 18-21 July 2025

IRCICA Director General Prof. Mahmud Erol Kılıç conducted a series of cultural activities in Indonesia which touched upon both scholarly and artistic areas of cooperation between Indonesia and IRCICA.

In the first stage of his working visit to Indonesia, Prof. Mahmud Erol Kılıç gave a lecture at the Institute for Humanitarian Islam in Menteng, Jakarta, Indonesia, on 18 July 2025, within the program themed “Humanitarian Action from the Perspective of Islamic

Culture”. Prof. Kılıç spoke on the principles of Islamic philosophy and mysticism important for humanitarian action; coverage of these issues in higher education and his own experiences in teaching philosophy and mysticism for twenty-five years;

the application of Islamic ethical concepts in social life and in developing cultural perspectives on global issues. The Institute for Humanitarian Islam works to promote shared civilisational values at the global level in cooperation with Nahdlatul Ulama and a group of closely affiliated entities, including the Center for Shared Civilizational Values and the G20 Religion Forum (R20).

Furthermore, within the framework of his program of cultural activities in Indonesia, IRCICA Director General Prof. Mahmud Erol Kılıç conducted a 2-day intensive program of lectures at the Akademi Kepemimpinan Nasional Nahdlatul Ulama (AKN-NU) – National Leadership Academy of Nahdlatul Ulama in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 19-20 July 2025. The program titled “Mystical Interpretation of Islam from the Point of View of History, Art and Culture” attended by fifty religious scholars was conducted at Nahdlatul Ulama’s premises and arranged as two lecture sessions per day followed by Q&A discussions.

During the period of his cultural contacts and activities in Indonesia, Professor Kılıç also gave interviews



to various media institutions on cultural issues, global peace, and international relations. Furthermore, Prof. Kılıç gave an interview to Mr. C. Holland Taylor, Special Advisor for International Affairs to the General Chairman of Nahdlatul Ulama Central Board, during the period of his program of lectures at Nahdlatul Ulama on 19-20 July 2025. Around the theme of “Islam in Indonesia from Sufi Perspective”, Prof. Kılıç was invited to give his views about Islam in Indonesia, and the expectable role of Nahdlatul Ulama and the G20’s Religion Forum R20 at the global level. Professor Kılıç alluded to the presence of large numbers of intellectuals including young generations in Indonesia, together with Nahdlatul Islam as one of

the largest Muslim organizations of the world and R20 as the Religion Forum of G20, which are reflecting the understanding of the real picture of Islam, can inform and guide peoples of the world on the essential traditional theory and interpretation of Islam under its genuine humanitarian aspect. Stressing that religious scholars in every religion can guide their communities towards deeper consciousness over humanitarian and global issues such as countering climate change or diseases, Prof. Kılıç reminded that from the origins until modern times, religious education and generally medrese education in the Muslim world was formulated around this noble aspect of Islam, this intellectual

and peaceful aspect of Islam based on deep wisdom as explicated through the works of the great scholars of Islamic philosophy and mysticism such as al-Ghazzali and Ibn Arabi. The talk concluded with the hope that in future, peoples of the world will come together around unifying perspectives and collaborate in unity. ☑



6th International Conference on “Islamic Civilization in Central Asia: Past and Present” coordinated by the International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan, the Committee on Religious Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and IRCICA

Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 16 September 2025

The 6th International Conference on “Islamic Civilization in Central Asia: Past and Present” organized by the International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan (Tashkent), the Committee on Religious Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and IRCICA, took place in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, in hybrid format, on 16 September 2025. A total of 19 research papers on a variety of themes were presented in its international section held online, in Uzbek, Arabic, English and Turkish. Following the opening address of Prof. Dr. Muzaffar Kamilov, Rector of the International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan, the greetings address of IRCICA Director General Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç was read on his behalf by Prof. Dr. Ashirbek Muminov, Advisor for Central Asian Studies and External Relations at IRCICA. The opening session was addressed by the following personalities: Mufti Sheikh Nuriddin Khaliknazar, Chairman of the Muslims Board of Uzbekistan; Prof. Dr. Nematulla Ibrahimov, Rector of the Uzbekistan Academy of Sciences; Assoc. Prof. Abdulhay Abdullayev from the International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan; Prof. Dr. Sodiq Toshbayev, Chairman of the Religious Affairs Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan; Prof. Dr. Gulchehra Rixsiyeva, Rector of Tashkent State University of

Oriental Studies. During the working sessions, nine papers were presented by participants from Egypt, Saudi Arabia, USA and Uzbekistan in presence in Tashkent, and ten others were contributed by experts from IRCICA via online connection. Prof. Ashirbek Muminov from IRCICA moderated the sessions together with Prof. Dr. Nematulla Muhamedov from the International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan. The proceedings have been published as a book prior to the conference. The papers contributed by the IRCICA staff were titled as follows:

Prof. Dr. Ashirbek Muminov, Advisor for Central Asian Studies and External Relations, “Maturidiyya in the History of Samarkand (Based on Epigraphic Materials)”; Prof. Dr. Najat Khalil, Expert on Women Empowerment in the Islamic World, “Central Asian Women Who Contributed to Islamic Civilization”; Assoc. Prof.



Ayna Askeroğlu, Researcher, “The Famine in Kazakhstan (1918-1934) as a Destructive Example of Soviet Politics”; Dr. Attallah Alrawashdeh, Assistant Head of Research and Publications Department, “The Name-i Hümayun (Imperial Letters) and Their Historical Importance: A Case Study of Uzbek-Ottoman Relations Based on Name-i Hümayun Document No.5”; Dr. Alidost Ertuğrul, IRCICA Chief of Architectural Heritage Section, “Contributions of the Heritage Preservation Phenomenon to Uzbekistan and Central Asia”; Dr. Betül Ayaz, Chief of Research

Section & Projects Coordinator, “The Legacy of Saduqas Ghilmani: Letters”; Orhan Çolak, Chief of Archive and Technological Services Section, “Mushafs Presented by Uzbek Khans to Ottoman Sultans”; Sait Kasımoğlu, Calligraphy External Adviser, “The Development of Handicrafts and Calligraphy in Central Asian Countries”; Veysel Bulut, Manuscript Expert, “al-Qanun fi’ t-Tib Manuscripts



at Turkish Libraries”; Yekta Zülfikar, Executive Assistant (Legal Translator & Rapporteur),

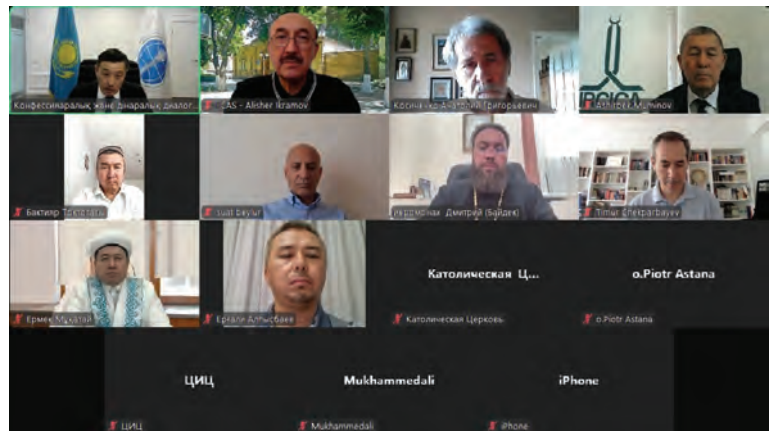
“Najmaddin Daya’s Ideal Leader and the Concept of Justice.”



