

September-December 2014, No. 95



Newsletter



OIC RESEARCH CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC HISTORY, ART AND CULTURE

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“Preservation of Islamic Heritage of Al-Quds” conference

Photograph exhibition

Istanbul, 27-28 November 2014

“IRCICA International Gathering on the Art of Calligraphy”

12-15 September 2014

“International Festival for Artisans-at-Work”

organized jointly with Pendik Municipality,

Istanbul, on 20-28 September 2014

“History and cultures of Muslim peoples around the Black Sea”:

a congress held in Bucharest, Romania, 4-5 November 2014

Meetings, cooperation

Series of lectures at Minzu University of China

Participation in the Fifth OIC Conference on Women’s Role in the
Development of OIC Member States,

Baku, Azerbaijan, 20-21 October 2014

IRCICA Publications

Newsletter



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IRCICA publications

Editorial

During the last quarter of 2014, series of activities in two main, distinct areas of IRCICA's work have concurred, bringing about a diversified calendar of events. One of these areas is the "Preservation of the Islamic Heritage of Al-Quds" and the other one, "Arts and Handicrafts". In relation with the first, we organized a package of events addressing the theme from different angles: an international conference was held late November, with the participation of the Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey Prof. Numan Kurtulmuş and the Deputy Prime Minister of the State of Palestine Dr. Ziyad Abu Amru. It had a wide scope covering the two crucial and complementary aspects of action in support of the cause of Al-Quds and Palestine: first, reiterating the importance and reaffirming the continuity of support and cooperation by states and their international organizations to this cause, and second, discussion on concrete possibilities and technical aspects of preservation, a discussion that was based on the outcomes of architectural studies and workshops conducted by IRCICA on the subject. Furthermore, the 2014 Annual Seminar of IRCICA's long-term program "Al-Quds/Jerusalem 2015" was placed within the framework of this conference. During the same period, an exhibition of historical photographs of Al-Quds was arranged by IRCICA on the sidelines of the 20th Session of the OIC Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC), in Istanbul, showing Al-Quds' built structures, urban landscape and aspects of social life in the past centuries. The exhibition was opened by the President of Turkey H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in the presence of the Secretary General of OIC H.E. Iyad Ameen Madani and Ministers of the Member States participating in the COMCEC session. These meetings and activities re-emphasized the necessity of devoting constant attention to the cause of Al-Quds and Palestine under all its dimensions including that of the preservation of its Islamic identity as reflected in cultural and architectural heritage assets and sanctities, on top of them al-Aqsa Mosque.

As is known, IRCICA undertook multi-dimensional activities on the subject of Islamic history and heritage in Al-Quds and Palestine. These include research projects on such themes of continual relevance such as the history Muslim foundations and properties in the region, buildings and other architectural structures. They also include the publication of collections of historical photographs that depict urban structures and social life in the region as they appeared at different times. Another important outcome of these activities is the reports resulting from IRCICA's field surveys on historical buildings and socio-economic conditions in Muslim quarters. Distinct from these we have the above-mentioned multidisciplinary program titled "Al-Quds/Jerusalem 2015" which includes theoretical and practical work. Included in it are annual seminars, field missions, architectural studios and workshops coordinated by IRCICA at universities during each academic year and dealing mainly on the subject of restoration and conservation of Al-Quds monuments. This program represents an authentic

initiative concretized at various levels from training of architects and urban planners to presentations at international forums and addressing public opinion as well as academic circles. IRCICA will carry on with these activities.

The second area that coincidentally came under focus during the period under review was related to Arts and Handicrafts. In the field of Islamic arts, an outstanding event was organized by IRCICA titled the International Gathering on the Art of Calligraphy. It reflected the outcomes of IRCICA's endeavours over the past years aimed at reviving, preserving and promoting the classical Islamic art of calligraphy. These endeavours took form in diverse activities including international competitions, training programs, studies and publications. A new step was taken during the Gathering in an effort to further strengthen cooperation and coordination among calligraphers, by formalizing linkages and exchanges among them under the umbrella of a Muslim World Union of Calligraphers. Meanwhile IRCICA continues to organize training programs, publish calligraphy exercise books and other references in order to help upgrade calligraphers' skills in different styles of writing. It also continues to organize exhibitions in different countries to promote the artists. I am pleased to add that in 2015 we will launch a new international calligraphy competition, which will be tenth in the series.

As regards Handicrafts, IRCICA's Craft Development Program continues in full swing organizing festivals in various OIC Member States and comprising exhibitions, awards, seminars and publications. This issue has a report on the International Festival for Artisans-at-Work that we organized jointly with Pendik Municipality, Istanbul in September 2014 with the participation of 52 countries. In the context of this program we have published two new books resulting from events organized in 2013-2014 in the context of this program, namely the Tehran-Tabriz International Congress on Features, Characteristics and Cultural and Economic Contribution of Arts and Handicrafts which was organized jointly with the Organization for Culture and Islamic Relations, Ministry of Culture, Islamic Republic of Iran, and the Kuwait International Exhibition of Prayer Carpets organized jointly with Kuwait Islamic Arts Centre through the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs of the State of Kuwait. The Craft Development Program will continue with new events in 2015 on which we shall report in due course.

As it embarks on its 2015 work program, IRCICA is at the same time already preparing its work program proposal for 2016: the proposal will be examined and finalized by the Governing Board of IRCICA on its 30th session early March before its adoption by the Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC Member States at its 2015 annual session. With best wishes,

*Assoc. Prof. Dr. Halit Eren
Director General, IRCICA*

“Preservation of Islamic Heritage of Al-Quds” conference and documentary exhibition

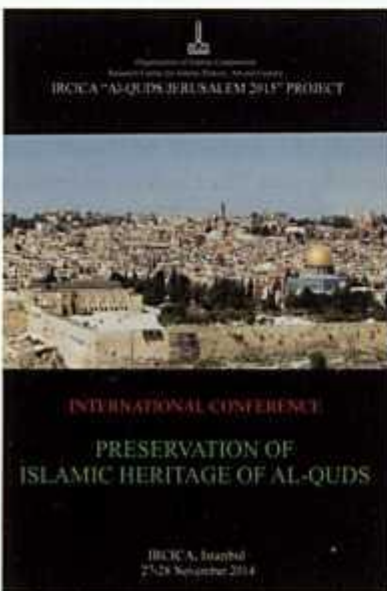
27-28 November 2014

Defending the cause of Palestine and al-Quds is the founding motive and foremost objective of the OIC and consequently, of IRCICA. In its capacity as the OIC's cultural organ, the latter has implemented many and varied activities aimed at supporting the historical and cultural dimensions of this cause, disseminating information, arousing awareness in world opinion and promoting international efforts towards preservation of the Islamic identity and heritage of Al-Quds and Palestine.

An international conference on “Preservation of Islamic heritage of Al-Quds” was organized by IRCICA on 28 November 2014 at its headquarters in Yıldız Palace, Istanbul. The main objective of the conference was to encourage renewed coordinated efforts on the part of international organizations concerned in order to monitor the condition, register and preserve the Islamic cultural and architectural heritage of Al-Quds. Concern over the issue deepens day by day in the face of continuing attacks perpetrated by Israel against Muslims, their properties and holy structures.

Prof. Numan Kurtulmuş, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey, and Dr. Ziyad Abu Amru, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Culture of the State of Palestine addressed the opening session of the conference.

Reports and solution-oriented recommendations resulting from IRCICA's research and workshops program titled



“A l - Q u d s / Jerusalem 2015” conducted since 2005 were among the background documents of the conference.

In his opening address, Director General of IRCICA Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren said that the conference aimed at exploring new possibilities of international cooperation for the purposes of



Prof. Numan Kurtulmuş,
Deputy Prime Minister of Turkey

recording, restoring and preserving the structures which are the legacy of the centuries-long Islamic history of Al-Quds and represent its Islamic identity. Multiplying efforts for the preservation of this heritage is an immediate need especially in the face of the constantly growing attacks and oppressive measures applied by Israel against Muslims' sacred shrines. “Our conference is part of a continual effort for preservation of the Islamic heritage of Al-Quds and improvement of the conditions of Muslim quarters. It is conducted around the axis of international cooperation and scientific studies. In this regard we are exploring new possibilities of international collaboration” said Dr. Eren.

