



Newsletter



OIC RESEARCH CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC HISTORY, ART AND CULTURE

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- Experts Meeting on the Project to Preserve Cultural Heritage and Assistance for Social Development in Al-Quds and Palestine
- IRCICA attended the OIC-UN General Coordination Meeting, in Geneva
- Director General of IRCICA, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Halit eren paid a working visit to the Republic of Mali
- H.E. President Yahya Jammeh International Award for Qur'an Al-Karim Memorization Competition

Newsletter



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

May-August 2016, No. 100

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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Editorial

It is with great pleasure that we introduce a synopsis of IRCICA activities comprising the period between May and August 2016 in this issue of the Newsletter. Despite corresponding to summer months during which international congresses, symposiums and competitions are usually interrupted, multifaceted IRCICA activities in various geographies of the Muslim world continued unabated in this period.

The rich collection of IRCICA activities started in May with an Exhibition of Historical Photographs on Al Quds, held in Dakar, Senegal. IRCICA Director General Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren participated in the International Conference in Dakar focusing on the cause of Al Quds (Jerusalem) jointly organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Senegal and OIC General Secretariat under the auspices of the UN and the OIC. During the conference, IRCICA Director General Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren participated in the opening of the Exhibition of Historical Photographs on Al Quds.

IRCICA continued to take initiatives and develop multidimensional approaches in the context of its activities aiming to study, record, preserve and promote the architectural and cultural heritage of Al-Quds/Jerusalem and Palestine. To this end, an experts meeting was held on the IRCICA project to "Preserve Cultural Heritage and Assistance to Social Development in Al-Quds and Palestine" in Istanbul on 18-19 May 2016. The meeting reviewed recent developments and the current state of affairs concerning cultural heritage, as well as housing, education and Palestinians' fundamental rights based on international law.

In the context of institutional collaboration between the UN and the OIC, an IRCICA delegation attended the OIC-UN General Coordination Meeting in Geneva. The three-day

OIC-UN General Coordination Meeting, involving representatives from the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the United Nations (UN) bodies, was held at the UN Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. The biannual regular meeting was meant to evaluate the progress of joint cooperation activities between the UN and the OIC which took place between May 2014 and May 2016.

IRCICA activities related to Islamic arts continued on 25 June 2016 with the Presentation Ceremony of Awards for Iranian Calligraphers who became successful in the 10th International Calligraphy Competition organized in the name of Hafiz Osman, in Tehran, Iran. IRCICA Director General Assoc. Prof. Dr. Halit Eren and the Head of the Islamic Culture and Relations organisation, Dr. Ebrahimi Abouzar Torkaman presented certificates and awards in Tehran to the calligraphers who were successful in the 10th Calligraphy Competition organized by IRCICA in the name of Hafiz Osman.

Then, as a major event on 25-26 July, IRCICA co-organized, along with the Ministry of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology and the Ministry of Islamic Affairs of the Gambia, the "President Yahya Jammeh International Award for Quran Memorization Competition" in Banjul, at the request of H.E. Yahya Jammeh, President of the Islamic Republic of Gambia. The event was the first of its kind which took place with the participation of twenty four (24) Hafiz ul Qur'an (memorizers of the Holy Qur'an) from 21 countries including the Gambia. The International Jury Committee included leading experts on Qur'an Al-Karim recitation. The awards of the winners and the participation certificates were presented by H.E. President Yahya Jammeh in person at a ceremony held the following day in the Presidential Palace. The

winners of the competition were: First Prize - Mr. Ousman Jallo from the Gambia, \$20.000; Second Prize - Mr. Mohammed Mitwalli from Palestine, \$19.000; Third Prize - Mr. Anwer ben Mohammed ben Slama from Tunisia, \$18.000. In addition to that, every entrant to the competition was given a prize of \$3000 and every jury member was presented an honorarium of \$5000.

As part of its collaboration with international bodies and institutions, IRCICA was also represented in the 40th Session of the World Heritage Committee Meeting by the Director General Assoc. Prof. Dr. Halit Eren. On the issue of preservation, a preparatory experts meeting also took place between IRCICA and ISESCO, in Istanbul, on 1-2 August 2016, for the joint International Conference to be organized on Protecting the Cultural Heritage of the Muslim World.

One of the highlights of IRCICA activities within the period covered in this issue of the newsletter is the working visit of IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren to the Republic of Mali at the invitation of H.E. Mrs. N'Diaye Ramatoulaye Diallo, Minister of Culture, between 1 and 5 September 2016. The aim of the working visit was to further expand cultural cooperation between the Ministries and public institutions of the Republic of Mali and IRCICA. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eren was received by H.E. Ibrahim Aboubacar Keita, President of the Republic of Mali, at the Presidential Palace and following the meeting, H.E. The President offered an official dinner in honor of Dr. Eren. The dinner was attended by the Ministers of Culture, Higher Education, Territories, Finance and Trade from the Government of Mali, the Secretary General of the Presidency, Ambassador of Turkey in Mali and leading figures from cultural milieus.

Assoc. Prof. Eren was also received by H.E. Mr. Modibo Keita, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mali, H.E. Mr. Abdoulaye Diop, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and African Integration. H.E. Mrs. N'Diaye Ramatoulaye Diallo, Minister of Culture of Mali and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Halit Eren held extensive meetings, exchanging views on the areas and modalities of implementation of future cooperation on issues of culture and civilization which culminated into a Cultural Cooperation Agreement between the Ministry of Culture of Mali and IRCICA. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Halit Eren also travelled to Timbuktu and visited the renowned collection of manuscripts from the Holy Qur'an and classical Islamic literature, as well as the Ahmet Baba Centre.

In the period covering May to August 2016, IRCICA continued to host Ministers, high-level diplomats, academics and scholars from around the world at its headquarters in Yıldız Palace Istanbul. High-level policy makers and delegations from China to Iran, from Thailand to Albania were among the visitors of the centre.

It is with these thoughts that we leave you with the Newsletter and hope that you will find this issue illuminating.

Sincerely,

Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren
Director General, IRCICA

Participation of IRCICA Director General to Victory Day Celebration Ceremonies at the Presidential Palace

Ankara, 30 August 2016



IRCICA Director General, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Halit Eren participated in the Celebration Ceremonies of the 30 August Victory Day at the Presidential Palace in Ankara on 30 August 2016. In the context of the proceedings, Assoc. Prof. Eren congratulated the President of the

Republic of Turkey H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, on the occasion of the Victory Day and offered the sympathy and support of IRCICA for the democratically elected administration following the failed coup attempt on 15 July 2016.

**The Letter of IRCICA Director General
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Halit Eren to the President
of the Republic of Turkey,
H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan
in the aftermath of the 15 July Coup attempt**

21 July 2016

My Respected President,

I would like to express, on behalf of myself and the personnel of the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) which strives to reflect a better understanding of the Islamic civilization in the world through its research and activities as the cultural subsidiary of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, our strong condemnation of the heinous coup attempt perpetrated by the treacherous FETÖ/PDY terror organisation on the night of 15 July. Turkey constitutes a positive role model for many countries in the globe with its economic development and social harmony. But the traitors who damaged Turkey's international reputation and tried to capture its future with this coup attempt have in fact targeted our freedom, democracy and independence.

We are grateful that this heinous coup attempt was defeated thanks to the strong leadership and prudent governance shown by Yourself as well as the firm commitment and emotional attachment of Turkish people to your Presidency. Undoubtedly, the unprecedented and sincere reflections of the unwavering faith of our society to Allah (SWT) and their deep loyalty to your great personality played a crucial role in this.