IRCICA participated in the conference on “Good Neighborhood of Cultures in the 21st Century: Central Asian Countries”, Kazakhstan

Online, 30 July 2025

The International Center for Interfaith and Interreligious Dialogue, Astana, Kazakhstan, coordinated the international online conference themed “Good Neighborhood of Cultures in the 21st Century: Central Asian Countries” on 30 July 2025. IRCICA was represented at the conference by its International Relations and Central Asian Studies Advisor Prof. Ashirbek Muminov. The conference was moderated by Mr. Marat Kalizhanov, Acting Chairman of the Board of the International Center for Interfaith and Interreligious Dialogue; opening addresses were given by Mr. Anuar Khatiev, Chairman of the Committee on Religious Affairs of the Ministry of Culture and Information of the Republic of Kazakhstan; Mr. Ermek Mukatay,



Deputy Mufti of the Spiritual Administration of Muslims of Kazakhstan. Addresses were given by scholars from universities and religious administrations of different faiths joining from Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Türkiye, and Kazakhstan. Prof. Ashirbek

Muminov from IRCICA delivered a scholarly talk on the topic: “Using Digital Platforms in the Preservation and Promotion of Cultural Heritage.” IRCICA has attended the annual editions of this conference starting from 2022.

Roundtable on “Spiritual Diplomacy and the Sacred Heritage of World and Traditional Religions”

coordinated by the International Centre for Inter-Faith and Inter-Civilizational Dialogue (Astana, Kazakhstan), the Muslim Council of Elders (Abu Dhabi, UAE), and the Egyptian University of Islamic Culture Nur Mubarak (Almaty, Kazakhstan)

Almaty, Kazakhstan, 25-26 June 2025

The International Center for Inter-faith and Inter-Civilizational Dialogue (Astana, Kazakhstan), in collaboration with the Muslim Council of Elders (Abu Dhabi, UAE) and the Egyptian University of Islamic Culture Nur-Mubarak (Almaty, Kazakhstan) organized a roundtable discussion around the theme of “Spiritual Diplomacy and the Preservation of the Sacred Heritage of World and Traditional Religions”. The meeting took place at the University’s premises, with online connections, on 25-26 June 2025. Its objective was to foster inter-faith dialogue on enhancing spiritual diplomacy and safeguarding the sacred heritage of world and traditional religions, including manuscripts, architectural monuments, and religious artworks. Among the participants were Dr. Darhan Kydyrali, Chief Coordinator of the Muslim Council of Elders – Central Asia; Bauyrzhan Bakirov, Deputy Chairman of the International Center for Inter-faith and Inter-civilizational Dialogue; Dr. Ahmed Hussein Mohammed Ibrahim, Rector of Nur-Mubarak University;



Dr. Eleonore Cellard, Associate Researcher at INALCO in France; Dr. Rustam Jabborov, Scientific Consultant at the World Society for the Study, Preservation and Promotion of the Cultural Heritage of Uzbekistan (WOSCU), together with representatives of religious institutions in different countries, libraries and archives holding sacred texts, museums of Islamic and religious art, and specialists in manuscript restoration, digitization and preservation. Twenty-one speakers addressed the meeting, including Prof. Ashirbek

Muminov, IRCICA’s Advisor on International Relations and Central Asian Studies.

The three session themes were: Peace Through the Lens of Faith: Spiritual Diplomacy and the Role of Religions in Building Trust; Preserving Sacred Heritage: Modern Approaches and Challenges; Preserving Sacred Texts: Restoration Fundamentals and Ethical Handling. A project initiative was acknowledged, for the restoration of a rare 12th-century manuscript of the Holy Qur’an. 🟢



Activities during the International Expert Council Forum, Centre for Islamic Civilization in Uzbekistan

Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 26-27 September 2025

The inauguration of the splendid premises of the Centre for Islamic Civilization in Uzbekistan under the Cabinet of Ministers, Tashkent, was marked by an International Expert Council Forum convened on 26-27 September 2025 in the presence of representatives of cultural research institutions, international organizations, libraries, museums, universities' departments involved in studies on Islamic history and culture, from various countries. The participants had the opportunity to receive first-hand information on the activities, visit its departments and exhibition halls, and exchange views on cooperation in their respective common fields of interest. IRCICA was represented by the Chief Advisor/Head of Research and Publications Prof. Dr. Cengiz Tomar. Following the opening ceremony addressed by Mr. Firdavs Abdukhalikov, Director of the Center for Islamic Civilization in Uzbekistan, keynote addresses were delivered by Mr. Homidjon Ishmatbekov, First Deputy Chairman of the Muslim



Board of Uzbekistan and Mr. Azimjon Gofurov, Researcher and Coordinator, Centre for Islamic Civilization. Then, the participants got acquainted with the collections and activities of the Centre through the specialized exhibitions displayed, on "Civilizations of the Pre-Islamic Period," "Spread of Islam," "Science and Enlightenment – Hall of the First Renaissance," "Hall of the Second Renaissance," "Era of the Khanates," "Library of the Center for Islamic Civilization," "Museum of the Center for Islamic Civilization," "Collection

of Artifacts and Manuscripts," "International Platform of the Center for Islamic Civilization." Representatives of countries (Azerbaijan, France, Germany, India, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Oman, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, Türkiye, U.K., and Uzbekistan) and institutions, including scholarly research centers and universities in Uzbekistan (the Uzbekistan Academy of Sciences, the Imam Bukhari, Imam Termizi, Imam Maturidi scientific research centers), made interventions at each session, contributing ideas and experiences on the study and management of manuscript sources in general and the Centre's museum to be opened in two months' time, in particular. Prof. Cengiz Tomar spoke during the session on the "Spread of Islam," and also gave interviews to media about the long-standing cooperation between IRCICA and the Centre for Islamic Civilization in Uzbekistan which covers different areas of studies on written sources of history. 🟢



IRCICA Director General addressed during the program on “The Scholarly Heritage of Fuat Sezgin” organized by The Republic of Türkiye Directorate of Communications

Istanbul, 27 June 2025

IRCICA Director General Prof. Mahmud Erol Kılıç addressed the session titled “Science Diplomacy Transcending Borders with Fuat Sezgin’s Islamic Sciences Legacy” of the conference and exhibition program titled “Fuat Sezgin’s Legacy: Building Bridges with Science Diplomacy” organized by The Republic of Türkiye Directorate of Communications on 27 June 2025 in Istanbul. Prof. Fuat Sezgin, a renowned scholar in the field of history of Islamic sciences and technology, passed away on 30 June 2018. 🇹🇷



Prof. Dr. Fuat Sezgin

IRCICA Director General’s two lectures on Tasawwuf

Üsküdar University, Istanbul, 28 June & 26 July 2025

IRCICA Director General Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç gave a lecture titled “Tasawwuf as a Quality Control Tool” at the Üsküdar University Institute of Sufi Studies on 28 June 2025. Üsküdar University Founding President Prof. Dr. Nevzat Tarhan gave opening remarks, pointing out that Sufi teachings overlap with goals adopted by the world community for building peace and understanding. Ms. Cemalnur Sargut, Advisor to the President of Üsküdar University, said that their Institute works on teaching moral values even to artificial intelligence and that this is an indication of the level at which interdisciplinary studies centered on Sufism are carried out. In his lecture, Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç said that according to Sufi thought, a person’s effort to train and perfect his soul requires him to advance by removing the obstacles hindering the achievement of certain qualities. While advancing on this path,



he can overcome arrogance and attain modesty, purify himself from ignorance and attain knowledge, and other qualities that are unfortunately losing their importance in today’s global competitive

environment. Prof. Kılıç touched upon interdisciplinary reflection and studies that reveal this fundamental relationship between Sufism and human qualities, and also referred to the projects carried out on this subject at Üsküdar University.