Addressing the conference, the Deputy Prime Minister of Turkey Prof. Numan Kurtulmuş underlined the importance and sensitivity Turkey attaches to the cause of Palestine and Al-Quds. Stating that the oppressive policies and aggressive actions of Israel which further increased in the recent period are an obstacle to the peace process in Palestine and thus to peace in the Middle East and peace in the world, the Deputy Prime Minister underlined the need for Islamic countries to be more sensitive and attentive than ever on this issue. He reaffirmed that the Republic of Turkey, with its 77 million people and regardless of the latter's varying political orientations, is fully supportive of the cause of Palestine.

Dr. Ziyad Abu Amru, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Culture of Palestine, expressed his appreciation to IRCICA for its efforts to help protect the Islamic identity of Al-Quds, assist in its economic development, record and preserve its cultural and architectural heritage. Recalling examples of Israel's



Dr. Ziyad Abu Amru,
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of
Culture of Palestine



Prof. İsmail Yüksek, Rector of Yıldız Technical
University



Ambassador Amjad Al-Adaileh, Ambassador
of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in
Ankara

disrespectful and aggressive attitudes towards sanctities and its continuing Israelification policies, he said that international community must urge Israel to end such practices, respect international legitimacy and act in conformity with UN Security Council resolutions.

Prof. İsmail Yüksek, Rector of Yıldız Technical University, spoke on behalf of the rectors participating in the conference. Referring to verses of the Holy Quran, he recalled the significance of Al-Quds for Muslims and the importance of ethics concerning the conservation and use of the holy shrines. He said the conference was being held at a most appropriate time.

Dr. Jukka Jokilehto, representative of the Director General of UNESCO's ICCROM (International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property, based in Rome) briefed the audience on restoration activities ICCROM conducts at Masjid al-Aqsa and training programs it organizes on the subject of restoration.

Ambassador Amjad Al-Adaileh, Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in Ankara, outlined the efforts made by Jordan since the aftermath of World War I with special focus on restoration and rehabilitation activities conducted in Masjid al-Aqsa and the Dome of the Rock.

At the end of the opening session, IRCICA Director General Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren presented the Deputy Prime Minister of Turkey and the Deputy Prime Minister of Palestine with copies of IRCICA's publication titled *Al-Quds in Historical Photographs* (2009).

The conference continued with working sessions where the report of the 2014 Annual Experts Seminar of IRCICA's "Al-Quds/Jerusalem 2015" program of research and architectural workshops was presented, followed by exchanges of views and formulation of recommendations.



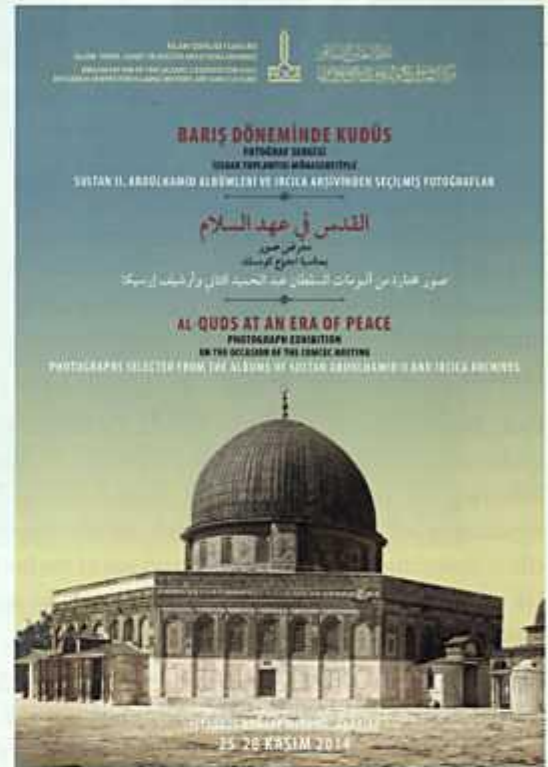
Presentation of the album of historical photographs of Al-Quds published by IRCICA and a calligraphic work bearing the Quranic verse 49/13 which IRCICA adopted as its motto

IRCICA's exhibition of historical photographs of Al-Quds opened by H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of Turkey

One of IRCICA's collections of documentary materials relating to the history of Al-Quds and Palestine is the set of reproductions from the Yıldız Palace Albums (late 19th-early 20th century) and various other collections preserved in its archives. This set of photographs was introduced to ministerial delegations from OIC Member States on the sidelines of the 30th Ministerial Session of the OIC Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) held at Istanbul Congress Center, from 25-28 November 2014.

The President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdoğan opened this exhibition titled "Al-Quds during the Ottoman period in historical photographs" in the morning of 27 November, in the presence of OIC Secretary General Mr. Iyad Ameen Madani and Ministers attending the session, after delivering the inaugural address of the Ministerial Session in his capacity as the Chairman of COMCEC. President Erdoğan visited the exhibition accompanied by the Minister of Development Mr. Cevdet Yılmaz, the Minister of Culture and Tourism Mr. Ömer Çelik, IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren and members of ministerial delegations from the Member States. The President also opened the "Palestine Trade and Business Expo 2014" adjacent to the exhibition hall.

On the eve of the Conference on "Preservation of Islamic Heritage of Al-Quds" which was held at IRCICA on 28 November, this exhibition offered a glimpse at the city with its physical and human aspects with reference to a period of multi-faith peaceful coexistence in its history.



Opening of the exhibition on the history of Al-Quds by H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, in presence of H.E. Mr. Iyad Ameen Madani, Secretary General of OIC; and from left to right, Mr. Ömer Çelik, Minister of Culture and Tourism of Turkey, Mr. Muhammad Mustafa, Minister of National Economy and Deputy Prime Minister of Palestine, Mr. Cevdet Yılmaz, Minister of Development of Turkey and Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren, IRCICA Director General

IRCICA International Gathering on the Art of Calligraphy

Istanbul, 12-15 September 2014

The IRCICA International Gathering on the Art of Calligraphy was organized in Istanbul from 12-15 September 2014. It was designed as a composite, festival-like event comprising panels, workshops, exhibitions, presentations of *Ijaza* (license to practice and teach calligraphy) and study visits. The Gathering brought together calligraphers from around the world, including: prize winners in IRCICA's calligraphy competitions and artists trained under IRCICA's coordination; representatives of calligraphers' societies; experts of this art and art collectors. It was opened by the Minister of Culture and Tourism of Turkey Mr. Ömer Çelik. Present at the opening were Dr. Abubaker Ahmed Bagader Al-Amoudi, Director General of Cultural, Social and Family Affairs at the OIC General Secretariat representing H.E. Mr. Iyad Ameen Madani, Secretary General of the OIC, the members of the Governing Board of IRCICA and guests from governmental, scholarly and media circles. The Gathering was attended by more than 300 participants in total, from the following countries: Algeria, Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, China, Egypt, Germany, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Libya, Malaysia, Morocco, Pakistan, Oman, Qatar, Senegal, Singapore, Spain, Sudan, Syria, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, USA and Yemen.

One of the main events of the program was an international calligraphy exhibition opened at Dolmabahçe Art Gallery in Beşiktaş on 12 September 2014. The next day, 13 September, the Minister of Culture and Tourism of Turkey Mr. Ömer Çelik opened the Gathering with an address, during the ceremony held at Grand Cevahir Hotel, Istanbul where he expressed his pleasure that calligraphers from around the world had assembled on the occasion. After the opening addresses, 15 members of IRCICA's calligraphy competition juries were presented plaques of appreciation. During the same ceremony, *Ijaza* (the traditional calligraphy license) were given to the 38 calligraphers from 12 countries having completed training courses coordinated by IRCICA in the course of 2014. Following the opening ceremony, two panel sessions addressed by scholars of art and masters of calligraphy drew a large public. An exhibition of calligraphies by these master calligraphers was arranged in galleries adjacent to the conference hall.

On the third day, 14 September, two series of activities were held simultaneously: four sessions of "conversations with the masters" and calligraphy workshops conducted by master calligraphers. Study visits were made to the Holy Relics and Calligraphy section of Topkapı Palace Museum and Sabancı Museum Calligraphy Collection. The Gathering program concluded with the establishment of the Union of Calligraphers.



A concert by Doğan Dikmen Group featured compositions by calligrapher-musicians.

