

September-December 2013, No. 92



# Newsletter



OIC RESEARCH CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC HISTORY, ART AND CULTURE

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

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## Editorial

I would like to begin by conveying, on behalf of IRCICA and myself, our sincere congratulations to H.E. Mr. Iyad Ameen Madani, the new Secretary General of OIC, on his taking the office; we wish Secretary General Mr. Madani a most successful and productive term in this noble mission in the service of the Muslim world. At the same time I wish to convey our warmest congratulations to H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu on his completing a brilliant term as OIC Secretary General with major achievements and outstanding services to the Muslim world on his record. A ceremony was held on 28 December 2013 in Jeddah to bid farewell to Prof. Ihsanoğlu and welcome Mr. Iyad Ameen Madani: another momentous day in OIC history, an occasion to take stock of the accomplishments and look into the future of the Organization with confidence.

In this issue you will find brief reports on the 8th Session of Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ISTM) which was held in Banjul, Republic of The Gambia on 4-6 December and the 30th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) of the OIC held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea on 9-11 December. The former took note of IRCICA's activities that are directly or indirectly related to tourism development and their contributions to the progress of tourism cooperation and development among the OIC Member States. The latter examined IRCICA's activity reports relating to 2012 and 2013 and its work program for 2014.

The geographical areas and historical periods covered in IRCICA's research projects continue to expand. Having given importance to promoting studies on the Islamic history of Africa and coordinated series of congresses on its different regions, we conducted recently a congress on the history of Islamic Civilization in East Africa which was held in Zanzibar, Tanzania. Implemented in cooperation with the National Records and Archive Authority of the Sultanate of Oman and the State University of Zanzibar, it opened a new dimension in the studies and assembled a significant range of research

papers. As co-organizers of the congress we gave importance to encouraging studies and increasing academic knowledge on the history of relations among the countries and the peoples within and around East Africa. A brief report on the congress follows.

Jointly with the scholarly, cultural and art circles of Kuwait we organized two separate events: an international panel on "The History of the Gulf Region during the Ottoman Period", jointly with the University of Kuwait, on 24 December, and an exhibition on "Prayer carpets" which we are coordinating currently with the Ministry of Awqaf of Kuwait through the Kuwait Centre for Islamic Arts; we shall report on this exhibition in our next issue. Also in the field of art, IRCICA was co-organizer of the events relating to calligraphy held within the framework of the Terengganu International Islamic Arts Festival 2013 (TIIAF 2013) which took place in Terengganu, Malaysia on 15-17 November 2013. Our cooperation with the Terengganu authorities and the Taman Tamadun Islam institution had started at last year's festival, the TIIAF 2012 (14-17 September 2012). Currently we are establishing cooperation with Brunei Darussalam on promoting training in calligraphy. Visits by members of governments, organizations, universities and cultural institutions of the Member States to IRCICA are excellent opportunities to develop cooperation and often pave the way for collaborative projects; we briefly report their proceedings in our Meetings, Cooperation section.

The section on IRCICA Publications features some new books. Among them are collections of articles resulting from the congresses organized by IRCICA and a major album containing historical photographs of Makkah and Madina accompanied with informative texts. We hope these publications will draw your interest.

*Dr. Halit Eren*

## H.E. Mr. Iyad Ameen Madani takes over from H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu as OIC Secretary General

H.E. Mr. Iyad Ameen Madani took over from H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu as the tenth Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). A ceremony was organized by the OIC on 28 December 2013, in Jeddah, to welcome Mr. Madani and bid farewell to Prof. İhsanoğlu. Mr. Naci Kuru, Deputy Foreign Minister of Turkey, members of the consular corps in Jeddah and Saudi diplomats attended the handover ceremony.

Speaking at the ceremony, Prof. İhsanoğlu, who served as Secretary General of the OIC for nine years since 1st January 2005, said "Throughout these nine years, I committed myself to all that I deemed my duty towards the Ummah, and which the OIC needed to address. My work was always foremost in my mind. All my thinking, endeavor and efforts were focused on one thing, which is the trust I undertook the day I was elected OIC Secretary General." Noting that "It is today acknowledged and admitted by everyone that the OIC has become the second largest international organization after the UN, both in terms of the number of its membership and quality of its work", İhsanoğlu quickly reviewed the major accomplishments the OIC was able to achieve during his period ([www.diplonews.com/files/2014/JANUARY\\_2/2\\_January\\_2014\\_350.php](http://www.diplonews.com/files/2014/JANUARY_2/2_January_2014_350.php)). Prof. İhsanoğlu thanked his country, Turkey, for nominating him to this position, and the OIC Member States for "their strong support, trust and confidence put in me to serve their



H.E. Mr. Iyad Ameen Madani,  
Secretary General of OIC

political, economic, social, humanitarian and development causes as well as to serve the causes of Islamic solidarity in general."



