



Newsletter



OIC RESEARCH CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC HISTORY, ART AND CULTURE

International Symposium on "Konya in Islamic Civilization"

International Conference on "Karabakh: History and Heritage"

Exhibition of "Calligraphy and Illumination by Lady Artists" on the occasion of the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Women's Role in the Development of OIC Member States

Third International Conference on Translation and the Problematics of Cross-Cultural Understanding and the Award Ceremony of the Sheikh Hamad Award for Translation and International Understanding

International Symposium on the occasion of the 5th Centenary of the Arrival of Barbarossa brothers to the shores of Algiers in 1516

Historical photograph exhibition on "Al-Haramain (Makkah al-Mukarramah and al-Madina al-Munawara) during the Ottoman Period

Calligraphy Exhibition "The Exquisite Art of Calligraphy" at UNESCO headquarters

Newsletter



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

September-December 2016, No. 101

The Newsletter is published quarterly:
three issues in the official
languages of the OIC
(English, French, Arabic)
and one in Turkish

Publisher

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

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- * Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and IRCICA organized an International Conference on "Karabakh: History and Heritage" 10-11 November 2016, Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan
- * Consultative meeting at IRCICA with the Working Group on the Establishment of Imam Bukhari International Research Centre (IBIRC) to be established in Samarkand-Uzbekistan 24-25 November 2016
- * IRCICA Director General Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren participated in the International Seminar on the "Belt and Road Initiative", Xi'an, China, 26-27 Sept. 2016 with a presentation titled "A 21st Century Silk Road Paradigm: Vision and Realization"
- * Foreign Ministers of the OIC Member States approved IRCICA's Work Plans on the 43rd Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 16-18 October 2016
- * IRCICA Director General Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren gave two lectures in the International Conference on "Oriental Studies Research in Kazakhstan: Achievements and Prospects", Almaty-Kazakhstan 12-13 October, 2016
- * IRCICA organized an exhibition of "Calligraphy and Illumination by Lady Artists" on the occasion of the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Women's Role in the Development of OIC Member States Istanbul, 2-3 November 2016
- * IRCICA participated in the 32nd Session of the Standing Committee of Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) of the OIC in Istanbul, 21-24 November 2016
- * IRCICA participated in the Third International Conference on Translation and the Problematics of Cross-Cultural Understanding and the Award Ceremony of the Sheikh Hamad Award for Translation and International Understanding Doha-Qatar, 12-13 December 2016
- * International Symposium on the occasion of the 5th Centenary of the Arrival of Barbarossa brothers to the shores of Algiers in 1516, 9-10 November 2016, Bejaia, Algeria

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- * IRCICA contributed to the Calligraphy Exhibition titled "The Exquisite Art of Calligraphy", organized by the Permanent Delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at UNESCO headquarters Paris, 9 December 2016
- * IRCICA participated in the Putrajaya International Islamic Arts and Culture Festival 2016 (PIIACUF) with an Exhibition titled "Al Asma ul-Husna" (Holy Names of Allah SWT), 1-11 December 2016

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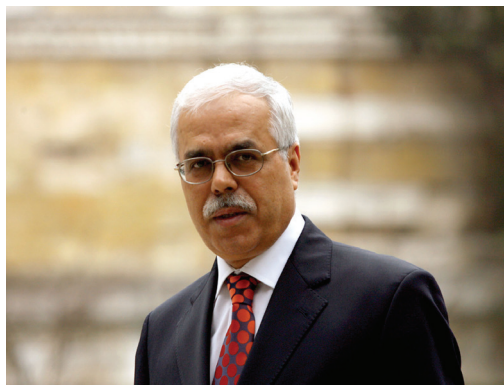
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Editorial

We are pleased to introduce the summary of IRCICA activities comprising the period between September and December 2016, through the present issue of the Newsletter, to the attention of scholarly, academic, cultural, artistic and diplomatic circles of the Islamic world. This four-month period, as ever, witnessed a tense activity schedule full of international symposia, congresses, workshops and exhibitions organized by the Centre across the world. As one of the highlights, the 32nd Session of IRCICA Governing Board which was held at IRCICA premises in Yıldız Palace in Istanbul, on 30 September–1 October 2016. The Governing Board meeting reviewed the different activity reports presented by IRCICA Director General and made recommendations at this regard. The Foreign Ministers of the OIC Member States also approved IRCICA's Work Plans on the 43rd Session of the CFM at Tashkent, Uzbekistan on 16-18 October 2016.

As to the congresses and symposia organized during this period, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Azerbaijan and IRCICA organized an International Conference on "Karabakh: History and Heritage" on 10-11 November 2016 in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan. Presentations focused on the preservation of the cultural and architectural heritage of the Karabagh region of Azerbaijan through scholarly and practical efforts. On December 2016, IRCICA and Karatay University in Konya jointly organized an international symposium titled "Konya in Islamic Civilization" on the occasion of the OIC's



Declaration of Konya as "Islamic World Tourism Capital 2016". The symposium witnessed presentation of numerous academic papers outlining the exceptional status of Konya as a center of governance, arts and sciences in Islamic history and civilization.

Towards implementation of Resolution No. 9/43-ORG of the 43rd Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC Member States (Tashkent, 18-19 October 2016) adopting the initiative of the Republic of Uzbekistan to establish in the city of Samarkand the Imam al-Bukhari International Research Centre, an expert meeting was held at IRCICA on 24-25 November 2016 with a visiting delegation comprised of heads of department and senior officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Justice and the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan. IRCICA formulated views and information based on its experiences, in assistance towards establishment of the said centre. The meeting also provided exchanges of views regarding cooperation between IRCICA and Imam al-Bukhari International Research Centre that can be implemented after the latter's establishment.

Various scholarly meetings, namely the International Seminar on "the Belt and Road Initiative in Xi'an" and the International Conference on "Oriental Studies Research in Kazakhstan: Achievements and Prospects", held respectively in China and Kazakhstan, led us to take part in these conferences and present papers and give lectures given the extreme importance of the themes and their relation with IRCICA areas of activity.

Furthermore, IRCICA participated in the Third International Conference on Translation and the Problematics of Cross-Cultural Understanding and the Award Ceremony of the Sheikh Hamad Award for Translation and International Understanding in Doha, Qatar on December 2016. IRCICA Director General Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren was invited as a "Guest of Honour" and made a speech in the award ceremony in which he stressed the importance of translating fundamental sources of cultural and civilizational heritage to promote mutual understanding. Prof. Fazıl Bayat, Senior Researcher from IRCICA, who had received in 2015 an award for the best translation with his work titled "al-Bilad al-Arabiyya fi al-wathaiq al-Othmaniyya" (The Arab Provinces in the Ottoman Documents), also participated in the ceremony and served within the Board

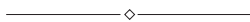
of Trustees of the competition. IRCICA also participated in the International Symposium organized by the Algerian National Archives and the Ottoman Archives and with the contribution of the National Centre of Anthropological Studies and Abdrrahmane Mira University (Béjaïa). The symposium was held in Béjaïa city, Algeria, on November 2016, on the occasion of the 5th Centenary of the Arrival of Barbarossa brothers to the shores of Algiers in 1516.

In the chapter of exhibitions, IRCICA organized and co-organized many exhibitions on "calligraphy and illumination" and on "historical photographs on Mecca and Medina during the Ottoman Era", in Istanbul, Kuwait, Paris and Putrajaya.

Meanwhile, IRCICA continued to host guests including Ministers, diplomats, academics and scholars from around the world at its headquarters in Yıldız Palace discussing with them about subjects related to the areas of interest of the Centre.

Thank you for your interest.

Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren
Director General, IRCICA



The 32nd Session of IRCICA Governing Board was held at IRCICA premises in Yıldız Palace in Istanbul

30 September–1 October 2016

The Governing Board of the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA), subsidiary organ of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), held its 32nd session at the Centre's headquarters at Yıldız Palace in Istanbul, on 30 Sept. – 1 Oct. 2016. The session was opened on Friday 30 September 2016 with a preparatory meeting. On the 1st of October, the regular meeting took place.