Opening ceremony, presentation of *Ijaza* and plaques of appreciation (13 September 2014):

The opening ceremony at Grand Cevahir Hotel started with the recitation of verses from the Holy Quran. In his welcoming address, IRCICA Director General Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren pointed out that one of the main tasks of IRCICA is to promote and help develop the Islamic arts. He outlined the main components of IRCICA's activity programs on arts including studies, symposiums, exhibitions, competitions and training programs on all classical Islamic arts, calligraphy in particular. He said that IRCICA gives special focus to calligraphy in recognition of its prominent place among the arts of Muslim societies. Through these activities, IRCICA came to be known around the world as a focal point for Islamic calligraphy. Conscious of the responsibilities this entails, IRCICA undertook to organize the International Gathering on the Art of Calligraphy, to further promote interest in this art, encourage connections and communication between the institutions concerned and among calligraphers.

The representative of the OIC Secretary General H.E. Mr. Iyad Ameen Madani, Dr. Abubaker Ahmed Bagader Al-Amoudi, Director General of Cultural, Social and Family Affairs at the OIC General Secretariat said that this large-scale event organized by IRCICA in the field of calligraphy was carrying the artists from the past to the future by opening new horizons in the practice of their art and in their communications with each other. Dr. Al-Amoudi underlined the importance of promoting understanding and knowledge of this art among all interested people through activities such as this Gathering. He



Dr. Abubaker Ahmed Bagader Al-Amoudi,
Director General of Cultural, Social and Family
Affairs at the OIC



Dr. Abdul Aziz Abdullah Turki al-Subaie
(Qatar), Chairman of IRCICA Governing Board



Mr. Ömer Çelik
Minister of Culture and Tourism of Turkey

said this learning enables one to grasp the artistic value and appreciate the beauty of a work of calligraphy. He said that IRCICA also promotes the other classical arts and all diverse aspects of the Islamic culture in general.

The Chairman of IRCICA Governing Board Dr. Abdul Aziz Abdullah Turki al-Subaie (from the State of Qatar) gave an address in which he thanked all the participating artists for joining this Gathering. He said this spirit of togetherness and sense of solidarity that had brought them together was at the same time evidence of their attachment to their art. It was an indicator of their artistic capacity and potential for advancement. On the whole, this is always likely to make a positive contribution to society, he said.

In his opening address, the Minister of Culture and Tourism of Turkey Mr. Ömer Çelik pointed to the special importance of calligraphy for the Muslim world. Given that speaking of arts references would be made during the Gathering to Muslims' history and culture, the Minister said that for any community to claim a political presence in future, this claim must necessarily take the concept of civilization into account. If a community does not have any aim relating to civilization, then it cannot aim any societal or political existence. He said that the subject at hand that day had to do with how and to what extent the Muslim world would be able to pursue its aims concerning its

culture and civilization. The artists and the specialists having assembled there were taking a firm stand, displaying a strong commitment to meet this challenge. After the speech, 15 members of the juries of calligraphy competitions organized by IRCICA received IRCICA's plaques of appreciation from the hands of Minister Çelik. These Jury members are Abdulridha Baheya Dawood, Ahmed Ziya Ibrahim, Belaid Hamidi, Davut Bektaş, Fuad Başar, Hasan Çelebi, Jalil Rasouli, Mehmed Özçay, Mohammed Cherifi, Mosaad Mostafa Khodeir, Obida Albanki, Rasheed Butt, Uğur Derman, Yousif Thanoon Abdulla.



Above: Presentation of a calligraphic work bearing the Quranic verse 49/13 which IRCICA adopted as its motto, to Mr. Ömer Çelik, Minister of Culture and Tourism of Turkey
Below: The jury members of IRCICA's calligraphy competitions, with the Minister of Culture and Tourism of Turkey Mr. Ömer Çelik

Ijaza ceremony (13 September 2014):

The opening ceremony included the presentation of Ijaza to 38 calligraphers from 12 countries. The Ijaza is a license or diploma delivered by the teacher in the traditional way and authorizing the pupil to practice and teach this art in the specific writing style(s) it relates to. Until mid-2014, 108 calligraphers in total from 34 countries were given Ijaza after having received training under IRCICA's coordination.

Some of the award winners in past competitions and some of these trainees have been teaching calligraphy in their home countries, which formed what can be termed a world-wide "IRCICA Generations of Calligraphers". With those of that day, the total number of calligraphers having received Ijaza in different styles of writing under IRCICA's coordination reached 146, from 46 countries.

Ijaza distributed during the Gathering

Calligrapher	Country	Teacher	Style of writing
Salim Hamidi	Morocco	Hasan Çelebi	Taliq
Awni Adel Abbas Alsalehy	Iraq	Fuad Başar	Thuluth Naskh
Mevlay Abdurrahim	Algeria	Fuad Başar, M'hmed Safarbati	Thuluth Naskh
Aydın Kızılyar	Turkey	Mehmed Özçay	Thuluth Naskh
Ahmed Fares Rezzq	Egypt	Mehmed Özçay	Thuluth Naskh
Ayuob Khaleel Qoshje	Iraq	Davud Bektaş	Thuluth Naskh
Mohamed Belkasim ben Bouabdellah	Algeria	Ferhat Kurlu, Mümtaz Durdu	Thuluth Naskh
Safouh AlMustafa	Syria	Ferhat Kurlu, Mümtaz Durdu	Thuluth Naskh
Syahriyansyah bin Sirajuddin	Indonesia	Ferhat Kurlu, Mümtaz Durdu	Thuluth Naskh
Ahmad Zafuan bin Embong	Malaysia	Ferhat Kurlu, Mümtaz Durdu	Thuluth Naskh
Pablo Casado	Spain	Ferhat Kurlu, Mümtaz Durdu	Thuluth Naskh
Şhmus Kaçan	Turkey	Mümtaz Durdu, ferhat Kurlu	Thuluth Naskh
Mustafa Demir	Turkey	Ahmet Kutluhan	Thuluth Naskh
Yunus Bayram	Turkey	Ahmet Kutluhan	Thuluth Naskh
Ms. Emine Kasadar Akbaş	Turkey	Ahmet Kutluhan	Thuluth Naskh
Ahmet fazıl yağlı	Turkey	Abdulkadir Sakoğlu, Fuad Başar	Thuluth Naskh
Ms. Ayten Odabaş Kaya	Turkey	Abdulkadir Sakoğlu, Fuad Başar	Thuluth Naskh
Bekir Er	Turkey	Abdulkadir Sakoğlu, Fuad Başar	Thuluth Naskh
Emetullah Aktaş	Turkey	Abdulkadir Sakoğlu, Fuad Başar	Thuluth Naskh
Ms. Emine Tapar Özcan	Turkey	Abdulkadir Sakoğlu, Fuad Başar	Thuluth Naskh
Ms. Gülhan Çetin	Turkey	Abdulkadir Sakoğlu, Fuad Başar	Thuluth Naskh
Mustafa Pekşen	Turkey	Abdulkadir Sakoğlu, Fuad Başar	Thuluth Naskh
Özgür Çetintaş	Turkey	Abdulkadir Sakoğlu, Fuad Başar	Thuluth Naskh
Ms. Sevban Esra Sari	Turkey	Abdulkadir Sakoğlu, Fuad Başar	Thuluth Naskh
Ms. Sevilay Sarigüzel Şen	Turkey	Abdulkadir Sakoğlu, Fuad Başar	Thuluth Naskh
Ms. Zeynep Mergen Kansız	Turkey	Abdulkadir Sakoğlu, Fuad Başar	Thuluth Naskh
Hasan Muhammad Darwish	Syria	Haytham Selmo, Hasan çelebi	Thuluth Naskh
Ms. Sundous Hamed Mobarak	Kuwait	Husam Ali Matar	Thuluth Naskh
Fahad Saleh Ali AlMajhadi	S. Arabia	Naser Abdulaziz Maymon	Thuluth Naskh
Ms. Fatma Ferhan Volkan	Turkey	Efdaluddin Kiliç	Riqa
Wisam Hameed H. Alhandres	Iraq	Belaïd Hamidi	Maghribi
Jamal Bensaïd	Morocco	Belaïd Hamidi	Taliq
Mohammed Tafrent	Morocco	Belaïd Hamidi	Maghribi
Ms. Nuriya Reyadi	Morocco	Belaïd Hamidi	Maghribi
Abdulaziz Doghmi	Morocco	Belaïd Hamidi	Maghribi
Nur Khamidiyah	Indonesia	Belaïd Hamidi	Naskh
Atollah	Indonesia	Belaïd Hamidi	Riqa
Feri Budiantoro	Indonesia	Belaïd Hamidi	Jaly diwani-diwani
Osama Alhamzawy	Syria	Obida Albanki	Thuluth Naskh