I sincerely believe that from now on we will proceed towards a bright, peaceful and prosperous future as a united nation by overcoming all superficial divisions and difficulties.

May Allah (SWT) be with you and assist in your endeavors. I wish you incessant success and present my sincere regards.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Halit Eren

The OIC and IRCICA condemned the 15 July Coup attempt against the democratically elected government in Turkey; and expressed their support for democracy and constitutional legitimacy

On 15 July, a faction within Turkey's military attempted to suspend the Constitution, impose martial law and enforce a nationwide curfew. As troops and tanks blocked the traffic crossing from Asia to Europe over the Bosphorus Bridge in İstanbul, a number of government buildings including the Parliament, the Presidential Palace and the intelligence headquarters were heavily assaulted. Senior military officers who refused to submit to the coup plotters were taken hostage, including the Chief of General Staff and Major Generals. There was also an assassination attempt against H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the President of the Republic of Turkey.

The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and IRCICA closely followed the coup attempt against the democratically elected government of the Republic of Turkey – an OIC Member State and current Chair of the Islamic Summit. Both institutions condemned the attempt of some military elements to stage a coup against the country's democratic institutions, for which the



Turkish people fought and sacrificed a great deal. They recalled the fundamental principles of the OIC Charter, which underscores the need to protect constitutional legitimacy and calls for the promotion of good governance, democracy, human rights, fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law.

The OIC and IRCICA expressed their support for the elected government under H.E. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. They reiterated their rejection of any attempt to destabilize Turkey, whose security and stability are the mainstay of security and stability in the region and the Muslim world.



One protester tried to block tanks at Istanbul Ataturk airport

Both institutions also stressed the need to respect the will of the Turkish people and to resolve differences through constitutional institutions as called for in the OIC Charter and that of the United Nations; and the key necessity to protect the national interests as exhibited in the political and economic status of Turkey, without resorting to violence and putting civilian lives and property at risk.

IRCICA as an institution was a close witness to the coup attempt. The Yıldız Palace where its headquarters are located within the same campus with the Istanbul Office of the Turkish Presidency was attacked by helicopters and tried to be invaded by the coup plotters. During and in the aftermath of the failed coup attempt IRCICA Director General Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren expressed his unwavering support for peace, stability and constitutional

legitimacy of the democratically elected government of Turkey. Dr. Eren had the opportunity to congratulate the President of the Republic of Turkey H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdogan immediately after the failed coup attempt and during the Victory Day celebrations on 30 August for his brave and determined leadership.



Congresses, workshops

OIC-UN Al Quds International Conference, jointly organized by the OIC and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Senegal, Dakar and the Opening of the Photography Exhibition on Al Quds by IRCICA

3-4 May 2016

IRCICA Director General Assoc. Prof. Dr. Halit Eren participated in the International Conference in the capital of Senegal, Dakar focusing on the cause of Al Quds (Jerusalem) jointly organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Senegal and OIC General Secretariat under the auspices of the UN and the OIC.

The conference was initiated by the United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (CEIIRP) in cooperation with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. The main theme of the Conference was "Al-Quds at the heart of peaceful settlement of the Palestinian issue" and



deliberations were held to examine notably the situation in the occupied Eastern Quds and possible scenarios for a peaceful and lasting settlement of Al-Quds' issue.

The event took place with the participation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Senegal H.E. Mankeur Ndiaye, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Palestine, H.E. Ryad Malki and Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General and Head of the UN Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) H.E. Mohammed Ibn Chambas.

During the International Conference, IRCICA Director General Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren participated in the opening of the Exhibition organized by IRCICA on "Jerusalem in Historical Photographs" which displayed historical photographs of Al Quds selected from IRCICA archives.



Experts Meeting on the Project to Preserve Cultural Heritage and Assistance for Social Development in Al-Quds and Palestine

Istanbul, 18-19 May 2016

IRCICA continues to take initiatives and develop multidimensional approaches in the context of its activities aiming to study, record, preserve and promote the architectural and cultural heritage of Al-Quds/Jerusalem and Palestine. Accordingly, IRCICA launched a major project to be implemented with the collaboration of relevant public authorities, universities and institutions from Palestine and the participation of a multidisciplinary group of experts. The project aims to improve the living standards and welfare of the people of al-Quds and Palestine while helping to preserve and promote their cultural heritage. To this end, an expert seminar was convened by IRCICA in Istanbul on 18-19 May 2016 to draw the main guidelines of the project. The seminar reviewed recent developments and the current state of affairs concerning cultural heritage, as well as housing, education and Palestinians' fundamental rights based on international law. Leading experts mapped the main sectors and drew guidelines towards the preparation of a set of policy papers. The program started with the opening remarks by:

- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA
- H.E. Dr. Faed Mustafa, Ambassador of Palestine, Ankara, Turkey
- H.E. Ambassador Mustafa Sarnıç, Consul General of Turkey, Al-Quds, Palestine.

Following the opening remarks, four expert panels were held with presentations by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Halit Eren, H.E. Dr. Faed Mustafa, H.E. Ambassador Mustafa Sarnıç, Prof. Amir Pašić, Prof. Daniele Pini, Assoc. Prof. Yüksel Çelik, Dr. Rami Nasrallah, Mr. Adeeb Salim, Mr. Amer Hidmi, Mr. Ihab Al Khatib, Mr Mutaz Abu Rhmeleh, Mr. Fouad Majdalawi, Prof. Suphi Saatçi, Prof. Birgül Çolakoğlu, Assoc. Prof. Yonca Koşebay Erkan, Assoc. Prof. Zeynep Gül Ünal, Assist. Prof. Dr. Mine Topçubaşı Çilingiroğlu, Dr. Nazeih Maarouf, Assoc. Prof. Cengiz Tomar, Assoc. Prof. Sadık Ünay, Dr. Lana Kudumović and Dr. Ruba Kasmó.

Following intensive discussions and deliberations, the participants agreed on the organization of a series of events and activities to be undertaken, including field research and preparation of policy



papers concerning the protection of cultural heritage and assistance to social development in al Quds and Palestine. Experts presented the state of affairs in different sectors of Al Quds and drafted a roadmap for the future tasks. The meeting mapped the priority sectors and the guidelines which should contribute to the final goals of the project including: improving the living and working conditions of Muslims in the Old City of Al-Quds/Jerusalem and Palestine; rehabilitation of the existing housing stock according to international standards; upgrading the infrastructure and public facilities; and contributing to the economic activities of the Palestinian population.

The implementation setting for the project was based on the following steps:

- Setting up a coordination group headed by IRCICA and to defining carriers of listed

activities

- Defining the parties; local and international partners, including members from stakeholders and supporting institutions
- Establishing a Management Strategy (Governing, Finance, Planning, Implementation)
- Organizing thematic meetings with related institutions such as the IDB, TIKA, VNDP, GTZI, and foundations related to Palestine and Al Quds.
- Exploring mechanisms and tools in order to unlock existing commitments; generating new interest and support opportunities; identify the legal framework; specifying development and implementation agencies; determining the financial framework

Ongoing and Potential Initiatives

Schools in East Jerusalem are inadequate and enrolment rates are low, among other deficiencies. Recent Israeli education policy in East Jerusalem aims to impose Israeli curricula and manipulate private schools through conditional financial support.