The ninth and the tenth Secretaries General of the OIC at the Jeddah ceremony on 28 December 2013

Addressing the ceremony, Mr. Madani thanked the Member States for the trust reposed on him. He also thanked the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah and Saudi Arabia for nominating him to the prestigious post. He said "I will strive to translate this trust into action through exerting relentless efforts to serve the Muslim Ummah and its genuine causes." Mr. Madani pointed out that the Muslim world is living in a multi-polar world and needs to adjust to that reality. Noting that each of the past Secretaries General contributed to the OIC in accordance with the dynamics of his time, he affirmed that the OIC would continue to remember their contributions and tireless efforts. He said that any Secretary General of the Organization, whoever he is, seeks to translate the vision of Member States' leaders into a concrete reality. He should strive to bridge the gap between the various visions on the same issue and search for areas of consensus which form the basis of joint action. Mr. Madani said "While the OIC has the responsibility of confronting the political issues facing Member States that undermine their freedom, affect their destiny and at times threaten their very existence, it is also responsible for building channels of communication among Member States, maximize socio-cultural and human interaction among them and remove the stereotypes to which we may reduce one another" he added.

Mr. Iyad Ameen Madani was elected as the new Secretary General of OIC by the 12th Islamic Summit Conference held in Cairo in February 2013. Earlier Mr. Madani served as

Minister of Haj and Minister of Culture and Information of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, among a number of other high-level official posts, among them chairmanship of the Board of Directors of Knowledge Economic City, Medina, and Vice Presidency of King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Foundation for Housing Development.

In the part of the ceremony where greetings and thanks were expressed, the Director General of IRCICA Dr. Halit Eren presented the outgoing and the incoming Secretaries General with a copy each of IRCICA's new publication *Makka al-Mukarrama and al-Madina al-Munawwara in Photographs from the Ottoman Period Selected from the Albums of Sultan Abdulhamid II and the Collection of Fahreddin Pasha (Türkkan)*.

Expressing his gratitude to Prof. İhsanoğlu for the continuous support and cooperation extended by the OIC to its subsidiaries and among them IRCICA, Dr. Halit Eren presented him with a copy of this publication.

Expressing his congratulations and wishing success to Mr. Iyad Ameen Madani, Dr. Eren presented the book containing historical photographs of Mecca and Madina selected from IRCICA's archives, examples of which, he recalled, were presented at the exhibition of historical photographs which IRCICA had organized in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 2010 under the auspices of Mr. Madani as Minister of Culture and Information.



At the ceremony in Jeddah: Dr. Halit Eren presented the incoming and the outgoing Secretaries General with IRCICA's newly published album of historical photographs of Mekka and Madina

## OIC CONFERENCES:

### 40th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers

(Conakry, Guinea, 9-11 December 2013)



The 40th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC was convened in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, on 9-11 December 2013. The motto adopted for this session was "Dialogue of Civilizations as a Factor of Peace and Sustainable Development".

The Meeting was addressed by H. E. Professor Alpha Condé, President of the Republic of Guinea.

At the opening session, the outgoing OIC Secretary General Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu was honoured by the President of Guinea with Guinea's National Order of Merit in recognition of his service to the Muslim Ummah. During the general debates, all delegations also paid special tribute to Prof. İhsanoğlu for his strong dedication, commitment and efforts throughout his nine years in office. The delegations also wished him full success in his future endeavors.

The incoming Secretary General, Mr. Iyad Ameen Madani took his oath of office promising to dedicate himself to the service of the Ummah. He thanked the Member States for their

confidence reposed in him and his country. The participants welcomed the new Secretary General and pledged their full support and cooperation throughout his mandate.

A wide range of issues of interest to the Member States were discussed by the Council leading to the adoption of resolutions on various issues, including the implementation of the Ten-Year Program of Action; the cause of Palestine and the Middle East; political affairs; the condition of Muslim minorities and communities in non-OIC Member States; information affairs; humanitarian affairs; economic affairs; science and technology; cultural, social, and family Affairs. The Statute of the Islamic Organization for Food Security, the newest specialized institution of the OIC, was signed on the sidelines of the meeting (the first signatory states: Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Iran, Kazakhstan, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Palestine, Sierra Leon, Somalia, Sudan, Suriname, Turkey, Uganda, and Comoros). Again on the sidelines of the meeting Special Ministerial Meeting on Palestine was convened on 10 December in order to reiterate its support to the city of Al-Quds Al-Sharif and Al-Aqsa Mosque. A separate resolution to that effect was unanimously adopted by the Ministers.

The Council unanimously adopted the "Guinea Declaration" which addressed major issues affecting the Muslim world and a number of resolutions addressing the numerous issues on its agenda ([www.oic-oci.org/oicv2/subweb/cfm/40/fm/en/main.aspx](http://www.oic-oci.org/oicv2/subweb/cfm/40/fm/en/main.aspx)).

The Council referred to IRCICA in various sections of its resolutions on cultural affairs, noting the Centre's initiatives and requesting continuation of its endeavours. The Council adopted Resolution no. 6/40-C on IRCICA taking note of the latter's activity report for 2013 and commending its work program for 2014.

The next, 41st session of the Council of Foreign Ministers will be hosted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in 2014. Its 42nd session will be hosted by the State of Kuwait in 2015 and the 43rd, by the Islamic Republic of Iran in 2016.



Dr. Halit Eren presenting the Centre's activity reports and work programs

## 8th Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers

(Banjul, Gambia, 4-6 December 2013)

The Eighth Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers was held in Banjul, Republic of The Gambia on 4-6 December 2013. In her welcoming speech as chairperson of the Session, H.E. Mrs. Fatou Mass Jobe Njie, Minister of Tourism and Culture of Republic of The Gambia underscored the great opportunity afforded by the Conference for the Ministers and other stakeholders to share their respective diverse experiences in the domain of tourism. In reference to the theme of the conference, namely "Fostering Wealth Creation through Tourism Development", the Minister emphasized the vital role of tourism as a major contributor to employment generation and wealth creation, including improving the livelihood of the populations of OIC Member States.

Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Secretary General of the OIC, in his address pointed out that those OIC activities in the domain of tourism had considerably increased since the adoption of the OIC Ten-Year Programme of Action. He hailed the joint efforts between the OIC and the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) and concerned Member States in developing the tourism infrastructure through the implementation of the project on Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa.

The delegations deliberated on the promotion of tourism among OIC Member States, emphasizing among others, the need for tourism infrastructure development; policy and standard harmonization and facilitation of movement of tourists as major steps towards realization of the objectives set in the OIC Framework for Development of Tourism.

The Conference elected the following member states to the re-constituted Coordination Committee for the implementation of the Framework on Tourism for the period from 2013-2017: The Gambia, Iraq, Malaysia, Niger, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Turkey, Uganda.

In the parts concerning IRCICA of its resolution on Tourism Development Among the OIC Member States, the conference took note of IRCICA's activities relating to the study and recording of Islamic architectural heritage, its contribution in this regard to knowledge

and information for cultural tourism. Commending the Islamic Architectural Heritage Database sponsored by H.R.H. Prince Sultan bin Salman, President of Saudi Commission for Tourism and Antiquities, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and developed at IRCICA, the conference invited the Member States which have not done so yet to provide IRCICA with the required data and information on their Islamic sites and monuments and designate their respective focal points to collaborate continually with the Database unit at IRCICA.

With the same resolution the conference decided to invite IRCICA to implement the Mechanism and Criteria for the Award of "OIC Seal of Excellence for Handcrafts" to be presented during the sessions of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers. This award will be granted by the OIC General Secretariat. Worth a total of US \$ 100.000, it will be distributed to the following ten handicrafts themes where each theme will obtain three awards: Carpets, Sadou and Kilims; Traditional Costumes and Embroidery; Metal Works including Jewelry and Silver Artifacts; Pottery and Ceramics; Woodwork; Architectural Crafts; Paper-making and Ebru (Marbled Paper); Stucco Colored Glass; Decoration, Miniatures, Gilding and Binding; Straw, Baskets and Bamboo Crafts. The aim is to preserve and develop traditional and contemporary crafts of the Muslim world. The OIC General Secretariat will publicize the winning products, conserve them in a special museum and



IRCICA's Director General Dr. Eren presented the Gambian Minister of Tourism and Culture Mrs. Fatou Mass Jobe Njie with a plate bearing a verse from the Holy Quran

prepare a documentary catalog of the winning entries. Criteria to be observed include Excellence, Creative Concept Design and Invention in traditional Technique.

The Ninth Session of the Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism will be held in the Republic of Niger in 2015.

***IRCICA's meetings and contacts during the period of the 40th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (Guinea) and the 8th Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (Gambia)***

During the period of the 8th session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers held in Banjul, The Gambia, H.E. Yahya Jammeh, President of The Gambia received OIC Secretary General Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu. The Director General of IRCICA Dr. Halit Eren accompanied the Secretary General at this meeting. During the same period, Dr. Halit Eren and Dr. Nazih Marouf representing IRCICA had a meeting with H.E. Mrs. Fatou Mass Jobe Njie, Minister of Tourism and Culture of The Gambia. The Minister expressed her appreciation of the past experience and future prospects of development of cooperation between The Gambia and IRCICA. It was decided that a festival for handicrafts including exhibitions and presentation of the first round of the aforementioned OIC Award for Handicrafts will be organized in Banjul early 2015. It is noteworthy that since the meeting with Minister Njie preparations towards the said festival have been progressing fast. Another constructive meeting in Banjul was held between



Dr. Halit Eren presenting the Centre's activity reports and work programs

Dr. Halit Eren and Prof. Muhammadou Kah, Rector/Vice Chancellor of the University of Gambia. It was decided among others, that a congress to address the theme of "The History of Islamic Civilization in West Africa" will be organized in Banjul.

At their stopover in Dakar, Senegal on their way to Banjul, Dr. Halit Eren and Dr. Nazih Marouf met with H.E. Mr. Abdoul Aziz Tall, Minister, Director of the Cabinet of the President of Senegal H.E. Mr. Macky Sall. Cooperation existing between Senegalese cultural institutions and IRCICA was appraised with appreciation. The activities planned to be implemented jointly in near future were discussed. Also in Dakar, a working meeting of IFAN (Institut Fondamental d'Afrique Noire) and IRCICA was held, with Mr. Laurent Gomis, Chief of Administrative Services representing the Director of IFAN. Several joint events were planned including symposia relating to studies and preservation of the written cultural heritage and training programs on the classical arts of the Muslim world.

In Conakry during the 40th session of the OIC Council of Ministers, the IRCICA delegation met with the Minister of External Affairs of Cameroon H.E. Mr. Henri Ayebe Ayissi. The Minister was accompanied by Mr. Iya Tidjani, Ambassador of Cameroon in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The meeting was fruitful; joint events were planned including a congress on the theme "Islamic culture and coexistence in Central Africa" which will be the first scholarly event on the subject aiming to develop it as a comprehensive research theme within studies on inter-cultural exchanges.