The following members attended the Governing Board session:

- H.E. Mr. Iyad Ameen Madani, OIC Secretary General.
- Dr. Abdul Aziz Bin Abdullah Bin Turki al-Subai, State of Qatar (Chairman of the Board).
- Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren, Director General, IRCICA.
- Dr. Saad Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Rashid, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- Prof. Mehmet İpşirli, Republic of Turkey.
- Prof. Amadou Cissé Ndiéguène, Republic of Senegal.
- Mr. Khalaif M. Alezainah, Undersecretary for Technical Coordination, External Relations and Hajj, Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, State of Kuwait.
- Sheikh Boureima Abdou Daouda, Special Advisor for Religious Affairs, Cabinet of Prime Minister, Republic of Niger.
- Mr. Alamine Moukhtar Adoum, Deputy Director General for Culture, Ministry of Culture, Youth & Sports, Republic of Chad.
- Mrs. Saraya Arbi, Undersecretary of Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Malaysia
- Mr. Mashhood Ahmad Mirza, Ministry of Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage. Islamic Republic of Pakistan.



Dr. Abdul Aziz Bin Abdullah Bin Turki al-Subai, State of Qatar (Chairman of the Board), H.E. Dr. Iyad Ameen Madani, OIC Secretary General and Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren, Director General, IRCICA

The following members of IRCICA participated in the governing board session: Dr. Nazeeh Marouf, Mrs. Zeynep Durukal, Prof. Amir Pasic, Prof. Sadık Ünay, Prof. Cengiz Tomar and Mr. Abdullah Topaloğlu.

Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, welcomed H.E. Dr. Iyad Ameen Madani, Secretary General of the OIC, expressing gratitude for his participation in the Governing Board session which was an indication of his continuous support and encouragement extended to the Centre. He stressed the importance of holding this session in the current situation facing the Muslim world that needs encouragement of efforts and activities of the Centre, which will highlight the various areas of specialization of the Centre that serve the noble mission of Islam and the treasures of Islamic civilization achieved through the ages. He

added that the Centre would continue to exert great efforts in the field of civilizational dialogue, to reflect the true image of Islam, Muslims and Islamic civilization and to cooperate with international institutions in this regard.

H.E. Dr. Abdul Aziz Bin Abdullah Bin Turki al-Subai, Chairman of the Governing Board of the Centre, delivered an opening speech in which he stressed the important role played by the Centre in its various areas of specialization in covering large geographic areas of the Muslim world, studying scientific, cultural and artistic subjects and organizing international events (congresses, festivals, competitions and exhibitions) that dealt with the various aspects of the Islamic civilizational heritage. He referred to the efforts of the Centre in the fields of preservation and development of calligraphy by protecting its

authentic principles and values and from foreign influences; research, publication and documentation; Islamic history; history of Islamic civilization, arts and sciences. The Chairman also praised the efforts of the Centre in the protection and restoration of the Islamic heritage in particular through its comprehensive project related to the restoration of the monuments of the Holy City of Al-Quds; in this regard, he listed some projects carried out by the Centre and evoked the generous grant extended by His Highness the Ameer (the Father) Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani to support the Centre's projects in this important area. He stressed that this meeting was held in the light of new developments and major events that the Islamic ummah experiences, laden with challenges causing dislocation, division and loss of Islamic identity. He said that terrorist acts caused Islamophobia in the West and reactions of animosity





against Muslims, and that the presence of a misunderstanding of the value of Islamic civilization was noticeable. He emphasized the active role of IRCICA in presenting the Islamic civilization and the history of Islam and its heritage, which makes it a great civilizational Centre performing exceptional work. He offered thanks and gratitude to the Republic of Turkey, the host country of the Centre, for its unfailing support and attention given to the activities of the Centre.

H.E. Dr. Iyad Ameen Madani, Secretary General of the OIC, expressed his pleasure to be

participating for the first time in IRCICA's Governing Board meeting, which reflects the great interest attached by the OIC Secretariat General to the Centre's works. He also expressed his thanks and gratitude to the host country of IRCICA, the Republic of Turkey which currently chairs the Islamic Summit, for attributing to the Centre a head office and its continued support and facilities and benefits granted to it to conduct as perfectly as possible its projects and activities. He also expressed his gratitude to the Chairman and members of the Governing Board and thanked them for

their proposals concerning future projects and activities of the Centre formulated in a spirit that allows the Centre to meet the challenges it might encounter in the future. The Secretary General expressed pride about IRCICA and paid tribute on this occasion to Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren for his good management of the Centre's activities through various programs and activities that have contributed to enhancing the image of the Islamic civilization, culture and arts. His Excellency also stressed the importance of holding this session in the current circumstances experienced by the Muslim



world which necessitate measures to present the true image of Islamic civilization and to teach future generations about Islamic culture, which will prepare them for meeting the challenges in this respect and preserve the foundations of the Islamic civilization. He added that it is very important that the Board may make recommendations that would frame the Centre's activities relating to the preservation of Islamic culture, given that the latter is not apprehended at fair value; and that the active role of the Centre should be brought into focus as regards the preservation of the cultural and civilizational heritage of the Muslim world and the organization of conferences and seminars on important topics related to the cultural heritage and personality and highlighting the various authentic and historical monuments of the Islamic civilizational heritage. He stressed that the Palestinian cause was of great importance within the OIC, including the issue related to the protection of the cultural personality and the Palestinian identity and the support extended to the Palestinian people in their struggle against Israeli colonialism through cultural, educational and scientific programs of the subsidiary organs of the OIC, including IRCICA, to support the Palestinian institutions working in this regard. His Excellency stressed the need to pay attention to conflict zones, including Iraq, Libya, Mali and Syria and preserve the cultural heritage of Timbuktu. At the

end of his speech, the Secretary General underlined the trust placed in the person of Director General Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren as a highly qualified person and his engagement in the OIC mission, and requested the Board to renew the mandate of Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren.

The Board adopted the agenda and the program of the session.

Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, said that the meeting would focus on the review of the work program and budget of the year 2017 and that a report on all activities undertaken during the year 2016, and a report on the proposed work program for the year 2018 would be presented. He also referred to the situation in many Muslim countries where terrorist acts targeted various regions and prevented the teaching of true Islam to assume its role in building a culture of dialogue, peace and mutual understanding, which negatively affects the development process in the Muslim world; he also talked about the wave of Islamophobia that broke out in the world and undermines the true image of Islam and its civilization; hence the need to multiply efforts to deal with this and increase the activities that enhance and present the true image of Islam, its culture and its civilization.

Dr. Saad Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Rashid conveyed the greetings of His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin Selman, Chairman of the Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia), to the Board members. He said that

the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was preparing to celebrate in 2017 the holy city of Medina as the capital of Islamic tourism, and on this occasion various cultural and artistic activities and events would be organized. He then evoked the project of the Centre on the history of Islam and its civilization, stressing the importance of studying the civilizational dimension of the Arabian Peninsula before Islam and benefiting from the new archaeological discoveries made in Saudi Arabia, which is considered as a starting point of the Islamic Arab civilization. He added that it was possible to obtain research reports on this subject, such as those relating to trade and pilgrimage in the Arabian Peninsula; he also said that other discoveries were made which date back to ninety thousand years ago.



Mr. Khalaif M. Alezainah expressed his appreciation for the reports of the Director General of IRCICA, which reflect the enormous efforts made through the various programs and activities related to the Muslim world and which were conducted during the previous period and congratulated the Centre for these big efforts.



Professor Mehmet İpşirli expressed his satisfaction with the documents and reports relating to the various activities of the Centre. He said that he has followed the activities of the Centre since 1990 and that these have been organized since then in all regions of the Muslim world and in Turkey. He praised the organization of various scientific symposia and conferences and other cultural events relating to Islamic arts and civilizational heritage and the project on the history of Islam and its civilization.

Ms. Saraya Arbi commended the outstanding efforts of the Centre and the diversity of projects included in the 2017 and 2018 programs in the cultural, historical and artistic fields and their usefulness for highlighting the contributions of Islamic civilization. She also

lauded the Centre for organizing a conference in Thailand on inter-religious dialogue and proposed that the Centre be more interested in the Philippines Muslim community.



Professor Amadou Cissé Ndiéguène commended the Director General of the Centre and his team for the prepared reports which reflect their professionalism, just as in previous years. He praised the Centre's constantly innovative projects and cooperation even with countries facing difficult political situations.