- Capacity building of the citizens of heritage communities is an important initiative to promote sustainability which can be achieved through training and education planning which can be organized at different levels.
- Permanent research program on Al Quds: This program is based upon archival and documentary research organized by IRCICA in the Turkish Prime Ministry's Ottoman Archives in Istanbul. Manuscript readings and translations have great importance due to their value not only for the historians but also for the local people because of their importance in contemporary period to solve land and ownership problems according to current laws. These issues are pertinent in many law suits opened to reclaim ownership of the properties owned



by Muslim foundations and individuals in and around Old City of Al-Quds. In this context, research by IRCICA is currently ongoing on "Al Quds in Ottoman Muhimme Registers" under the supervision of Prof. Cengiz Tomar, Assoc. Prof. Yüksel Celik, Assoc. Dr. Davut Hut, and Prof. Murat Uluskan from Marmara University. The publications coming out of these series convey crucial information on the social, economic and cultural aspects of the life during the Ottoman Empire with reference to the issues discussed in Diwan Al-Humayun. Moreover, Dr. Ibrahim Rabaia is also coordinating another IRCICA project on the publication of "Sharia Records on Al Quds". These publications contribute to the existing knowledge on Al Quds during the Ottoman period by highlighting the issues discussed in courts.

- Improving quality of education: Initiating an IB program in Arabic from kindergartens to high schools and improving educational facilities in the Old City and selected neighborhoods in East Jerusalem; starting permanent international exchange programs in collaboration with Palestinian universities in the Al-Quds

university facilities in the Old City.

- Rehabilitation of the Old City: Restoration and rehabilitation of monumental structures, registered as the property of the Waqf, are main components of the planning of urban development aiming to bring social and economic benefits to the residents, as well as conservation of World Heritage. Restoration processes can be used as a catalyzer in the city for urban development. Therefore four historic monuments/sites are selected for necessary restoration/rehabilitation and development work.
- Suq Al Qattanin (Awqaf and Al-Quds University) including two lodges and two bathhouses
- Haseki Sultan complex and Bawardiyya Madrasa (Awqaf)
- 'Birket Hammam al-Batrak Salahaddin Pool (Pool of the Bath of the Patriarch) used by Al-Quds University
- Burji Luqluq Al-Quds University and youth center



IRCICA attended the OIC-UN General Coordination Meeting, in Geneva, Switzerland

11-13 May 2016

The three-day OIC-UN General Coordination Meeting, spanning between 11-13 May 2016 and involving representatives from the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the United Nations (UN) bodies, was held at the UN Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. The biannual regular meeting was meant to evaluate the progress of joint cooperation activities between the UN and the OIC which took place between May 2014 and May 2016. Advisor to IRCICA Director General Dr. Nezh Marouf and Senior Researcher Dr. Sadik Ünay represented IRCICA at the three-day Meeting.

- At the plenary session which took place on 11 May 2016, the messages of H.E. Iyad Madani, OIC Secretary General, and H.E. Ban Ki Moon, UN Secretary General, were conveyed. In their

messages, both Secretary Generals highlighted the organizational priorities including the prevention of violent extremism, human rights and sustainable development; and stressed that both the OIC and UN systems should continue promoting multiculturalism, peace, tolerance and understanding between different societies.

- During the OIC-UN meeting, areas of mutual cooperation and accomplished works comprising the period between 2014 and 2016 were examined through three working groups concentrating on political, economic and socio-cultural/humanitarian issues respectively. While focusing on socio-cultural issues in line with its official mandate, the IRCICA delegation actively participated and followed deliberations in all three issue areas.



- The IRCICA delegation also had the opportunity to hold bilateral talks with representatives from UNESCO, UNOSSC, ILO and UNDP to further cooperation with UN agencies on mandated areas of IRCICA. As such, several joint projects between IRCICA and UN agencies were added into the activities matrix.
- Particularly ongoing projects of IRCICA on the preservation of architectural heritage in Al Quds and the Muslim World in general, as well as the proposal to initiate a training program for applications to the World Heritage List attracted widespread attention during the meetings.



IRCICA participated in the 40th Session of the World Heritage Committee Meeting in Istanbul

10-20 July 2016

The World Heritage Committee comprises representatives from twenty one states that are parties to the "Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage".

The current composition of the Committee includes representatives from Angola, Azerbaijan, Burkina Faso, Croatia, Cuba, Finland, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Tunisia, Turkey, United Republic of Tanzania, Vietnam and Zimbabwe. The functions of the Committee include identifying cultural and natural properties of Outstanding Universal Value which are to be protected under the Convention; inscribing those properties on the World Heritage List; and monitoring the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List.

The 40th session of the World Heritage Committee meeting was held in Istanbul, Turkey from 10 to 20 July 2016 under the Chairmanship of the Republic of Turkey at the Istanbul Congress Centre (ICC). "Istanbul Declaration on the Protection of World



UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

40th Session • Istanbul, Turkey 2016

Heritage", prepared with the initiative of the Chair of the Committee, Turkey, was unanimously adopted by the Committee Member States. By the Istanbul Declaration, referring to the importance of cultural and natural heritage, States Parties are invited to take measures and act together against the destruction of common heritage of humankind, in cooperation with UNESCO and in correspondence with relevant UNESCO cultural conventions.

IRCICA was represented in the 40th Session of the World Heritage Committee Meeting by the Director General Assoc. Prof. Dr. Halit Eren and Prof. Amir Pasic from the Department of Architecture.

Preparatory Experts meeting of IRCICA-ISESCO for an International Conference on Protecting the Cultural Heritage of the Muslim World

Istanbul, 1-2 August 2016

IRCICA and ISESCO are planning to jointly organize an international conference on the theme of "Protecting Cultural Heritage of the Muslim World". A preparatory experts meeting in view of this international conference was held in Istanbul on 1-2 August 2016.

IRCICA Director General Assoc. Prof. Dr. Halit Eren, Prof. Amir Pasic, Dr. Nezhir Marouf, Prof. Cengiz Tomar, Prof. Sadik Unay, Prof. Noman Ahmed, Dr. Mine Topcubasi Cilingiroglu and Architect Taha Zahid Ozdemir participated the meeting on behalf of IRCICA. ISESCO delegation present at the meeting was composed of Dr. Mohammad Younis, Dr. Abdelaziz Touri, Dr. Nazmi Jubeh and Dr. Papa Toumane.

In the opening session of the experts meeting, Assoc. Prof. Eren introduced IRCICA's work on the preservation of cultural heritage and Prof. Pasic presented the prepared draft concept note, conference structure and timetable for discussions. Following deliberations, the draft work prepared by IRCICA was accepted in terms of the aims of the conference, conference topics and general issues keeping in mind necessary changes/additions.

It was agreed to have an International Conference open to global experts and six different sessions with keynote speakers to open the sessions and summarize the general background of the topic followed by speakers who are experts in

their fields. The timing of the Conference was determined as the beginning of May 2017 before Ramadan (subject to convenience in ISESCO and IRCICA calendars)

It was decided that the Conference will take place in Istanbul, Turkey and the Scientific Committee will include nine members selected by both IRCICA and ISESCO. Conference Secretariat will be managed by IRCICA.

The Conference is planned to last for two days but can be extended for an additional day depending on the number and quality of papers. The Conference will be multilingual and will host presentations in three OIC languages (Arabic, English, French)

The Conference will be open to all experts, individuals (writers, journalists, etc.), institutions and bodies who are interested in and working on the Protection of Cultural Heritage focusing on Islamic Heritage. It was decided that a permanent group shall be established to research the main topics for the conference especially the sustainability of Islamic heritage. The group shall produce a roadmap especially for protection of cultural heritage following violent conflicts and wars; and invite all OIC countries to contribute to the conference.

