

May - August 2013, No. 91



# Newsletter



OIC RESEARCH CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC HISTORY, ART AND CULTURE

## **Preservation of cultural heritage**

IRCICA & Al-Turath Islamic Urban Heritage Program:  
2013 Summer School traveled to Bulgaria,  
Greece and Thrace/Turkey

## **Craft Development Program**

Tehran-Tabriz International Congress on:  
Features, characteristics, cultural and economic contribution of  
arts and handicrafts accompanied by an exhibition of albums,  
catalogues and books published in the field of arts and handicrafts

## **Art exhibition**

Master calligrapher Amir Ahmad Falsafi's exhibition in Istanbul

## **Promoting intercultural dialogue**

The Second World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue  
and IRCICA's participation

## **Book launch**

IRCICA's album *Manisa in Historical Photographs from Sultan  
Abdulhamid II Period* launched in presence of State Minister and  
Vice Prime Minister of Turkey Mr. Bülent Arınç

## **Library's activities**

Conference on "Digital conversion of library materials"  
held at IRCICA

## **Meetings, cooperation**

## **IRCICA Publications**

# Newsletter



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

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## Editorial

Our Centre has had a busy spring and summer holding a variety of events and activities in different areas. Within the framework of our activities aiming to study and the preservation of architectural heritage, we successfully organized the third round of summer schools in June-July. A winter school held earlier this year had focused on the historic area of Jeddah as a case study. IRCICA and Al-Turath Islamic Heritage Foundation (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) have thus completed until now four rounds of schools within their joint Islamic Urban Heritage Program. A report of the last one is under preparation.

Early May, our cooperation with the Organisation for Culture and Islamic Relations affiliated to the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance of Iran and the University of Islamic Arts, Tabriz, resulted in a lively composite event including a congress on arts and handicrafts accompanied by exhibitions. An illustrated report of this event is included here. This was the fourteenth such event organized by IRCICA under its "Craft Development Program". The series had started with the seminar on Prospects for the Development of Traditional Crafts (Rabat, 1991) and continued over the years with a variety of events including large-scale international handicraft festivals, seminars, award programs and exhibitions which were held in different countries, in cooperation with governments, cultural and art institutions. The Tehran-Tabriz congress is the second such event organized in Iran after the International Congress on Islamic Arts and Crafts, Isfahan, 2002. Illustrated albums and collections of seminar papers relating to these events have been published by IRCICA.

The theme of "Islamic arts", one of our Centre's main fields of interest, carries so many topics that they have to be covered under many different program titles. Among these topics, we have always given "Islamic calligraphy" the special place it deserves on account of its importance as a quintessential art of the Muslim world. Further diversification of our work in this area recently has led us to devote it a separate program title, to become effective under IRCICA's work program for 2014. Meanwhile, our in-class training courses on calligraphy have resumed mid-August after a summer break. On the art of calligraphy also, the Iranian master calligrapher Amir Ahmad Falsafi's exhibition in Istanbul gave the opportunity to his counterparts in Turkey, art students and art lovers to look at masterpieces in the Nasta'liq style close up to appreciate their perfection in detail.

Another main activity program of IRCICA distinct from the above but interacting with them is that of the Library and Archive Department. A number of long-term projects are being conducted under this program: one of them concerns the Digital Library. In this context the department organized, last May, a conference on "Digital conversion of library materials". Staff concerned from universities, libraries with historical collections, governmental and non-governmental institutions participated in the conference. We are happy with its success and planning to give this conference a periodical character. A brief report on this conference is also included in this issue.

I hope that these reports, and also, the section on new IRCICA publications, will be of interest to the readers of this bulletin.

*Dr. Halit Eren*

## Preservation of cultural heritage

### IRCICA & Al-Turath Islamic Urban Heritage Program: 2013 Summer School traveled to Bulgaria, Greece and Thrace/Turkey (20 June-5 July 2013)

IRCICA and Al-Turath Islamic Heritage Foundation (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) have organized the third Islamic Urban Heritage Summer School within the framework of their joint program titled "Islamic Urban Heritage. Research, Preservation, Management". This program aims to contribute to preserving the urban heritage in Islamic countries, promoting and encouraging the development of this heritage in its economic, cultural and touristic aspects.

This third round of the program was implemented from 20 June to 5 July 2013. 35 students, 25 lecturers and speakers, 2 program coordinators and 6 assistants participated in it. The program included case studies of on-site preservation practices, academic panels and visits to heritage sites in Thrace (western Turkey), Bulgaria and Greece.

Following the first two summer schools conducted in 2011 and 2012 respectively, a first winter school was organized during the period from 21-29 March 2013, as an interim program between the summer schools. The winter school was held in Jeddah, with 52 participants from Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Italy, Saudi Arabia and Turkey. It had sessions for the exploration of the historical part of Jeddah as a case study, together with the presentation of reports on "Selected Buildings' Examples" and panels.

The 2013 Summer School focused on:

- Technical practice on site; conception of preservation and urban development projects;



Souvenir photo with Mr. Wasam Duruer, Governor of Edirne; Dr. Halit Eren, Dr. Osama al-Johairy (Secretary General, Al-Turath Foundation); Prof. Arch. Amir Pasic, Assoc. Prof. Cengiz Tomar (IRCICA)

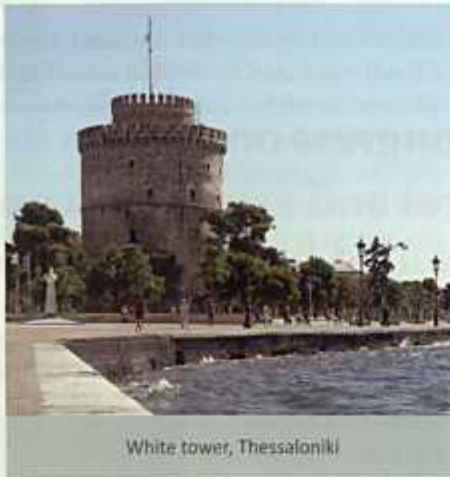
- Management, planning and evaluation of the economic and social impact of urban heritage and its conservation, and provision of appropriate financial solutions;
- Research, analysis and documentation of urban heritage sites and buildings in contribution to the "IRCICA-Prince Sultan bin Salman Architectural Heritage Database".

The program began in Edirne and involved visits to the following historical cities that are significant for the program's objectives: Edirne (Turkey); Plovdiv, Sofia (Bulgaria); Serres, Thessaloniki, Kavala and Komotini (Greece). Among these cities, Edirne and Thessaloniki are inscribed in UNESCO's list of



Edirne: view from the top of the Minaret of Selimiye Mosque

World Heritage Sites. These visits were followed by seminars organized with the participation of local and international experts as well as representatives of local authorities.



White tower, Thessaloniki



Djumaya Mosque, Plovdiv

The last three days of the program included panels on each of the main themes, presentations by the participants grouped in teams of 4 or 5 persons, and the closing ceremony.

The closing session was addressed by Mr. Hasan Duruer, Governor of Edirne, Turkey and Dr. Halit Eren,<sup>1</sup> Director General of IRCICA, emphasizing the importance of this

educational program as a good example of promotion of the Islamic urban heritage.

The participants having successfully completed the program were awarded a Certificate issued by IRCICA and Al-Turath Foundation together with the collaborating academic institutions.



Muhammad Ali Paşa Imaret in Kavala



Ibrahim Pasha Mosque in Kavala



The Old Town (Plovdiv)

## Craft Development Program

### Tehran-Tabriz International Congress on: Features, characteristics, cultural and economic contribution of arts and handicrafts accompanied by an exhibition of albums, catalogues and books published in the field of arts and handicrafts (5-9 May 2013)

IRCICA, together with the Organisation for Culture and Islamic Relations, Islamic Republic of Iran and the University of Islamic Arts in Tabriz, have jointly organized the "Tehran International Congress on the Features, Characteristics and Cultural and Economic Contribution of Arts and Handicrafts" accompanied by an Exhibition of Albums, Catalogues and Books Published in the Field of Arts and Handicrafts.

The congress venues were Grand Azadi Hotel in Tehran for the first three days and the University of Islamic Arts, Tabriz for the last two days. It was altogether a very successful event rich in visits to artisans workshops, exhibitions and traditional music performances, among other features. Scholars, experts and specialists of arts and crafts participated in it, from the following countries: Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, France, Malaysia, Mauritania, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, South Africa, Sudan, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Geneva.

A large-scale exhibition of the Iranian artisans featured masterpieces of miniature, ceramics, carpets and kilims, glass works, leather works, book-bindings, textiles, jewelry and silver works, metal works, and many others. The artisans were showing their techniques as at work.

The congress aimed among others, to explore the means that can be provided for an optimal use of this sector of activity in the cultural and tourism areas and that can generate benefits for the tourism sector when it is linked with arts, heritage and handicrafts, the latter being studied in its actual state and its development prospects.