Another lecture by Prof. Dr. Kılıç in the same Institute was titled “Man, Sufi Thought, and Healing” and dated 26 July 2025. The lecture program, moderated by Dr. Cangüzel Güner Zülfikar, started with the opening remarks of Mrs. Cemalnur Sargut, Advisor to the

Rector of Üsküdar University, and Prof. Dr. Nevzat Tarhan, Rector. The lecture of Prof. Kılıç was open to participation from all universities and the general public. 🇹🇷

Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç participated in the 14th Symposium on “Elmalı’s Luminaries in Wisdom and Love”

Antalya, Türkiye, 14 June 2025

IRCICA Director General gave a scholarly address at the 14th Symposium on “Elmalı’s Luminaries in Wisdom and Love” held in Antalya on 14 June 2025. The symposium was attended by Elmalı Mayor Mr. Halil Öztürk, Governor Mr. Faruk Erdem, the Mufti of Antalya Mr. Nazif Yalçınkaya, the Dean of Akdeniz University Faculty of Theology Prof. Dr. Ahmet Ögke, the Founding Dean of Yalova University Faculty of Theology Prof. Dr. İbrahim Hatipoğlu, and academicians from various universities. 🇹🇷



IRCICA a collaborating partner of the VIIIth International Symposium on Akhism

Kırşehir, Türkiye, 26 September 2025

IRCICA was one of the collaborating academic partners of the 8th International Symposium on Akhism which was organized by the Ahi Evran University, Kırşehir, Türkiye and the Governorate of Kırşehir under the patronage of the Turkish Ministry of Commerce, on 26-27 September 2025. The theme of this year’s symposium was “Futuwwa”. The conference was accompanied by an Exhibition on “Akhism in Ottoman Documents”.

The Akhi (brotherhood) organization was an important

system of management of manufacturing guilds that was governed by ethical and moral rules. The system was influential in social and economic life in Anatolia during the Seljuk and Ottoman periods. 🇹🇷



“Preservation of Traditional Vernacular Architecture” Summer Studio Program

Kayseri, Türkiye, 26 July-2 August 2025

IRCICA undertakes a multiple range of activities, including educational programs and field studies, relating to the registration, preservation, promotion and use of architectural heritage in the Muslim world. One of the priority themes of these activities is traditional/vernacular architecture. Within this framework, the program of workshops and field studies titled "Preservation of Traditional Vernacular Architecture and Carrying It to the Future" was conducted by IRCICA's Architectural Heritage Section in collaboration with Abdullah Gül University (Kayseri), Istanbul Technical University, Gazi University (Ankara), and the University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, on 26 July-2 August

2025. The program emphasized the questions of documentation, evaluation, preservation and re-use of traditional housing architecture with a focus on the construction techniques and materials of three stone and adobe buildings in the Develi region of Kayseri dating from at least one hundred years, which were designated for the purpose by the Municipality of Develi.

Professors from the partner universities joined the teaching staff together with their students and graduate students. The teachers were Prof. Burak Asiliskender, Dean of the Faculty of Architecture, and Assoc. Prof. Buket Metin from Abdullah Gül University Prof. Neriman Rustempašić and Prof. Amir

Čausević from the University of Sarajevo; Assoc. Prof. Ömer Dabanlı and Assoc. Prof. Lana Kuduović from Istanbul Technical University; Assoc. Prof. Ammar İbrahimgil from Gazi University; Dr. Alidost Ertuğrul, Chief of the Architectural Heritage Section, IRCICA. A total of twenty students and seven graduate assistants participated in the program. The resulting documentation and recommendations will be compiled by IRCICA in a booklet.

The Centre will continue to organize international programs with regional focuses to underline vernacular architecture in the Muslim world as heritage to be preserved and possibly re-used or emulated in combination with the latest materials and techniques. 🇺🇸



IRCICA participated in the 25th Meeting of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group on “Improving the Quality and Sustainability of Heritage Tourism in OIC Countries”

Ankara, 15-16 September 2025

The 25th Meeting of the Tourism Working Group of the OIC Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) was dedicated to the topic of “Improving the Quality and Sustainability of Heritage Tourism in OIC Countries”. The meeting was held in Ankara, Türkiye, where the COMCEC Office is based, enlisting the contributions of the representatives of some member countries and OIC organs and

institutions concerned with tourism development. Prof. Dr. Gürel Çetin, the COMCEC Consultant for Tourism, presented an “Outlook of Tourism in the OIC Member Countries,” a “Draft Research Report,” the latter tabled for discussion, and a study titled “Lessons Learnt from Selected Case Studies and the Policy Options.” During the session titled “Perspectives of the Member Countries,” presentations were made by experts from Burkina

Faso, Iran and Türkiye. IRCICA's presentation, placed under the session titled “Perspectives of International Organizations,” was made by Arch. Dr. Alidost Ertuğrul, Chief of the Architectural Section of IRCICA. The meeting concluded with recommendations on policies for improving the quality and sustainability of heritage tourism in the member countries, taking into consideration the COMCEC project support programs. 🇹🇷





Distribution of awards to winners from Indonesia in the 13th IRCICA International Calligraphy Competition

Jakarta, Indonesia, 21 July 2025

During the period of Director General Prof. Mahmud Erol Kılıç's program of lectures in Indonesia, a ceremony was held at Nahdlatul Ulama Center on 21 July 2025 to present the certificates of ten calligraphers from Indonesia who were awarded in the 13th IRCICA International Calligraphy Competition. The competition, dedicated to the calligrapher M. Abdulaziz al-Rifai (1872-1934), was finalized in May 2025. The

certificates were delivered to their recipients by IRCICA Director General Prof. Kılıç together with the Minister of Culture of Indonesia H.E. Mr. Fadli Zon, the General Chairman of Nahdlatul Ulama Central Board and Founder & Chairman of G20 Religion Forum (R20) H.E. Kyai Haji Yahya Cholil Staquf, and the Competition Jury Member and Master Calligrapher Hamidi Belaid. The award winners were Mr. Nafang Utama, first

prize in Jaly Diwani; Mr. Mufid Fauzan, third prize in Jaly Diwani; Mr. Bukhari Ibnu Athoillah, third prize in Diwani; Mr. Achmad Jalaluddin and Mr. Mohammed Hilal, mentions in Jaly Diwani; Mr. Rahadhyan Wisena Yusuf and Mr. Yusuf Elang Samuderaq, mentions in Diwani; Mr. Mumsika Mumsika, mention in Qufi; Mr. Huda Purnawardi and Mr. Faldil Aj Pujiarsa, mentions in Jaly Thuluth.



Exhibition of manuscripts, calligraphy plates, and photography from Nuri Arlasez collections opened by IRCICA and the Presidency of the Manuscripts Institution of Türkiye (TÜYEK)

Istanbul, 1st September 2025

The exhibition titled “Nuri Arlasez on the 25th Year of His Death: A Life Devoted to Manuscripts” organized by IRCICA and the Presidency of the Manuscripts Institution of Türkiye (TÜYEK) was opened with the addresses of the Minister of Culture and Tourism of Türkiye Mr. Mehmet Nuri Ersoy, the Governor of Istanbul Mr. Davut Gül, the Director General of IRCICA Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç, and the President of TÜYEK Dr. Coşkun Yılmaz at Ramî Library, Istanbul, on 1st September 2025.