Director General of IRCICA, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Halit Eren paid a working visit to the Republic of Mali

1-5 September 2016

- **President of the Republic of Mali H.E. Ibrahim Aboubacar Keita received Dr. Halit Eren**
- **A Cultural Cooperation Agreement was signed between the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Mali and IRCICA**
- **Meetings were held with the Prime Minister, Ministers of Culture and Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Mali**

IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren paid a working visit to the Republic of Mali at the invitation of H.E. Mrs. N'Diaye Ramatoulaye Diallo, Minister of Culture of the Republic of Mali, between 1 and 5 September 2016. The aim of the working visit was to further expand cultural cooperation between the Ministries and public institutions in the Republic of Mali and IRCICA.

At the beginning of his visit, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eren was received by H.E. Ibrahim Aboubacar Keita, President of the Republic of Mali, at the Presidential Palace on 1st September 2016. During the meeting, Dr. Eren briefed the President in detail on IRCICA's ongoing activities and projects concerning Islamic history, culture and civilization as well as prospective activities planned for the future. Following the meeting, H.E. Ibrahim Aboubacar Keita, President of the Republic of Mali offered an official dinner in honor of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eren. The dinner was attended by the Ministers of Culture, Higher Education, Territories, Finance and Trade from the Government of Mali, the Secretary General of the Presidency, Ambassador of Turkey in Mali H.E. Mr. Hikmet



President of the Republic of Mali H.E. Ibrahim Aboubacar Keita received Assoc. Prof. Dr. Halit Eren

Renan Şekeroğlu and leading figures from cultural milieus including Dr. Mahmoud Zouber, the founding Director of the Ahmed Baba Institute of Higher Learning and Islamic Research in Timbuktu who had represented Mali in the Governing Board of IRCICA during the first and second terms of the Board between 1981 and 1990.

The meeting with H.E. Mr. Modibo Keita, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mali, on 5 September 2016, was an occasion for Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eren to outline the scope of IRCICA activities and discuss wider subjects of culture and international relations with the Prime Minister who is also an eminent intellectual, philosopher and literary figure of his country.

In the capital city Bamako, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eren also met with H.E. Mr. Abdoulaye Diop, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and African Integration. The agenda of the meeting centered on themes of international cultural relations at the global level and with respect to the Muslim world.

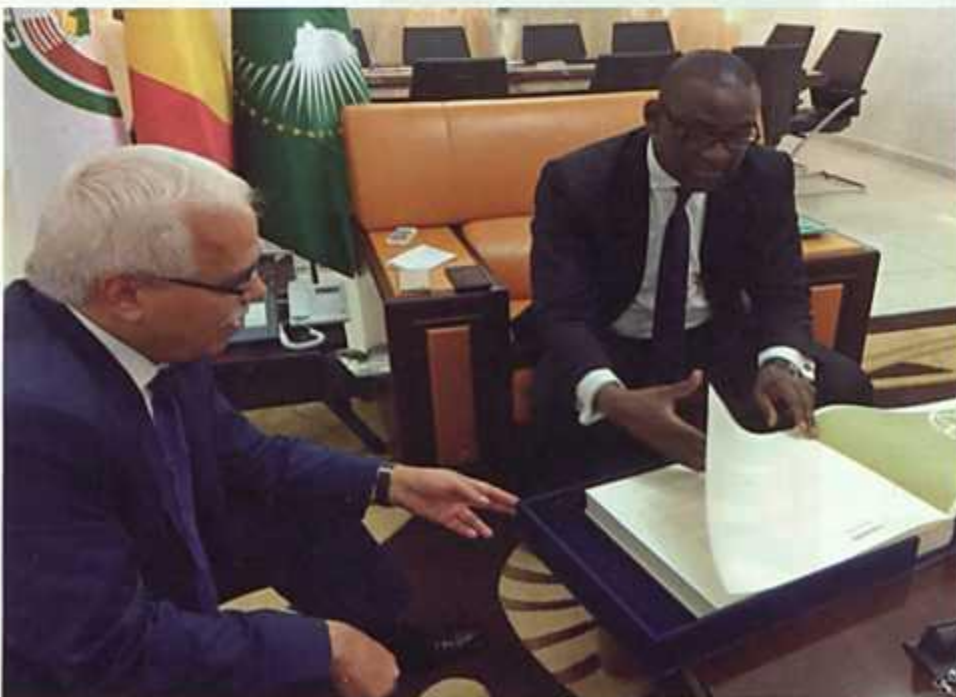
H.E. Mrs. N'Diaye Ramatoulaye Diallo, Minister of Culture of Mali and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Halit Eren



H.E. Mr. Modibo Keita, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mali received Assoc. Prof. Dr. Halit Eren

held extensive meetings, exchanging views on the areas and modalities of implementation of future cooperation on issues of culture and civilization.

These talks culminated into the signing of a Cultural Cooperation Agreement between the Ministry of Culture of Mali and IRCICA. The agreement traces a framework for projects that the two parties could decide to undertake in the areas of studies on Islamic history and culture and preservation of cultural heritage. It was recognized that IRCICA's experience and comprehensive engagement in these areas could contribute to the promotion of the rich history and



H.E. Mr. Abdoulaye Diop, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Halit Eren



H.E. Mrs. N'Diaye Ramatoulaye Diallo, Minister of Culture of Mali and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Halit Eren

cultural heritage of Mali through academic and practical studies and events.

IRCICA Director General Assoc. Prof. Dr. Halit Eren also paid a visit to the Ambassador of Turkey in Mali Mr. Hikmet Renan Şekeroğlu, on 1st September 2016 at the Embassy of Turkey in Bamako.

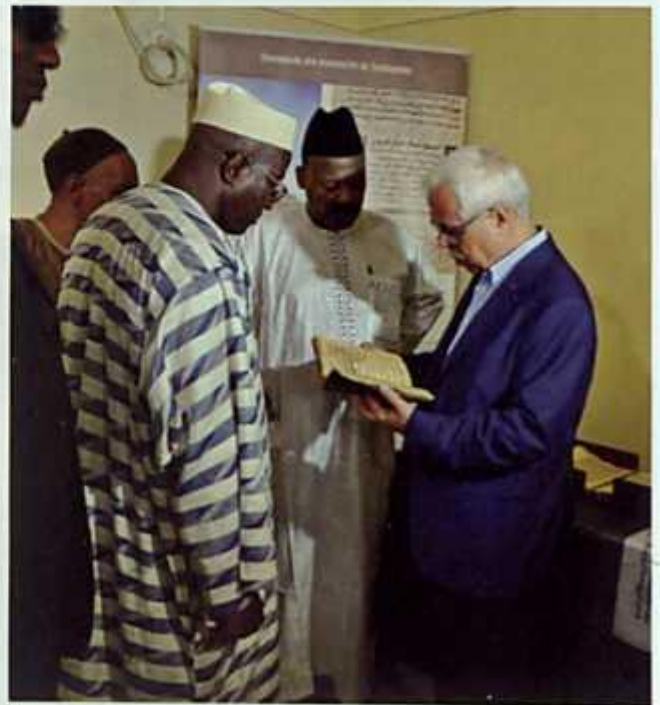
Cultural Cooperation Agreement with the Ministry of Culture, Republic of Mali

A comprehensive Cultural Cooperation Agreement has been signed between IRCICA and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Mali on September 2016 in Bamako. The agreement, signed by H.E. Ms. N'Diaye Ramatoulaye Diallo, Minister of Culture and Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, traced the framework for activities to be conducted jointly towards promotion of studies on Islamic history and culture, preservation of the cultural and architectural heritage of Mali, and training of experts in these areas.