The congress underlined the need to preserve the authenticity of these traditional skills and to promote them by available means. The following topics were discussed:

*The social, economic and tourism aspects;*  
*The marketing of the arts and handicrafts products;*

*The heritage aspect and efforts to preserve the authenticity and traditions;*

*Cultural dialogue and mutual influences;*

*Education;*

*Training;*

*The role of the government and efforts of the private sector;*

*The media and the duty of creating awareness about the importance of the sector and its constructive contribution to society.*

Papers that discussed the above topics also communicated findings of research on the following Craft subtitles:

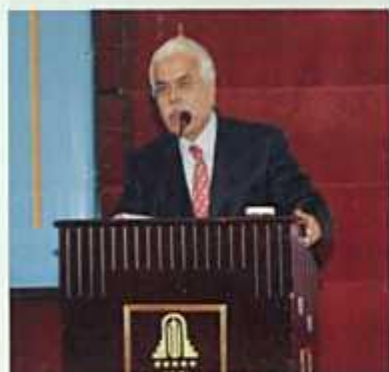
*Ceramic and Pottery; Textiles, Embroidery and Traditional Costumes; Carpets, Kilims and Sadou; Architectural Crafts; Furniture and Interior Décor; Paper-making, Gilding, Binding and Ebru; Ornamentation and Miniature; Wooden Crafts; Metal Crafts.*

The Congress was inaugurated at Parsian Azadi Hotel's Conference hall by H.E. Dr. Seyyed Mohammad Hosseini, Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance of the Islamic Republic of Iran; Dr. Halit Eren, DG, IRCICA; Dr. Mohammad Bagher Khorramshad, President of the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization; Dr. Mohammad Reza Dehshiri, Vice-president of the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization



for Research, Education and Academic Exchange along with some of the Ambassadors of OIC Member States represented in Tehran and foreign guests.

Dr. Seyyed Mohammad Hosseini, Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance of the Islamic Republic of Iran, stated that the extant traces of history are the exact witness of the authenticity of the arts in Iran such as architecture and paintings dating from different ages. He added that the calligraphy plates, tiles, and miniatures preserved in Iran show the qualitative level of the Islamic arts in the country. He added that Islamic arts are ingrained with the pure nature of the human; the art of Muslims invite the world to the affability and benevolence and is evidence of God's power with the absolute meaning because of its dignified nature and ideology.



The Director General of IRCICA Dr. Halit Eren extended his appreciation to the host country the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting this event and he praised the efforts of the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization and

Tabriz Islamic Arts University towards its organization. He underlined IRCICA's commitment to organizing the congress within the framework of its Craft Development Program. He said that IRCICA considers the traditional handicrafts and the related arts an important sector of development and is therefore implementing a comprehensive program aiming to encourage their preservation and development. The program is conducted in collaboration with the concerned authorities and institutions of the Member States, as well as regional and international organizations. Dr. Eren added that IRCICA was also able to establish a documentary data base with the material collected which includes information about various types of handicrafts and on issues relating to design, marketing, size of the tourism market, exchange of technology, training opportunities, availability of raw materials, among others.

Dr. Mohammad Bagher Khorramshad, President of the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization, stated in his address that in Muslim countries today some inclinations are seen



having impact on the cultural heritage and this threat composed of stimulation leads to destruction. Pointing the relation between the arts and Islam as a religion, he said, in relation with that section of the conference, that Islam is a dual religion; meaning

that it gives an equal value to this world and the after life, and because Islam sees humans and the universe purposive, the Islamic arts are both holy and purposive arts. He also called for holding permanent exhibitions and galleries of artists in the Muslim countries, establishing an alliance of artists, and preparing the encyclopedia of Muslim arts in different languages. He added: as the Islamic arts are such elegant and inspirational arts, handicrafts have the same values. Although all the Muslim countries possess handicrafts industry, the Islamic republic of Iran in some cases owns pure and various handicraft products. He mentioned also that Iran is hosting this congress on arts and crafts for the second time after the Isfahan congress held in 2002.

On May 8, the delegations went to Tabriz, where a welcoming ceremony was held at the Be'sat Amphitheater, Tabriz Islamic Arts University. Dr. Mohammad al Keynejad, Member of the Cultural Revolution Supreme Council and Chancellor of the University, gave a welcoming address expressing his pleasure to have the last two days sessions of the Congress on the campus of the University in Tabriz. He said that the excellent message of Islam is brotherhood, equality and righteousness; that Islamic arts have a strong graft among Muslims and that the congress was a proof of the gathering of delegates from different countries of the world under the umbrella of brotherhood. He also said that if Muslims are able to strengthen the Islamic faith in themselves, the outcome would be Islamic arts at the end. The association of these two elements, faith and art, throughout history, suggests that both have their roots deep in the unconsciousness and soul of the human being. Islamic art, as a virtuous art, has managed to receive positive impacts from the instructions and thoughts of this monotheistic religion and thus it has fulfilled its spiritual orientations. Islamic art, as history witnesses, has turned into an artistic lingua franca within Islamic territories and established a strong and permanent bond between Muslims from furthestmost regions under Islamic civilization in the Muslim Andalusia to the significant cultural epicenters in easternmost regions-such as Samarkand. He said that Islamic Republic Iran, particularly Tabriz, has for centuries been the most productive epicenter of this dynamic art, namely Islamic art, and has served as the beating heart of the Islamic culture, delivering to world the bulk of artists which are universally celebrated under the title of Islamic art and civilization. Iran has been cradle of the intelligentsia and great artists who, while lying beneath the earth in corpses, are even up to the present time the source of inspiration for the young and faithful artists and authors of this ancient land. He also pointed out that the presence of famous and revered Islamic arts and crafts masters and scholars, convening from throughout the Islamic world, in that congress, provides an appropriate opportunity for emphasizing the particular role of Islamic art and culture with respect to triggering amity and compassion between human beings. Dr. Keynejad gave a brief about the university as a special academic institution for Islamic arts. He expressed the hope that this international congress would usher into feasible solutions in regard to diverse fields of Islamic arts and crafts, as a whole, and address its contemporary challenges and questions.

The ceremony in Tabriz was also addressed by Dr. Nezh Marouf, Head, Crafts Development Program, representing the Director General of IRCICA; Dr. Mohammad Reza Dehshiri, Vice-president of the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization for Research, Education and Academic Exchange; Dr. Mohammad-Zadeh, Dean of Islamic Art Faculty, Tabriz University.



An exhibition of Iranian master artisans was inaugurated at Azadi Grand Hotel. Outstanding artworks were displayed in the different sections of the exhibition including metal crafts, wooden crafts, glass works, ceramics, carpets and kilims, calligraphy plates, book decoration and book binding, pottery, chasing, and paper dyeing; workshops were also held at some stands. 50 master artisans and 100 young artisans took part in this exhibition from various regions.

#### The congress program

**First Session: Chairman:** Mohamad Reza Dehshiri  
Economic Development of Handicrafts

"The dual role of Crafts in the Cultural Heritage and Creative Industries sectors: A call for an holistic approach";  
*Indrasen Vencatachellum*

Crafts and Their Effects on Iran's National Economy  
*Reza Afhami-Shahriyar Shokrpour*

Transforming Traditional Craft into a relevant and viable Economic Commodity, *Razia Haffajee*

**Second Session: Chairman:** Najet Aroua  
Touristic Dimension of Handicrafts

Economic and Touristic Dimension of Handicrafts  
*Nezh Maruf*

Developing and supporting arts and crafts industries within international cooperation programmes

*Valentyna Kryuchkova*

Employment of heritage and folklore as a tourist attraction: Village's heritage tourism, *Ibrahim Yahya Ibrahim Bakr*

#### Discussion

**Third Session: Chairman:** Nezh Maruf  
Marketing and Exports of Handicrafts

Capability of Information Technology in Increasing the Development and Export of Hand-woven Carpet's Sale

*Ali Vandshoury - Ahmad Nad'liyan*



The role of integrative marketing in the expansion of handicrafts' exports in Eastern Azerbaijan province

*Asghar Panahzadeh - Karim Mirzaeei*

Economic aspects of handicrafts: Appropriate marketing suggestions, *Hamid Zargham*

**Fourth Session: Chairman:** Othman Yatim

Crafts and Cultural Heritage Identity: Preservation and Restoration Plans

Employment of architectural Crafts within the Restoration Plan: Algeria as an example, *Najet Aroua*

The heritage aspect and efforts to preserve the authenticity and tradition, *Smajović Amila*

The clothing designs in Safavid paintings, and its Employment in modern clothing, with an emphasis on security, identity and peace, *Mahnaz Shyestefar*

**Fifth Session: Chairman:** Mohamed Ali Hassan Zenhom

Bio Handicrafts Products, Natural Dyeing and Journey of Colors

Perspectives of Bio Handicrafts Products in Tunisian Heritage, *Naceur Ayed*



"The Rich Legacy of Asian Textiles and innovative contemporary adaptations - embellished by Dyeing, Hand-printing and Embroidery: KOEL's initiatives to preserve Pakistan's Textile Heritage." (Image and Sound Presentation), *Noorjehan Bilgrami*

The Infinite Journey: Art of Ebru, *Hikmet Barutçugil*

**Sixth Session:** *Chairman:* Razia Haffajee  
Arts, Crafts, Registry and Intellectual Property

Intellectual Property and Traditional Handicrafts  
*Amgad Abdel Ghaffar*

The influential competitive hand-knotted Persian rugs from the intellectual viewpoint, *Abdollah Mirzaee& Mehdi Mohammadzdaeh*