IRCICA's representatives: Dr. Halit Eren, Dr. Nazih Marouf

## IRCICA CONGRESSES

### “History of Islamic Civilization in East Africa” Congress, organized by IRCICA, National Records and Archive Authority of Oman and State University of Zanzibar

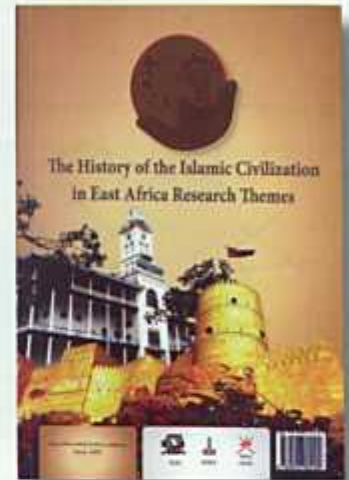
(Zanzibar City, 2-4 September 2013)

Ircica, National Records and Archive Authority of Oman and the State University of Zanzibar, jointly organized the congress on the theme of “History of Islamic Civilization in East Africa” which was held in Zanzibar City, Zanzibar, Tanzania, on 2-4 September 2013. The opening of the congress was officiated by H.E. Dr. Ali Muhammed Shein, President of Zanzibar and Chancellor of the State University of Zanzibar in the presence of H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the OIC and H.E. Dr. Abdulmunim bin Mansour bin Said al-Hasani, Minister of Information of the Sultanate of Oman. Speeches were delivered by Dr. Hamed bin Mohammed al-Dhawyani, Chairman of the National Records and Archives Authority of the Sultanate of Oman; Prof. Idris Rai, Vice-Chancellor of the State University of Zanzibar; IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren, who was unable to attend due to health reasons, whose speech was read by Assoc. Prof. Cengiz Tomar (IRCICA); OIC Secretary General Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu; the Minister of Education of Zanzibar Dr. Ali Juma Shamuhuna; and, the President of Zanzibar and Chancellor of the University Dr. Ali Muhammed Shein. The speeches were followed by three keynote lectures focusing on the introduction and spread of Islam in Eastern Africa which were delivered by Justice Omar Othman Makungu, Chief Justice of Zanzibar; Dr. Mohammad Rukara Khalfan, Advisor to the President of Burundi; and, Sheikh Ahmed bin Saud bin Said

al-Siyabi, Secretary-General at the Office of the Sultanate’s Grand Mufti. After the opening session, an exhibition of historical documents reflecting the history of the relations between Oman and Eastern Africa.

Over a period of three days, research papers on various aspects of the theme were presented by 62 participants from the following countries: Algeria, Burundi, Comoros, Egypt, Iraq, Kenya, Oman, Sweden, Tanzania, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, UK, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

The closing session on 4 September 2013 was addressed by Ambassador Seif Ali Iddi, Second Vice-President of Zanzibar. A set of recommendations was presented aiming to encourage studies and academic cooperation on the theme.



H.E. Dr. Ali Muhammed Shein, President of Zanzibar and Chancellor of the State University of Zanzibar, addressed the meeting.

Due to space considerations not all paper titles can be listed here but below are some of them:

Omani Role in Spreading Islamic Culture in East Africa: Construction and Impacts, by Dr. M. Rukara Khalfan, Special Advisor to the President of Burundi

Uganda and Islam, by Sheikh Ahmed bin Saud Al-Siyabi, Secretary General of the Office of the Grand Mufti of the Sultanate of Oman

The Role of Al Sayed Barghash bin Said in Zanzibar's Renaissance: 1870-1888, by Prof. Boualem Belkacemi, Dept. of History, University of Oran, Algeria

Culture of Coexistence: Creating the Culture of Coexistence in the Sultanate of Zanzibar, by Dr. Abdulkadir Hashim, Lecturer, Dept. of Philosophy and Religious Studies, University of Nairobi, Kenya

Omani Navy and its Role in the Omani-African Relations, by Homoud bin Hamad bin Mohamed Al-Ghilani, Director, Directorate General for Education, South al-Sharqia region, Oman

The Migration and Settlement of Indian Muslims in East Africa, by Assoc. Prof. Jamal M. Moosa, MMAJ Academy of International Studies, National Islamic University, New Delhi, India

The Rites, Ceremonies and Entertainments of Islamic Festivals in pre-1920s Zanzibar, by Dr. Philip Sadgrove, University of Manchester, UK

The Ottoman Envoy Mohamed Rushdi's Report on Zanzibar in Late 19th Century, by Hatice Uğur, Bosphorus University, Istanbul

The Cultural Role of Oman in East Africa in the Modern Era, by Assoc. Prof. Said bin Mohamed Al-Hashmi, Dept. of History, Sultan Qaboos University, Oman

Zanzibar in the Knowledge of Ottoman Geographers, by Prof. İdris Bostan, Fac. of Arts, Istanbul University, Istanbul

Influence of Arabic on East Africa Languages: Uganda as a Model, by Dr. Hasan Matqubia, Member, Executive Committee, Uganda Muslim Supreme, Old Kampala, Uganda

