

**CLOSING REMARKS BY PROF. DR. EKMELEDDIN IHSANOĞLU,
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF IRCICA,
AT THE PILOT WORKSHOP ON THE RECONSTRUCTION OF MOSTAR OLD TOWN
25 August 1994**

Your Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Hercegovina,
Dear participants, distinguished guests,

Now that the First Pilot Workshop on Mostar 2004 is completed, I believe an initial but useful step has been taken towards conceiving an academic framework on the subject of rebuilding the Bosnian architectural heritage. This achievement gains even more significance with the presence of H.E. Dr. Irfan Lubjankic, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Hercegovina, at this closing session of the workshop. I wish that all of the activities that have been and will be carried out in this project will be useful and helpful for Bosnia and Hercegovina, its people, and the reconstruction of its heritage.

The summary report of the workshop clearly reflects the knowledge, efforts, and energy that has been put into this project. Participants in this workshop, consisting of architectural professionals, educators, historians and students from multicultural backgrounds, worked hard for the last one month period. Through an academic and technical exercise, they drew a basic framework which can serve in devising reconstruction strategies and programs. They made observations and estimations on different aspects of the subject which can provide guidelines for future work.

This joint effort promises even greater international cooperation in future stages of the project. Indeed, one of the most important aspects of the workshop is that the participants come from multicultural backgrounds and have convened with a constructive approach and sincere commitment. It is a source of satisfaction that the idea of MOSTAR 2004 meets interest around the world, as is shown by the support and encouragement extended to this workshop by a number of academic and cultural institutions, researchers, architects, historians, the press media, and numerous others who lend an ear to the Bosnian cause. Such support is important, because by combining and coordinating international efforts, we can increase the efficiency and continuity of our activities. An integrated project such as this one can make it possible to establish a local or regional system of coordination of educational programs, and to establish a technical support network for the actual reconstruction. Such a network can provide moral and financial support, as well as advice and expertise for the consideration of the authorities and relevant institutions of Bosnia and Hercegovina.

Increased international awareness and cooperation is also what IRCICA has tried to achieve through its research and publications on the cultural heritage of Bosnia and Hercegovina. To this aim, the Centre has formed a documentation unit, disseminated research findings, prepared publications and exhibitions on different aspects of the Bosnian history and culture. These activities covered the demographic, cultural and intellectual history, as well as the architectural and artistic heritage of Bosnia and Hercegovina. The pilot workshop was a new link in the chain of international events the Centre organised in this field.

I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm the Centre's commitment to continue endeavour in support of the Bosnian cause, and cooperate with the Government of Bosnia and Hercegovina, in the fields of its mandate and also in its capacity as the Executive Secretariat of the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage, another subsidiary organ of the Islamic Conference Organisation.

I hope that the international support and cooperation extended to this project will continue and further increase in future. I warmly thank all international organisations, universities, cultural institutions, and the jury members for their contributions to the success of the workshop. I also thank the faculty and the students, and hope that on their return to their countries, they will continue to help this cause by creating public awareness and mobilizing efforts in support of Bosnia and Hercegovina. My special thanks and appreciation go to my colleague Dr. Amir Pasic, who coordinates this project of IRCICA. I would also like to thank the Centre's staff who participated in the secretarial work, and express my appreciation to Architect Mirza Muhasilovic for the great help he voluntarily extended to this project.

In recognition of their efforts and as a souvenir of this workshop, certificates will be presented to the faculty and students who participated in the workshop. Now, I have the pleasure to invite Dr. Irfan Lubjankic, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bosnia and Hercegovina, to (address this session and) (deliver the first certificate of participation).

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I would like to see a free opportunity to visit the Centre - committed to provide the Centre with the necessary support in support of the Bosnian cause - to cooperate with the Centre in the field of its activities and also in the capacity of the Executive Secretary of the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage and its subsidiary organ - the Islamic Conference Organisation.

It is my hope that the workshop support and cooperation extended to the project will continue to be a great success in future. I warmly thank all international organisations, universities, cultural institutions and the staff members for their contributions to the success of the workshop and thank the faculty and the students and those that on their own in their countries. They will continue to help this cause by creating public awareness and mobilising efforts in support of Bosnia and Herzegovina. My special thanks and appreciation go to my colleague Dr. Amir Pasic, who coordinates this project at INICIA. I would also like to thank the Centre's staff who participated in the workshop. I would like to express my appreciation to Architect Miroslav Jovanovic for the great help he voluntarily extended to this project.

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In recognition of their efforts and as a souvenir of the workshop, certificates will be presented to the faculty and students who participated in the workshop. Now I have the pleasure to invite Dr. Stan Lubinski, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, to address this session and (believe me) the first certificate of recognition.