Handicraft: Historical Register and Secured Bridge of the Mauritanian Society, *Hmeyada Mohamed*

**Seventh Session:** *Chairman:* Naceur Ayed  
Tradition and Modernity

Traditional Art and Craft in the Modern Context: Can it Survive? *Othman Yatim*

Old Paper-making between Tradition and Modernity,  
*Bassam Daghistani*

Modern Conditions and Problems of Development of Applied Kinds of Arts in Tadjikistan, *Turaev Makhmadi*

Crafts and Traditional Industries in Qatar, *Mohamed Said AlBlauchi*

Be'sat Amphitheater, Tabriz Islamic University,  
Address of Dr. Mohammad Al Keynejad, Member of Cultural Revolution Supreme Council and University Chancellor,  
Address of Dr. Nezh Marouf, Head, Crafts Development Program, IRCICA, Istanbul,  
Address of Dr. Mohammad Reza Dehshiri, National Coordinator of the Congress,  
Address of Dr. Mohammad-Zadeh, Dean of Islamic Art Faculty, Tabriz University,  
Visit of the Exhibition Stands of Tabriz Islamic Art university, Handicraft Museum and workshops,

**Eighth Session:** *Chairman:* Indrasen Vencatachellum  
Pottery and Tiles: Techniques Applied and Developing Activities,

The History Behind the Colourful Tiles of Rustem Pasha Mosque, *Sitare Turan Bakir*



Chinaware and Pottery in Fustat Area (in Misr El Kadima "Old Egypt"): The way of its development in terms of economic interest and contributions made to the touristic development in Egypt, *Mohamed Ali Hassan Zenhom*

Studies on the Manufacturing Techniques of Iznik Tiles and Ceramics, *Fusun Okyar*

**Ninth Session:** *Chairman:* Mohammad Saeed AlBlushi  
Patronage, Education and Training

The Role of Government and Efforts of the Private Sector in Uganda and the East African Region in Developing the Craft Industry, *Bruno Sserunkuma*

Pathology of the educational methods in the field of Iranian handicrafts, *Mehran Hoshyar*

Successors of the Silk Road, *Shayakubov Shahalil Karimovich*  
Islamic Ornamentation: Reflections on its Humanistic, Cosmologic, and Metaphysical Aspects - *Patrick Ringgenberg*

**Tenth Session:** *Chairman:* Noorjehan Bilgrami  
Experience of OIC Member States in the field of Arts and Crafts, Tunisian experience in training in art and hand crafts: Attempt of evaluation and comparison, *Fathi Jarray*

Role of Countries in the development of Modern Glass Industry, *Mohamed Taqi Ashuri - Arzu Khanbur*

Craft Products in Sudan: Present State and Future Prospects, *Maha Omar Mohamed Ahmad*

Present State of Traditional Crafts in Yemen, *Amat AlRazaq Jahaf*

**Closing Ceremony** (Be'sat Amphitheatre, Tabriz Islamic Art University)

Presentation of the Tabriz Declaration by Mahdi Mohammad Zadeh, Dean of Islamic Arts Faculty, Tabriz Islamic Art University,

Presentation of the Report and Recommendations of the congress by Nezh Maruf,

Address of Dr. Beigi, Governor of East-Azerbaijan,  
Address of the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization, Islamic Republic of Iran,

Address of the Research Center for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA),

Address of the Representatives of Delegations and Participants:  
African Group: Razia Haffajee, South Africa,  
Asian Group: Noorjehan Bilgrami, Pakistan,



Arab Group: Mohamed Zeinhum, Egypt,  
World Crafts Council: Secretary General: Chen Ching,  
Address of Artisans: Malekian,  
Address of Participants: Dr. Pirbabaei, Vice-Chancellor, Tabriz  
Islamic arts University

### Tabriz Declaration

Participants of the "International Congress on the Feature, Characteristics and Cultural and Economic Achievements of Islamic Art and Handicrafts" that was held in Tehran and Tabriz on May 5-9, 2013 emphasized the following.

#### 1. Recognizing and keeping in view the:

- Islamic teachings being a major source of inspiration for Islamic art and handicraft;
- Rich variety of world cultural heritage, in general, and that of the Islamic world in particular;
- Extensive cultural and economic capacities of the Islamic arts and handicrafts;
- Necessity of preserving and promoting Islamic arts and handicrafts as the rich heritage of the Muslim world;
- Need for enhancing technical and scientific interaction and exchange in the area of art and handicrafts among the Islamic countries;
- Inevitability of organizing international conferences and festivals with the aim of enhancing the position of Islamic arts and handicrafts worldwide;

We the participants of the "International Congress on the Feature, Characteristics and Cultural and Economic Achievements of Islamic Art and Handicrafts" believe that

cultural dialogue is the most important way for the better understanding of the noble values of art, particularly Islamic arts and handicrafts, and that Muslim artists can have a positive role in enhancing the awareness of different nations and communities about the rich cultural-artistic heritage of Islam and can inspire respect and admiration for Islamic norms and sanctities.

2. While expressing our gratitude to the Research Center for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA), the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (ICRO) and the Tabriz University of Islamic Arts for all their efforts in planning and organizing the Congress; expressing our thanks to the Islamic Republic of Iran for the warm hospitality extended to the participants and the valuable efforts made for the success of the Congress and also expressing our sincere appreciations to all the active participants and artisans who made the Congress a success by presenting their scholarly papers and artistic works, we call on the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the IRCICA, in particular, to provide for the necessary requirements and mechanisms for the cultural and economic development of Islamic arts and handicraft as a significant instrument of promoting the cultural heritage of the Islamic world.

3. The participants of the Congress also call on the OIC its affiliated financial institutions to mobilize the existing resources to support and ensure the development of Islamic arts and handicrafts and the elevation of artistic creativities and innovations in Islamic countries; draft national programs towards the cultural and economic progress and promotion of handicrafts in member countries and take the necessary measures for providing support to Muslim artists in improving



their standard of living and to enable them continue with their artistic creativity and innovativeness and passing their arts and skills to the future generations.

4. Keeping in view the significant role of economic measures in the development and sustainability of artistic activities the participants request the OIC to facilitate fair means of trade and exchange of artistic works and handicrafts as well as the acquisition of the required raw materials and to support the artists of the Islamic world in the marketing of their arts and handicrafts.

5. The participants of the Congress call on all the citizens of the Islamic societies to act upon their social responsibility and play a constructive role in promoting Islamic arts and handicrafts. We also call on all those with national and/or regional responsibilities to extend their full cooperation in the area of economic and social development of Islamic arts and handicrafts. It is recommended that the ministries and institutions vested with the responsibility of promoting handicrafts take on encouraging their respective educational and training centers to organize specialized workshops for the public in their countries. International organizations are also requested to actively support all the creative and innovative efforts made towards the development and promotion of Islamic arts and handicrafts and the required training courses.

6. Recognizing and approving of the steps taken by the OIC towards the promotion of the culture of tourism among the Islamic countries, which can have a decisive role in the progress, development and advancement of arts and handicrafts in the Islamic world, the participant of the Congress call for the increased participation of the private sector and non-government organizations (NGOs) in promoting tourism and in expanding the marketing networks producing innovative works.

7. The participants request the OIC to see into the establishment of an institution for promoting higher education in arts in Islamic countries, facilitating relations between institutions of higher education in these countries and setting qualitative standards in the area of arts and handicrafts. Taking into consideration the specialized experience of the Tabriz University of Islamic Arts we welcome the suggestion made by this university for being the permanent host of the Center for Higher Education in Islamic Arts and Handicrafts.

8. Recognizing the rich cultural heritage of Tabriz and the outstanding role of this city in the promotion and development of Islamic arts and handicrafts, particularly in the area of painting, and by taking into consideration that Tabriz is the eternal resting place of Kamaluddin Behzad, the renowned painter in the history of Islamic art, and making note of the excellent successes of the contemporary artists of this city in reviving Islamic arts and also by taking note of the endeavors made by the centers of higher education of this city in promoting education and research in Islamic arts, the participants strongly recommend selecting the Tabriz City as the Painting Capital of the Islamic world and establishing a permanent office of painting by IRCICA in this creative city.

9. Expressing their utmost concern about the demolition and destruction of the infrastructures of the cultural heritage of Al-Quds and condemning the illegal steps taken by the Zionist regime in this regard, the participants call upon the international community, the OIC and the UNESCO to take every necessary measure to end such destructions.

10. The participants also emphasized on the necessity of protection of historical and cultural monuments of the Islamic countries, particularly in Palestine, Syria and other Islamic countries which are being threatened and are exposed to destruction.

11. The participants called on the OIC member states to prepare the necessary mechanisms for the establishment of a Fund to support the Muslim artists and craftsmen and announce it to the member states.

12. The Congress requests the IRCICA to submit the present document to the first forthcoming summit of the ministers of culture of the OIC member states to get it approved and follow it up.