Presentation of the Ijaza by the professors to their students



By Hasan Çelebi to Salim Hamidi
(Morocco)



By Fuad Başar to Awni Adel Abbas Alsalehy
(Iraq)



By Fuad Başar & M'hmed Safarbatı to Mevlay
Abdurrahim (Algeria)



By Davud Bektaş to Ayuob Khaleel Qashje
(Iraq)



By Ferhat Kurlu & Mümtaz Durdu to Safouh
Almustafa (Syria)



By Ferhat Kurlu & Mümtaz Durdu to
Syahriyansyah bin Sirajuddin (Indonesia)



By Ferhat Kurlu & Mümtaz Durdu to Ahmad
Zafuan bin Embong (Malaysia)



By Ferhat Kurlu to Pablo Casada (Spain)



By Ferhat Kurlu & Mümtaz Durdu to Şehmus
kaçan (Turkey)



By Ahmet Kutluhan to Mustafa Demir (Turkey)



By Ahmet Kutluhan to Yunus Bayram (Turkey)



By Ahmet Kutluhan to Emine Kasadar Akbaş
(Turkey)



By Abdulkadir Sakoğlu & Fuad Başar to Ahmet
Fazıl Yağlı (Turkey)



By Abdulkadir Sakoğlu & Fuad Başar to Ayten
Odabaş Kayal (Turkey)



By Abdulkadir Sakoğlu & Fuad Başar to Bekir Er
(Turkey)



By Abdulkadir Sakoğlu & Fuad Başar to Emetullah Aktaş (Turkey)



By Abdulkadir Sakoğlu & Fuad Başar to Ermine Tapar Özcan (Turkey)



By Abdulkadir Sakoğlu & Fuad Başar to Gülhan Çetin (Turkey)



By Abdulkadir Sakoğlu & Fuad Başar to Mustafa Pekşen (Turkey)



By Abdulkadir Sakoğlu & Fuad Başar to Özgür Çetintaş (Turkey)



By Abdulkadir Sakoğlu & Fuad Başar to Sevban Esra Sarı (Turkey)



By Abdulkadir Sakoğlu & Fuad Başar to Sevilay Sarıgüzel Şen (Turkey)



By Abdulkadir Sakoğlu & Fuad Başar to Zeynep Mergen Kansız (Turkey)



By Haytham Selmo & Hasan Çelebi to Hasan Muhammad Darwish (Syria)



By Husam Ali Matar to Sundous Hamed Mobarak (Kuwait)



By Naser Abdulaziz Maymon to Fahad Saleh Ali Almajhadi (S. Arabia)



By Efdaluddin Kiliç to Fatma Ferhan volkan (Turkey)



By Belaid Hamidi to Wisam Hameed H. Alhandres (Iraq)



By Belaid Hamidi to Jamal bensaid (Morocco)



By Belaid Hamidi to Mohammed Tafrent (Morocco)



By Belaid Hamidi to Nuriya Reyadi (Morocco)



By Belaid Hamidi to Abdulaziz Doghmi (Morocco)



By Belaid Hamidi to Nur Khamidiyah (Indonesia)



By Belaid Hamidi to Atollah (Indonesia)



By Belaid Hamidi to Feri Budiantoro (Indonesia)



By Obida Albanki to Osama Alhamzawy (Syria)



By Ferhat Kurlu & Mümtaz Durdu to Mohamed Belkasim ben Bouabdeslah (Algeria)



By Mehmed Özçay to Aydın Kızılyar (Turkey)



The calligraphers who received their ijaza

Calligraphy Exhibition (12-17 September 2014):

The international calligraphy exhibition which began on the eve of the opening ceremony featured recent works by calligraphers who had won one of the first three prizes in different categories of styles at the nine calligraphy competitions that IRCICA organized to date. A total of 67 works by 54 calligraphers were presented. A catalogue of the exhibition was published.

The calligraphers who participated in the exhibition:

Ehsan Ahmadi, Ahmed Abdulrahman Hamad, Ahmed Fares Rezq, Adem Sakal, Osama Alhamzawy, Ihab Ibraheem Ahmed Thabet, Bijar Arbilly, Tagelsir Hasan Sidahmed, Tahsin Kurt, Jouma Hamaher, Jawad Khooran, Habib Ramezanpour, Hüseyin Öksüz, Khaled Alsaai, Davut Bektaş, Rasoul Moradi, Zayed Hayder Abdullah, Saman Diwana Hussein, Seyit Ahmet Depeler, Savaş Çevik, Sabah Maghded Arbilly, Sedaghat Jabbarikalkhoran, Salahaddin Shirzad, Ameer Ben Jeddou, Abdulrahman Alabdi, Abdurrahman Depeler, Abdulrazzak Mahmud, Abdulrazak Karakash, Obida Albanksi, Osman Özçay, Osman Hamed Hassan Ibrahim, Ali Rıza Özcan, Alireza Mohebi Sheikhlari, Ali Toy, Ferhat Kurlu, Farhad Yaseen Nader, Maamoun Yaghamour, Mothanna Abd-Alhamid Hamad al-Obaydi, Mahfoodh Dhannoon Younus, Mohamed Amzil, Mhd Anas Alhourri, Mehmed Özçay, Mohammed Behiri, Mohammadreza Rahimpour, Mohamed Zakariya, Mohammad Shahbazi, Muhammed Yaman, Mustafa Parıldar, Mümtaz Seçkin Durdu, Munib Obradović, Mahdi Atrian, Nuria Garcia Masip, Wisam Shawkat Matti, Yacoub Ibrahim Suleiman Abushawrieh.



Panels (13 September 2014):

Scholars and specialists of the art of calligraphy gave thematic lectures during two panels, on the following themes:

Panel I

Chair: Muhammed al-Murr (*Chairman of the Federal National Council of the United Arab Emirates, author and calligraphy specialist*)

Speakers:

Yousif Thanoon (*Scholar in the art of calligraphy, Iraq*):
"The art of calligraphy until Sheikh Hamdullah Amasi"

Dr. Nabil Fethi Safwat (*Scholar of Islamic arts and manuscripts, Dubai*):



Panel I

“The Development of the Ottoman School of Calligraphy in the 15th Century”

Panel II

Chair: Prof. Dr. M. Hüsrev Subaşı (*Dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts, Fatih Sultan Mehmet Waqf University, Istanbul*)

Prof. Dr. Muhittin Serin (*Professor of Turkish and Islamic arts, 29 Mayıs University, Istanbul*):
“Ahmet Karahisari”

Prof. M. Uğur Derman (*Scholar on the art of calligraphy, Istanbul*):

“The art of calligraphy in the late Ottoman period”

Mehmed Özçay (*Master calligrapher, Istanbul*):

“The art of calligraphy in our time and its applications”

Conversations with the masters (14 September 2014):

Over four sessions, 16 master calligraphers communicated their experiences, memoirs, advice to junior artists, and views on theoretical and practical aspects of the art.

Session I: Moderator:

Mehmed Özçay (*Turkey*)

Speakers: Hasan Çelebi (*Turkey*); Ahmed Ziya Ibrahim (*Saudi Arabia*); Obida Albanki (*Syria*); Belaid Hamidi (*Morocco*)

Session II: Moderator:

Süleyman Berk (*Turkey*)

Speakers: Mosaad Khodeir (*Egypt*); Mohamed Zakariya (*USA*); Abdulridha Bahiya Dawood (*Iraq*); Fuad Başar (*Turkey*)

Session III: Moderator:

Necati Sancaktutan (*Turkey*)

Speakers: Mohammed Sharifi (*Algeria*); Jalil Rasouli (*Iran*); Amir Ahmad Falsafi (*Iran*); Savaş Çevik (*Turkey*)

Session IV: Moderator:

Ali Rıza Özcan (*Turkey*)

Speaker: Hüseyin Öksüz (*Turkey*); Davut Bektaş (*Turkey*); Ayten Tiryaki (*Turkey*); M. Efdaluddin Kılıç (*Turkey*)

Some of the speakers touched upon the close link that exists between art and society in all contexts this would relate to. They underlined that cultural background is important for good performance in arts. Among the various subjects evoked, Mr. Hasan Çelebi spoke of the mistakes made during the restoration of old or damaged calligraphic works. Mr. Khodeir pointed out that calligraphic works are aesthetically enjoyable for all, including those who cannot read their texts. Mr. Jalil Rasouli spoke about the calligrapher's aspiring to reach a level of qualification where his/her work could be identified without bearing his signature. Prof. Savaş Çevik and Mr. Amir Ahmad Falsafi discussed on the subject of modern versus classical calligraphic styles and applications.