Shaikh Boureima Abdou Daouda thanked the Director General of IRCICA and his team for the reports and documents relating to the activities of the Centre. He referred to the Director General's visit to the Republic of Niger and some

universities and libraries there. He called for more cooperation between IRCICA and the Republic of Niger and to make better known the Centre's activities within UNESCO.



Mr. Mashhood Ahmad Mirza expressed admiration at the reports and documents presented and the diversity of activities and projects undertaken. He praised the cooperation of IRCICA with UNESCO in organizing a major exhibition at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris. He commended the holding by IRCICA and ISESCO of a preparatory meeting towards organizing an international conference on the protection of the architectural civilizational heritage of the Muslim world. He stressed that the Centre could have recourse to the services of

experts in UNESCO in the field of preservation of archaeological sites and manuscripts in the Muslim world. He stressed the importance of using internet to promote the Centre's publications and suggested that a traveling exhibition of the prize-winning calligraphic works at IRCICA's international calligraphy competitions be organized. He said that he would contact the concerned parties in Pakistan to assist the Centre with the modalities relating to the project on the preservation of the Islamic heritage in Jammu and Kashmir.



Mr. Alamine Moukhtar Adoum stressed the importance and usefulness of the activities and projects undertaken by the IRCICA for the Muslim world. He gave a historical overview of the spread of Islam and the Muslim Arab civilization in Chad and invited IRCICA to focus on the cultural heritage of Chad. He also called upon the OIC to contribute to combating the dangers that Chad faces and help it to stand against extremism, stressing that the victim is Islam.

The Board made the following recommendations:

1. The Governing Board adopted the addresses delivered at the opening session (by the Director General, the Chairman of the Board and the Secretary General, in that order) and added them to the file of the present session. Taking note of the address of His Excellency Mr. Iyad bin Ameen Madani, Secretary General of the OIC, the Board welcomed the ideas and observations formulated about IRCICA's activities and projects. The Board conveyed its thanks and appreciation to His Excellency Secretary General for his calling upon the Member States to support and cooperate with the Centre.
2. The Board adopted the report of the Director General on the implementation of the activity program for 2016.
3. The Board approved the work program of the Centre proposed for the year 2018 and adopted the projects it contains.
4. It took note and approved the draft budget for 2017 and decided to increase it by 20% compared with that of 2016, which represents the minimum to cover the Centre's programs; it also asked the OIC to urge the Member States to pay their arrears to IRCICA's budget.
5. The Board expressed its satisfaction and gratitude for the implementation by the Centre of diverse projects through an extra-budgetary funding consisting of donations and financial support to projects. It recommended to finance the following projects through extra-budgetary sources (specifically, from the donation extended by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani the father): Islamic history and civilisation, the doctoral program on Islamic civilisation, the training programs in the fields of calligraphy, gilding and illumination, the decoration of the calligraphic works which won awards at IRCICA's calligraphy competitions, and the projects relating to Al-Quds.
6. The Board praised the efforts and the obvious progress made so far by Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA. It approved the proposal of H.E. OIC Secretary General of renewing the mandate of the Director General for scientific and objective considerations which require that Dr. Eren remains at his post, and thanked him for this.
7. The Board welcomed the fixed-term contracts concluded by the Centre with experts recruited within IRCICA because of the nature of some major long-term research projects which require constant monitoring.
8. The Board approved the proposal of holding the Centre's Board meeting twice a year instead of once to allow the Board's members to follow closely the work of the Centre and provide the necessary support to its activities.



Congresses, Workshops

IRCICA and Karatay University in Konya jointly organized an International Symposium on “Konya in Islamic Civilization” (17-19 December 2016) in the context of the OIC’s Declaration of Konya as “Islamic World Tourism Capital 2016”

IRCICA and Karatay University of the Chamber of Commerce of Konya jointly organized an International Symposium on “Konya in Islamic Civilization” with the support of Konya Metropolitan Municipality and the Governorate of Konya. The initiative for the organization of the symposium came from IRCICA within the general framework of activities to mark the OIC’s selection of Konya as the “Islamic World Tourism Capital 2016”.

The formal decision by the OIC to select Konya as the “Islamic World Tourism Capital 2016” was taken at the 4th Coordination Committee Meeting on Tourism (Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia, 2014) of the OIC Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC).

The decision was made in accordance with the selection criteria as defined by the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers on its 8th Session (Banjul, Islamic Republic of Gambia, December 2013) and endorsed by its 9th Session (Niamey, Republic of Niger, December 2015).

The International Symposium on “Konya in Islamic Civilization” organized by IRCICA and Karatay University of the Chamber of Commerce of Konya was opened on 17 December 2016. The Minister of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Turkey, H.E. Prof. Nabi Avcı, kindly participated in the opening and addressed the participants. The Governor of Konya, H.E. Mr. Yakup Canbolat, the Metropolitan Mayor of Konya, H.E. Mr. Tahir Akyürek, the Rector



of Karatay University of the Konya Chamber of Commerce Prof. Bayram Sade also made welcoming speeches. Then the Director General of IRCICA, Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren made his opening speech and outlined the prominence of



Konya as a cultural center in Islamic civilization and underlined the importance of the OIC's declaration of Konya as the "Islamic World Tourism Capital 2016". Several members of the Turkish Parliament representing Konya and a substantial audience including academics, authors and students were also present in the opening.

During the three-day academic symposium, forty-eight (48) scholars from ten (10) countries including Turkey, Iran, Azerbaijan, United Arab Emirates, India, Jordan, Albania, Russian Federation, Oman, Tajikistan presented their papers. Konya is a major center of culture and civilization at the heart of Turkey known as the historical capital of the Seljukid State and the home of eminent figures such as Mawlana Jalal al-Din al-Rumi, Sadr al-Din al-Qunawi, Shams Tabrizi, Sahib Ata, Jalal al-Din Karatay, Haciveyiszade Mustafa Sabri Efendi, as well as various madrasas and "Sheb-i Arus"

organizations.

Diverse aspects of Konya as a center of cultural tourism were studied and highlighted during the academic sessions; specifically underlining the role, contributions and importance of Konya in Islamic civilization. The papers addressed topics related to the cultural and scholarly developments in Konya over the course of its Islamic history during the Seljukid, Ottoman and present periods; its eminent religious scholars, educational institutions, social, artistic and literary developments; its urban and architectural heritage and the spirit of tolerance that emanated from the scholarly-mystic atmosphere of Konya making it a world city that symbolizes tolerance and compassion. The symposium's official opening which corresponded to the "Sheb-i Arus" Celebrations associated with world-renown Sufi scholar Mawlana Jalal al-Din al-Rumi added special significance to the proceedings.



H.E. Prof. Dr. Nabi Avci, Minister of Culture, Turkey



IRCICA General Director, Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren



Mr. Tahir Akyürek, Mayor of Konya



Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and IRCICA organized an International Conference on "Karabakh: History and Heritage"

10-11 November 2016, Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan

An international conference titled "Karabakh: history and heritage" was jointly organized by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Azerbaijan, the National Academy of Sciences and the OIC Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA). The conference was opened by the Minister of Culture and Tourism of Azerbaijan H.E. Dr. Abulfeyz Garayev and IRCICA Director General Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren. The workshop concretized the aim of a project formulated jointly by IRCICA and the Ministry of Culture of Azerbaijan, to highlight and preserve the cultural and architectural heritage of the Karabagh

region of Azerbaijan. The project represents a scholarly, scientific, and practical effort to collect research findings and documentation, inform world opinion and encourage attention to preservation of this heritage.

In his opening speech, H.E. Abulfeyz Garayev, Minister of Culture and Tourism of Azerbaijan stated: "Every day the people of Azerbaijan feel the consequences of the Armenian occupation. Armenia's aggressive policy against Azerbaijan is not just limited to the occupation of Azerbaijani territories". The Minister noted that "every day we are witnessing the reflections of Armenian aggression in

international events, in the cyber space and press media as well as in cuisine. Armenian policy continues to infringe on the culture, historical monuments, music and cuisine of Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan is trying to prevent such false claims by the Armenian side, therefore Azerbaijani people managed to include many samples of their cultural property within the UNESCO intangible cultural heritage list. These values do not belong only to the Azerbaijani people, but to all mankind".

Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, in his speech underlined that the conference and the project on the heritage of Karabagh



were devised in line with the resolutions of the 13th Islamic Summit Conference which was held in Istanbul, Turkey on 13-15 April 2016 and the 43rd Session of the Council of the Foreign Ministers of the OIC held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan on 18-19 October 2016. In these resolutions, the OIC Member States affirmed their principled position on condemnation of the aggression of the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan and condemned in the strongest terms continuous attacks carried out by the Armenian armed forces in the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan as a result of which civilian population suffered, mosques were attacked, people died and social and economic infrastructure was destroyed. They strongly condemned acts of vandalism, looting and destruction of the archeological, cultural and religious monuments in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

During five sessions of the international conference, scholars presented the findings of their research related to the history and heritage



of Karabagh. Participants of the conference included Prof. Amir Pasic, Consultant to IRCICA Director General for Architectural Heritage; Dr. Önder Bayır, Head of the Turkish Republic Prime Ministry Ottoman Archives, Istanbul; Prof. Şenol Kantarcı, Akdeniz University, Antalya; Prof. Gülşen Seyhan Alışık, Marmara University, Istanbul; and Assoc. Prof. Zekeriya Türkmen, Beykent University, Istanbul.



Consultative meeting at IRCICA with the Working Group on Imam Bukhari International Research Centre (IBIRC) to be established in Samarkand-Uzbekistan

24-25 November 2016

The initiative of H.E. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, the then Acting President of the Republic of Uzbekistan to establish the "Imam al-Bukhari International Research Centre" (IBIRC) in the city of Samarkand was adopted by the 43rd Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC Member States held in Tashkent on 18-19 October 2016. Towards implementation of this initiative, the Working Group on the Establishment of the Imam al-Bukhari International Research Centre assigned by the Government of Uzbekistan visited IRCICA for a consultative meeting on 24-25

November 2016. The Group was composed of H.E. Ambassador Otabek Akbarov, Director of the Department of Cooperation with Middle and Near East Countries, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan, Mr. Davron Kalandarov, Director of Department, Ministry of Justice, Dr. Bakhrom Abduhalimov, Head of Department, Academy of Sciences and Dr. Shovosil Ziyadov, Director of the Imam Bukhari International Research Centre. The Ambassador of Uzbekistan in Turkey H.E. Mr. Ulfat Kadyrov was also present at the meeting.

IRCICA Director General Assoc. Prof Halit Eren together with department heads and senior researchers from IRCICA communicated their knowledge and experiences and formulated their views on possible organizational and statutory aspects of the Imam Bukhari International Research Centre; as well as its objectives and the thematic, academic and practical aspects of its foreseen mandate. IRCICA and the working group representing IBIRC also expressed their willingness to consider possibilities of joint organization of international



events and publication of scholarly works, on the following prospective avenues of partnership: the academic heritage of Imam Bukhari, Islamic history and civilization in Central Asia, Preservation of Islamic cultural heritage, Written sources of Islam and Islamic history, History of sciences in the Muslim world, Common human values on the Great Silk Road, and History of waqfs in Islam. Contacts and meetings between IRCICA and the Working Group on the Establishment of IBIRC will continue in the preparatory phase towards establishment of the centre as well as following its operationalization, where development of extensive cooperation is envisaged by the two parties.



IRCICA Director General Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren participated in the International Seminar on the “Belt and Road Initiative”

Xi'an, China, 26-27 Sept. 2016

IRCICA Director General Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren participated in the International Seminar on the Belt and Road Initiative in Xi'an, China on 26-27 September 2016 and made a presentation titled “A 21st Century Silk Road Paradigm: Vision and Realization” at the Session on “Carrying Forward the Silk Road Spirit to Enhance Mutual Learning and Cultural Exchanges among Civilizations”.

Assoc. Prof. Eren stated that the Silk Road can be an inspiring case for studies on the evolution of cultural interactions of world's peoples. It can give examples of the dynamics of world culture and of the inherent cultural pluralism of world community from a time frame of many centuries. He added that analysis of the Silk Road cultural flows can enrich the studies that acknowledge the “Eastern”



origins of Western civilization. Research that challenged euro-centric models about the circulation of arts and sciences helped to develop an objective history of culture in recent decades. Some regions in Asia and Africa for example were until recently considered as peripheries of a supposed European core. But now, academic interest in the achievements of these regions have highlighted the role of many processes such as the Silk Road.

Assoc. Prof. Eren stressed that the Silk Road conveyed the exchanges not between an East and a West in too broad terms, but between smaller

regions or localities that were links in its chains. Interactions took place within East Asia as well as between South and East Asia or within the Mediterranean as well as between Caucasus and the Mediterranean. As a result, this cultural exchange encompassed a large diversity of religions and systems of belief as well as ethnicities and languages. The three divine religions – Islam, Christianity and Judaism - and other faith systems, particularly Buddhism, spread along it.



Foreign Ministers of the OIC Member States approved IRCICA's Work Plans on the 43rd Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) in Tashkent, Uzbekistan

16-18 October 2016

The Foreign Ministers of the OIC Member States approved IRCICA's Work Plans on the 43rd Session of the CFM at Tashkent, Uzbekistan on 16-18 October 2016. IRCICA Director General Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren made a speech at the CFM and outlined the activities of IRCICA, as the OIC's cultural and scholarly subsidiary, as it completes its 37th year with an expanding range of activities on different subjects of Islamic civilization and Muslim cultures.

Assoc. Prof. Eren stated that in the field of studies on the Holy Quran, IRCICA published a study of the partial copy of the Holy Quran found at Tubingen University Library in Germany, estimated at 649-659 AD by radiocarbon dating. A study on the copy preserved at British Museum Library in London has been prepared and sent to publishing, along with an analytical study of the scripts and orthography of some earliest copies of the Holy Quran. At the request of the President of the Islamic Republic of Gambia, IRCICA was co-organizer, together with the Ministry of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology and the



Ministry of Islamic Affairs of the Gambia, of the "President Yahya Jammeh International Award for Quran Memorization Competition", in Banjul on 25-26 July 2016. 24 hafidhs participated in it from 21 countries.



Assoc. Prof. Eren stated that in the field of Islamic History and Civilization, preparation of an 8-volume publication on the history and civilization of Islam continued with the first volume finalized for printing. In the project on the history of Palestine over past centuries, first volume containing Arabic translations and studies of 16th century documents from Ottoman State archives was published. In the context of the project concerning Sharia Court registers in Al-Quds, 3 more volumes were published. In the project on Arab provinces in Ottoman documents, four volumes were published in Arabic. Concerning the history and cultural heritage of Islam, in September 2016, a Cultural Cooperation Agreement was signed with the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Mali as a framework for joint activities that can be undertaken in areas of history and culture and preservation of cultural heritage including preservation of the Timbuktu manuscripts.

Assoc. Prof. Eren also gave information on scholarly congresses

organized by IRCICA. In May 2015 the fifth congress on “Islamic Civilization in the Balkans” was organized in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina with 55 papers presented. In January 2016, the International Symposium on “Interfaith Dialogue and Peaceful Coexistence in Multicultural Societies” was organized in Bangkok, jointly with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, and in March 2016 the congress on “Islamic Civilisation in Southern Africa”, was held jointly with the Muslim Community of South Africa and the University of Kwazulu-Natal, in Durban. In the field of intercultural relations, IRCICA organized a Special Session titled “Promoting multicultural perspectives to prevent violent extremism” during the 7th Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilisations in Baku, in April 2016.

Assoc. Prof. Eren also mentioned his lectures on pertinent topics given in 2016. He cited the lecture on the theme of Reviving the Silk Road Spirit, on invitation, during the International Seminar on “The

Belt and Road Initiative” held in Xi’an, China in September 2016; the lecture on Cultural Relations between the Muslim World and Russia, at the Oriental Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow in October and the two papers delivered at the Conference on “Oriental Studies Research in Kazakhstan” in Almaty within the framework of the 25th Anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

In the field of Islamic arts, Assoc. Prof. Eren stated that the Tenth IRCICA International Calligraphy Competition was finalized its results were announced on 17 May 2016. Out of 688 participants from 36 countries, 113 participants from 18 countries won awards. Awards totaling 199,250 US\$ were distributed. Islamic calligraphy exhibitions were organized during the 13th Islamic Summit in Istanbul in April 2016 and the Putrajaya International Islamic Arts Festival Malaysia, November 2016; and during the OIC Day in UNESCO headquarters in Paris.