The Influence of Arabic Language on Swahili Language, by Dr. Salim Khamis Mohamed, Lecturer in Arabic Language, Muslim University of Morogoro, Tanzania

The Sultan of Zanzibar Sayed Ali Hamoud's Official Visit to Istanbul in 1907: Its Significance and Contributions to the Ottoman-Zanzibar Relations, by Prof. Mehmet İpşirli, Dept. of History, Fatih University, Istanbul

Cultural Discourse on Food and Diet in Eastern Africa: Sorting Out the Arab, Islamic and Indian Ocean



Connections, by Assoc. Prof. Maurice N. Amutabi, The Catholic University of Eastern Africa, Nairobi, Kenya

The Role of Ottomans and Omanis in the Resistance of the Portuguese Colonization and the Spread of Islamic Civilization in East Africa, during the 16th and 17th Centuries as a Model, by Dr. Talal Hamoud Abdu Al-Mekhlafy, Dean, Education College, Mekhlaf, Yemen

The Impact of Pilgrimage on the relation of the Ottoman Empire with the Rulers of Zanzibar from 1870-1911, by Dr. Naheed Abdul Karim, Sultan Qaboos University, Oman

One of the Zanzibarian Figures, Sheikh Abu Muslim Al-Rawahi: His Juristic Method through his Book, Nithar Al-Jawhar, by Dr. Mubarak bin Abdullah bin Hamid Al-Rashdi, Head, Islamic Sciences Dept., Sultan Qaboos University, Oman

A Critical Reflection on Cultural Exchange in Zanzibar: The Spread of Omani Material Culture in Zanzibar, by Dr. Amina Issa, Director, Museum of Antiquities, Zanzibar

The Influence of Arabic Language and Islam on the Poets of the East Coast of Africa After the Arrival of the Arabs and Beyond, by Dr. Abuyaasir Kame, Lecturer, University of Miaow Eldoret, Kenya

Yarubis and Their Role in Liberating East Africa from the Portuguese: Exploring Omani Poems, by Dr. Issa bin Mohamed Al-Sulimani, Assoc. Prof. of Modern Literary Criticism, Nizwa College of Applied Sciences, Oman.



## IRCICA and the University of Kuwait: joint panel on “The History of the Gulf Region during the Ottoman Period”

(Kuwait, 24 December 2013)

IRCICA and the Center for Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Studies of the University of Kuwait have jointly organized an international panel on “The History of the Gulf Region during the Ottoman Period”. The panel took place at the University of Kuwait on 24 December 2013. The opening session heard addresses by Prof. Hassan al-Sanad, Vice-President for Research, University of Kuwait, Prof. Yakub Yusuf al-Kandari, Director of the Center for Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Studies, IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren and Prof. Abdullateef al-Bader, President of the University of Kuwait.

The morning session chaired by Prof. Hayat Nasir al-Hajji (University of Kuwait) featured the following presentations: “Problems encountered by the Ottoman State during 16th century in the administration of the Gulf region” by Prof. Faysal Abdullah al-Kandari (University of Kuwait), “Problems of Gulf historiography: new approaches” by Prof. Dr. Zekeriya Kurşun (Marmara University, Istanbul), “The Muhimme registers as the basic source on the Gulf region during the early period of Ottoman administration) by Prof. Fazıl Bayat (IRCICA) and “Impressions of an Ottoman official on the Gulf region in the late 19th century” by Prof. Dr. Mehmet İpşirli (Fatih University, Istanbul).

Presentations during the afternoon session chaired by IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren were: “Some communications made before the 1913 Anglo-Ottoman Treaty” by Prof. Dr. Mustafa L. Bilge (Fatih University, Istanbul), “Emir Khalid bin Saud’s efforts to take the power at Najd” by Dr. Hamed bin



The opening session

Abdullah al-Angari (King Saud University, Riyadh), “Palace properties in the liva of Najd in the years 1880-1883” by Dr. Ali bin Hussain al-Bassam (King Saud University, Riyadh) and “The role of Sheikh Mubarak in the 1913-1914 Saudi-Ottoman negotiations” by Dr. Said bin Mufrih al-Kahtani (Member of the Shura Council, Saudi Arabia).

The participants formulated a set of recommendations towards promoting studies on the subject. Prof. Yakub Yusuf al-Kandari, Director of the Center for Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Studies concluded the panel wishing continual development of the academic cooperation and exchange established on the occasion.



The working sessions

# PROMOTING THE ARTS, PRESERVING THE HERITAGE

## Terengganu International Islamic Arts Festival 2013; IRCICA as co-organizer of art events

Terengganu International Islamic Arts Festival 2013 (TIIAF 2013) took place on 15-17 November 2013. It was the third edition in a series of festivals held at Taman Tamadun Islam (Islamic Civilization Park), Terengganu, Malaysia, and second to be held at international level. The festival receives patronage and cooperation from the Terengganu State Government and the Terengganu State Economic Development Corporation (TSEDC). IRCICA was a co-organizer for the festival events relating to the art of calligraphy. IRCICA's cooperation with Taman Tamadun Islam was launched at last year's festival, the TIIAF 2012 (14-17 September 2012) with the signing of a cooperation agreement, whereby IRCICA extends expertise and technical assistance to Taman Tamadun Islam for training in the art of calligraphy and other activities aiming to promote this art.