Panel II



Conversations with the masters (Session I)



Conversations with the masters (Session II)



Conversations with the masters (Session III)



Conversations with the masters (Session IV)

Calligraphy workshops (14 September 2014):

Simultaneously with the sessions, masters of calligraphy conducted workshops in the adjacent halls.



Concert of compositions by calligrapher-musicians (14 September 2014):

One of the cultural events included in the program was a concert by Doğan Dikmen Group which featured compositions by some of the calligraphers who were at the same time music composers. Some of them are renown in this as well as in calligraphy, and among them is an Ottoman Sultan. Thus compositions by Emin Yazıcı, Kazasker Mustafa İzzet Efendi, Sultan Mahmud II and Kemal Batanay were played.



Closing session (14 September 2014):

In order to give continuity to IRCICA's initiative taken through this program, extend continuous support to this art and enhance exchanges among the artists, it was decided to establish a Union of Calligraphers to function under the umbrella of IRCICA. Preliminary guidelines were formulated for its operational modalities and membership structure, pending its first administrative meeting. The members of the competition juries were designated as members of the governing board of the Union in its first term.

During the closing session, the participants expressed their appreciation of the Gathering's drawing for the first time a large number of calligraphers and art specialists from all parts of the world to join a diverse range of instructive activities. Many participants expressed the wish that the Gathering become a periodical event. Director General Dr. Halit Eren announced the possibility of holding it once every two or three years, in conjunction with meetings of the Union of Calligraphers.



“International Festival for Artisans-at-Work” organized jointly with Pendik Municipality

Istanbul, on 20-28 September 2014

IRCICA and Pendik Municipality, Istanbul have jointly organized the Pendik International Festival for Artisans-at-Work which took place in Pendik, Istanbul on 20-28 September 2014. The festival brought together artisans from 52 countries. It gathered innovators and artisans in pavilions forming an international traditional craft heritage village where they displayed their works, tools and techniques.



The opening ceremony was officiated by Dr. Kenan Sahin, Chairman of Pendik Municipality; Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA; Mrs. Mihrimah Belma Satir, Assistant Head of AKP Group and Deputy in the Turkish Parliament; Mr. Erol Kaya, AKP Deputy from Istanbul; Mr. Osman Boyra, AKP Deputy from Istanbul; and, Mr. Osman Tunç, the Governor of Pendik.

Thousands of visitors visited the exhibition stands to buy pieces of handicrafts and to know more about the artisans from different places of the world.

Exchanges of friendship, techniques, designs of the artisans from different places of the world along with the interaction also made with the visitors who came from different places of Turkey, were among the main outputs of this international event. Artisans came from the following countries: Albania, Algeria, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mali, Morocco, Pakistan, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Tajikistan, Tataristan, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Turkey, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Argentina, Bulgaria, Brazil, China, Czech Republic, Costa Rica, Estonia, Georgia, Honduras, Hungary, Kenya, Kirin, Macedonia, Mexico, North Cyprus, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovenia, South Korea, Tahiti, Thailand and Ukraine.





Algeria

Artisan Safia Timezghine, carpet and kilim weaver. Artisan Mohand Belkacem Sais, innovator in ceramic (ornamentation) using gold ink. Assistant: Khalid Sais.



Afghanistan

Artisan Adel Kushar, specialized in wood engraving. Artisan Fakhria Nizami, specialized in miniature painting, Islamic design and calligraphy.



Azerbaijan

Artisan Fatima Aghamirzaeva, carpet weaver. Assistant: Aygun Aghamirzayeva.



Bangladesh

Artisan Mohammad Rajib Chowdhury, specialised in the products named Jamdani Saree and Panjabi. Jamdani is one of the finest muslin textiles of Bengal, produced in Dhaka District, Bangladesh for centuries.



Egypt

Artisan Faraj Mohamed Al-Sayid Al-Deeb, specialized in mother-of-pearl inlaying and woodwork, granted the 1st prize at the Muscat International Award for Innovation and Creativity in 2012.



Indonesia

Artisan Agus Suprayoga Sigid, specialized in wood engraving and designs of Indonesian traditional heritage on wooden pieces of crafts. Assistant Raswan.



Iran

Artisan Kamaladdin Ghotb, miniature painting. Azam Amiri Siavashani, painter specialized in miniature painting.



Jordan

Artisan Artisan Mirvet Hamdi, specialized in pottery and mosaics. Assistant Rula Hamdi Muawad Salah.



Kazakhstan

Artisan Atraubaev Bolat, Silver works. Assistant Rano Ussenova.



Kyrgyzstan

Artisan Janara Chyngyshova, specialized in clothing design inspired from ethnic traditions.



Kuwait

Artisan Nawal E. M. Alattiah, textile weaver. Assistant Mona A A M Alarfaj.



Malaysia

Artisan Abd Muhaimin bin Hasbollah, designer and specialist in wood carving, Secretary, Malaysia Wood Carvers Art Enthusiasts Association (PENGUKIR). Assistant Hamdi Bin Haji Hamzah.



Morocco
 Artisan Amal Al Saghlouri, carpet weaver from Morocco, specialized in Moroccan carpets and in particular prayer carpets. Chair of Al-Azhar Crafts Society for Carpets Weaving and Marketing, Morocco.



Pakistan
 Artisan Malik Muhammad Abdul Rehman Naqqash, specialized in ornamentation on leather craft products, won the 1st Award at the Muscat International Award for Artisans in 2011. Assistant Muhammad Rashid Hussain.



Palestine
 Artisan Jamila Mohamad El Achkar, specialist in embroidery and Palestinian traditional costumes. Assistant Wafaa Ahmad Fallous.



Saudi Arabia
 Artisan Maha Daifallah Al Ruwais, textile weaver. Assistant Nafal Salem M Al Nafeel.



Senegal
 Artisan Omar Guye, innovator in the field of leather crafts, winner of the second prize in leather works in the Muscat International Award for Innovation and Creativity in Crafts 2011.



South Africa
 Artisan Shaheen Soni, ornamentation, Artisan Tasneem Chilwan-Soni.



Sudan
 Artisan Ahmad Hassan Mifrih, specialist in leather handmade products. Assistant Sadam Ahmad Hassan Mohamed.



Tajikistan
 Artisan Gulruksor Umarova, specialized in wood and silk painting. Assistant Mekhri Baymukhamedova.



Tataristan
 Artisan Shamsutdinov Airat, Tatar jeweler from Kazan (Tatarstan, Russia). Assistant Alfiya Shamsutdinova



Turkey
 20 artisans from Turkey, specialized in different branches of handicrafts, participated in the Festival.



Turkmenistan
 Artisan Ajap Bayriyeva, carpet weaver Ph.D. in Ethnology, Institute of History, Turkmen Academy of Sciences.



Uzbekistan
 Artisan Nilufar Musadjanova, specialist of the silk embroidery Nurata Suzani. Was granted the 2nd prize in the Muscat International Award for Innovation and Creativity in Crafts 2011.

“History and cultures of Muslim peoples around the Black Sea”: a congress held in Bucharest, Romania

4-5 November 2014

University of Bucharest, Babes-Bolyai University, Romania, and IRCICA have jointly organized the International Congress on “History and Cultures of Muslim Peoples around the Black Sea Region”. The congress took place in Bucharest, Romania on 4-5 November 2014.

The Secretary General of OIC H.E. Mr. Iyad Ameen Madani addressed a statement to the congress, which was read at the opening session by Dr. Abubaker Ahmed Bagader Al-Amoudi, Director General, Cultural, Social and Family Affairs at the OIC General Secretariat. Opening addresses were delivered by Prof. Tasin Cemil, Director of the Institute of Turkology and Central-Asian Studies, Babes-Bolyai University, Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, Prof. Ioan-Aurel Pop, Rector of Babes-Bolyai University and Prof. Mircea Dumitru, Rector of the University of Bucharest.

Thirteen scholars and specialists from Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Russia and Turkey presented papers in three working sessions. During the discussion sessions, the participants underlined the importance of the congress’ theme, geographical focus and treatment of historical subjects that carry relevance for present-time international relations, cultural interactions and conservation of cultural heritage. Prof. Tasin Cemil and Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren delivered closing remarks. The papers of the congress will be published by IRCICA.