In the context of his visit to Mali, IRCICA Director General Assoc. Prof. Dr. Halit Eren also travelled to Timbuktu in the company of H.E. Mrs. N'Diaye Ramatoulaye Diallo, Minister of Culture of the Republic of Mali and visited the renowned

collection of manuscripts of the Holy Qur'an and classical Islamic literature.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eren also paid a visit to the Ahmet Baba Centre and examined the Manuscripts Collection there.

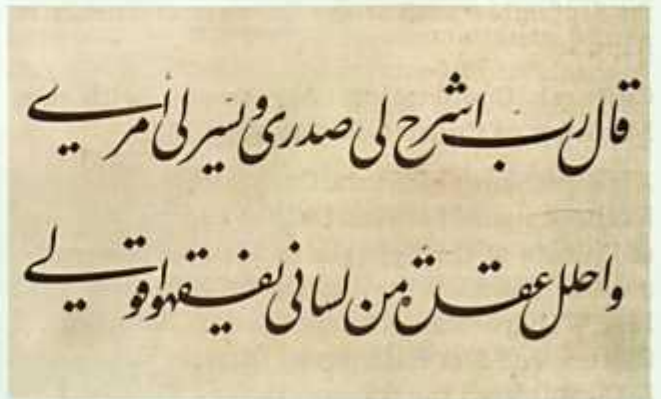
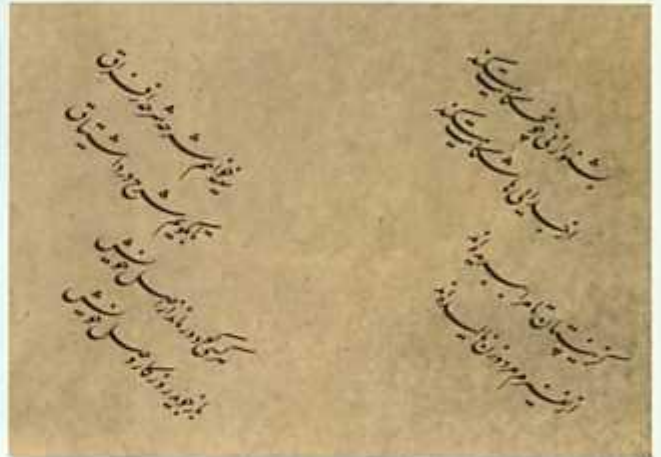


Competitions

Presentation Ceremony of Awards for Iranian Calligraphers who became successful in the 10th International Calligraphy Competition Organized by IRCICA in the name of Hafiz Osman

Tehran, Iran, 25 June 2016

IRCICA Director General Assoc. Prof. Dr. Halit Eren and the Head of the Islamic Culture and Relations organisation, Dr Ebrahimi Abouzar Torkaman presented certificates and awards in Tehran to the calligraphers from Iran who were successful in the 10th Calligraphy Competition organized by IRCICA in the name of Hafiz Osman. The total list of the award winning calligraphers and the awards presented is as follows:



**TENTH INTERNATIONAL CALLIGRAPHY COMPETITION IN THE NAME OF HAFIZ
OSMAN:
AWARD WINNING CALLIGRAPHERS FROM IRAN**

| Name-Surname | Prizes | Style | Amounts |
|----------------------------|--------------|------------|------------------|
| Habib Ramazanpour | 1st Prize | Nastaliq | 4,500 \$ |
| Habib Ramazanpour | 2nd Prize | Jaly Taliq | 3,000 \$ |
| Maryam Norouzi Khalilani | 2nd Prize | Thuluth | 5,000 \$ |
| Ehsan Ahmadi | 2nd Prize | Nastaliq | 3,000 \$ |
| Mostafa Abedini | 3rd Prize | Nastaliq | 2,000 \$ |
| Safar Galeshi | 3rd Prize | Nastaliq | 2,000 \$ |
| Saber Safaei | 2nd Prize | Kufi | 1,500 \$ |
| Alireza BeigMohammadi | Mention | Nastaliq | 1,000 \$ |
| Sajad haghjoo | Mention | Nastaliq | 1,000 \$ |
| Ali Daem Omid | Mention | Nastaliq | 1,000 \$ |
| Sara Attarzadeh | Mention | Kufi | 1,000 \$ |
| Ali Ehsanpour | Incentive | Thuluth | 750 \$ |
| Sayyedah Zeynab Ahmadi | Incentive | Muhaqqaq | 750 \$ |
| Farhad shikhani | Incentive | Muhaqqaq | 750 \$ |
| Omid Rabbani | Incentive | Jaly Taliq | 750 \$ |
| Fatemeh Moghimi | Incentive | Nastaliq | 750 \$ |
| Ali kheiri Habibabadi | Incentive | Nastaliq | 750 \$ |
| Omid Rabbani | Incentive | Nastaliq | 750 \$ |
| Seyyed Mohammad F. Natanzi | Incentive | Nastaliq | 750 \$ |
| Mohammadreza Pajand | Incentive | Nastaliq | 750 \$ |
| Mehrdad Sheykhi | Incentive | Nastaliq | 750 \$ |
| Roohollah Sadeghi Agdam | Incentive | Nastaliq | 750 \$ |
| Reyhaneh Rahmati | Incentive | Kufi | 750 \$ |
| | Total | | 33,500 \$ |



H.E. President Yahya Jammeh International Award for Qur'an Al-Karim Memorization Competition

Banjul, the Gambia, 25-27 July 2016

At the request of H.E. Yahya Jammeh, President of the Islamic Republic of Gambia, IRCICA co-organized, along with the Ministry of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology and the Ministry of Islamic Affairs of the Gambia, the "President Yahya Jammeh International Award for Quran Memorization Competition" in Banjul. The Qur'an Al-Karim Memorization Competition took place on 25-26 July 2016 at Kairaba Beach Hotel in Banjul. The awards of the winners and the participation certificates were presented by H.E. President Yahya Jammeh at a ceremony held the following day in the Presidential Palace campus.

The request of H.E. President Yahya Jammeh to IRCICA Director General Assoc. Prof. Dr. Halit Eren concerning the organization of the Qur'an Al-Karim Memorization Competition was made in Istanbul during the 13th Islamic Summit Conference in April 2016. The outcome



was the organization of a large-scale event with the participation of twenty four (24) Hafidh ul Qur'an (memorizers of the Holy Qur'an) from 21 countries including the Gambia.

The International Jury Committee included leading experts on Qur'an Al-Karim recitation; Mr. Kamal Guadda from Algeria, Mr. Abdelkarim Ibrahim Awad Saleh from Egypt, Mr. Mohammed Kimo Andro from the Gambia, Mr. Mahmud Ikkawi from Lebanon, Mr. Mohammed Ali Atafay



Presentation of Architectural Heritage

from Morocco, Mr. Boussou Mamadou Alassane from Senegal, Mr. Hafiz Osman Şahin from Turkey, and Mr. İshak Daniş from Turkey.

The winners of the competition were:

First Prize - Mr. Ousman Jallo from the Gambia, \$20.000.

Second Prize - Mr. Mohammed Mitwalli from Palestine, \$19.000.

Third Prize - Mr. Anwer ben Mohammed ben Slama from Tunisia. \$18.000.