The exhibition showcased 60 manuscripts out of a total of 329; Sultan Abdulhamid II’s collection of 30 manuscript translations of

detective novels; 14 out of Arlasez’s collection of 350 calligraphy plates; and from IRCICA archive, letters from his correspondence with the historian Arnold Toynbee and 45

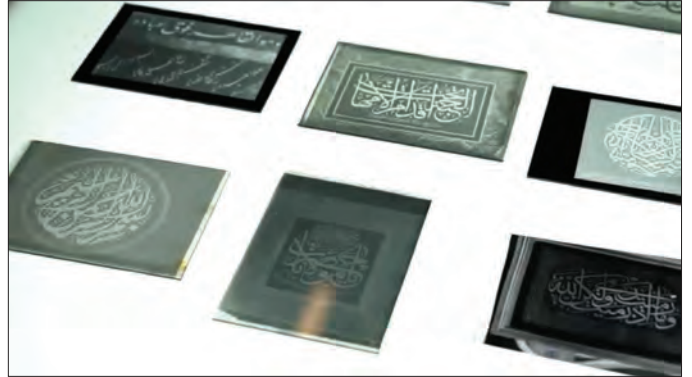
out of the 11065 photographs of Istanbul taken by Arlasez, given public view for the first time on this occasion. 🇹🇷



Prof. Dr. Uğur Derman's slide collection of calligraphic works donated to IRCICA

17 June 2025

Prof. Dr. Uğur Derman, a well-known expert of Islamic calligraphy and history of calligraphy (Istanbul), has donated to IRCICA his inestimable personal collection of glass slides, negative films and prints of calligraphy works of 59 outstanding calligraphy masters of the late 19th and whole of 20th centuries. The collection contains 1364 items of works of outstanding calligraphy masters of the late 19th and the 20th centuries, of great significance on the history of this art. There are 824 glass negatives, 184 negative films, and 356 black-and-white prints. The glass slides were prepared by Mr. Mustafa Düzgünman. The collection was presented by Prof. Dr. Uğur Derman to IRCICA Director General Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç at IRCICA on 17 June 2025. It will be preserved as a valuable cultural asset and catalogued by the Centre's archive experts for artists and researchers' access. IRCICA Director General Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç introduced the collection on a TV program broadcast by TRT2 on 27 August 2025. 🟢



COOPERATION, MEETINGS, VISITS

🕒 Visit of the Sultan of Damagaram, Sultan Aboubacar Oumarou Sanda

The Sultan of Damagaram (Zinder) in Niger, H.M. Sultan Aboubacar Oumarou Sanda, paid a visit of courtesy to IRCICA Director General Prof. Mahmud Erol Kılıç at IRCICA, on 2 July 2025. The Sultan was accompanied by Mr. Hassan Adamou, Director of Cabinet, and Mr. Mansour Elh Amani, Traditional Mayor. The Assistant Director General of IRCICA Prof. Aboubacar Abdullah Senghore was present at the meeting. Director General Prof. Kılıç briefed the Sultan Sanda about IRCICA's cooperation with Niger including the history congress organized jointly with Abdou Moumouni University (Niamey) in 2018. Director General Kılıç said that the Ottoman Archive in Istanbul contains numerous historical documents about relations entertained between the Ottoman State and the



Sultanate of Zinder in the past centuries. The Sultan gave highlights of the history and international relations of Zinder. The meeting concluded with intentions to maintain contacts and collaboration for scholarly studies.

🕒 Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Norarfan bin Haji Zainal, Rector of UNISSA, Brunei Darussalam, visited the Director General of IRCICA

A five-member delegation chaired by Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Norarfan bin Haji Zainal, Rector of the Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA), in the Sultanate of Brunei Darussalam, paid an academic visit to Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç, Director General, IRCICA, on 17 September 2025. The other members of the delegation were Prof. Dato' Dr. Mohd Fakhruddin bin Abdul Mukti, Dean of Faculty Usuluddin; Prof. Dr. Siti Sara binti Haji Ahmad, Assistant Rector (Academic Affairs); Datin Zaharah binti MD Hashim; Dr. Nurefnazahani binti Haji Durani, Head of Corporate Communication Unit, Centre of International Relations. Director General Prof. Kılıç briefed the guests about IRCICA's research objectives and publications; Rector of UNISSA Dato Seri Setia Dr. Norarfan bin Haji Zainal gave



information on the University's outreach cooperation initiatives and networks. IRCICA's Head of Research and Publications Prof. Dr. Cengiz Tomar was present at the meeting. Arch. Taha Zahid Özdemir, Restoration and Conservation Specialist from the Arts and Handicrafts Department, guided the Rector and his entourage to the different departments of the Centre and informed them on the activities.

● **Prof. Damir Mukhitdinov, First Deputy Chairman, Religious Board of Muslims of the Russian Federation, visited IRCICA**

Prof. Damir Mukhitdinov, First Deputy Chairman, Religious Board of Muslims of the Russian Federation, paid a visit to IRCICA Director General Prof. Mahmud Erol Kılıç on 4 September 2025. The meeting, also attended by Prof. Cengiz Tomar, Head of Research and Publications, and Prof. Ashirbek Muminov, Advisor for External Relations, was related to conferences and publications of common interest.



● **Courtesy visit of H.E. Mr. Jamal bin Huwairb, CEO, Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum Knowledge Foundation, Dubai, to IRCICA Director General Prof. Mahmud Erol Kılıç**

H.E. Mr. Jamal bin Huwairb, CEO of Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum Knowledge Foundation, Dubai, UAE, paid a courtesy visit to IRCICA Director General Prof. Mahmud Erol Kılıç on 13 August 2025. The Centre's recent activities were highlighted, views were exchanged on refreshing working relationships in the upcoming period. Founded in 2007 by H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, the Foundation aims to bridge knowledge gaps and improve standards of education and research in



the Arab region. In 2008, a generous donation was extended by His Highness towards the establishment of IRCICA's Electronic Library for Research on Islamic Civilization.

● **The Omani Society of Writers and Literati: MOU for cooperation**

A delegation from the Omani Society of Writers and Literati composed of Dr. Arch. Said Mohammed al-Saqlawi (Chairman), Dr. Abdulaziz Mubarak Al Rahbi, and Dr. Said Bakhit Bait Mubarak, were received by IRCICA Director General Prof. Mahmud Erol Kılıç on 30 June 2025 at IRCICA. An MOU for cooperation was signed, as a framework of information exchanges and joint programs in fields of academic studies concerning IRCICA. Were present at the meeting IRCICA's Assistant Director General Prof. Aboubacar Abdullah Senghore, Chief Advisor/Head of Research and Publications Prof. Cengiz Tomar, Media Supervisor Eng. Amna Meddeb, and Assistant Head of Research and Publications Dr. Atallah Rawashdeh.



● Visit of the Minister for Higher Education of Sokoto, Nigeria, to IRCICA

H.E. Prof. İsa Mohammed Maishanu, Commissioner of the Ministry for Higher Education of Sokoto, Nigeria, paid a visit to IRCICA Director General Prof. Mahmud Erol Kılıç on 23 June 2025. The meeting was an occasion to appraise existing cooperation frameworks and envisage future possibilities. H.E. Mr. Maishanu also met with Assistant Director General Prof. Aboubacar Abdullah Senghore and received information on various activities of the Centre.



● Islamic Solidarity Fund delegation at IRCICA

A five-member delegation from the OIC's Islamic Solidarity Fund (ISF) chaired by the Executive Director Mr. Mohammed Suleiman Aba Al Khail paid a visit to Director General Prof. Mahmud Erol Kılıç at IRCICA, on 23 June 2025. The delegation was in Istanbul attending the 51st Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC Member States. Possibilities of cooperation were discussed for IRCICA's projects corresponding to the ISF's goals.