Papers presented:

Session I, Chair: Prof. Calin Felezeu (Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania)

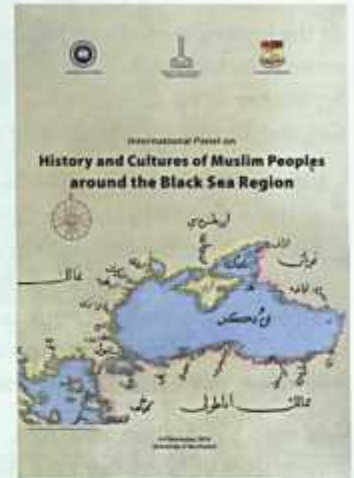
- George Grigore-Laura Sitaru (University of Bucharest, Romania), “Muslims in Romania”
- Zaza Tsurtsunia (King Tamar University, Georgia), “Muslims in Georgia, Past and Present”
- Okan Yeşilot (Marmara University, Istanbul, Turkey), “Caucasian Muslims”
- Djengiz Mustafov Hakov (Academy of Sciences, Sofia, Bulgaria), “Muslims in Bulgaria”
- Rafik Mukhametshin (Kazan State University, Tatarstan, Russian Federation), “Tatar Muslims in the Past and Today”

Session II, Chair: Prof. Rafik Mukhametshin (Kazan State University, Tatarstan, Russian Federation)

- Damir Iskhakov (Kazan State University, Tatarstan, Russian Federation), “Muslims in Russia, Past and Present”
- Hayri Çapraz (Süleyman Demirel University, Isparta, Turkey), “Russian Policies towards Muslims in the Nineteenth Century”
- İsmail Türkoğlu (Mimar Sinan University, Istanbul, Turkey), “New Approaches of Gaspıralı to the Educational Life of Muslims around the Black Sea”
- Ahmet Kanlıdere (University of Marmara, Istanbul, Turkey), “Crimean Tatars’ Efforts to Rebuild their Cultural Heritage and Identity in Homeland”

Session III, Chair: Prof. Ahmet Kanlıdere (University of Marmara, Istanbul, Turkey)

- Fehmi Yılmaz, “Cultural History of Crimean Muslims” (Medeniyet University, Istanbul, Turkey)
- Shahin Mustafayev (Director, UNESCO Institute for Central Asian Studies), “Muslims in Caucasia”
- Albert Burkhanov, “The Traces of Crimean Khanate” (Kazan, Tatarstan, Russian Federation)
- Eugen Nicolae, “Islamic Monuments in Moldavia” (Academy of Sciences, Bucharest, Romania)



Dr. Eren presented the Ambassador of Turkey in Romania Ambassador Koray Ertaş the plate bearing the Quranic verse 49/13 which IRCICA adopted as its motto

Meetings, Cooperation

Dr. Halit Eren gave a series of Lectures at Minzu University of China

At the invitation of Minzu University of China, Beijing, Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren gave a series of lectures at the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, from 22 to 26 September 2014. Coordination of the lectures project was ensured by Professor Yang Guiping, faculty member at the Department. The lectures were titled:

- Islamic Pluralism: Foundations, Applications. The lecture began with a definition of the concept of pluralism, followed by an analysis of the concept of pluralism as enunciated in the Holy Quran and in the Prophet's tradition. Then came a detailed review of its applications starting from the first Islamic state established by Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. in Medina and through the successive ones including the Ottoman State, with examples of pledges and laws made by Muslim rulers for the protection of the lives, properties and freedom of belief of non-Muslims under their rule.
- Islamic Civilisation and Arts. This lecture outlined the essential teachings and principles of Islam that gave its civilization and cultures their main orientations. It went on to show the reflections and applications of this linkage in multiple examples chosen from the arts and architecture of different periods in the history of Islam. Speaking about the characteristics of Islamic arts and architecture across time and continents, it also referred to mutual influences with different cultures encountered.
- Secularism and De-secularism. This theoretical lecture on the concept of secularism and changes that its perception or definition underwent in different contexts found its practical aspect in examples of its application.
- Religion and Education: Muslim Perspectives. This lecture explained the importance given by Islam to education. It traced the history of educational establishments in Islamic history and their processes of development.



The Fifth OIC Conference on “Women’s Role in the Development of OIC Member States” and IRCICA’s participation, Baku, Azerbaijan, 20-21 October 2014

The Fifth Ministerial Conference on the Role of Women in the Development of OIC Member States was held in Baku, Azerbaijan on 20-21 October 2014 on the theme of “The Role of Women in Sustainable Development”. The conference was placed under the patronage of the First Lady of Azerbaijan, Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva. Around 220 delegates from nearly 60 countries attended the conference. OIC institutions and UN agencies concerned were represented. The topics discussed during the conference were: Women empowerment; eradication of poverty, achievement of gender equality, raising women’s participation in decision making mechanisms, providing equal opportunities for women in society including access to quality education and health care, elimination of all forms of discrimination including combating violence against women, and developing indicators and action oriented studies. A report of the conference, and a Baku Declaration were issued. The precedent, Fourth OIC Ministerial Conference on the Role of Women in Development had been held in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 4-6 December 2012.

The welcoming message of the President of Azerbaijan H.E. Ilham Aliyev was read by Ms. Fatma Abdullazade, Head of the Humanitarian Policy Department at the President’s Administration. Prof. Hijran Huseynova, Chairperson of the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs gave the opening speech, where she defined the main objective of the conference as reinforcement of cooperation between OIC Member States and increasing active participation of women in the development of society. Prof. Huseynova spoke of Azerbaijan’s achievements at promoting gender equality in employment, health, education, economic and social policy, as well as at addressing violence against women. The measures taken in this regard include a state program on poverty reduction and sustainable development which fully incorporates the gender component; and a law on the prevention of domestic violence, in addition to the goal of increasing the participation of women in political life. Then, the Chair of the Fourth Conference (Jakarta, December 2012), (Indonesian Ambassador to Azerbaijan Raden Prayono Atiyanto referred to the important and instrumental decisions



which were adopted during the preceding conference. Ambassador Prayono Atiyanto expressed regret over the existence of different obstacles to strengthening women's role in society, especially increasing their activity in political life.

Chairperson of State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs Hijran Huseynova highlighted the agenda of the conference. Huseynova said the conference is aimed at reviewing the progress made in promoting the status of women and strengthening their role in the OIC Member States.

In his statement to the conference, the Secretary General of OIC H.E. Mr. Iyad Ameen Madani stressed that despite the fact that throughout history Muslim women have been making significant contributions in various fields of professional and social activities such as business, civil service, policy making, social and family welfare, their role is frequently less-acknowledged and, at times, even neglected. There is a need to take steps for addressing this situation. "Due acknowledgement of women's role in the society and their empowerment is key to progress and development. On the other hand, when women are constrained by socio-cultural factors and their role is not duly acknowledged, it reflects negatively in every field of human endeavor," said the Secretary General in his statement, which was read on his behalf by Assistant Secretary General for Science and Technology, Ambassador Naeem Khan. Mr. Madani also underlined the need to review the implementation of the OIC Plan of Action for Advancement of Women (OPAAW), adopted in 2008, and bringing it in conformity with the current discourse under United Nations Post-2015 Agenda, mainly on issues related to sustainable development goals. The Conference comes at a time when the OIC is in the process of formulating a successor program to its Ten Year Program of Action (TYPOA), which ends next year. Mr. Madani urged the Conference to contribute significantly towards the articulation of a well-defined and realistic strategy for the advancement of women and greater recognition of their role in the development and progress of the society. "Let us dedicate our efforts to defining a futuristic vision, mission and plan of action for ensuring that women in Muslim countries are fully enabled to play a proactive role in addressing

multidimensional challenges of our ever changing world," said the Secretary General.

Mrs. Lakshmi Puri, Assistant Secretary General and Deputy Executive Director UN Women also made a statement at the opening of the Conference. She urged the governments of the Member States to demonstrate strong leadership and commitment to advance women's rights and counter extremist agendas that are inimical to women's rights; reach the most marginalized women and girls by tackling inequalities and discrimination; strengthening women's and civil society organization to exert greater influence in policy decisions; and increase investment in gender equality and women's empowerment.

Mr. Heimo Lakkoneen, Regional Director for UNFPA's Eastern European and Central Asia focused in his statement on OIC-UNFPA cooperation on women's health. He praised the decade of cooperation between OIC and UNFPA in addressing maternal mortality, women empowerment and youth promotion; and stressed the need to work together on shared priorities for seeking women's safe access to health, education, public life and socio-economic opportunities.