The opening ceremony heard the addresses of Hon. Major General Dato' Seri Jamil Khayr bin Baharom, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, Malaysia, and Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA. Dr. Eren evoked the fruitful collaboration which has been going on between Malaysia and IRCICA in various fields of Islamic culture and civilization. With special reference to the arts, he spoke of the special importance of the art of calligraphy in Islamic civilization and for the Muslim world. He outlined the long-term programs undertaken by IRCICA to promote this art and encourage the artists. Then, Major General Baharom emphasized the objectives and the mission of the Terengganu International



Islamic Arts Festival at local, regional and international levels. He expressed his pleasure of the cooperation established with IRCICA in the organization of the events.

TIIAF 2013 featured seminars, workshops, calligraphy competitions at national and international levels, calligraphy and batik design demonstrations, Islamic musical concerts



The opening of the Festival was officiated by H.E. Major General Dato' Seri Jamil Khayr bin Baharom, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, Malaysia

and exhibitions in different branches of Islamic arts. Hundreds of artists from various countries participated in these activities.

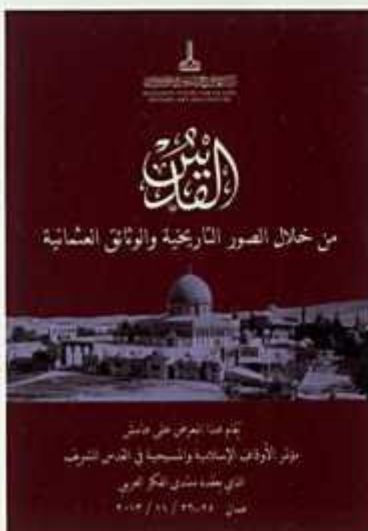


The exhibition was in two sections, for local participants and regional participants respectively. The international jury comprised masters of calligraphy from among the collaborators of IRCICA including Mr. Hasan Çelebi, Mr. Davut Bektaş, Mr. Eftaluddin Kılıç, Mr. Ferhat Kurlu and Mr. Mümtaz Durdu (Turkey), together with Mr. Adnan Sheikh Osman (Syria), Mr. Ziyad al-Muhandis (Iraq) and Mr. Shreen Abdel Saber (Egypt).

The exhibition presented by Taman Tamadun Islam had a number of sections, relating to culinary arts, clothing and batik products, among others.

After the festival, in the second part of his visit to Malaysia, Dr. Halit Eren gave a lecture at the Centre for Advanced Studies on Islam, Science and Civilisation (CASIS), Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, in Kuala Lumpur.

## Exhibition on “Al-Quds in Ottoman archive documents and photographs”, in Amman



On the sidelines of the congress on “Muslim and Christian Waqfs in Al-Quds” organized by the Arab Thought Forum (Amman) on 25-26 November 2013, IRCICA presented an exhibition of reproductions of Ottoman official documents and historical photographs concerning Al-Quds and its sites and buildings which are waqf properties.

The Arab Thought Forum (ATF) is an independent, intellectual, pan-Arab nongovernmental organization established in 1981 by HRH Prince El Hassan bin Talal, together with twenty-five Arab thinkers, decision-makers and development experts (<http://www.atf.org.jo>).



## The Tajik cultural heritage: book launch at IRCICA

A launching ceremony was organized at IRCICA on 9 October 2013 for the book *The Tajik Golden Heritage* authored by Dr. Hamrokhon Zarifi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan, who is at the same time a scholar of art and culture. The Ambassador of Tajikistan in Ankara Mr. Farruh Homiddinoviç Sharipov, representing Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Zarifi, and the Director General of IRCICA Dr. Halit Eren formally launched the Turkish edition of the book. Faculty and students from universities and a large interested audience attended the event.

*The Tajik Golden Heritage* is an amply illustrated record of a history of cultural development and inter-cultural exchanges in a wide range of areas from philosophy to architecture, from fine arts to textiles. The legendary treasures, museum collections and artifacts relating to customs and traditions of the Tajiks are depicted in the instructive texts and with pictures of their most representative samples. Some of the chapter titles are "The Tajiks and the Indo-European World", "The Oxus Treasury", "The Silk Road", "Miniatures", "The Art of the Metal", "Embroidery", "Musical Instruments", "Artistic Treasures of the Tajiks". Previous editions of this book were published in Tajik, Russian, Persian, Arabic, English, German, French and Chinese languages.

In his address Dr. Eren recalled that the history, arts and culture of Tajikistan, a member state of OIC and IRCICA, are within the areas of interest of the Centre. Therefore, he said, the book has special importance for IRCICA as a reference and source of information. He commended the major contribution of the author Mr. Hamrokhon Zarifi in highlighting the rich treasures of Tajik cultural heritage. He found it remarkable: that the book is not confined to national cultural boundaries but also throws light on Tajik's cultural exchanges with other peoples.



The Ambassador of Tajikistan in Ankara Mr. Farruh Homiddinoviç and Dr. Halit Eren formally launched the Turkish edition of the book

Speaking at the book launch, Ambassador Sharipov expressed his pleasure that this book translated into seven languages until then was now published in a Turkish edition. He said that this edition, which included comments by the Turkish Foreign Minister Mr. Ahmet Davutoğlu, can contribute in strengthening the relations between Turkey and Tajikistan.