## Art exhibition

### Master calligrapher Amir Ahmad Falsafi's exhibition: "The Secret of the Pen" (18-25 July 2013)

IRCICA and Istanbul Classical Arts Centre (IKSM) have jointly organized an exhibition of calligraphies by the world-renowned Iranian master Amir Ahmad Falsafi, who is known as the Dean of calligraphers in Nesta'liq (Ta'liq) style. The exhibition was opened at Dolmabahçe Art Gallery in Istanbul on 18 July 2013.

IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren opened the exhibition expressing his pleasure that IRCICA and İKSM were offering artists, students and art lovers the opportunity to see the works of one of the most important master calligraphers in our time, Mr. Amir Ahmad Falsafi. He pointed to the distinguishing features of Mr. Falsafi's works including the remarkable refinement, excellence and technical perfection he achieves which won him the title of the Dean of Nesta'liq calligraphers.

Mr. Amir Ahmad Falsafi welcomed the audience and underlined the importance of arts in reinforcing relations between peoples of different countries; in this respect he stressed the role of calligraphy in promoting cultural exchanges among Muslim countries. He recalled that among the latter, mutual influences have always been present and beneficial for the development of the arts. He said that for his part he always works in full consciousness of this role of the arts and tries to do his best to contribute in this direction.

Then Prof. Uğur Derman, specialist of the art of calligraphy, spoke of the Nesta'liq style of writing and its particularities. This style was born and evolved in Iran and its region; it is a very delicate style, especially in its finer, Khurde Ta'liq version, which renders flawless writing very hard to achieve. Prof. Derman said he had examined the works displayed with a



magnifier in his hand and noted their flawless perfection; this leads him, he said, to reaffirm that Mr. Falsafi is the greatest master of this style.

More than thirty works by Mr. Falsafi were on display for one week. The exhibition drew a large number of visitors and was widely reported in the media.



Mr. Falsafi (4th from the R.), speakers and guests

## The Second World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue: “Living together peacefully in a diverse world” and IRCICA’s participation (29 May - 1 June 2013, Baku, Azerbaijan)

The Second World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue: “Living together peacefully in a diverse world” was held from 29 May - 1 June 2013 in Baku, Azerbaijan. The World Forum was organized under patronage of H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan in cooperation with UNESCO, UN Alliance of Civilizations, UN World Tourism Organization, UNESCO, Council of Europe, North-South Center of the Council of Europe and ISESCO. Baku had also hosted the First World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue which was held on 7-9 April 2011.

The Baku Forum addressed challenges of intercultural dialogue in its various aspects regarding conceptual frameworks, governance, policy and practice. It provided an opportunity for sharing of good practices and the launch of new initiatives within this intercultural platform. 500 delegates from 102 countries, many international organizations, NGOs, media representatives, scholars and experts participated in the Forum organized under the motto “United Through Common Values, Enriched by Cultural Diversity” (for detailed information see the website: bakuforum-icd.az)

The sessions, panels and workshops comprised in the forum’s program dealt with a multitude of topics, including: “How to build the world future together?”, “How to build the popular support for cultural diversity?”, “The new era of globalization: hybridity of cultures in changing world”, “Supporting intercultural actions”, “Do one thing for diversity and inclusion”, “Intercultural innovation award ceremony for Central Asia, Black Sea and Mediterranean regions”, “Global network towards a global intercultural cities learning community”, the workshop “Intercultural dialogue through history teaching: best practices and challenges”, the sessions of “Tourism as a key driver of mutual understanding and tolerance among cultures”, “Intercultural dialogue through faith and science” among others. Ministers of culture and of tourism met in two thematic sessions.

President Ilham Aliyev made a speech at the opening ceremony. In his address, President Aliyev welcomed all the participants expressing his pleasure that the forum had become a periodical event. The series of forums constitute part of the “Baku process”, which began in 2008; he qualified this process as a very important event in modern history: “The start of a broad process will be remembered for the participation of Culture Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation member states in the Baku meeting of Culture Ministers of the Council of Europe in 2008. Then, in 2009, a meeting of the Culture Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation was attended by their colleagues from the Council of Europe. In other words, Baku, essentially playing the role of a geographical bridge, has also successfully performed the function of an intercultural bridge.”

President Aliyev said the holding of the forum in Azerbaijan was no coincidence: Azerbaijan has been the homeland for the representatives of all ethnicities and confessions living here for centuries. “We are proud that the independent Azerbaijan is still a multi-ethnic and multi-religious country. Representatives of all religions and ethnicities live here like one family, in an atmosphere of peace, friendship and mutual understanding. It is our great asset, a great advantage, and I believe that this factor has also played a role in the successful development of Azerbaijan. I should note that regardless of the public and political structure, Azerbaijan has always been a space of religious tolerance. I am glad that in the years of independence we have not only managed to maintain these positive trends, but have further strengthened them and do not limit our activities to Azerbaijan alone. The initiatives Azerbaijan has put forward are reverberating around the world today. I believe that all of our regional initiatives - political, economic and others - also create favorable conditions for regional cooperation, while the dialogue among peoples and nations further enhances these positive trends.” The President emphasized the importance of intercultural dialogue: “... different thoughts about multiculturalism have been expressed lately. Some believe that multiculturalism has failed. Politicians in some countries have openly talked about that. We see that public opinion is very pessimistic about the development of multiculturalism trends. Unfortunately, sometimes political statements, the activities of non-governmental organizations and some media institutions do not contribute to the development of inter-civilizational dialogue. Instead, they give way to discrimination. Therefore, the responsibility of politicians and public figures is of great importance here. Any idea expressed anywhere in today’s globalizing world and in the Internet era may immediately reverberate in the world. I believe that we should apply the positive experience even more broadly. The people present here, the participants in this forum have one common



The launch ceremony for the National Tolerance Center

idea. We share the idea of multiculturalism, the successful future of the intercultural dialogue, strengthening the positive trends occurring in the world. This being the case, we must also strive to strengthen these positive trends with our work and practical steps."

Other speakers at the opening ceremony included the UN High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, the Director General of UNESCO Mrs. Irina Bokova, and the Director General of ISESCO Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwajri.

The themes of the sessions and meetings were as follows:

**Plenary session 1:** "Cultural corridors in Southeast Europe, Black Sea and Caucasus regions – shared heritage, common responsibilities, sustainable future", Organizers: Azerbaijan, and the Office of the President of Bulgaria Mr. Georgi Parvanov (2002-2012)

**Plenary Session 2:** "The New Era of Globalization: Hybridity in culture in a changing world", Organizer: Government of Azerbaijan

**Plenary Session 3:** "How to build public support for cultural diversity?" Organizer: Government of Azerbaijan

#### Ministerial sessions:

1. "How can culture and creativity build intercultural confidence?"
2. "Common ground for intercultural dialogue: heritage and cultural tourism"

#### Workshop sessions:

**Workshop 1:** "Intercultural Dialogue through History Teaching: Best Practices and Challenges", Organizers: North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, History Education Unit of the Council of Europe, EUROCLIO, IRCICA, UN Alliance of Civilizations

**Workshop 2:** "Western-Muslim Relations: from Polarization to Partnership", Organizers: Azerbaijan, UNAOC

**Workshop 3:** "Building intercultural competences for 21st Century", Organizers: UNESCO, Azerbaijan

**Workshop 4:** "Tourism as a key driver of mutual understanding and tolerance among peoples and cultures", Organizers: Azerbaijan, UNWTO

**Workshop 5:** "Urban policies for diversity in 21st century: the intercultural cities paradigm", Organizers: Azerbaijan, Council of Europe

**Workshop 6:** "The role of the corporate sector in promoting intercultural dialogue and diversity", Organizer: Azerbaijan, UN Alliance of Civilizations

**Workshop 7:** "Global Citizenship: towards intercultural actions", Organizer: Government of Azerbaijan

**Workshop 8:** "Intercultural dialogue: Faith and Science", Organizers: Azerbaijan, ISESCO

**Workshop 9:** "Strengthening the role civil society to promote intercultural dialogue, diversity and inclusion", Organizers: Azerbaijan, UNAOC, Global Dialogue Foundation

#### IRCICA's participation in the forum

• On 29 June 2013, Azerbaijan's State Committee on Religious Associations organized a launch ceremony for the National Tolerance Center. The event took place in Baku Business Center as part of the Second World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue. Following the talks, an audio-visual presentation of Reza Deghati's photographs depicting multi-faith coexistence as a historical and actual feature of Azerbaijan won the audience's appreciation.

In his welcoming speech, Mr. Elshad Iskandarov, Chairman of the State Committee, evoked the history of coexistence and the development of spiritual Islam which both characterize the history of Azerbaijan. Iskandarov also referred to Azerbaijan's policy of "positive secularism" that calls for the government's involvement in promoting inter-faith understanding and coexistence; the construction of worshipping places for all faiths is an example of positive secularism. He recalled that the idea to set up a tolerance centre was put forward by Ms. Leyla Aliyeva, Vice President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation. The Minister of Culture and Tourism of Azerbaijan Mr. Abulfas Garayev delivered an address elaborating upon the concepts and principles of "how to live in the world in peace and cooperation". In his speech, Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwajri, Director General of ISESCO (Rabat) said that the creation of the Center is a praiseworthy step and that the center will set an example for the world as a human and civilizational work. As to UN High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, he praised the center's expected role in strengthening inter-religious relations. Ms. Katarina Sténou, Director of the Division of Cultural Policies, UNESCO, addressing the audience, pointed out that the world is more connected today but misunderstandings still remain deep. She said that peace could not be based exclusively on politics and economics but must also be based on moral and intellectual dialogue; UNESCO is seeking answers to the challenges posed by this fact.