IRCICA Director General Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren addressing the conference said that despite growing consciousness on the part of law-makers and policy-makers, organizations and academics, it is unfortunate that still today stereotypes and unacceptable treatment against women continue to persist in different forms and manifestations in societies all around the world. He stated that a new understanding, a new culture must be developed around perceptions related to different groups in society, among them women. The Director General outlined the efforts that IRCICA for its part, as the OIC's cultural research centre, contributes by encouraging women's participation in all its events and activities, including its academic congresses, training workshops, festivals and award competitions in arts, architecture and traditional handicrafts among others. IRCICA also devotes special events to increasing women's role in cultural life of the OIC Member States. To this effect it organized the international symposium on the theme "The Family in the Muslim Countries and Communities"

(2012) which was opened by Mrs. Emine Erdoğan, spouse of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (then Prime Minister of Turkey), and attended by Ministers from the Member States along with scholars and specialists from different countries who presented case studies. IRCICA also organized an international symposium on "Female Calligraphers" (2010) accompanied by exhibitions of calligraphy by lady artists which underlined the role of women in arts.

The OIC's Ministerial Conference on Women's Role in Development is organized every two years. The first was held

in Turkey in 2006, which laid the groundwork for the vision and objectives of the OIC regarding women's empowerment, which in turn was materialized in the form of an OIC Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women (OPAAW) adopted in the second conference held in Egypt in 2008. The third conference (Iran, 2010) set the mechanisms for implementing the OPAAW, and the fourth (Indonesia, 2012) further expanded on the strategy for implementation.

Mr. Antonio Serifo Embalo, Minister of Trade and Handicrafts and Mr. Mamadou Iaia Djalo, Advisor to the President, Republic of Guinea-Bissau, at IRCCA

The Minister of Trade and Handicrafts of Guinea-Bissau Mr. Antonio Serifo Embalo and Advisor to the President of Guinea-Bissau Mr. Mamadou Iaia Djalo visited IRCICA on 27 November 2014. Their ministerial delegation was representing the Republic of Guinea-Bissau at the 30th Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) which took place in Istanbul on 25-28 November 2014. Following a meeting where the main theme was cooperation among Member States in all fields of development, the guests were guided by Director General Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren to the different departments of the Centre to see the activities on the spot with samples of resulting publications.



Ambassador Mr. Abdurrazag Mukhtar Ahmed Abdulgader, Ambassador of Libya in Turkey, visited IRCICA

Ambassador Mr. Abdurrazag Mukhtar Ahmed Abdulgader, Ambassador of Libya in Ankara, Turkey visited IRCICA on 2 September 2014. During his meeting with Ambassador Abdulgader, Director General Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren expressed his pleasure that cooperation between Libya and IRCICA is growing, as indicated by the number of Libyans participating in art competitions, training programs and other cultural activities organized by IRCICA as well as by continual institutional collaboration with cultural societies and establishments. The Director General briefed the Ambassador on current activities and future projects of the Centre.



Visit of the Consul General of Afghanistan Mr. Abdul Malik Quraishi

The Consul General of Afghanistan in Istanbul Mr. Abdul Malik Quraishi visited IRCICA on 23 October 2014. The Director General of IRCICA Assoc. Prof. Eren informed the Consul General on the main events and activities undertaken by the Centre such as the festivals, seminars and exhibitions on traditional handicrafts of the Muslim world, the programs aiming to promote Islamic arts including International Gathering on the Art of Calligraphy that had taken place a month before, among others, expressing his pleasure that participants from Afghanistan have been showing continual interest in these programs. Publication by IRCICA of an album of historical photographs of Afghanistan and holding of an exhibition of photographs selected from that album, both in 2011, was remembered: the exhibition was organized by IRCICA in Kabul on the occasion of the 1 March Turkish-Afghan Friendship Day in 2011 marking the 90th anniversary of the Friendship Agreement the two countries had signed in Moscow. The album contains sixty-three photographs selected from the archives of IRCICA, mainly from the collection of Fahrettin Türkkan Pasha, the Ottoman commander known for his heroic defense of Medina in 1917 during World War I and later Turkey's first ambassador to Afghanistan in 1921.



Kosovo's Consul General in Istanbul Mr. Rahim Morina visited IRCICA

The Republic of Kosovo comes within the historical-geographic scope of IRCICA's research projects and scholarly congresses relating to the Balkans and Southeast Europe; more generally, scholars and researchers from Kosovo communicate with IRCICA and participate in its activities. The visit of Mr. Rahim Morina, Consul General of Kosovo, to IRCICA on 23 October 2014 was an occasion to appraise these cultural relations. During the meeting Director General Assoc. Prof. Eren also informed the Consul General on the activities foreseen for 2015 and academic congresses forthcoming during the year.



New framework of cooperation with Malaysian cultural institutions: visit of the Deputy Minister of Finance, the President of Putrajaya Corporation and Chairman of Restu Foundation

A delegation of officials from the Government of Malaysia visited IRCICA on 29 December 2014. Datuk Ahmad Maslan, Deputy Minister from the Ministry of Finance; Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr. Aseh bin Hj. Che Mat, President of Putrajaya Corporation; Datuk Abdul Latiff Mirasa, Chairman of Restu Foundation, met with Director General Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren. The main axis of the talks was cooperation in the areas of Islamic culture and civilization and Islamic arts. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between IRCICA and Restu Foundation (Selangor), to cooperate in: publishing of books in Islamic studies, exchanging experts in Islamic arts, particularly calligraphy, and complement efforts to develop Restu College as a center of excellence in Islamic arts and calligraphy. Restu College is an educational establishment operating on Islamic fine arts, social sciences and business; it has a comprehensive program on calligraphy.



IRCICA Publications

Doğumunun 125. Yılında Abdullah Tukay (Abdullah Tukay on the 125th anniversary of his birth)

preface by Halit Eren, IRCICA, 2014
(in Turkish and Russian)

A conference was organized jointly by IRCICA and the Ministry of Culture of Tatarstan (Russian Federation) on 18 November 2011 to commemorate the illustrious Tatar scholar and poet Abdullah Tukay (1886-1913) on the 125th anniversary of his birth. The conference was held in the presence of the Minister of Culture of Tatarstan Mr. Ayrat Sibagattulin. The papers that were presented at the conference have been published in a book, each in its original language, i.e. Russian or Turkish.

Abdullah Tukay was born in the vicinity of Kazan in 1886. While still a student he started to earn a living through his poems published in newspapers. His poetry was inspired by the illustrious Pushkin. His friendship with Tatar politicians and philosophers such as Amirhan, Kulahmetov and Huseyin Yamashev influenced his thought. Though he died very early, at the age of 27 only, Tukay left behind an important literary heritage. He came to be known in Tatarstan and whole Turkic world for his contribution to Tatar culture. The papers in this book will be valuable additions to studies on his life and his works.



Handmade Prayer Carpet Through History

prepared for publication by Nazeih Taleb
Maarouf, preface by Halit Eren, IRCICA, 2015,
395 pp. (221 in Eng., 174 in Ar.), ill.

This amply illustrated volume shows masterpieces of hand-woven prayer carpets made of silk, wool and cotton, from various countries including Turkey, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Iran, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Mauritania, and also Sadou weaving from Kuwait.

The Introduction reviews the history of development of prayer carpet weaving since its inception in and around Central Asia, Turkey, Iran, North Africa, Egypt, among others, where this specific category of carpet weaving continued to flourish. The Introduction also explains the various terms and names used in different geographical regions, the used raw materials, the variety of natural dyes, kinds of applied knots, and explanation of the different types of looms used, with references to the regions concerned wherever applicable. The book is considered as first of its kind to focus on handmade prayer carpets weaving.

The book also shed lights on the different types of ornamentations used in such masterpieces, providing images of richness in designs which decorated such pieces of carpets which highlight a variety of geometric and floral forms with natural colours that gives another addition to its beauty. A distinguishing feature of the volume is the set of unique coloured photos of masterpieces of handmade prayer carpets

which were woven by a group of master artisans who are still working today for the progress of this sector and who innovate unique designs which go in line with the old master pieces of prayer carpets that were woven over different periods. The book is also the first academic study of this group of carpets, due among others, to its providing detailed data about the measurements, classifications, dimensions, colours, designs and other aspects of every piece of carpet it features.