IRCICA Director General Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren gave two lectures in the International Conference on “Oriental Studies Research in Kazakhstan: Achievements and Prospects”, Almaty-Kazakhstan

12-13 October, 2016



IRCICA Director General Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren participated in the International Conference on “Oriental Studies Research in Kazakhstan: Achievements and Prospects”, in Almaty-Kazakhstan on 12-13 October, 2016. The Conference marked the 20th jubilee of R.B. Suleimanov Institute and the 25th Anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Kazakhstan, organized by the R.B. Suleimanov Institute of Oriental Studies of the Committee of Science, Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and the Kazakhstan-Indian Foundation (KIF).

In the conference, Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren gave two lectures. The first was titled “Kazakhstan’s Role in Promoting International Cooperation in the Area of Oriental Studies”. In the lecture, he stressed that Suleimanov Institute is

one of Kazakhstan’s most dynamic scholarly institutions that contribute not only to research and cultural advancement on national scale but also to strengthening of academic and cultural relations between Kazakhstan and other countries. Among these countries there are, of course, the Muslim countries, that is, Member States of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). A large part of the themes addressed in Oriental Studies belong to the history and cultural heritage of those countries. Therefore, these studies contribute in disseminating deeper objective knowledge on this history and heritage and, on a larger scale, in enhancing countries’ understanding of each other.

Assoc. Prof. Eren reminded that Kazakhstan is a Member State of the OIC since 1995 and also a Member

State of the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture, IRCICA. He underlined that Kazakhstan has been an active Member State of the OIC in many areas and an example of Kazakhstan’s activities is that it will host the first OIC Summit on Science and Technology in 2017. The 13th Islamic Summit Conference held in Istanbul on 13-15 April 2016 adopted the proposal by H.E. President Nursultan Nazarbayev regarding the announcement of the “Islamic Infrastructural Integration” Initiative, aimed at the advancement of sustainable and inclusive economic growth, regional integration and cooperation among the OIC Member States. A comprehensive Strategic Program will be developed by the relevant OIC institutions on the implementation of this Initiative. Assoc. Prof. Eren also cited that the

same Summit Conference welcomed the Initiative to launch a process of Islamic rapprochement by the joint declaration of the President of Turkey, H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, and the President of Kazakhstan, H.E. Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev, dated 13 April 2016. The Conference decided to launch the process of Islamic rapprochement as a new paradigm of relations in the Muslim world through demonstration of goodwill and constructive approach for peaceful resolution of disputes, for respect of territorial integrity and sovereignty and the principle of noninterference in internal affairs of each other and friendly relations between the Member States of the OIC.

Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren also made a presentation on the workshop titled “Spiritual Heritage and the Interaction of Cultures on the Great Silk Road” on the sidelines of the conference the following day. The title of his presentation was “Reviving the Silk Road Spirit for 21st-Century Cultural Interactions”.

Assoc. Prof. Eren stressed that the Silk Road is an inspiring historical experience and deserves analysis and interpretation with respect to the history of international relations and cultural interactions. He stated that a major aspect of the Silk Road was that it promoted cultural contacts. Together with merchants and their commodities, there were philosophers and ideas, preachers and religions, researchers and sciences, skills and



techniques, artists and architectural ideas travelling on that Road. Science and scholarship were transmitted, as well as agricultural and manufactured goods. Processes such as the Silk Road fostered awareness between peoples of different faiths and cultures. They strengthened awareness of the different communities about their own cultural identities and of other cultural identities. The Silk Road is important as a network of trade. It is also important as a spontaneous network of cultural exchanges.

Assoc. Prof. Eren underlined that the Silk Road is a composite historical experience which contributed to the development of international relations as we understand today. Transactions between traders, travelers and other agents reinforced senses of affiliation and reciprocity. These senses of affiliation with respective political rules, with competing or partner economic interests, help to shape and strengthen communal identities.

Many of the modern financial and business modes, practices and institutions were developed on the Silk Road. These include taxes on transport, roads and frontiers, payment systems and international banking, commercial agents and intermediaries.

Assoc. Prof. Eren attracted attention to the point that the Silk Road is also important for its contribution to cultural tourism in today's terms. The transfer of sciences, techniques, works of arts and literature, the spread of religions and systems of belief, made long-lasting effects. Songs and tales, crafts and customs were transmitted and assimilated by peoples. These developments fostered the idea of travel for learning and intellectual curiosity.

Finally, Assoc. Prof. Eren argued that along the Silk Road, various activities could be organized to encourage, enhance and expand international cultural cooperation,

cultural exchanges and joint activities. Organizations and institutions at national and international levels could initiate congresses, scholarly and artistic gatherings; revival of traditions such as festivals and marketplaces for exchanges of ideas, arts and innovations; and schemes to promote sharing of knowledge and learning.



IRCICA organized an exhibition of “Calligraphy and Illumination by Lady Artists” on the occasion of the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Women’s Role in the Development of OIC Member States

Istanbul, 2-3 November 2016

IRCICA organized an exhibition of “Calligraphy and Illumination by Lady Artists” on the occasion of the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Women’s Role in the Development of OIC Member States (Istanbul, 2-3 November 2016).

The Sixth Ministerial Conference on Women’s Role in the Development of OIC Member States was opened with an address by H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of the Republic of Turkey in Istanbul, on 2 November 2016. The conference was attended by Ministers in charge of women’s affairs in the 56 OIC Member States and representatives of international organizations concerned.

IRCICA Director General Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren delivered an address during the conference, outlining the projects of IRCICA that aim to enhance women’s cultural and artistic activities. In this regard, he stressed that IRCICA encourages participation of women artists, scholars and other professionals in international events on arts and traditional handicrafts that it organizes, such as festivals, award competitions and training programs. Furthermore, he stated that IRCICA devotes specific activities to themes relating to the role of women in cultural life of Member States. The main examples are the symposium on “The Family in Muslim Countries and Communities” organized in 2012; the international symposium and exhibitions on “Lady Calligraphers” held in 2010; and the special session



on “Lady Artists in the Muslim world” held in 2014 in the context of the IRCICA International Gathering on Islamic Calligraphy.

The exhibition of “Calligraphy and Illumination by Lady Artists” organized by IRCICA was also visited by the President of the Republic of Turkey, H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and Turkey’s First Lady H.E. Mrs Emine Erdoğan, as well as the Ministers attending the conference.



IRCICA participated in the 32nd Session of the Standing Committee of Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) of the OIC in Istanbul

21-24 November 2016

The COMCEC, which has 56 member and 5 observer countries, and chaired by the Chairmanship of the President of the Republic of Turkey, held its 32nd Ministerial Session on 21-24 November 2016 at İstanbul Congress Center. The member states were represented by their respective Ministers during the session inaugurated by the Turkish President H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. Theme of this year's Ministerial Exchange of Views Session was designated as "Developing Islamic Finance Strategies in the OIC member Countries". The Session was attended by the delegates of relevant OIC institutions and international organizations. IRCICA Director General Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren, Advisor to the Director General Dr. Nezih Maouruf, Senior Researchers Mrs. Zeynep Durukal and Prof. Sadık Unay participated in the 32nd Session of the COMCEC to represent IRCICA.



IRCICA participated in the Third International Conference on Translation and the Problematics of Cross-Cultural Understanding and the Award Ceremony of the Sheikh Hamad Award for Translation and International Understanding

Doha-Qatar, 12-13 December 2016



IRCICA participated in the Third International Conference on Translation and the Problematics of Cross-Cultural Understanding and the Award Ceremony of the Sheikh Hamad Award for Translation and International Understanding in Doha, Qatar on 12-13 December 2016. The award ceremony in which Spanish was added to English for this year as one of the translation languages was organized in Doha where the awards were submitted to the winners by his highness Prince Jasem bin Al-Sheikh Hamad. IRCICA Director General Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren was invited by Dr. Mohamed Ahmed Al-Ahmary, the President of Arabic

and International Relations Forum and the Chairman of the Award Committee as the "Guest of Honour" and made a speech in the award ceremony in which he stressed the importance of translating fundamental sources of cultural and civilizational heritage to promote mutual understanding. Assoc. Prof. Eren in his speech stressed that this award has a high reputation in international standards and it was remarkable that foreign languages were added to the Arabic language in every tournament. He also thanked the Award Committee for choosing the Turkish language in the last tournament (2015) and granting the awards to elite

translators producing valuable works on culture, choosing Senior Researcher at IRCICA Prof. Fazıl Bayat for the first prize in the tournament. Assoc. Prof. Eren stated that this award widely contributed to multicultural relations and international understanding, strengthening social relations among different communities. At the end of his speech, he congratulated the winners of the tournament, thanked the State of Qatar for supporting the organization and greeted the Award Committee.