● Konya, a city of Islamic culture and civilization: cooperation projects

An MOU for cooperation with Konya Metropolitan Municipality was signed by IRCICA Director General Prof. Mahmud Erol Kılıç and Mayor Mr. Uğur İbrahim Altay on 13 June 2025 whereby joint projects will be conducted to highlight the Islamic cultural heritage in Konya (the OIC City of Tourism 2016), which has an outstanding history as the seat of Mawlana Jalaluddin Rumi and as the capital of the Seljuk State and is always renowned in the Muslim world, i.e. the OIC-IRCICA's member countries, for its continuing role as a center of scholarly, literary, urban and architectural achievements.



● Visit of the Rector of Ahi Evran University Prof. Dr. Mustafa Kasım Karahocagil

Prof. Dr. Mustafa Kasım Karahocagil, the Rector of Ahi Evran University, Kırşehir, paid a visit to IRCICA Director General Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç on 1st September 2025.



● Working visit of delegation from Libya

A high-level delegation from Libya, comprised of Mr. Abdulmutaleb Abu Salem, Heritage Expert, former Chair of IRCICA Governing Board; Dr. Mohamed Al-Jarrari, Head of the Libyan Center for Archives and Historical Studies; Mr. Mohamed Al-Raied, President of the General Union of Libyan Chambers of Commerce and Advisor to the Prime Minister of the Government of National Unity, was received by IRCICA Director General Prof. Mahmud Erol Kılıç on 26 August 2025 for consultations on ongoing cooperation projects. Also attended by the Assistant Director General Prof. Aboubacar Abdullah Senghore; the Chief Advisor/Head of Research and Publications Prof. Cengiz Tomar; the historian Dr. Fazıl Bayat; the Chief of Arts and Handicrafts Mr. Said Kasımoğlu, the



meeting focused on the joint project consisting of the preparation by Dr. Fazıl Bayat of the two-volume book on Libya During the Ottoman Era.

● Study visit from Uzbekistan: “Ziyo” Media Center, International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan

IRCICA Director General Prof. Mahmud Erol Kılıç welcomed Mr. Abdulkhamid Mukhtarov, the Director of “Ziyo” Media Center (International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan, Tashkent), Mr. Mikail

Suleymanov, Chief Manager, Mr. Bakhodir Khojaev, Head of the Department, and their colleagues on 23 July 2025. Within the framework of their cultural study visit to Türkiye and Egypt, the media experts were briefed by Director General Prof. Kılıç, Chief Advisor/Head of Research and Publications Prof. Cengiz Tomar, and Advisor for External Relations Prof. Ashirbek Muminov, about the activities.

● Study program at IRCICA for two experts from L.N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University, Kazakhstan

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zhaslan Nurbayev from L.N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University, Astana City, Kazakhstan, and PhD candidate Kishibayeva Saya

from the same university have completed a study visit and research internship at IRCICA during the first half of July 2025. The guest scholars were received by Prof. Dr. Cengiz Tomar, Chief Advisor/Head of Research and Publications, and Prof. Dr. Ashirbek Muminov, Advisor for External Relations and Central Asian Studies, IRCICA.

● Group of students from Leiden University

A group of twenty-one students from the Interfaculty Association of Public Administration, Leiden University, The Netherlands (B.I.L.) paid a study visit

to IRCICA on 8 July 2025. The group was greeted by IRCICA Director General Prof. Mahmud Erol Kılıç, then guided by Executive Assistant Ms. Yekta Zulfikar to various departments and art collections and briefed by Dr. Didar Bayır on the library and archive.

● Seminar for archive experts

Twelve junior experts, who started to work at the Presidency of the State Archives of the Republic of Turkey, were given a seminar at IRCICA by Director General Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç on 17 September 2025. The seminar focused on IRCICA's archive-based research projects and its extensive collaborations with the Ottoman Archive attached to the Presidency of the State Archives. Prior to this talk, they were briefed about IRCICA by the Chief Advisor/Head of Research and Publications Prof. Dr. Cengiz Tomar. Afterwards, they were shown a documentary film about IRCICA.



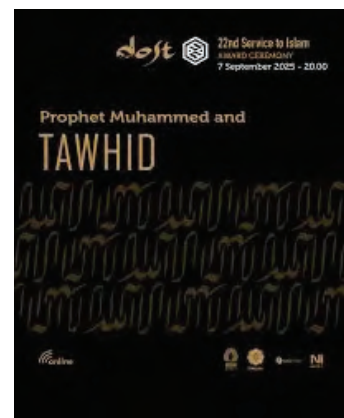
● Cooperation frameworks with the Arab Thought Forum (Jordan) and the International Network for Arab Societies Study (Lebanon)

During the visit of Dr. Sadiq Al Faqih, Secretary General of the Arab Thought Forum (Jordan) and Dr. Maryse Younis, Director General, International Network for Arab Societies Study (INASS, Lebanon) paid a visit to IRCICA Director General Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç on 4 September 2025. Possibilities of cultural cooperation were discussed; memorandums of understanding for cooperation were signed between each of the organizations and IRCICA:



● 22nd “Dost Awards for Service to Islam” presented, in Istanbul

The 22nd edition of “Dost Awards for Service to Islam”, presented by Kerim Waqf annually on the occasion of Prophet Mohammed’s^(saw) birth anniversary to express recognition to tasawwuf scholars from Türkiye and abroad for services to the Prophet, announced this year’s award recipients at an online ceremony themed “Prophet Mohammed and Tawhid” held on 7 September 2025. The award given posthumously to Hüseyin Vassaf (d. 1929), a historian of tasawwuf, author of “Sefine-i Evliya” and other major works, was entrusted to Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç. Receiving the award on behalf of the memory of Hüseyin Vassaf, Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç said that it will be preserved and transmitted to upcoming generations with utmost care. This year’s award recipient from abroad, the scholar of Islamic theology and philosophy Prof. Denis (Davut) Gril, concluded his online talk on the concept of Tawhid by quoting the Prophet Mohammed’s hadith “Ihsan is to worship Allah as if you see Him, and if you are not able to see Him, then (take it for granted that) Allah sees you.”



IRCICA PUBLICATIONS

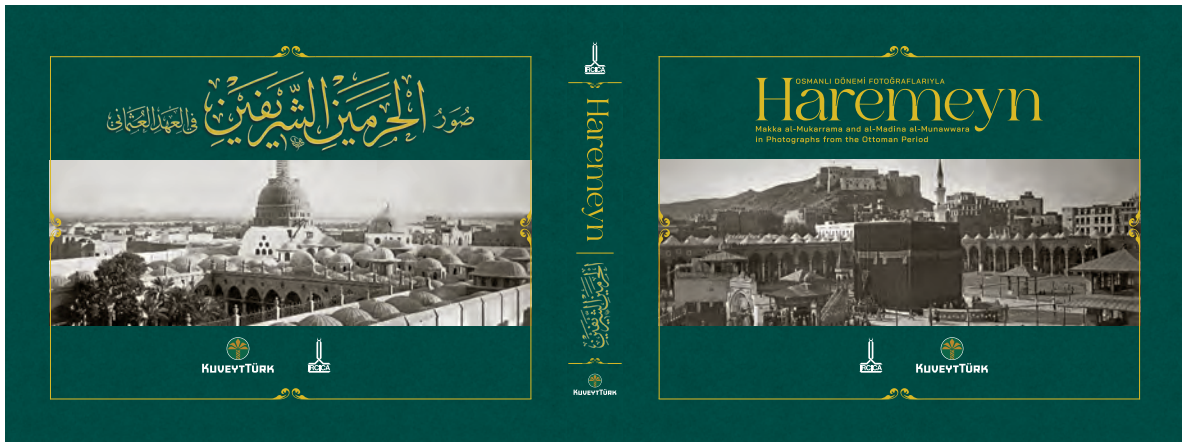
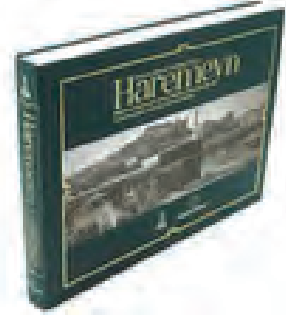
Haremeyn. Makka al-Mukarrama and al-Madina al-Munawwara in photographs from the Ottoman period selected from the albums of Sultan Abdulhamid II and the collection of Fahreddin Pasha (Türkkan)