An interested audience, an occasion to better introduce the Tajik culture

## MEETINGS, COOPERATION

### Participation in the commemoration of the 225th anniversary of the Central Spiritual Board of Russia Muslims, Ufa, Bashkortostan

The 225th anniversary of the establishment of the Central Spiritual Board of Russia Muslims in Ufa, Bashkortostan was commemorated from 21 to 23 October 2013 with festivities, ceremonies and a conference on the theme "Islam and the State in Russia". At the invitation of Grand Mufti Sheikh-ul-Islam Talgat Tajuddin, the event brought together around 500 officials including heads of religious affairs and muftis from 30 countries. The President of Russia Mr. Vladimir Putin addressed the conference; on its sidelines he met with the muftis of the federal states. OIC Secretary General Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu addressed the opening of the conference. IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren delivered an address at the closing session.

The Central Spiritual Board of Russia Muslims was established in Ufa, Bashkortostan in 1789 following an Edict of Empress Catherine II (22 September 1788). The Decree officially secured the Muslims the status of full citizens of the Russian Empire. A Mufti was appointed to this Board, which was initially named the "Ufa Mohammadi Spiritual Official Assembly"; renamed in 1846 as "Orenburg Mohammedan Spiritual Assembly"; since 2000 it bears the name of the "Central Spiritual Board of Russia Muslims".

Dr. Eren accompanied by Assoc.Prof. Cengiz Tomar (IRCICA) participated in the commemoration programs until they left for Kazan, Tatarstan for a series of meetings.



Dr. Halit Eren addressing the participants

### Cooperation with Kazan Federal University for conservation of manuscripts

An agreement was signed between IRCICA and Kazan Federal University (Kazan, Tatarstan, Russian Federation) on 23 October 2013 to restore and digitalize rare oriental manuscripts that are part of the university's library and archive collections. The agreement was signed by the Rector of Kazan Federal University Prof. İlshat Gafurov and Director General of IRCICA Dr. Halit Eren (Honorary Doctor with Kazan Federal University). As a first step, a restoration workshop will be set up to train employees from the university's Unit for Manuscripts and Rare Books. The agreement will at the same time facilitate joint activities of IRCICA and Kazan Federal University in other areas, such as exchange visits and collaboration between specialists, organization of seminars, and provision of the university's library with publications on Islamic history and culture.



On 24 October 2013 Dr. Eren spoke to the students of the Institute of International Relations, History and Oriental Studies conveying the experiences of IRCICA as an international organization. He participated in the conference that was organized on the theme "UN Activities in the 21st Century" to commemorate the UN Day (anniversary of the UN Charter's entry into force in 1945).

On 24 October 2013 Dr Halit Eren met with State Advisor H.E. Mr. Mintimer Shaimiev (the first President of Tatarstan, 1991-2005). Mr. Shaimiev thanked Dr. Eren for the attention

given to Tatarstan and IRCICA's contributions in presenting the Tatar history and culture to the Muslim world. The State Advisor also gave information on developments relating to the restoration of historical and cultural monuments in Bolgar and the Museum of Bolgar civilization. The Ancient Bolgar historical site was inaugurated on 10 June 2012, during the 1123rd anniversary commemoration of the official adoption of Islam by Volga Bulgaria. The anniversary programs organized under the patronage of the President of Tatarstan H.E. Rustam Minnikhanov, included the opening of the newly restored White Mosque Complex and the traditional festival Izge Bolgar Zhyeny. Dr. Eren had participated in those events.



During the meeting Dr. Eren informed Mr. Shaimiev on IRCICA's recent activities. He said that IRCICA had finalized for publication the presentations at the conference that was organized by IRCICA jointly with the Ministry of Culture of Tatarstan on 18 November 2011 to commemorate the illustrious Tatar scholar and poet Abdullah Tukay (1886-1913) on the 125th anniversary of his birth. He spoke in particular about the cooperation agreement that was signed with Kazan Federal University.

## Lecture on IRCICA's activities, at the Centre for Advanced Studies on Islam, Science and Civilisation (CASIS), Universiti Teknologi Malaysia

A lecture was given by IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren at Centre for Advanced Studies on Islam, Science and Civilisation (CASIS), Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, on 18 November 2013. The lecture, titled "The role of IRCICA in preserving and enhancing Islamic civilization heritage", was organized by Prof. Wan Mohd Nor Wan Daud, Founder Director of CASIS, and attended by faculty and staff from the university's various departments.

At the beginning of his lecture Dr. Eren expressed his appreciation of the close and fruitful cooperation between on one hand, the governmental, cultural and academic institutions of Malaysia in general and the Universiti Teknologi Malaysia in particular and on the other, IRCICA. He explained the mission of IRCICA as an intergovernmental research centre which has the subject of the preservation and enhancement of Islamic cultural and civilizational heritage among its main tasks. He cited the activity programs conducted by IRCICA in this context, giving examples of their outcomes.

**UTM** CASIS  
Centre for Advanced Studies  
on Islam, Science and Civilisation  
مركز الدراسات المتقدمة في العلوم والعلوم والعلوم

*The Role of IRCICA in  
Preserving and Enhancing  
Islamic Civilisational Heritage*

By  
**DR. HALIT EREN**  
Director General  
Research Centre For Islamic History,  
Art & Culture (IRCICA), Turkey

Date: 18 NOVEMBER 2013 (MONDAY)  
Time: 2.00 PM - 4.00PM  
Venue: DEWAN JUMAAH, UTM KL  
No registration required. Free admission.