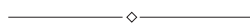
Prof. Fazıl Bayat, Senior Researcher from IRCICA, who has received the award for best translation in 2015 with his work titled “al-Bilad al-Arabiyya fi al-wathaiq al-Othmaniyya” (The Arab Provinces in the Ottoman Documents), also participated the

ceremony and served within the Board of Trustees of the competition.

It is worth noting that this translation award contributes to alleviating misunderstandings on Islamic and Arabic cultures. It also helps develop relations with other cultures by transferring ideas, knowledge and sciences by translating the creativity of the Arabic culture to world languages. Sheikh Hamad Award for Translation targets enriching the Arabic literature with important works related with the global culture, arts and sciences; as well as enriching the global knowledge and heritage with works on Arabic and Islamic culture. The award targets encouraging the individuals, publication houses and international cultural entities in the Arab world to focus on high-quality

translations and pursue uniqueness in these fields. In addition to honoring the translators and appreciating their role in connecting different peoples and nations and enriching the international cultural heritage, the ceremony also appreciates those who contribute to spreading peace and international understanding as individuals or institutions.

The Third International Conference on Translation and the Problematics of Cross-Cultural Understanding lasted two days on 12-13 December 2016 following the award ceremony and several researchers submitted papers concerning issues of translation from and to the Arabic language, difficulties associated with translation work and strategies to overcome them.



IRCICA participated in the International Symposium organized by the Algerian National Archives and the Ottoman Archives on the occasion of the 5th Centenary of the Arrival of Barbarossa brothers to the shores of Algiers in 1516

9-10 November 2016, Béjaïa, Algeria

IRCICA also participated in the International Symposium organized by the Algerian National Archives and the Ottoman Archives and with the contribution of the National Centre of Anthropological Studies and Abdrrahmane Mira University (Béjaïa). The symposium was held in Béjaïa city, Algeria, on November 2016, on the occasion of the 5th Centenary of the Arrival of Barbarossa brothers to the shores of Algiers in 1516.

In the opening ceremony, Prof. Fazıl Bayat, Senior Researcher at IRCICA, presented the address of the IRCICA Director General Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren in which he endorsed the role of the Algerian National Archives and confirmed that such meetings will serve to deliver Ottoman documents to the service of researchers in the Arab world. Furthermore, Assoc. Prof. Eren emphasized that a substantial amount of Ottoman sources related to the Maghreb were lost and he was confident that such scholarly meetings will inspire the Arab scholars and encourage them to discover the unknown sides of Ottoman archives.

Several researchers from Algeria and Turkey participated in the symposium and submitted their papers on different aspects of the Algerian history during the Ottoman era. Prof. Fazıl Bayat, Senior Researcher at IRCICA, also made a presentation on indexes of the Ottoman mission and its importance in studying Algerian history. Prof. İdris Bostan from Istanbul University and Prof Uğur Ünal, Director General of Ottoman Archives were also among the participants of the symposium. The program included visits



to monumental and historical areas, especially the main Ottoman monuments in Algiers and Béjaïa cities as well as two exhibitions organized by the Algerian National Archives where Ottoman documents that focus on the historical heritage of Algeria during the Ottoman era were presented.



IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren participated in the Opening Ceremony of the International Cultural Festival for Calligraphy, Miniatures and Ornamentation in Algiers

Algeria, 22 September 2016

IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren participated in the International Cultural Festival for Calligraphy, Miniatures and Ornamentation in Algeria. The international cultural festival opened in the Algerian capital Algiers on 22 September 2016 at the Mufdy Zakaria Cultural Palace. H.E Mr. Ezz El Din Mayhooby, Minister of Culture of Algeria, Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA and various accredited ambassadors to Algeria in addition to a sizeable audience attended the opening ceremony. Awards and certificates were presented at the opening ceremony by Dr. Halit Eren to five calligraphers from Algeria who were selected by the jury at the Tenth International Calligraphy Competition organized by IRCICA in 2016.

One hundred and sixteen (116) artists representing Algeria and twenty-three (23) other countries have participated in this event including Turkey, Indonesia, Tunis, Iran, Morocco and India with artists from



H.E Mr. Ezz El Din Mayhooby, Minister of Culture of Algeria and Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA



Uzbekistan, Afghanistan and Germany attending for the first time. The festival program includes a gallery exhibition in addition to the organization of lectures and workshops.

Algerian master calligrapher Mohamed Sharify - Honorary Member in the Jury of the International Calligraphy Competitions organized by IRCICA – received various international awards from H.E Mr. Ezz El Din Mayhooby, Minister of Culture of Algeria and Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA.



Tenth International Calligraphy Competition in the name of Hafiz Osman

Award Winning Calligraphers from Algeria

Name - Surname	Prizes	Style	Amounts
Djamel Fenineche	3 rd Prize	Kufi	1.000 \$
Ben Bou Abdallah Bel Kacem	Incentive	Thuluth Naskh	750 \$ 750 \$
Bouzgou Hassen	Incentive	Naskh	750 \$
Moustafa B.Aek Koudri	Incentive	Naskh	750 \$
Safar Bati Mhamed	Incentive	Naskh	750 \$
		Total	4,750 \$

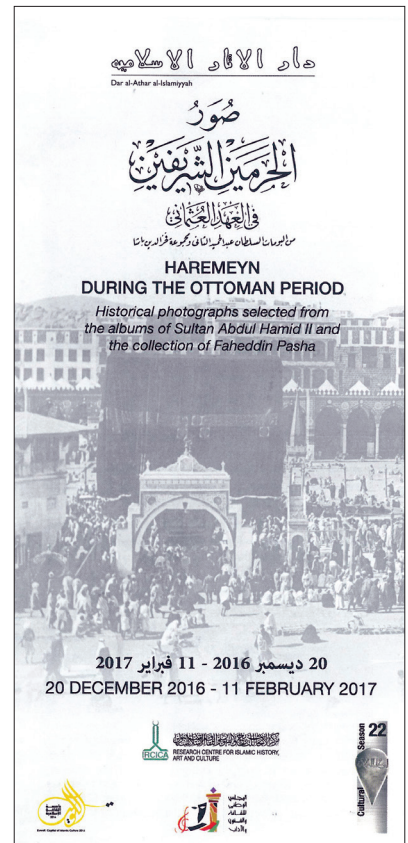
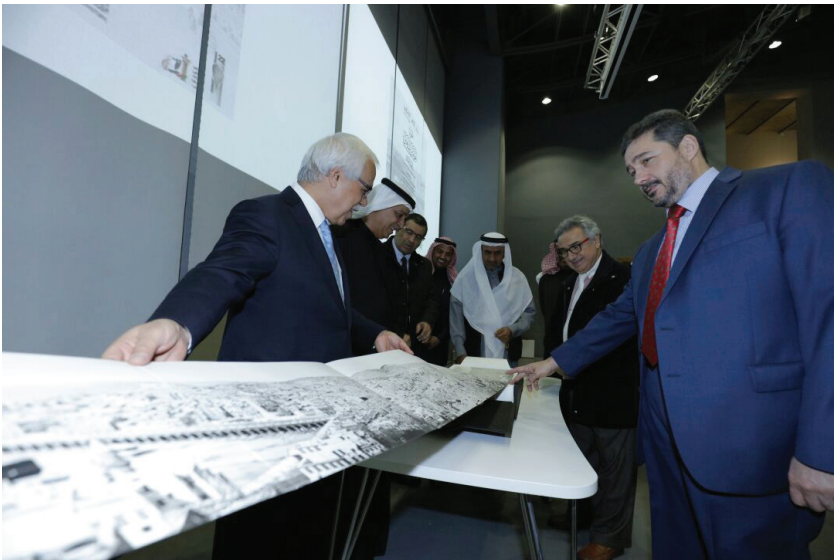


Historical photograph exhibition on “Al-Haramain (Makkah al-Mukarramah and al-Madina al-Munawara) during the Ottoman Period, organized by IRCICA and the Kuwait National Council for Culture, Art and Letters

20 December 2016

The exhibition of historical photographs on “Al-Haramain (Makkah al-Mukarramah and al-Madina al-Munawara) during the Ottoman Period” was convened by IRCICA jointly with Kuwaiti National Council for Culture, Art and Letters at the Museum Dar al-Athar al-Islamiyya, Kuwait City between 20 December 2016 and 11 February 2017.