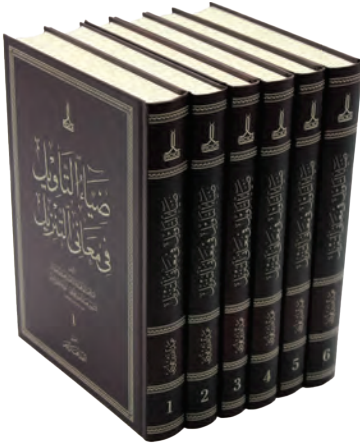
SERIES OF HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPH
ALBUMS XXX
IRCICA & KUVEYT TÜRK, ISTANBUL,
2025
ILLUSTRATIONS, MAPS, PLANS
(TURKISH, ENGLISH, ARABIC)
ISBN: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

This joint publication of IRCICA
and Kuveyt Türk is the second
edition of the album which
was published by IRCICA
under the same title in 2013.
It contains reproductions of
historical photographs of Makka

al-Mukarrama and Madina al-
Munawwara selected from the
archive of IRCICA, mainly the
Yıldız Albums dating from the
reign of the Sultan Abdulhamid
II (late 19th – early 20th century)
and the collection of Fahreddin
Pasha, the “Defender of Madina”.
The Introduction gives the
history of services rendered by
Muslim states and peoples for the
protection and maintenance of the
Holy Ka’ba and Masjid al-Haram
in Makka al-Mukarrama, and
al-Masjid al-Nabawi in al-Madina
al-Munawwara. These services
include restorations, infrastructure
development, arrangements
relating to the Hajj, the Surra
(gifts and social assistance by
the Ottoman Sultans carried
to the region by caravans on
annual basis), waqfs allocated to
the holy cities and monuments,
among others. The album is
divided into four parts, relating
to Makka, Madina, the Surra, and
miscellaneous photographs – of

adjacent cities, economic life,
social activities, personalities, etc.
The photographs are accompanied
by extensive texts in English,
Arabic and Turkish. This scholarly
album is a valuable addition to
sources on the history of Makka
and Madina during the period
corresponding to the last forty
years of the Ottoman period. 📖





Abu Mohammed Abdullah bin Mohammed Ibn Fudi (1766-1829), *Diya al-Ta'wil fi Ma'ani al-Tanzil*

PREPARED BY AHMED MUHTAR ADAM
FOREWORD BY MAHMUD EROL KILIÇ
ISTANBUL: IRCICA, 2025; 6 VOLUMES
CRITICAL EDITIONS SERIES, NO. 16;
BIBLIOGRAPHY: 6TH VOL., 547-575
ISBN (SET) 978-92-9063-465-2

Abu Mohammed Abdullah bin Mohammed Ibn Fudi (1766-1829) was the younger brother of Othman b. Fudi, the founder of the Fulani State in Nigeria. The title "Fudi" passed on from his father means "faqih" (jurist) in the Fulani language. Abdullah Ibn Fudi specialized in tafsir, fiqh, hadith, sufism, and Arabic language and literature. One of his prominent teachers was Sheikh Jibril b. Omar, by whom he was admitted to the Qadiri order. Ibn Fudi became well-known in West Africa with his treatises mainly in the fields of tafsir and Arabic language. He wrote the Qur'an exegesis titled *Diya al-Ta'wil Ş Ma'ani al-Tanzil* in Arabic in the year 1815. Together with the interpretations of verses, he provided the seven modes of recitation, the views of the four Sunni imams, and indications on rhetoric and grammar. It is a significant tafsir in West Africa

that played a key role in the curriculum in the region's centres of learning.

The edition of *Diya al-Ta'wil Ş Ma'ani al-Tanzil* has been prepared for publication by Dr. Ahmed Muhtar Adam, researcher at IRCICA, on the basis of the following four copies of the work: the complete manuscript copy at Arewa House, Ahmadu Bello University, Kaduna, Nigeria, the complete manuscript copy at Ahl Al-Bait Library in Sokoto, Nigeria; the partial copy (until the end of Sourate Al-Isra) at Arewa House, Nigeria, and the copy printed in 1961 in Cairo, Egypt. IRCICA is pleased to publish Ibn Fudi's tafsir of historical importance. 🟢

Souvenir of Jerusalem

IRCICA, 2025 (SECOND EDITION)
AUTHOR: MR. MURAT KARGILI
PROJECT DIRECTOR AND FOREWORD BY PROF. DR. MAHMUD EROL KILIÇ
EDITORS: PROF. DR. CENGİZ TOMAR, ZEYNEP DURUKAL
TRANSLATION BY MR. NAFİZ AKŞEHİRLİOĞLU
STUDIES ON AL-QUDS AND PALESTINE, NO. 8
298 P. TEXT IN ENGLISH AND TURKISH
ISBN: 9789290634584

A portion, previously not fully explored, of historical information about Al-Quds/Jerusalem is contained in the postcards and souvenir objects featuring the city. These items, posted or kept by visitors, are cultural heritage and hold anthropological value, with thoughts and feelings to them. "Souvenir of Jerusalem" sheds light on this valuable legacy. The book contains reproductions of postcards, posters, and photographs of various objects that Mr. Murat Kargılı had assembled in his personal collection and



supplemented with annotations. The book came out in IRCICA's series of studies on al-Quds and Palestine, as the first publication to focus on postcards and artefacts.

The first chapter of the book is about postcards, with annotations on the quarters, structures and scenes of life. The second chapter contains a large variety of printed materials such as posters, trade cards, gravures and maps featuring a fascinating range of subjects and objects. The last chapter is devoted to pictures of souvenir objects acquired from Jerusalem. There are altogether more than 150 printed materials from the late 19th early 20th centuries. A deluxe print on archival-quality paper. 🟢

Девин ДиУис. Қазақстан мен Орталық Азияда ислам және Йасавийаның мәдени тарихы (Cultural History of Islam and Yasawiya in Kazakhstan and Central Asia)

TRANSLATION FROM ENGLISH INTO KAZAKH: KAMILA MUMINOVA
 FOREWORDS: NURLAN DUKENBAEV, MAHMUD EROL KILIÇ
 ISTANBUL: STATE CULTURAL-HISTORICAL RESERVE-MUSEUM "AZRET SULTAN" & IRCICA 2025
 688 P. (IN KAZAKH)
 SOURCES AND STUDIES ON THE HISTORY OF ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION SERIES; NO. 61
 ISBN 978-92-9063-453-9

The 29 studies assembled here and presented in Kazakh translation from their original English represent a substantial portion of the scholarly work of Professor Devin DeWeese over the past 40 years which has dealt vastly with the religious and cultural history of Islamic Central Asia; covering work focused on Sufi communities in Central Asia, and above all on the Yasavī Sufi tradition. They consist over one-third of the published articles of Prof. DeWeese.

The works of Professor Devin DeWeese are valuable for the academic audience of Kazakhstan



due to their results achieved, the originality of the methods used, and the wealth of primary sources used. However, his articles, published in different years, are scattered across scholarly journals and collections around the world.