As to IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren, he said, in his address, that as relations between peoples become more complex and their interdependencies grow, inter-religious tolerance acquires more importance for providing harmony to these relations. He referred to intercultural exchanges and dialogue emphasizing the importance of peoples' knowing each other: knowledge of the other, of the closeness and the common



Souvenir photo of the participants with President Aliyev

will help reinforce tolerance, he said. He also added that empathy and compassion towards one another are inseparable from human nature: all religions have the principle of tolerance at their essence; despite this, the world also sees the weakening of these values where the resulting gap is sometimes filled by the spread of violence, extremism, xenophobia, terrorism and hatred. Curbing this trend requires a concerted will and effort on the part of countries and organizations; in this spirit, he commended the establishment of the National Tolerance Center which aims to contribute on this score.

The meeting was also addressed by representatives of the different faith communities in Azerbaijan.

- The Workshop Session 1 on "Intercultural Dialogue through History Teaching: Best Practices and Challenges" was organized by North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, History Education Unit of the Council of Europe, EUROCLIO, IRCICA and UN Alliance of Civilizations, on 30 June. The workshop brought together experts, representatives of institutions and countries, as well as members of the Global Network of Historians and History Educators. This Network had been launched within the framework of a meeting on history teaching which was organized by the Council of Europe History Education Unit, the North-South Centre and IRCICA at the latter's headquarters in Istanbul, in April 2009; its objectives were announced during the Second Forum of the Alliance the same month in Istanbul. The Baku workshop session was an excellent opportunity for the institutions involved to share best practices on the implementation of existing recommendations and strategies on history teaching and outline challenges and obstacles encountered in their implementation. Through this discussion it contributed at the same time to promoting the concepts of multiperspectivity and of "inclusive" history teaching that would cover all peoples and cultures of the world.

The workshop was moderated by Mr. Roman Chlapak, Executive Director of North-South Centre of the Council of Europe. In the first part of the meeting, Mr. Mikayil Jabbarov, Minister of Education of Azerbaijan, underlined the importance of correcting the existing biases about history and using history as a tool to build bridges between peoples. International peace can only be based on respect, understanding and knowledge that would be inclusive of good and positive aspects of history. Then Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, alluded to different aspects of history education that can encourage intercultural dialogue. He said that bringing topics of interactions into history teaching has many dimensions, among them the production of teaching materials, training of teachers, and sharing practical experiences; international partnerships towards these aims such as those conducted by the Council of Europe's History Education Division and its North-South

Centre with IRCICA have proven immensely beneficial due to complementarities among these bodies as to scope of subjects, geographical membership and types of activity.

The meeting then heard the remarks of specialists of intercultural relations including representatives of international bodies. Ms. Joke van der Leeuw-Roord, Executive Director, EUROCLIO, spoke of the different types of judgments and feelings that arise in people's minds when they study their history such as pride, sense of having been victims, deliberate ignorance, disinterest or neglect. This ensues from a national-centrist outlook; however in the present time where a necessary global outlook requires consideration of other histories as well, there arises a new paradigm. Ms. van der Leeuw-Roord pointed to the challenges this poses to studies in history such as the need to develop multiperspectivity and conditions it requires in the working environment and with respect to other variables involved in these studies. Moderator Mr. Chlapak underlined the importance of adopting multiperspective approaches and invited Mr. Brian Carvell, Expert to the Council of Europe, to speak of the projects undertaken by the History Education Division of the Council of Europe and which have this among their aims. Mr. Carvell briefed the workshop on two groups of projects: intergovernmental ones, such as the project titled "Shared histories for a Europe without dividing lines (2010-2013)" and bilateral ones, aiming to bridge divides between countries, through such activities as bringing together historians for curriculum revision and development and to work on teaching methods for selected themes. Then Mr. Fadi Daou, Chairman and CEO, Adyan Foundation, Beirut, Lebanon, pointed to the identifying mission of history teaching. Citing the example of Lebanon where there is not one history book but more, unifying history could be based on a political consensus on a desired concept of citizenship, of living together. The following speaker, Mr. Matthias Klingenberg, Regional Director for Caucasus and Turkey (Tbilisi, Georgia), DVV-International, spoke of the objectives of the various regional projects undertaken by DVV-International to reconcile collective memories, such as through the Balkans regional project, and process war trauma, as in the case of the project on Afghanistan, among many others (see <http://www.iiz-dvv.de>). He gave information on the approaches adopted for these projects for concrete practical results such as the use of oral histories and eye witnesses and the focus on the people's history. The next speaker, Prof. Mostafa Hassani-Idrissi from Mohamed V University, Rabat, Morocco, elaborated upon the challenge of facing History through the encounter of the Other



Workshop Session 1 on "Intercultural Dialogue through History Teaching: Best Practices and Challenges"

and suggested a combination of mainly three methods in dealing with this challenge in history teaching. The first method is to revise the teaching programs whereby the local, the national, the macro-regional and the global levels of history would be all provided for and at the same time, combined. The second one is to develop the pertinent historical thought in the minds of pupils whereby the history would be studied scientifically and not ideologically or politically, which is to be done by means of exercises. The third method is related to the training of the teachers and the authors of the textbooks in order to enlarge their perspectives as compared to national versions of histories. Then, Ms. Polina Verbytska, Executive Director, Nova Doba – All Ukrainian Association for History and Social Studies, spoke on challenges associated with people's and political interpretations of history, one of the biggest challenges being the unpreparedness of people to make choices with respect to multicultural situations and to act in multicultural situations. Differences existing among historical memories is a key issue. Mass media's cooperation is crucial so as to develop a synergy towards multiculturalism. Mr. Chlapak, moderator of the workshop supported these remarks stressing the importance of always having the Other in history narrative. He then invited to the floor Prof. Gunnar Skirbekk from the Centre for the Study of the Sciences and the Humanities, University of Bergen, Norway. The co-author, with Nils Gilje, of *A History of Western Thought: From Ancient Greece to the Twentieth Century* (Routledge, 2001) and author of *Multiple Modernities: A Tale of Scandinavian Experiences* (The Chinese University Press, 2012), having also taught in China since 1998, spoke of the differences of perspectives running from East to West in the study of philosophy and history, of how the various ways of rationality – intellectual and the people's – interact. He stressed the importance of seeing the many ways in which humans are both different and also equal. Prof. Skirbekk also recalled that history studies should be multidisciplinary and include the history of science, the history of institutions, and others. The workshop then heard Prof. Sami Adwan, professor of education and teacher trainer at the Faculty of Education, Bethlehem University, and Palestinian director and co-founder of the Peace Research Institute in the Middle East (PRIME). Prof. Adwan spoke of the issues involved in the process of learning about each other through the respective historical narratives – revising the textbooks, dealing with emotions, and many others – and the objective of promoting multiperspectivity in situations such as the present Palestine-Israel conflict. He briefed the workshop on the activities conducted by his institution.

- The initiatives and tools aimed at training on intercultural competences for history teaching that were identified and

the recommendations made by the Workshop Session 1 on "Intercultural Dialogue through History Teaching: Best Practices and Challenges" were further discussed at the Meeting of the Global Network of Historians and Educators which was held on 31 May 2013. It can be recalled that the Global Network of Historians and Educators was launched by the Council of Europe History Education Unit, the North-South Centre and IRCICA during the Second Forum of the UN Alliance of Civilizations (Istanbul, April 2009). Through the communications of participants from across the globe, this meeting of the Global Network recorded some practices implemented and experiences accumulated since that time by the professionals and institutions that have been working to develop history teaching in accordance with requirements of a multicultural world. Based on the report of the workshop on "Intercultural Dialogue through History Teaching: Best Practices and Challenges" presented by the Rapporteur, Mr. Steven Steggers (EUROCLIO), the meeting at the same time provided a follow-up to that workshop. It hosted an interactive discussion among more than 30 delegates from governmental, educational and research institutions, international organizations and civil society. It produced a set of recommendations that will no doubt serve as reference in the continuing activities.

Apart from discussing subjects related to perspectives in history narratives, contents of school textbooks and general publications among others, the network reviewed, and suggested ways to improve, its own operational methods. It was observed that the network, through such meetings as the above workshop, provides a useful platform for sharing ideas and techniques not only on history teaching but also on other crucial issues such as linking knowledge of history to community issues, social and political questions, and relationship with the information media. The role of history teaching in promoting peaceful coexistence and the importance of multiperspectivity in this regard were underlined. Ms. Zeynep Durukal Abuhusayn, Head of the Intercultural Relations Research Program, IRCICA, representing IRCICA at the meeting, observed that adoption of a more pluridisciplinary scope in history teaching can contribute in promoting multiperspectivity and recommended in this regard that reference be made to topics from cultural history, art history, and other pertinent areas besides political history. Some participants observed that in their practice and through exchanges such as in this network, professionals working in such different areas would be inspired from each other. Among other topics discussed were national curricula, capacity building in teacher training, and ways of linking the work of historians to society.