IRCICA and the Kuwaiti National Council for Culture, Art and Letters jointly organized an exhibition of historical photographs on “Al-Haramain (Makkah al-Mukarramah and al-Madina al-Munawara) during the Ottoman Period” which is held at the Museum Dar al-Athar al-Islamiyya in Kuwait City. The exhibition was opened on 20 December 2016 in the presence of IRCICA Director General Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren, Secretary General of the Kuwaiti National Council for Culture, Art and Letters Mr. Ali Hussain al-Yuha, the Ambassador of Turkey in Kuwait H.E. Ambassador Salih Murat Tamer and representatives from the leading cultural and educational institutions of Kuwait. The exhibition will remain open to visit until 11 February 2017. The



historical photographs on display were selected from the albums of Sultan Abdulhamid II dating from the late 19th-early 20th centuries and IRCICA archives.

IRCICA contributed to the Calligraphy Exhibition on “The Exquisite Art of Calligraphy”, organized by the Permanent Delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at UNESCO headquarters

Paris, 9 December 2016

IRCICA contributed to the Calligraphy Exhibition titled “The Exquisite Art of Calligraphy” organized by the Permanent Delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The Exhibition was held at the UNESCO headquarters in central Paris on 9 December 2016. IRCICA Director General Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren participated in the opening ceremony of the exhibition and addressed the audience.



IRCICA participated in the Putrajaya International Islamic Arts and Culture Festival 2016 (PIIACUF) with an Exhibition on “Al Asma ul-Husna” (Holy Names of Allah SWT)

1-11 December 2016

IRCICA participated in the Putrajaya International Islamic Arts and Culture Festival 2016 (PIIACUF) with an Exhibition titled “Al Asma ul-Husna” (Holy Names of Allah SWT) between 1-11 December 2016. The exhibition convened by IRCICA took place in the Putrajaya International Convention Centre and comprised 28 works of calligraphy on the Holy Names of Allah (SWT) by 12 Turkish masters of calligraphy. The exhibition was formally opened on 1 December 2016 and the Head of the Calligraphy Department at IRCICA Mr. Said Kasımoğlu represented IRCICA at the Exhibition.



Meetings, Cooperation and Visits

H.E. Dr. Maitha bint Salem Al Shamsi, Minister of State of the United Arab Emirates and a delegation accompanying her visited IRCICA

4 November 2016

H.E. Dr. Maitha bint Salem Al Shamsi, Minister of State of the United Arab Emirates and a delegation accompanying her visited IRCICA, 4 November. H.E. Dr. Al Shamsi and IRCICA Director General Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren exchanged views on the potential ways of improving bilateral relations between the government, universities and civil society institutions in the United Arab Emirates and IRCICA so as to contribute ongoing research on Islamic history, art and culture.



H.E. Mr. Azoumana Moutaye, Minister of National Entrepreneurship, Crafts and Promotion of SME's of the Republic of Ivory Coast, visited IRCICA

24 November 2016

H.E. Mr. Azoumana Moutaye, Minister of National Entrepreneurship, Crafts and SME's of the Republic of Ivory Coast visited IRCICA and met with IRCICA Director General Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren, on 24 November 2016. Minister Moutaye was representing the Republic of Ivory Coast at the 32nd Ministerial Session of the OIC's Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) being held in Istanbul on 23-24 November 2016. Director General Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren briefed H.E. the Minister on the activities of IRCICA. Views were exchanged on the subject areas and types of the joint projects to be undertaken through cooperation between IRCICA and the cultural and educational institutions of Ivory Coast.



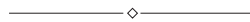
H.E. Ambassador Gunay Afandiyeva, President of the International Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation, visited IRCICA

1 December 2016

On 1st December 2016 the Director General of IRCICA Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren received H.E. Ambassador Gunay Afandiyeva, President of the International Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation, Baku, Azerbaijan, at IRCICA's headquarters at Yıldız Palace. Possible areas of cooperation between IRCICA and the Foundation were discussed in detail. IRCICA Director General informed Ambassador Afandiyeva on recent developments in the Centre's activities, with an emphasis on those research projects, academic congresses and documentary exhibitions that are related to the arts and cultures of Turkic states. The Director General also guided Ambassador Afandiyeva to the library, the collections of calligraphic works and the display of IRCICA's publications. Views were exchanged on prospective joint projects which would serve both organizations' objectives, such as highlighting, preserving and making known the assets of cultural and architectural heritage of their respective member countries including the Azeri Turkic-Islamic heritage situated in the Karabagh region occupied by Armenia. Ambassador Afandiyeva offered to IRCICA books on various themes related to the Turkic world's cultures and a book on the Khojaly Massacre of 1992.



The International Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation was established in Baku at the decision of the Summit Conference of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States on its session held in Astana, Kazakhstan in September 2015 which also appointed Ambassador Gunay Afandiyeva as the first President of the Foundation.



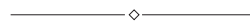
Visit of the Consul General of the Arab Republic of Egypt to Istanbul H.E. Mr. Bassam Rady to IRCICA

6 September 2016

On September 6, 2016 the Consul General of the Arab Republic of Egypt to Istanbul H.E. Mr. Bassam Rady visited IRCICA. H.E. Rady and

IRCICA Director General Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren exchanged views on IRCICA activities on Islamic history, culture and civilization with special

reference to Egypt and North Africa, and discussed ways of improving bilateral collaboration with new projects.



Ambassador of the Guinean Republic, H.E. Mr. Dauda Bangoura visited IRCICA

30 December 2016

On December 30, 2016 the Ambassador of the Guinean Republic to Turkey, H.E. Mr. Dauda Bangoura visited IRCICA. H.E. Mr. Bangoura and IRCICA Director General Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren exchanged views on IRCICA activities on Islamic history, culture and civilization with special reference to North Africa, and discussed ways of improving bilateral collaboration between IRCICA and the Guinean Republic with new projects.



Visit of the Consul General of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Istanbul H.E. Mr. Bakhtiar Assadzadeh Sheikhjani, to IRCICA

15 November 2016

On November 15 2016, the Consul General of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Istanbul H.E. Mr. Bakhtiar Assadzadeh Sheikhjani, Cultural Attaché Mr. Ali Riza Rashed, Protocol Officer Mr. Hassan Azimzade and Translator Mr. Habib Mesri visited IRCICA. IRCICA Director General Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren exchanged views with H.E. Mr. Sheikhjani and the delegation on IRCICA activities on Islamic history, culture and civilization with special reference to Iran, including ongoing collaboration with handicraft festivals and discussed ways of improving bilateral collaboration with new projects.



Prof. Abdulrahim Abuhusayn, Director of the Center for Arts and Humanities, American University of Beirut (AUB) and Prof. Bilal Orfali, Head of the Department of Arabic Language and Literature, AUB, visited IRCICA

27 December 2016

Prof. Abdulrahim Abuhusayn, Head of the Center for Arts and Humanities and professor at the Department of History, American University of Beirut (AUB), and Prof. Bilal Orfali, Head of the Department of Arabic Language and Literature, AUB, visited IRCICA

on 27 December 2016. The meeting with Director General Dr. Halit Eren centered on activities to be organized jointly by IRCICA and the Center for Arts and Humanities which include a calligraphy exhibition to be organized at AUB on 13-18 March 2017 and the International Conference on

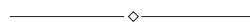
“URBICIDE II: Syria, Iraq, Yemen – Postwar Reconstruction and Development” to take place on 6-8 April 2017 in Beirut, Lebanon. A Framework Agreement for Cooperation was signed between IRCICA and the Center for Arts and Humanities.