The award presentation ceremony took place in the evening of 27 July and began with the recitation of verses from the Holy Qur'an by Mr. İshak Daniş from Turkey. Afterwards, addresses were delivered by H.E. President Yahya Jammeh, Dr. Abubakar Senghore, Minister of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology of the Gambia and Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren, IRCICA Director General. Then Prof. Omar Jah, as the moderator, invited IRCICA Director General to announce the prize winners and Assoc. Prof. Eren invited H.E. President Yahya Jammeh to confer the honors. H.E. President Jammeh kindly congratulated the winners in person and presented their prizes, honorariums and certificates of participation. The President announced that the award for the winner of the competition was \$20.000; the award for the second prize winner was \$19.000; and the award for the third prize winner was \$18.000. In addition to that, every entrant to the competition was given a prize of \$3000 and every jury member was presented an honorarium of \$5000.

As the first of its kind among OIC-IRCICA activities, the Qur'an Al-Karim Memorization Competition aroused wide interest in the Gambia and Western Africa.

The complete list of participants to the Qur'an Al-Karim Memorization Competition is as follows:



| | | |
|----|------------------------------|---------------|
| 1 | Inayatullah Qanit | Afghanistan |
| 2 | Tomsaleh SALEH | Cameroon |
| 3 | Adam Ali DJIBRINE | Chad |
| 4 | Mouhamed Tahirou SANOGO | Cote d'Ivoire |
| 5 | Khader Rashad Halmo AL-MASRI | Jordan |
| 6 | Osman NAJDEH | Lebanon |
| 7 | Muhammad Afiq bin AZHARUDDIN | Malaysia |
| 8 | Hamzata TRAORE | Mali |
| 9 | Ahmed Nour Dine DEBAGH | Mauritania |
| 10 | Mahamat BELLO AMADA | Niger |
| 11 | Muhammad Ibrahim MAHAMUDU | Nigeria |
| 12 | Said Mohamed Said ALRUBKHI | Oman |

| | | |
|----|------------------------------|-----------|
| 13 | Hafiz MohammadYahya AMMAR | Pakistan |
| 14 | Mohammed S.S. MITWALI | Palestine |
| 15 | Mouhamed BA | Senegal |
| 16 | Omar Ali MOHAMUD | Somalia |
| 17 | Anwer ben Mohammad ben SLAMA | Tunisia |
| 18 | Eren PILGIR | Turkey |
| 19 | Ammar Ahmed M. Al-WESABI | Yemen |
| 20 | Adam HOUDOU | Benin |
| 21 | Muhammad Nazir CHAM | Gambia |
| 22 | Ousman TIJAN KHAN | Gambia |
| 23 | Ousman JALLOW | Gambia |
| 24 | Momodou Barham JOBE | Gambia |



Preservation of Architectural Heritage

IRCICA and Al-Turath Islamic Heritage Foundation, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: Architectural Schools on "Islamic Urban Heritage: Research, Preservation, Management", Tenth short-term school held in Morocco

16-30 July 2016

The tenth program and sixth summer school within the framework of the series of short-term architectural schools conducted jointly by IRCICA and Al-Turath Islamic Heritage Foundation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under the title of "Islamic Urban Heritage: Research, Preservation and Management" was organized in Morocco. The program was organized in collaboration with the National Built Heritage Center in Riyadh, the Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization in Rabat and The Assilah Forum Foundation in Morocco. The Summer School was held between 16 and 30 July 2016 and the program included office work, work on sites, lectures, panels and study trips. The first part of the program, from 17 to 23 June 2016, took place in Assilah. The second part was a workshop where traditional material (stone, mud, wood, glass, cloth) were used, in collaboration with the



Arab Industrial and Mining Organisation and the Academy of Traditional Arts, in the King Hasan II Mosque, in Rabat, between July 24 and July 26. The third part of the summer school consisted of a study trip to World Heritage sites in Morocco namely Fez, Meknes, Marrakesh and Casablanca between 27 and 30 July 2016.



Meetings, Cooperation and Visits

Visit of IRCICA Director General Assoc. Prof. Dr. Halit Eren to the Speaker of Parliament, Deputy Prime Minister and Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic of Turkey

18 August 2016

IRCICA Director General Assoc. Prof. Dr. Halit Eren paid a courtesy visit on 18 August 2016 to H.E. Mr. İsmail Kahraman, Speaker of the Turkish Parliament. The same day, Dr. Eren paid a courtesy visit to H.E. Mr. Veysi Kaynak, Deputy Prime Minister, to congratulate him on his taking the office. Dr. Eren was also among the guests in the function that the Deputy Prime Minister offered in honor of the heads of diplomatic missions accredited in Turkey. Within the framework of his official contacts in Ankara, Dr. Eren also visited H.E. Ambassador Ahmet Yıldız, Turkey's Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and congratulated him for his new appointment. Dr. Eren briefed the Speaker of the Turkish Parliament, Deputy Prime Minister and Deputy Minister of Foreign



Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren with H.E. Speaker of the Turkish Parliament, Mr. İsmail Kahraman

Affairs on IRCICA's ongoing activities aimed at furthering collaboration with the Muslim world and contributing to intercultural dialogue.



Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren with H.E. Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Veysi Kaynak



Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren with H.E. Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Ahmet Yıldız

The Advisor to the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Director of Iranian National Library, H.E. Mr. Amir Salihi and the Cultural Attaché of Iran to Turkey, H.E. Mr. Abdulrizza Rashid, visited IRCICA

11 May 2016

On 11 May, the Advisor to the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Director of Iranian National Library H.E. Mr. Amir Salihi and Cultural Attaché of Iran to Turkey H.E. Abdulrizza Rashid paid an official visit to IRCICA. IRCICA Director General Assoc. Prof. Dr. Halit Eren introduced IRCICA activities including publications, research projects and congresses and underlined the importance of increased cooperation between the educational and cultural institutions in the Islamic Republic of Iran and IRCICA. H.E. Amir Salihi expressed his appreciation of IRCICA activities and emphasized the importance of more intensive cooperation between IRCICA and the educational and cultural institutions of the Islamic Republic of Iran, including the Iranian National Library.



Visit of the Minister of Energy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, H.E. Hamid Chitchian to IRCICA

19 May 2016

The Minister of Energy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, H.E. Hamid Chitchian paid a courtesy visit to IRCICA on 19 May 2016. IRCICA Director General Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren introduced IRCICA activities to the Energy Minister and briefed him concerning the activities of IRCICA realized in collaboration with various institutions from the Islamic Republic of Iran. H.E. Hamid Chitchian expressed his appreciation for the wide range of activities that IRCICA manages with its wide institutional network and congratulated Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eren for IRCICA's contributions to research on Islamic history, art and culture.



Visit of Palestinian Foreign Minister, H.E. Mr. Riad Al Malki, to IRCICA

24 May 2016

The Foreign Minister of the Palestinian Administration H.E. Mr. Riad Al Malki paid an official visit to IRCICA, along with a delegation including Palestinian Ambassador to Turkey H.E. Mr. Faed Mustapha and the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations in New York, H.E. Ambassador Dr. Riyad Mansour. IRCICA Director General Assoc. Prof. Dr. Halit Eren hosted the Minister at IRCICA premises and gave a briefing on IRCICA's activities concerning the preservation of cultural and historical heritage and social development in Al Quds, Jerusalem and Palestine in general. H.E. Mr. Riad Al Malki expressed his deep appreciation for IRCICA's long-

term contribution to peace-building efforts in Palestine, preservation of cultural heritage and social development. He also commended the archival work that IRCICA has been conducting to highlight the evolution of social and cultural life in Al Quds and Palestine since the Ottoman period.