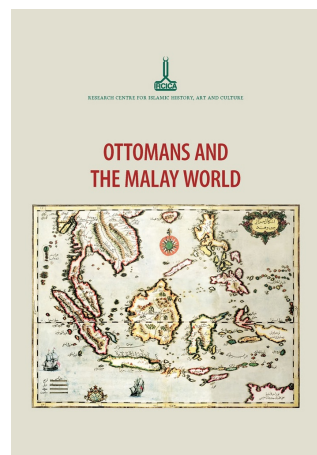
This book aims to acquaint readers with the main achievements in the field of research into the Islamic culture and written heritage of Kazakhstan. The collection of the Kazakh part of the works by the American professor in one collection will provide researchers of Islamic culture in Kazakhstan with a wide opportunity to consider the scope of his interests, the sources base, and the tools used to analyze the cultural history of Islam and Yasawiya brotherhood. 🌍

Ottomans and the Malay World. Proceedings of the International Conference on Ottomans and the Malay World: Contemporary Reflections on History, Culture and Economy. October 2023, Kuala Lumpur

IRCICA, ISTANBUL, 2025
 SOURCES AND STUDIES ON THE HISTORY OF ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION; NO. 62
 296 P.
 ISBN 978-92-9063-455-3

The international conference on “Ottomans and the Malay World: Contemporary Reflections on History, Culture and Economy” was organized by the International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization (ISTAC) of the International

Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) and IRCICA with the collaboration of the University of Malaya - Asia West East Center, Asia Middle East Center for Research and Dialogue, Bait Al-Amanah, and the National University of Singapore, and held on 14-15 October 2023 at ISTAC/IIUM, Kuala Lumpur. It is a pleasure for IRCICA to present the proceedings book of the conference, with eleven articles reflecting the various relationships which developed between the Malay world and the Ottoman world over the centuries. Following the Preface of IRCICA Director General Prof. Mahmud Erol Kılıç, the articles’ titles are: by İsmail Hakki Kadı, “Syed Mohammed bin Ahmad Alsagoff (Nong Chik, 1836-1906) Through the Ottoman Lens”; İsmail Hakki Göksoy, “An Ottoman Sheikh Al-Islam in the Philippines: Mehmed Vecih Efendi”; Tayfun Akgün, “From Istanbul to Johor: The Story of Khadijah Hanım”; Mehmet Özay, “Some Reflections of Socio-Political Changes from Türkiye in Vernacular Press of the Archipelago, 1920-1940”; Alwi Alatas, “Fostering Hope: The Presence of the Ottoman Consulate in Batavia, 1882-1924”; Murat Yaş, “Islamic Financial Innovation: A Historical Approach”; Haziq Hakimi, “Hedging in Turkish Foreign Policy during the Second World War”; Ahmed Çağrı İnan, “Türkiye-Malaysia Relations: The Impact of Turkish TV Series in

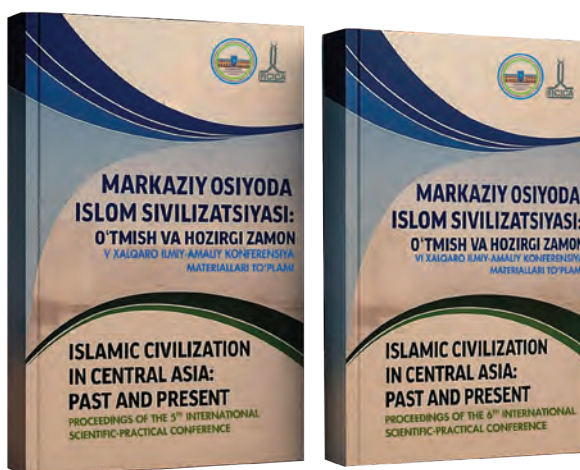


Malaysia, 2017-2023”; Alaeddin Tekin, “Beyond Pan-Islamism: Understanding the Ottoman Caliphate’s Southeast Asian Policy”; Muhamad Syafiq Bin Mardi, “Singapore Sepoy Mutiny 1915 and Relations with the Ottoman Empire”; Syed Farid Alatas, “Prophethood and the Ahl al-Bayt as the Locus of Unity”. 🌍

Markaziy Osiyoda Islom Sivilizatsiyasi: O’tmish va Hozirgi Zamon. VI Xalqaro Ilmiy-Amaliy Konferansiya Materiallari To’plami/ Islamic Civilization in Central Asia: Past and Present. Proceedings of the 6th International Scientific-Practical Conference

FOREWORD: MUZAFFAR KAMILOV,
PREFACE: MAHMUD EROL KILIÇ
CHIEF EDITORS: IRGASH DAMINOV,
ASHIRBEK MO’MINOV, NE’MATULLO MUHAMEDOV
INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC ACADEMY
OF UZBEKISTAN & IRCICA
TASHKENT, 2025
476 P.
ISBN 978-9910-9309-6-6

This book contains the proceedings of the 6th International Conference on “Islamic Civilization in Central Asia: Past and Present” which was organized by the International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan (Tashkent), the Committee on Religious Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and IRCICA, in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on 16 September 2025. It contains 153 papers in total (5 in English, 3 in Arabic, 6 in Turkish, 9 in Russian, 130 in Uzbek). The conference featured a variety of themes. The chapter titles are: “Islamic Sciences in Central Asia:



Formation and Development”, “Scientific and Spiritual Heritage of Central Asian Thinkers”, “Epigraphy, Art and Architecture of Central Asian Historical Monuments”, “Commonality and Originality in the National, Religious Customs and Traditions of the Peoples of Central Asia”. The proceedings of this annual series of conferences have formed a valuable set of references that keeps pace with and contributes to advances of research about various aspects of Islamic civilization in Central Asia. 🌍

Markaziy Osiyoda Islom Sivilizatsiyasi: O’tmish va Hozirgi Zamon. V Xalqaro Ilmiy-Amaliy Konferansiya Materiallari To’plami/ Islamic Civilization in Central Asia: Past and Present. Proceedings of the 5th International Scientific-Practical Conference

ED. JASURBEK ABDUQADIROV;
FOREWORD: UYGUN GAFUROV,
PREFACE: MAHMUD EROL KILIÇ
CHIEF EDITORS: ASHIRBEK MO’MINOV,
NE’MATULLO MUHAMEDOV
INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC ACADEMY

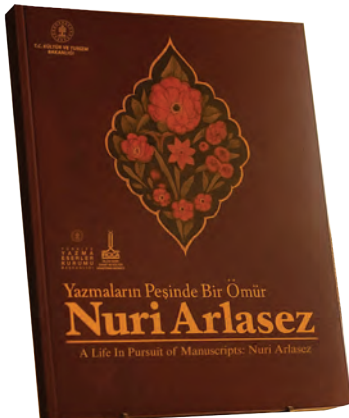
OF UZBEKISTAN & IRCICA
TASHKENT, 2025
322 P.
ISBN 978-9910-9290-9-0

The International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan (Tashkent) and IRCICA have published the proceedings of the fifth conference in the series titled “Islamic Civilization in Central Asia: Past and Present” which was held on 3 October 2024 in hybrid format. The volume contains 95 articles (3 in English, 1 in Arabic, 5 in Turkish, 5 in Russian, 81 in Uzbek). The articles are grouped under the following themes: “Islamic Sciences in Central Asia: Formation and Development”, “Scientific and Spiritual Heritage of Central Asian Thinkers”, “Epigraphy, Art and Architecture of Central Asian Historical Monuments”, and “Commonality and Originality in the National, Religious Customs and Traditions of the Peoples of Central Asia”. The articles reflect the current state of research on various aspects of the history and present development of culture, including literature, art, architecture, archeology, the manuscript heritage, archival sources, contributions of prominent figures, scholars and authors, and aspects of social life. 🌍