Meeting of the Global Network of Historians and Educators

## Book launch

### IRCICA's album *Manisa in Historical Photographs from Sultan Abdulhamid II Period* launched in presence of State Minister and Vice Prime Minister of Turkey Mr. Bülent Arınç

The launch of IRCICA's album titled *Manisa in Historical Photographs from Sultan Abdulhamid II Period* took place on 8 September 2013 in presence of State Minister and Vice Prime Minister of Turkey Mr. Bülent Arınç. Mr. Arınç had suggested the idea of the publication and wrote a Foreword for the album; the Turkish Prime Ministry's Directorate General of Press and Information extended support to its realization. The ceremony, held in Manisa itself, was also attended by the Governor of Manisa Mr. Abdurrahman Savaş, the Director General of Press and Information Mr. Murat Karakaya and Deputy Director General Mr. Erkan Durdu. Due to Dr. Halit Eren's absence for health reasons, IRCICA was represented at the book launch by Mr. Mustafa Şahidi Örnek, Deputy Director of IRCICA Library and Archive Department, who also read Dr. Eren's address.

The book launch drew a large public from among the city's people. An exhibition of large-size reproductions of photographs selected from the book was opened and visited. Then, a short film introducing the album was shown to the audience. Speeches were delivered.

Manisa, an inland city of the Aegean region of Turkey, gained distinction from the 14th century onwards as the capital of the Saruhanogulları *Beylik* and subsequently as an important city of the Ottoman State. As the *Beylik's* capital and later as the seat of the *şehzades* (heirs apparent to the Ottoman sultans), it was endowed with institutions and monuments and became a center of scholarship and education. At present Manisa is an industrial and mining zone and plays an important role in Turkish economy as a major production and export center. Its cultural heritage is well preserved.

Photographs of Manisa selected from the Yıldız Palace collection are published for the first time in this album. They date from end 19th and early 20th centuries and show sites and monuments, roads and bridges, buildings and offices and well-known personalities of the city.



## Library's activities

### Conference on "Digital Conversion of Library Materials" organized by IRCICA Library

IRCICA's Library and Archive Department organized a conference on "Digital conversion of library materials". The conference was held on 17 May 2013 at IRCICA. Specialists from fourteen universities, five libraries with historical collections, government institutions and non-governmental research centres participated in the conference. The aim was to deepen the knowledge of the concept of digitization, its functions and uses, modalities, standardization, present state of advancement, and to promote cooperation among the institutions concerned. With the experience it acquired through its digital library, which is registered under the name of "Farabi Digital Library", IRCICA assumes a leading role in librarianship specializing in studies on Islam, Islamic civilization, the Muslim countries and related subjects.

IRCICA's efforts to build a digital library had started back in 2008. Studies were made in the search for a conversion system applicable for the ranges of source materials in the above fields. Once the system became operational, a priorities list was drawn taking the needs of research in consideration. First to be converted were some rare books and incunabula printed in the Muslim world, and major reference sources used by historians such as the Ottoman Yearbooks (Salnames). IRCICA's digital library offers access to researchers from around the world. Presently the number of digitized views is 1.100.000. Furthermore a new digitalization project has been undertaken

in order to develop an Optical Character Recognition (OCR) system to be used to copy on computer the historical books in some of the languages and alphabets of the Muslim world by converting them into text format.

The conference dealt with topics including: selection, scanning and checking operations; conformity with international standards; different types of files (TIFF, JPEG, DjVu, PDF, icon, etc.); property rights; access free of charge; Optical Character Recognition (OCR)

The Centre organizes training programs for librarians and archivist from the Member States on restoration and conservation of old books and archival documents, in order to upgrade the skills of the concerned staff and to meet the needs of the Member States, as well as the needs relating to Islamic manuscripts in surroundings regions outside the Member States in Asia and Eastern Europe. These programs have increasingly become a regular activity of the Centre. Meanwhile the laboratory for the conservation of manuscripts and old books existing at the Süleymaniye library in Istanbul has been rearranged and developed as a "Book Hospital", in a project undertaken in cooperation by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey, UNESCO and IRCICA where training courses are organized simultaneously with restoration activities.



Souvenir photo of the participants with Mr. Abdullah Topaloğlu, Director of IRCICA's Library and Archives and his colleagues.

## Meetings, Cooperation

### *The President of Turkey H.E. Abdullah Gül received Dr. Halit Eren*

The President of Turkey H.E. Abdullah Gül has received Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, on 21 June 2013, and on 28 August 2013, at the Tarabya Presidential Campus (Huber Villa) in Istanbul. The main subjects of conversation were related to IRCICA's ongoing activities, participation in international forums, and publications. In particular, Dr. Eren briefed President Gül on preparations relating to the forthcoming major album of historical photographs of Makkah and Madina to be published by IRCICA under the President's patronage.



### *H.E. Mr. Ali Akbar Salehi, Foreign Minister of Iran (currently Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran), received Dr. Eren*

IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren was received by H.E. Ambassador Ali Akbar Salehi, Foreign Minister of Iran, in Tehran, on 6 May 2013. The meeting took place during the period of the Tehran-Tabriz International Congress on: "Features, characteristics and cultural and economic contribution of arts and handicrafts" which was organized jointly by IRCICA and the Organisation for Culture and Islamic Relations, Islamic Republic of Iran and the University of Islamic Arts, Tabriz (5-9 May 2013).

Mr. Ali Akbar Salehi is closely acquainted with IRCICA's activities especially since the period of his functions as Assistant Secretary General of the OIC for Science and Technology (2007-2009). During 2009-2010 Mr. Salehi was the Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, then Foreign Minister of Iran from December 2010 to 15 August 2013, and has now been re-appointed to the chairmanship of the Atomic Energy Organization.

During this meeting in Tehran, Dr. Eren briefed the Minister on progress achieved and main activities undertaken by IRCICA in recent years. Mr. Salehi expressed his support and appreciation of IRCICA's contributions to international cultural cooperation and academic studies.

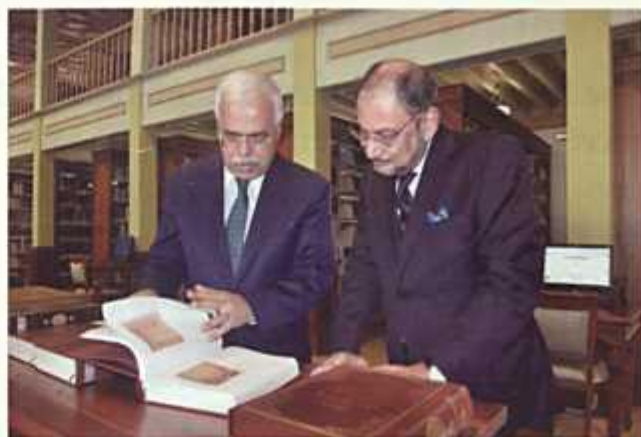


Dr. Eren presented Ambassador Salehi with a plate bearing the Quranic verse 49/13 which IRCICA adopted as its motto

## Visit of His Excellency Mr. Iyad bin Amin Madani, the newly elected Secretary General of the OIC

IRCICA was honoured by the visit of H.E. Mr. Iyad bin Amin Madani, the newly-elected Secretary General of the OIC, to its headquarters on 26 August 2013, as part of a private visit to Turkey. H.E. Mr. Madani will assume office as of 1 January 2014 as the tenth Secretary General of the OIC, succeeding in this post to Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu.

H.E. Mr. Madani is well acquainted with IRCICA's work and had visited the Centre officially on earlier occasions, particularly during his functions as the Minister of Culture and Information of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (2005-2007 inclusive). He was a member of the entourage of The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdallah bin Abdulaziz al-Saud during the King's official visit to Turkey. After meetings with the President of Turkey Abdullah Gül in the capital Ankara, H.M. King Abdallah continued visited IRCICA on 10 August 2006 in company of the Prime Minister of Turkey Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and in the presence of OIC Secretary General Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu. A few months later, H.E. Minister Madani came to Turkey on the occasion of the "Saudi Arabia Cultural Days" (22-28 October 2007), a program which was organized jointly by his Ministry and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey; he also visited IRCICA, where a series of lectures were held in the context of the program. On that occasion, a Cooperation Agreement was signed between the Ministry of Culture and Information of Saudi Arabia and IRCICA. One of the activities ensuing from the agreement was the exhibition of historical photographs of Mecca and Medina



which IRCICA and the Ministry jointly opened in Jeddah in February 2010.

This unofficial visit provided an excellent opportunity for Dr. Halit Eren and his colleagues to brief the incoming Secretary General on the activities and publications of the Centre. H.E. Mr. Madani recorded his impressions in the Visitors' Book (in Arabic), expressing his happiness to have visited IRCICA, met some of its staff in charge of the different departments of the Centre, and to have had an idea of the activities they have conducted and their outcomes; "I pray to God for further success of the Centre and that all these achievements and those to come may find their way not only to academic and research forums but also reach the public in all Member States and even

the whole world. All this would not have been possible without the help of God Almighty and if there weren't the good and wise direction of dear brother Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of the Centre. ..."