Visit of the Consul General of the Republic of Tunisia to Istanbul H.E. Mr. Mohamed Faysal bin Mustafa to IRCICA

21 December 2016

On 21 December 2016, the Consul General of the Republic of Tunisia to Istanbul H.E. Mr. Mohamed Faysal bin Mustafa visited IRCICA. H.E. Mr. Mustafa and IRCICA Director General Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren exchanged views on IRCICA activities on Islamic history, culture and civilization with special reference to Tunisia and the Maghreb and discussed ways of improving bilateral collaboration.

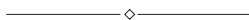


Mr. Azzam Al-Khatib, Director General of Awqaf Al-Quds and Mr. Wasfi Al-Geylani visited IRCICA

5 December 2016

Mr. Azzam Al-Khatib, Director General of Awqaf Al-Quds and Mr. Wasfi Al-Geylani, Representative of Jordanian Waqf Authority in Al Quds paid a courtesy visit to IRCICA on 5 December 2016. Mr. Azzam Al-Khatib

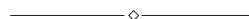
and Mr. Wasfi Al-Geylani were received at IRCICA, briefed about the activities of different IRCICA departments on Al Quds and exchanged views on the potential ways of improving bilateral collaboration.



Prof. Abdel Kader Haidara, Chairman of SAVAMA-DCI NGO, based in Bamako-Mali, visited IRCICA

27 December 2016

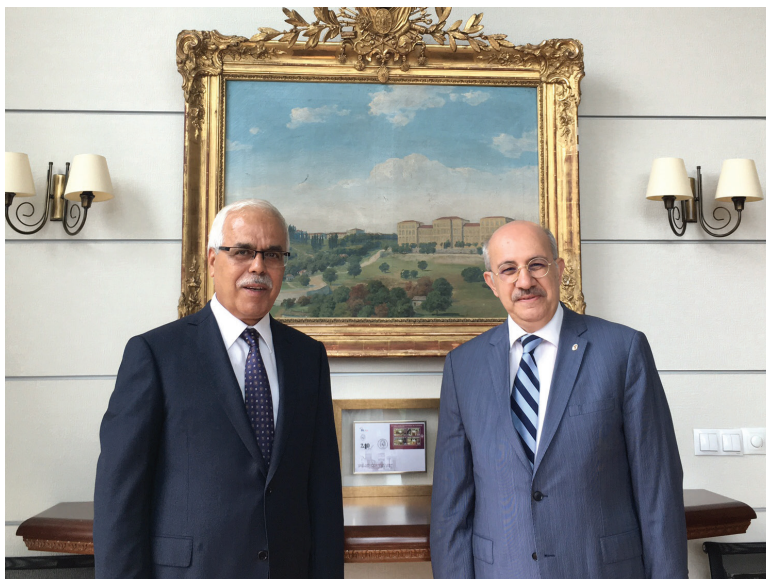
Prof. Abdel Kader Haidara, Chairman of SAVAMA-DCI NGO (Sauvegarde et Valorisation des Manuscrits pour la Défense de la Culture Islamique), a non-governmental organization based in Bamako-Mali, paid an official visit to IRCICA on 27 December 2016. Prof. Abdel Kader Haidara and IRCICA Director General Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren exchanged views on the Project to Preserve the Islamic Heritage in Mali and the contributions of IRCICA to manuscript restoration works in Bamako. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between IRCICA and SAVAMA-DCI NGO (Safeguarding and Promoting Manuscripts for the Defense of the Islamic Culture) concerning collaboration for the preservation and restoration of historical manuscripts of the Holy Qur'an in Mali.



Visit by IRCICA Director General Assoc. Prof. Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren to the Rector of Istanbul Technical University Prof. Dr. Muammer Karaca

20 September 2016

IRCICA Director General Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren paid a courtesy visit to the Rector of Istanbul Technical University, Prof. Muammer Karaca on 20 September 2016. Assoc. Prof. Eren congratulated Prof. Karaca on his reappointment as the Rector of Istanbul Technical University and exchanged views on potential modes of collaboration between IRCICA and Istanbul Technical University through international congresses, workshops and projects.



Visit by Dr. Mohd Hafiz Safiai, Lecturer at Sharia Law Department, Faculty of Islamic Studies, University Kebangsaan Malaysia visited IRCICA along with a delegation

1 October 2016

Dr. Mohd Hafiz Safiai, Lecturer at Sharia Law Department, Faculty of Islamic Studies, University Kebangsaan Malaysia visited IRCICA along with a delegation on October 1, 2016. The delegation included Assoc. Prof. İnbor Azli Ibrahim, Dr. Mohd Hafiz Safiai, Mr Muhammed Zain Bin Yusuf, Ms. Nurfida'iy Salahuddin, Mrs. Nuraisyah Mohd Radzi from the University Kebangsaan Malaysia. IRCICA Director General Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren and the delegation discussed the state of research on Islamic history and civilization in Southeast Asia, the contributions of IRCICA in this regard and potential areas of collaboration.



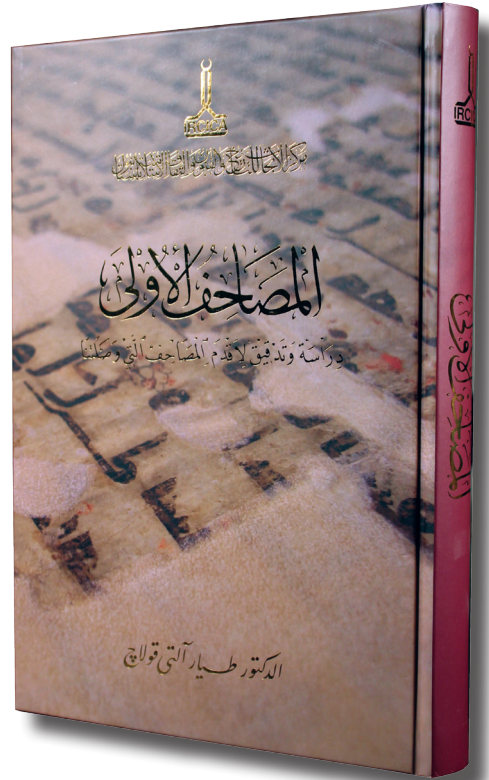
(Old copies of the Quran that reached our time.

A study on the earliest copies)

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

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

The present book represents the culmination of the rich findings and experiences accumulated throughout the above work. It synthesizes the observations and comparisons made in the study of earliest copies of the Quran and presents them in a concise and instructive format, as the book's section titles indicate: the Introduction underlines the importance of the comprehensive field of research related to copies of the Quran and evokes efforts made in this field in the Muslim world and in Europe. Section 1 is on the origins and history of development of the Arabic language and the Arabic script. Section 2 is a comprehensive history of the earliest copies, including the processes of compilation of the Quran in book form between two covers, the "Rasm al-Uthmani", i.e. the script and orthography of the copies made under the supervision of Caliph Uthman bin Affan and the different scholarly opinions about the necessity of conformity with it, the assignment of vowel signs, reading signs and punctuation signs to the



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

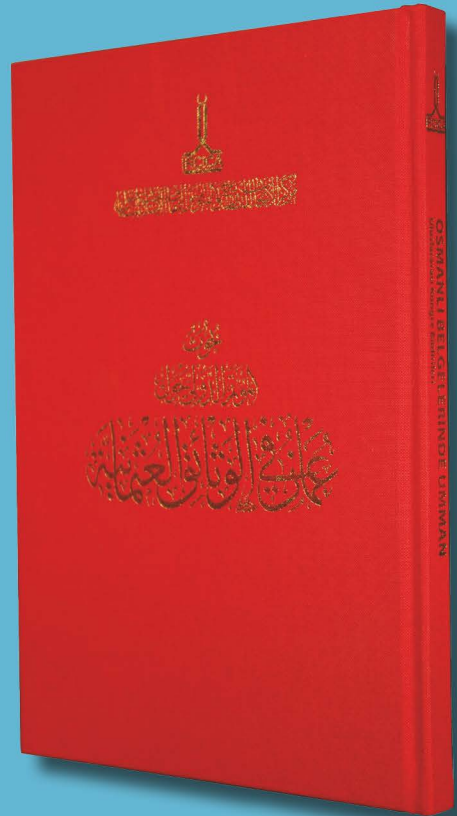
PROCEEDINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON OMAN IN OTTOMAN DOCUMENTS (5-6 October 2012)

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

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

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

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



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