Visit of a Delegation from Albanian Institute for Islamic Thought and Civilization to IRCICA

2 June 2016

A delegation from the Albanian Institute for Islamic Thought and Civilization paid a courtesy visit to IRCICA on 2 June 2016. The delegation consisted of Dr Faruk Bozova, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Dr. Ramiz Zekaj, Chairman of the Institute and Prof. Muharrem Deshgiu, Member of the AIITC Board. The institutional collaboration between IRCICA and AIITC has deep historical roots, which resulted in the publication of a two-volume book on "History of the Ottoman State, Society and Civilization". During the visit, IRCICA Director General Assoc. Prof. Dr. Halit Eren and the AIITC Delegation expressed their wish in the context of other projects of common interest for both institutions.



Visit of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) Delegation headed by Prof. Li Peilin, Vice President of CASS, to IRCICA

3 June 2016

An extensive delegation from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) led by Vice President Prof. Li Peilin paid a courtesy visit to IRCICA on June 3. The CASS delegation included Prof. Li Peilin (Vice President, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences); Prof. Yang Guang (Director General, Institute of West-Asian and African Studies, CASS); Prof. Zhang Yi (Deputy Director General, Institute of Sociology, CASS); Mrs. Zhou Yunfan (Deputy Director General, Bureau of International Cooperation, CASS); Assoc. Prof. Xu Xiujun (Associate Research Fellow, Institute of World Economy and Politics, CASS); Mr. Hu Moran (Program Officer, Bureau of International Cooperation, CASS).



IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren hosted the delegation at IRCICA premises in Yıldız Palace and bilateral talks were held concerning the organization of the "Third Congress on China and the Muslim World". So far, CASS and IRCICA successfully collaborated on two major international congresses on the same theme, first of which was held in Beijing and the second in Istanbul. During the deliberations, it was decided that the Third Congress shall be held in China but the location and exact timing is to be decided later.

Visit of the Director of Devawongse Institute of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of Thailand, Ms. Pattorat Hongtong, to IRCICA

15 June 2016

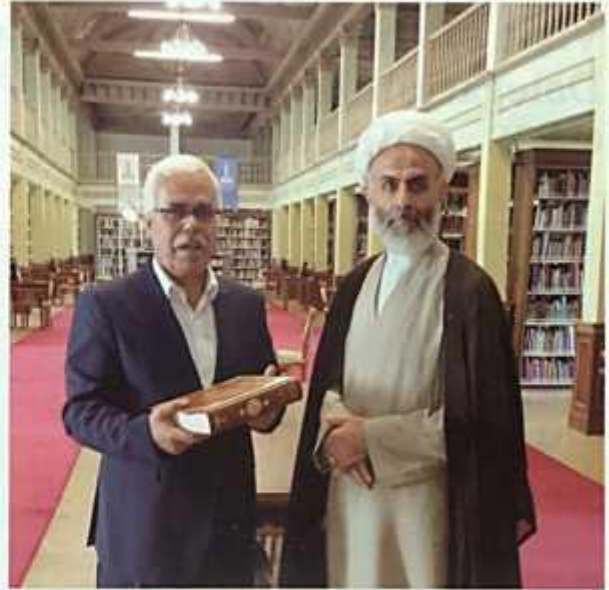
The Director of the Devawongse Institute of Foreign Affairs affiliated with the Foreign Ministry of the Kingdom of Thailand, Ms. Pattorat Hongtong, paid a courtesy visit to IRCICA. Ms. Hongtong and IRCICA Director General Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren had intensive talks on the ways to maintain and deepen existing institutional collaboration between the two institutions. IRCICA and the Devawongse Institute have successfully organized an international symposium in Bangkok in February 2016 on "Peaceful Coexistence in Multicultural Societies" and follow-up conferences are being currently planned by the two institutions.



Visit of the Director of Iranian Waqf Authority, H.E. Muhammed Muhammedi to IRCICA

16 June 2016

The Director of the Iranian Waqf Authority H.E. Mr. Muhammed Muhammedi paid a courtesy visit to IRCICA on 16 June 2016. IRCICA Director General Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren and H.E. Mr Muhammed Muhammedi exchanged views on potential ways of improving institutional collaboration between the Iranian Waqf Authority and IRCICA.



Dr. Stefano De Caro, Director General of ICCROM, Mr Mounir Bouchnaki, Director of the UNESCO Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage in Bahrain and Dr. Zeki Aslan, Director of the ICCROM-ATHAR Regional Conservation Center in Sharjah, visited IRCICA

12 July 2016

Dr. Stefano De Caro, Director General of ICCROM (International Centre for the Study of Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property), Mr Mounir Bouchnaki, Director of the UNESCO Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage in Bahrain and Dr. Zeki Aslan, Director of the ICCROM-ATHAR Regional Conservation Center in Sharjah paid a courtesy visit to IRCICA on 12 July 2016. IRCICA Director General Assoc. Prof. Dr. Halit Eren exchanged views with Dr. De Caro, Mr. Bouchnaki and Mr. Aslan concerning collaborative activities among IRCICA, UNESCO and ICCROM-ATHAR with a specific focus on the preservation of cultural and architectural heritage in historical cities such as Al Quds and Aleppo, as well as strategies of preservation in the Islamic world in general.



A Framework Agreement was also signed between IRCICA and ICCROM through ICCROM-ATHAR Regional Conservation Centre in Sharjah regarding the implementation of joint activities in the area of cultural heritage in the Arab and Muslim world.

Farewell Visit of the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand to Turkey, H.E. Mr. Tharit Charungvat to IRCICA upon the completion of his term in office

16 August 2016

Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand to Turkey, H.E. Mr. Tharit Charungvat paid a farewell visit to IRCICA on 16 August 2016 upon the completion of his term in office. IRCICA Director General Assoc. Prof. Dr. Halit Eren thanked H.E. Mr. Charungvat for his unwavering efforts aimed at forming cultural and intellectual bridges between the Kingdom of Thailand and the Muslim world via collaborative projects initiated with the contribution of IRCICA. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Halit Eren stressed that IRCICA's collaboration with authorities and research centers from Thailand will continue uninterrupted and wished Mr. Charungvat success in his future life.



Visit of Dr. Mehdi Muhammedzadeh, Lecturer in Tebriz University and the Deputy Mayor of Tebriz, Islamic Republic of Iran to IRCICA

18 August 2016

Dr. Mehdi Muhammedzadeh, Lecturer in Tebriz University and the Deputy Mayor of the City of Tebriz paid a courtesy visit to IRCICA on 18 August 2016. IRCICA Director General Assoc. Prof. Dr. Halit Eren exchanged views with Dr. Muhammedzadeh on institutional collaboration between IRCICA and the University of Tebriz in the Islamic Republic of Iran.