## Visit of the Sudanese Minister of Guidance and Endowments Mr. Al-Fatih Tag-Alsir Abdullah to IRCICA

The Minister of Guidance and Endowments of Sudan Mr. Al-Fatih Tag-Alsir Abdullah visited IRCICA on 16 August 2013. Talks between the Minister and IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren were followed by a tour to some sections of the Centre, mainly the library. The Minister and the accompanying 15-member delegation received information on the different activities, particularly the studies carried out by the Centre

on major copies and translations of the Holy Quran. Projects being handled jointly by the Government and academic institutions of the Sudan and IRCICA were acknowledged, areas of future possible cultural cooperation were discussed. The Minister recorded his impressions in the Visitors' Book of the Centre (original, Arabic): "It was an honour for me today to visit the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture

in Istanbul and to meet my brother Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA. We are satisfied with the big efforts of the Centre under the direction of our brother Dr. Eren in the fields of the preservation of the Islamic history, heritage and culture and the exceptional work done which resulted in the

publication of a comparative technical study of two copies of the Quran, attributed, respectively, to Othman bin Affan and Imam Ali bin Abi Talib. This study has shown, scientifically, the inconsistency of the allegations according to which there would be differences between these copies..."

## *A delegation from the Council of Imams of Cameroon visited IRCICA*

Sheikh Ibrahim Moussa, Chairman of the Council of Imams of Cameroon and Imam of the Grand Mosque of Yaoundé, together with 19 members of the Council, visited IRCICA on 6 July 2013. The group was visiting Turkey at the invitation of Prof. Mehmet Görmez, President of Religious Affairs of Turkey, in Ankara. Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, met with the religious scholars in his office before leading them to some departments of the Centre around the

Yıldız Palace main courtyard. The Director General informed them in particular of the Centre's studies and publications on the oldest copies of the Holy Quran preserved in different libraries of the world and on translations of the Holy Quran in world's languages, including the bibliographies of printed and manuscript translations it publishes. The guests saw these publications of the Centre, as well as the library's collections relating to Quranic studies.

## *Visit of Mufti Kamil Samugullin, Chairman of the Spiritual Board of Tatarstani Muslims*

Mufti Kamil Samugullin, Chairman of the Spiritual Board of Tatarstani Muslims, visited IRCICA on 21 August 2013. During the talks, Dr. Eren congratulated Mufti Samugullin on his election, earlier this year, to this post and expressed his happiness that in this capacity Mufti Samugullin was paying his first visit abroad to Turkey. Then Dr. Eren guided Mr. Kamil Samugullin and his colleagues to some sections of the Centre, informing them in particular of the Centre's congresses on "Islamic Civilization in Volga-Ural Region" three of which were held in Tatarstan, the book on Tatar History and Civilization resulting from academic collaboration between Tatarstan and IRCICA, and other projects.



## *Professor Li Jie, Vice President of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, visited IRCICA*

Professor Li Jie, Vice President of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), accompanied by a delegation of scholars from CASS, visited IRCICA on 27 May 2013. Following the talks held at Director General Dr. Halit Eren's office, Prof. Li and his delegation were guided by Dr. Eren to the research departments and the library, where they saw the publications and other results of the activities. The congress on "China and the Muslim World: Cultural Encounters" which was organized by CASS and IRCICA on 28-29 June 2012 in Beijing, was recalled with satisfaction for its success as a first academic event on this theme. Professor Li was invited to Ankara the next day, on 28 May 2013, to deliver a lecture hosted by the International Strategic Research Organization (USAK). Major headings of the lecture touched upon political and economic developments in the world and relations between Turkey and China.



## Visit of a delegation from the State Administration for Religious Affairs of China

On 4 July 2013, an 18-member delegation comprised of provincial heads attached to the State Administration for Religious Affairs (SARA), China, visited IRCICA. The delegation was visiting in Turkey as official guests of the Presidency of Religious Affairs of Turkey. The group was received by the President of Religious Affairs Prof. Mehmet Görmez in the capital Ankara on 2 July.

At IRCICA, the SARA group, including Mr. Ma Jin, Director-General, Third Department, Xicheng District Beijing and Dr. Jia Jianping, Deputy Director of Division III, Centre for Religious Research together with their colleagues, first met with Dr. Halit Eren at the Directorate General. Cultural relations between China and



the Muslim countries, Muslims in China, and other subjects of mutual interest were discussed. The congress on "China and the Muslim World: Cultural Encounters" which was organized jointly by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) and IRCICA in 2012 was recalled. After the meeting, Director General Dr. Eren guided the guests to the library, where they saw various book collections and samples of the Centre's publications.

## IRCICA Director General accompanied OIC Secretary General on first official visit to Kosovo

The Secretary General of the OIC Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu paid an official visit to the Republic of Kosovo on 1-3 May 2013 upon the invitation of Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Hashim Thaci. It was the first official visit by an OIC Secretary General to Kosovo since its declaration of independence in 2008. Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, accompanied the Secretary General on this mission.

In the capital Pristina the Secretary General met with H.E. President Atifete Jahjaga, H.E. Speaker of Assembly of Kosovo Mr. Jakup Krasniqi, H.E. Prime Minister Mr. Hashim Thaci and H.E. Foreign Minister Mr. Enver Hoxhaj. Views were exchanged about further development of bilateral relations between the



OIC and Kosovo. A key discussion was on mobilization of international support and recognition for Kosovo including by the OIC Member States. The OIC has expressed solidarity with Kosovo and is keen on extending necessary support to restore peace and stability in Kosovo and the Balkans in general. The Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister of Kosovo had paid visits to the OIC Headquarters earlier and also attended the 39th session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers (Djibouti, 2012) and the 12th Islamic Summit Conference (Cairo, 2013). On the other hand, the OIC fully supports the process of dialogue and normalization of relations between Kosovo and Serbia. ([www.oic-oci.org](http://www.oic-oci.org))

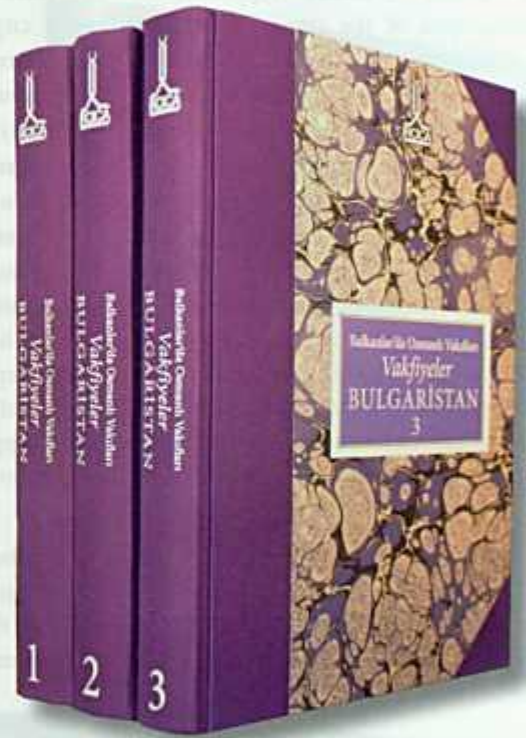
### Ottoman Waqfs in the Balkans. Waqf Deeds. Bulgaria

3 vols., Prepared by: Halit Eren, Önder Bayır, Mustafa Oğuz, Zekai Mete,  
Editor: Halit Eren, Ottoman Waqfs in the Balkans Series 1, IRCICA, Istanbul, 2012  
(Turkish, English, Arabic)

This publication resulted from a large-scale research project IRCICA undertook on the subject of the waqf institution. The waqf as a type of foundation was born in the Muslim world; over the centuries waqfs were established all over the Muslim world to serve a variety of functions ranging from the provision of basic means of subsistence to education, from charitable deeds to building mosques. The waqf also served as a model and found application outside the Muslim world with certain adaptations.

In this research project IRCICA aims to collect the original sources on waqfs such as the establishment deeds, the documents resulting from their operations and if any, the reports on their functions, to study them and to make them available for researchers. Special consideration is given to the waqfs which are at present located outside the OIC member countries, in particular those addressing the Muslim communities and minorities. The project started with a focus on the waqfs dating from the Ottoman period in the Balkan countries. The first outcome is a three-volume publication devoted to the waqfs in Bulgaria.

In this project the Centre collected and transliterated the deeds of 290 waqfs established in Bulgaria and published these transliterations together with the reproductions of the original documents. The deeds of 10 of these waqfs are in Arabic and all others in Ottoman Turkish. In the book the texts of the deeds are grouped according to the cities or districts. A summary of each document is provided, to make it useful also for those



who do not read the Ottoman language. Particularly useful will be the comprehensive table provided at the beginning of the book where all the waqfs are listed according to the districts they are located in, with the name

قلائية تغليلينا

*Sultan II. Abdülhamid Dönemi Tarihi Fotoğraflarıyla Manisa*

### **Manisa in Historical Photographs from Sultan Abdulhamid II Period,**

Ed. Halit Eren, Foreword by Bülent Arınç, IRCICA, 2013, xvi, 330, 16 p.