Yazmaların Peşinde Bir Ömür. Nuri Arlasez. A Life Devoted to Manuscripts

PUBL. MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND TOURISM OF TÜRKİYE, THE PRESIDENCY OF THE MANUSCRIPTS INSTITUTION OF TÜRKİYE (TÜYEK), IRCICA İSTANBUL, 2025; IN ENGLISH AND TURKISH, COL. ILL.; 304 P. ISBN 978-92-9063-472-0

This book-album is published on the 25th year of the death of Nuri Arlasez, the “Custodian of cultural heritage works”, who donated hundreds of manuscripts, artworks, and photographs of Istanbul of inestimable artistic and documentary value to Süleymaniye Library, Topkapı Palace Museum, and IRCICA. Selections from the collections, showcased at the exhibition held at Rami Library in August 2025 and presented in the book together with informative texts, consist of 60 manuscripts from a total of 329; Sultan Abdulhamid II’s collection of 30 manuscript translations of detective novels; 14 out of Arlasez’s collection of 350 calligraphy plates; and from IRCICA archive, letters from his correspondence with the historian Arnold Toynbee and 45 out of the 11065 photographs of Istanbul taken by Arlasez. While browsing through the rare works of cultural heritage and traditional arts, the reader will also get to



know an Istanbul gentleman in the 20th-century who devoted his life to collecting these works to entrust them to the cultural institutions where they would be preserved forever. 🌱

Catalogue of Winner's Plates in the Thirteenth International Calligraphy Competition in the Name of Calligrapher M. Abdulaziz Al-Rifā'ī (1289-1353 H. / 1872-1934 A.d.)

PREPARED BY SAID KASIMOĞLU
FOREWORD BY PROF. MAHMUD EROL KILIÇ
IRCICA, 2025, 104 P., COL. ILL.; 33X24CM.
(ENGLISH, ARABIC, TURKISH, FRENCH)
ISBN: 978-92-9063-470-6

The Thirteenth IRCICA International Calligraphy Competition conducted in 2025, and dedicated to the Calligrapher M. Abdulaziz al-Rifā'ī (1289-1353 H./1872-1934 A.D.), received 640 works from 511 applicants in 38 countries. 56 of them, from Algeria, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Iran, Jordan, Morocco, Pakistan, Syria, Türkiye, and Yemen, won 30 prizes and 34 mentions, in the writing styles jaly thuluth, thuluth, naskh, muhaqqaq, jaly ta'liq, ta'liq, jaly diwani, diwani, and qufi. This catalogue contains images of the awarded works, with information on the artists.

IRCICA's international competition is organized every three years since 1986. Its purpose is to preserve and encourage the

development of the art of Islamic calligraphy within the framework of its traditional spirit and its rules that evolved over the centuries. The Jury of the 13th competition, chaired by Prof. Mahmud Erol Kılıç, was comprised of Mr. Belaid Hamidi, Morocco; Mr. Davut Bektaş, Türkiye; Mr. Ferhat Kurlu, Türkiye; Mr. Mhamed Safarbatı, Algeria; Mr. Mohammed Shahbazi, Iran; Mr. Mothanna al-Obaydi, Iraq; Prof. Savaş Çevik, Türkiye; Mr. Obayda Al-Banki, Syria.

Aiming to encourage artists to emulate the examples of the great masters of calligraphy and, at the same time, to commemorate their achievements, the Centre dedicates each competition to a well-known master of this art. Muhammed Abdulaziz al-Rifā'ī worked in the Office of the Şeyhülislam in the Ottoman Palace and taught calligraphy at various schools in Istanbul; invited by King Fu'ād I to Cairo in 1922 to calligraph a Quran copy, he stayed on and taught calligraphy in different schools for eleven years. He excelled in thuluth, naskh, and jaly thuluth in particular.

The catalogues of award-winning plates of IRCICA's competitions are appreciated by calligraphers and by appreciators of this art around the world. 🌱





IRCICA Library and Archive Website updated and redesigned

The website of IRCICA Library and Archive has been updated and redesigned, at <https://library.ircica.org/>

The first two of the subject guides IRCICA is preparing to assist researchers in different areas, relating to Historical Manuscripts and Palestinian Studies, are made accessible on the new website.

The following digital collections are opened to access through <https://openaccess.ircica.org/>:

- Al-Quds Sharia Court Registers: The Sharia Court Registers dating from the Ottoman period in Al-Quds are important sources for researchers interested in the history of the region. 50 registers relating to the period from 1545 to 1701, prepared for publication by Prof. Ibrahim Rabay'ah (Al-Quds Open University) are now accessible.
- Bosnia and Herzegovina: The greater part of this collection consists of materials produced by the Architectural Heritage Section of IRCICA under the direction of Prof. Arch. Amir Pašić during 1993-2018. It contains a rich collection of slides together with various documents, reports, and other materials of different kinds resulting from workshops, training programs, exhibitions, symposiums and projects

conducted by IRCICA. The items are introduced with detailed bibliographic information and digital images.

- Open Access IRCICA Publications (a selection of 80 books, IRCICA Journal, IRCICA Newsletter ,n English edition)
- Maps: IRCICA's Archive contains more than 1600 historical maps, the majority related to countries of the Muslim world. This rich collection comprised of materials from different periods and places provides unique first-hand sources reflecting political, urban, cultural, and military developments over a vast geographical area.
- Audio Recordings: The recordings consist of the lectures that were delivered at IRCICA by eminent scholars and experts from around the world such as Annemarie Schimmel, Murad Wilfried Hofmann, Çinuçen Tanrıkorur, Semavi Eyice, Oktay Aslanapa, Abdurrahman Momin, Bassam Tibi, Uğur Derman, Turhan Baytop, Hüsrev Hatemi, Richard N. Frye on subjects within IRCICA's fields of activity.

Further materials will be added over time to diversify these collections and enrich their contents. 🟩



موقع إرسিকা للفنون

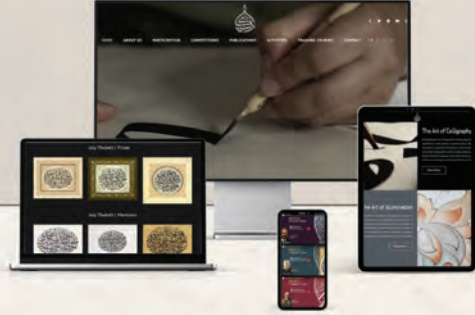
يفخر إرسিকা بافتتاح موقعه الإلكتروني للفنون الإسلامية



🔍 arts.ircica.org/ar × | 📱

IRCICA'S ARTS WEBSITE

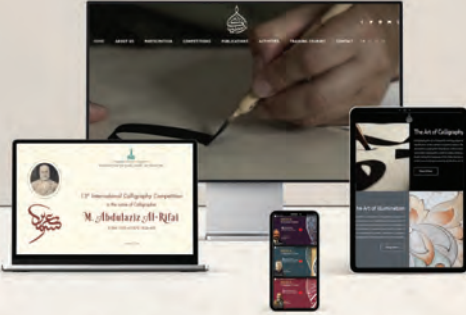
Check out our new website



🔍 arts.ircica.org × | 📱

LE SITE DE l'RCICA POUR LES ARTS

Consultez notre nouveau site web



🔍 arts.ircica.org/fr × | 📱

IRCICA KÜLTÜR - SANAT

Sitemizi hoş geldiniz



🔍 arts.ircica.org/tr × | 📱