AL QUDS in Muhimme Registers (1545-1594), Volume I

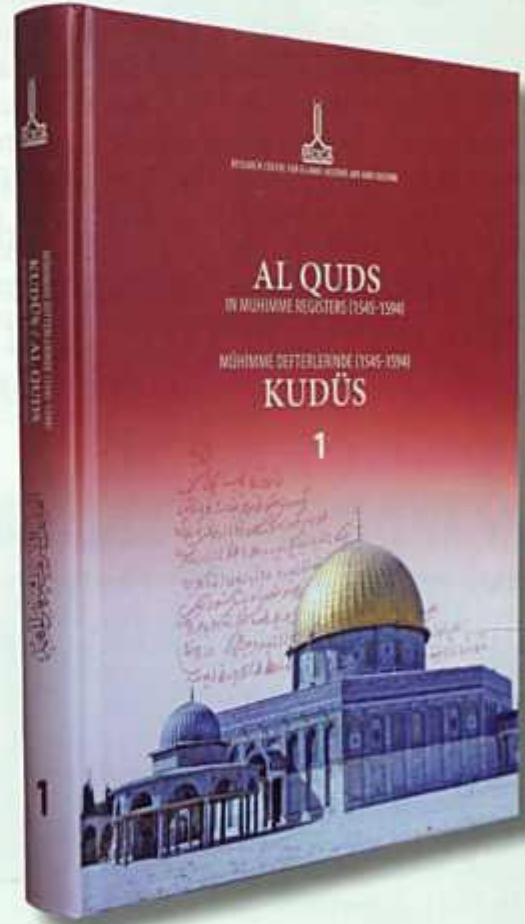
prepared for publication by Assoc. Prof. Murat Uluskan, Assoc. Prof. Yüksel Çelik, Assoc. Prof. Davut Hut and Assoc. Prof. Cengiz Tomar; Editor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Halit Eren, Istanbul, 2016; 385 p.

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

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

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

IRCICA aims to highlight the history of Al Quds under Ottoman administration by presenting these documents to the attention of scholars and researchers in their originals, transcriptions, and English, Arabic and Turkish summaries. This book contains the documents in the Mühimme Registers concerning Al Quds in the 16th century.



IRCICA aims to publish historical registers concerning the history of Al Quds under Ottoman rule from different centuries as soon as possible.

Series on the Sharia Court Registers of Jerusalem 3 new volumes: Registers no. 67, 191 and 201

prepared for publication by Ibrahim Rabaia, preface by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Halit Eren
IRCICA, Istanbul, 2016 (in Arabic)



IRCICA publishes a series of volumes on the registers of the Sharia courts held in Al-Quds/ Jerusalem during the Ottoman period. There are altogether 412 registers, dating from the period from 1529 to 1909. These registers are valuable first-hand sources that record cases reflecting life in the region, the relations between the local administration and the people, between different faith communities and between people of different social statuses, and many other subjects. Therefore they reliably complement other sources for studies on those aspects of history. The index of terms and the indexes of place names, communities and businesses are useful additions to the books. The first volume which was published in 2013 is related to the register no. 107 which refers to the period from 5 August 1623 to 10 April 1624 and contains cases reflecting social and economic life in the region.

The three volumes published in 2014 contain the studies on the following registers: register no. 119 of Al-Quds Sharia Court dated (23 Jan. 1632-13 Nov. 1632), register no. 149 dated (20 Nov. 1653-20 Dec. 1654), register no. 183 dated (22 Jan. 1680-20 Feb. 1681).

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

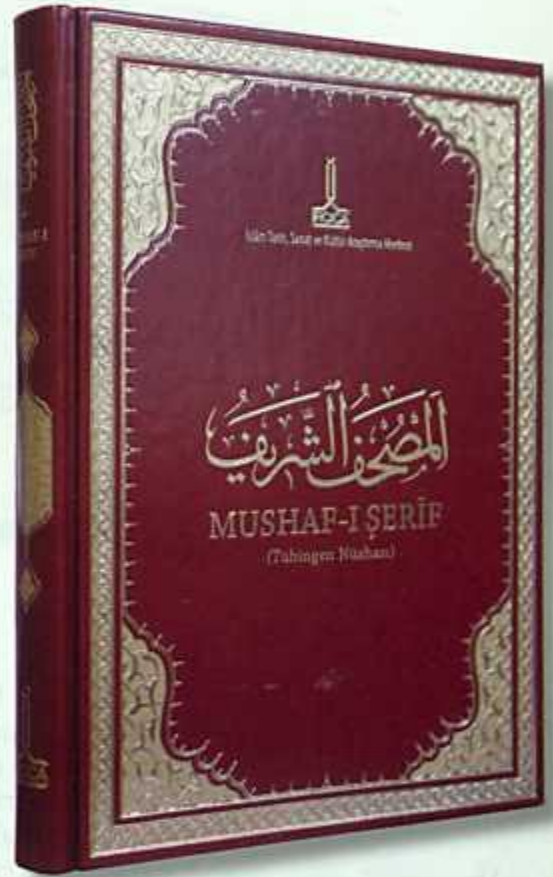
The volumes published in 2016 are related to Al Quds Sharia Court registers no. 67 dated (10 May 1587 - 10 Dec. 1588), no. 191 dated (6 Sep. 1688 - 11 Jan. 1690) and no. 201 dated (Aug. 1701 - July 1703). They have been prepared with the same methodology as in the previous volumes.

Al-Mushaf Al-Sharif (Tubingen copy)

prepared for publication by Dr. Tayyar Altıkulaç,
IRCICA, Istanbul, 2016; 50, [1], 309, 54 pp. (Text in Arabic and Turkish)

IRCICA's research program on the earliest copies of the Holy Quran continues. It aims to trace the process of transmission of the Quran starting from the first manuscripts and examine features as to script, orthography and physical composition, among others, with reference to the historical periods and geographical locations. In this context IRCICA published six books until the present, relating to: the following copies: those 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) and now, the early fragment located at Tubingen University Library in Germany (2016).

The fragment at Tubingen University Library is estimated to be dating from the period 649-675 AD. In volume, it is approximately one-fourth of the contents of the Quran. The whereabouts of the remaining parts of the manuscript are unknown. The script accords with the rules of the Rasm Uthmani. In this publication, Dr. Altıkulaç, a scholar in Quranic studies of international renown, establishes its characteristics after a thorough analysis of its features. He compares it with other manuscripts studied within the framework of this project. He takes into account and quotes from earlier studies made on this manuscript by



specialists in Europe. He describes its calligraphic features, orthographic differences as compared to established usage, its particularities as to vowel signs, dots and symbols and their significance. The study contributes importantly to knowledge on the history of dissemination of the Holy Quran. At the same time, its conclusions disprove the attempts made by some orientalists to raise questions of the authenticity of the Quranic text.

World Bibliography of Translations of the Holy Quran in Manuscript Form III (Translations and Exegeses in Turkish)

Bibliography on the Holy Quran series no. 4, Istanbul, 2016, xviii, 511 p., 29 cm. (in English and Turkish)

IRCICA's activity program for studies on the Holy Quran includes bibliographical compilations on printed and manuscript translations and interpretations of the Holy Quran. Its first outcome, the World Bibliography of Translations of the Holy Quran. Printed Translations 1515-1980, was published in 1986. A revised and enlarged edition of this book will appear in the course of 2016.

In the mid-1980s, IRCICA launched a similar project for the translations and interpretations of the Holy Quran that are in manuscript form. As a result, first to be published was the World Bibliography of Translations of the Holy Quran in Manuscript Form I (Turkish, Persian and Urdu Translations Excluded). It recorded 293 translations in 58 languages.

The second volume, the World Bibliography of Translations of the Holy Quran in Manuscript Form II (Translations in Urdu), compiled by Mr. Ahmad Khan

(Pakistan) and containing 226 entries, appeared in 2009.

Now IRCICA presents the third volume, an extensive one titled World Bibliography of Translations of the Holy Quran in Manuscript Form III (Translations and Exegeses in Turkish). It has been compiled from various library catalogues, studies and publications. Presently in preparation by IRCICA and next to appear is a fourth volume of the same series, which will be on translations and interpretations in the Persian language preserved in institutions, libraries, public and private collections around the world.