(English, Turkish, Arabic)

This album contains reproductions of historical photographs of the city of Manisa, Turkey, a city of historical importance in connection with the Ottoman Beyliks and the Ottoman Empire. Located inland but not far from the Aegean Sea, today in an important industrial zone, the city has well preserved its old sites and monuments. The photographs were selected from the Yıldız Palace Albums contained in the archive of IRCICA dating from the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, i.e. the period of Sultan Abdulhamid II. The introductory texts and the brief annotations are in three languages: English, Turkish and Arabic. The book has a Foreword by Bülent Arınç, State Minister and Deputy Prime Minister of Turkey, who had suggested the idea of the publication. The latter has been produced with the support and contributions of the Turkish Prime Ministry's Directorate General of Press and Publications.

This is the seventh publication in IRCICA's Series of Albums of Historical Photographs. In the context of its studies on the history of Islamic civilization, Muslim countries and their urban and architectural heritage IRCICA publishes albums of



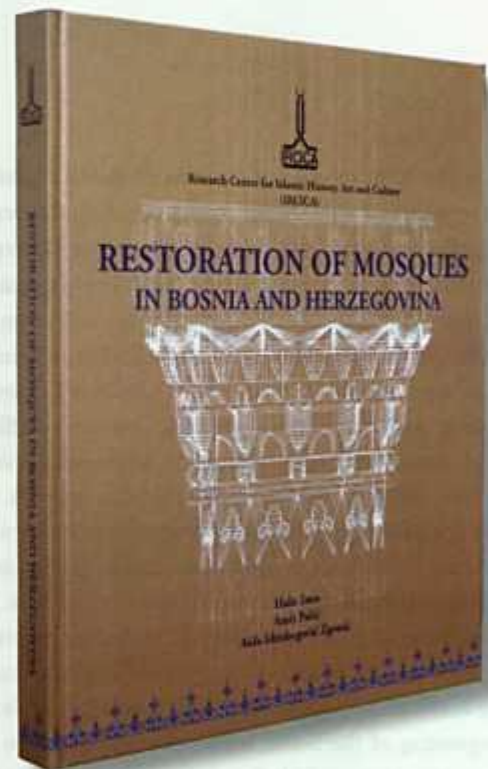
historical photographs of major heritage cities selected from its archives, to render these visual sources available to researchers and general readership. It published until now albums of the cities of Istanbul, Erzurum and Bursa, a major album on Al-Quds/Jerusalem in Historical Photographs, and an album of the Ottoman monuments in Egypt. An album containing historical photographs of Mecca and Medina is under print. Furthermore, the Centre published photograph albums on specific themes and periods of history, namely A Century Old Turkish-Japanese Friendship in Historical Photographs, The Friendship Between Turkey and Yemen Throughout History and Turkish-Afghan Friendship in Historical Photographs with texts in English, Dari and Turkish. An album titled The Relations Between Turkey and Poland On Their 600th Year is also under print. All these albums are multi-lingual.



Halit Eren, Amir Pašić, Aida Idrizbegović Zgonić,  
**Restoration of Mosques in Bosnia and Herzegovina,**  
IRCICA, Istanbul, 2013, vii, 207 pp., colour illustrations, maps, plans

This book is a comprehensive record of the restoration work coordinated by IRCICA on five monumental mosques in Bosnia and Herzegovina namely Neziraga Mosque in Mostar, Sevri Hadži Hasan Mosque in Mostar, Karadžozbeg Mosque in Mostar, Hadži Alija Mosque in Počitelj, and Aladža Mosque in Foča. The first four restorations were carried out as individual projects each after the end of the war. The fifth one is under implementation. Reconstruction of Neziraga Mosque in 1999, which was the earliest of the above projects, formed an example for not only the four other projects but for many other similar efforts. All five projects were financed through donations: Neziraga Mosque project by H.H. Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qassimi, Ruler of Sharjah; Sevri Hadži Hasan Mosque by the World Monuments Fund, New York (2003); Karadžozbeg Mosque by Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, President of Al-Furqan Islamic Heritage Foundation, London (2004); Hadži Alija Mosque by the Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (2004). Technical design for the restoration of Aladža Mosque has been financed by ISAR Waqf, Istanbul.

Amply illustrated with colour photographs and supplemented with maps and drawings, the book can serve as a rich reference for those interested in any aspect of these mosques and their restoration: history, characteristics, rebuilding, restoration of outer and interior elements including decorations and inscriptions, among others. The elaborate Introduction of the book gives a comprehensive overview of the Islamic urban heritage in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the history of its formation, mosques in particular and their architectural features; a review of the destruction and damage Islamic monuments underwent throughout history and particularly during the 1992-1995 war, with technical descriptions; and, a brief history of each of the cities where these mosques are located, describing the background and environment of each of the mosques under study.



In the Islamic urban context, destruction of a mosque means loss of the core and disruption of the pattern. Restoration of the core therefore means recovery and rehabilitation of the area. The value added to the building is in itself significant since it reflects communal consciousness of cultural identity on local level and professional concern for conservation of heritage on general/global level. In all their theoretical and practical aspects restoration is closely connected with the historical, cultural and social environments attached to each site and structure. The projects described in the book are significant case studies reflecting these and other facts and considerations involved in any historical restoration work.

### سجلات المحاكم الشرعية في القدس السنية

**Sharia Court Registers of Jerusalem, Register no. 107,**  
prepared for publication by Ibrahim Rabaia, preface by Halit Eren,  
IRCICA, Istanbul, 2013 (in Arabic)

This is the first volume of a series of publications about the registers of the Sharia courts of 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 Al-Quds/Jerusalem, relations between the local administration and the people, economic, social, etc. relations between the people partly with respect to their faith and sect of affiliation and social status, and information on many other subjects which, when added to that provided in other sources, would constitute a solid and reliable base for studies in history. In his Introduction, Dr. Rabaia explains his methodology and the types of information he has extracted from the registers. In this first volume 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. A table added to the beginning of the book, before the reproduction of the register, contains summary information on the cases included in the register. The first column of the table gives the name of the judge and the number of the page; the second column gives the registration number of the complaint and the dates; the third records the subject of the case and the fourth and last one has a summary of the case under the title "observations". Guided by these pieces of information the reader can refer to the original copy reproduced in the book. Of great benefit are the index of terms and the index of place names, communities and businesses.



# المؤسّسات التعليميّة في المشرق العربي العثماني

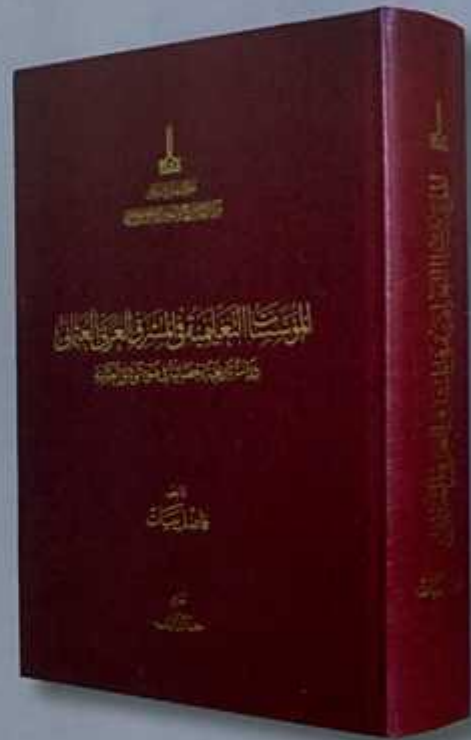
## Fazil Bayat, Educational Establishments in the Ottoman Arab Mashriq: Historical statistical study based on Ottoman documents

Preface: Halit Eren; IRCICA, Istanbul 2013, 868 pp., annexes (reproductions of Ottoman documents and historical photographs); general index

This is the first book of its kind on the educational establishments founded in the Ottoman Arab Mashriq, that is, in the provinces of Baghdad, Mosul, Basra, Syria, Aleppo, Beirut, Yemen and the territorial divisions attached to the central government, namely al-Quds, al-Zor, al-Madina al-Munawara and Asir. The author Dr. Fazil Bayat, expert at IRCICA, based his study on Ottoman official documents, particularly those of the ministries of education and of interior.

The subject of education and educational establishments in the Ottoman Arab provinces is one of those on which libraries are generally scarce. The common feature of the few studies existing is the absence of recourse to Ottoman official documents. The subject had thus not been studied deeply enough; therefore the importance of this book. The latter provides researchers with new information. Its methodology and presentation also adds to its value as an extensive reference.

The book is divided into thirteen chapters. The first chapter describes the general characteristics of the education system in the Ottoman Empire, its foundation, its evolution, its terminology. The second chapter deals with educational establishments in the provinces, their administration, educational councils, inspection services in general, measures taken by the Ministry of Education, among other aspects. The remaining eleven chapters study the schools at different levels of education: primary (rüşdiye mektebi), secondary and post-secondary (sultaniye mektebi), vocational training schools and establishments for higher education (including law schools, medical schools, schools for religious studies), military and police schools, traditional Islamic schools (medreses), Muslims' private



schools, non-Muslim communities' schools, and foreign schools.

Each chapter begins with an introductory part about the system at the level of education under study, its foundations, development and programs. The annexes to the book contain reproductions of documents and historical photographs.

IRCICA is pleased to publish this valuable book which will contribute remarkably to sources and studies on the history of education in the Ottoman Arab provinces.