Features, Characteristics and Cultural and Economic Contribution of Arts and Handicrafts

Proceedings of Tehran-Tabriz International Congress on Features, Characteristics and Cultural and Economic Contribution of Arts and Handicrafts, Tehran and Tabriz on 5-9 May 2013, prepared for publication by Nazeih Taleb Maarouf, preface by Halit Eren, IRCICA, 2015, 643 pp.

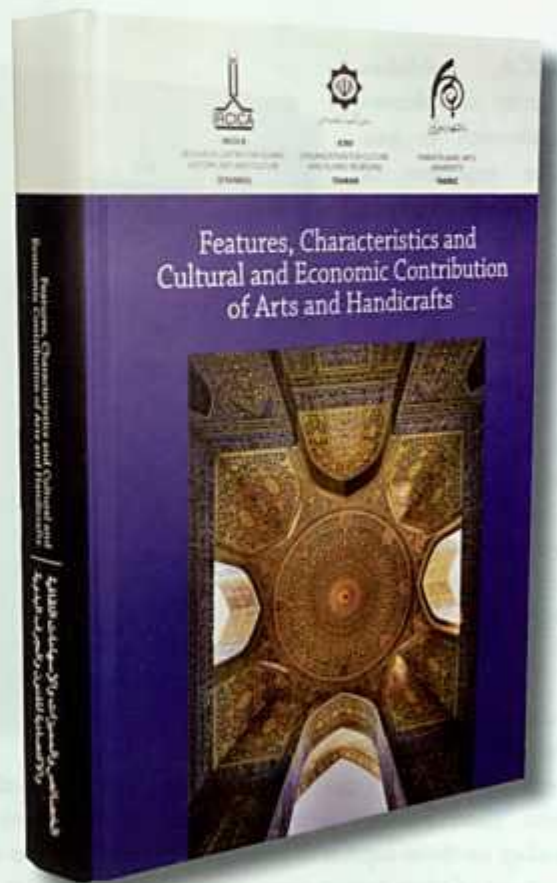
(341 Eng., 302 Ar.), ill.

IRCICA published a luxury, amply illustrated volume entitled *Features, Characteristics and Cultural and Economic Contribution of Arts and Handicrafts* that pictures innovative products of arts and crafts from different parts of the Muslim world.

The book presents fine examples of products in the field of architecture, carpets, Sadou and kilims weaving, illumination, ornamentation, geometric designs, handmade paper making, book-binding, miniature, decoration, pottery, ceramic, wood engraving and other creative works which highlight the level of excellence that artisans of these specific branches have reached on the average.

It reflects the experience of some countries and some master artisans as regards creativity in Islamic arts and crafts. In this way it communicates this experience to others and creates among them some kind of an exchange relating to design, training, applied techniques and raw materials.

The volume constitutes at the same time an academic documentation based on site surveys of various aspects of arts and crafts in the Muslim world through the works of a group of professional specialists. As such it will contribute in advancing research in this field by assisting the researchers. The book will enable readers to learn closely about the present state of the sector, difficulties faced, and plans formulated for its development. It will also allow artisans and specialists to make comparisons and assess experiences recorded in different countries, which will serve in devising policies and action as regards development of the design aspects, selection of convenient raw materials, applied techniques, and also exploring more opportunities for artisans in education and training facilities. Furthermore, it will encourage more regional and international exhibitions which for no doubt will attract more participation of artisans.



The book also comes as a new input to scientific research in the field of arts and traditional industries. It provides a first preliminary assessment of the prospects of economic, social and cultural development of Islamic arts and crafts in various regions.

Series on the Sharia Court Registers of Jerusalem

3 volumes: Registers no. 119, 149 and 183

prepared for publication by Ibrahim Rabaia, preface by Halit Eren, IRCICA, Istanbul, 2014
(in Arabic)

IRCICA publishes a series of volumes each devoted to one of 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. In his Introduction, Dr. Rabaia explains his methodology and the types of information he has extracted from the registers. In the first volume which was published by IRCICA in 2013 he examines 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 by IRCICA in 2014 contain, respectively, the studies on the following registers:



- Register no. 119 of Al-Quds Sharia Court (Early Rajab 1041 H-late Rabi II 1042 H (23 Jan. 1632-13 Nov. 1632), 562 pages; location of the register: microfilm at the library of Dr. Mahmoud Ata'Allah
- Register no. 149 of Al-Quds Sharia Court (Early Muharram 1061 H-10 Safar 1065 H (20 Nov. 1653-20 Dec. 1654), 482 pages, 1900 cases
- Register no. 183 of Al-Quds Sharia Court (20 Dhu'l Hijja 1090 H-1 Safar 1092 H (22 Jan. 1680-20 Feb. 1681), 481 pages.

IRCICA Journal.
A Journal on Islamic History and Civilization
Volume II, Issue 3, Spring 2014

The third issue of IRCICA Journal has appeared. This is an interdisciplinary refereed journal published two times per year (Spring and Fall) which includes articles in English, French or Arabic.

Lists of the contents of Volume I in its Spring and Fall issues and Volume II, Issue 3, Spring 2014 are given below.

Vol. I, Spring 2013

Articles in English:

The Balkan Wars in the Records of the Italian Army General Staff, by Alberto Becherelli (Sapienza University of Rome, Italy)

Political Activities and Popular Outcry on the Turkish Question in Muslim Bengal (1908-1924): An Archival Report, by Assoc. Prof. Kazi Sufior Rahaman (University of Calcutta, West Bengal, India)

Seeds of Ottomanism and Islamism: Fruits of Secularism and Democracy, by Khurram Qadir (Managing Editor of IRCICA Journal & Former Director of NICHHR, Pakistan)

Yasaviya Traditions in the Culture of the Volga Muslims, by Guzel Sayfulina (University of Leiden, Netherlands)

Articles in Arabic:

The Issue of Orthography in the Manuscripts of the Qur'an, by Tayyar Altıkulaç (former President of Directorate of Religious Affairs and former Member of Parliament, Turkey)

Higher Education Institutions in the Eastern Arab Provinces of the Ottoman Empire in the Light of Ottoman Documents, by Fazil Bayat (IRCICA)

Vol. I, Fall 2013

Articles in English:

Incorporating the Maghrib as an Axis in World History, by Gavin D. Brockett (Wilfrid Laurier University, Department of History and Coordinator of Muslim Studies, Ontario, Canada)

"Al-Andalus" and Recovering the Cultural Legacy of the Moorish Presence in the Iberian Peninsula, by José Tomaz Castelo Branco (Department of Political Studies, Catholic University of Portugal, Lisbon)

East Encounters West: French Merchants and Islamic Law in the Ottoman Mediterranean (Late-Sixteenth and Early-Seventeenth Centuries), by Viorel Panaite (Department of Islamic and Ottoman History, The University of Bucharest, Romania)

Articles in Arabic:

Contributions of Women to Charitable Waqfs during the Rasulid State in Yemen (616-858 AH/1228-1454), by Muhammed Arnaoud (World Islamic Science and Education University, WISE, Amman, Jordan)

The Abuse of the Idea of Islamic Caliphate by Britain in India in the 19th Century, by Asma Muhaibil (Algiers University-II, Algeria)

Vol. II, Issue 3, Spring 2014

Articles in English:

"The Rise and Development of the Art of Calligraphy: From its Origins to the End of Yakut's Era", by

Nihad M. Çetin (posthumously; the late Professor Nihat Çetin was affiliated with Istanbul University, Faculty of Letters)

"The Balkan Wars and British India: A Case Study of NWFP (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa)", by Abdul Rauf (University of Peshawar, Department of Political Science, Pakistan)

"The Town of Štip (Ištíp) in the Republic of Macedonia and the Mosque of Husameddin Pasha" by Michael Kiel (Netherlands Institute in Turkey, Istanbul)

"Islamic Ornamentation: Reflections on its Humanistic, Cosmological and Metaphysical Aspects" (Patrick Ringgenberg, Lausanne University, Institut Cultures, Religions, Modernité, Switzerland)

Articles in Arabic:

"Endowments of Ottoman Rulers in Al Quds:

The Model of Yusuf Pasha Waqfs (1061 H/1651 AD)" by Ibrahim Rabaya (Al-Quds Open University, Palestine)

"Calligraphy of Mushaf Manuscripts" by Idham Muhammad Hanash (World Islamic Science and Education - WISE University, Amman, Jordan)