*What is IRCICA?*  
IRCICA is an international institution active  
in the fields of research, publishing, documentation and  
information. Its mandate covers multifarious themes in  
the fields of the history of Muslim nations, history of  
arts and sciences in Islam, and other subject areas in  
Islamic culture and civilisation.

For more information, contact:  
Syafiq Berhanuddin at +60197488050.

## Cooperation with Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, Brunei Darussalam, in promoting Islamic arts

Cooperation has been launched between IRCICA and Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, Brunei Darussalam, an institution devoted to social welfare and development activities including education and social services. IRCICA's cooperation with Yayasan will be in the area of Islamic arts, in particular calligraphy, to be activated through Yayasan's newly set up Islamic Art and Calligraphy Studies Centre. A six-member delegation from Yayasan chaired by Mr. Haji Ibrahim Ismail, Managing Director visited IRCICA on 16-17 December 2013. A Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation was prepared, whereby IRCICA shall offer its expertise and experience in the promotion of Islamic arts in general and training of calligraphers in particular. It is also foreseen that the two institutions organize joint exhibitions of calligraphy.



Yayasan's Islamic Art and Calligraphy Studies Centre Art Centre aims to train experts from among the Muslim youths of Brunei in the field of Islamic art, particularly in the Mushaf art and calligraphy among others.

## Visit of a delegation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China

A delegation headed by Ambassador Ji Peiding, member of the Diplomatic Strategy Advisory Committee, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, composed of senior members of the Ministry's departments, visited IRCICA on 25 September 2013. A meeting was held between Ambassador Peiding and his delegation and IRCICA Director General Dr. Eren and IRCICA officials, at Çit Qasr. The parties agreed on the objective of fostering cultural and academic cooperation. Recalling the success of the congress on "China and the Muslim World: Cultural Encounters" which was jointly organized by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) and IRCICA in Beijing, in June-July 2012, the two parties agreed to organize a second congress on this theme in near future.



## His Excellency Dr. Hamid Algabid, former Secretary General of the OIC (1989-1996), visited IRCICA

H.E. Dr. Hamid Algabid, the sixth Secretary General of the OIC (1989 to 1996), visited IRCICA on 16 September 2013. Before assuming this post Dr. Hamid Algabid was Prime Minister of Niger from 1983 to 1988 and since 1997 he has been President of the RDP - Rally for Democracy and Progress

party; he also served as President of the High Council of Territorial Collectivities (HCCT) until 2010.

It was a great happiness for the Director General and officials of the Centre to welcome Dr. Hamid Algabid again after so

many years, recalling memories of that time; it was a period of global political transformations with direct implications on



the OIC Member States and consequently, active involvement and expansion for the OIC including a fast enlargement of its membership. Dr. Hamid Algabid and Dr. Halit Eren exchanged views on diverse subjects, suggesting ways of contributing to the promotion of scholarly and cultural cooperation between the universities and cultural institutions of Niger on one hand and IRCICA on the other. A memento of the visit, Dr. Hamid Algabid's notes in the Visitors' Book: "On the occasion of a good transit, reconnecting with the famous Islamic centre for history, arts and culture (IRCICA)..."

### *Dr. Eren's courtesy visit to Prof. Dr. Emrullah İşler, Deputy Prime Minister of Turkey*



Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, paid a courtesy visit to Prof. Dr. Emrullah İşler, the newly appointed Deputy Prime Minister of Turkey, on 3 January 2014. Dr. Halit Eren congratulated Prof. İşler on his appointment. He also briefed Prof. İşler on the activities and future plans of IRCICA. İşler and Eren are both founding members of the International Turkish-Arab Dialogue Platform and have been collaborating in this context, most recently at the Platform's Istanbul meeting on 3-4 October 2013. Furthermore Deputy Prime Minister İşler is in charge among others, of two of the Turkish governmental institutions IRCICA cooperates with, namely TİKA (Turkish Cooperation and Development Agency) and the Presidency of Turks Abroad and Relative Communities.

### *Mr. Iya Tidjani, Ambassador of the Republic of Cameroon in Riyadh, visited IRCICA*

Ambassador Mr. Iya Tidjani, Ambassador of Cameroon in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, visited IRCICA on 16 December



2013. The visit started with the meeting with Director General Dr. Halit Eren, during which both affirmed their wish to foster cultural collaboration between the authorities and institutions of Cameroon and IRCICA and discussed the possibilities. Then the Ambassador visited the departments of the Centre where the staff members in charge of different projects briefed him on their activities. IRCICA has the pleasure to record Ambassador Tidjani's impressions expressed in the Visitors' Book: "I have visited IRCICA and its facilities for the first time. This has been a revelation for me; all that is being done here is important and essential for learning Islam and for the preservation of its inestimable artistic, historical, and other riches. I would like therefore to address my congratulations

to Dr. Halit Eren and all his team for the quality of their works and also thank the Turkish Government and people for the incommensurable support they bring to IRCICA and by this to the entire world Muslim community.”

## **Mr. Ali Mohamed Al-Bashir Hamouda, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs of Libya, visited IRCICA**

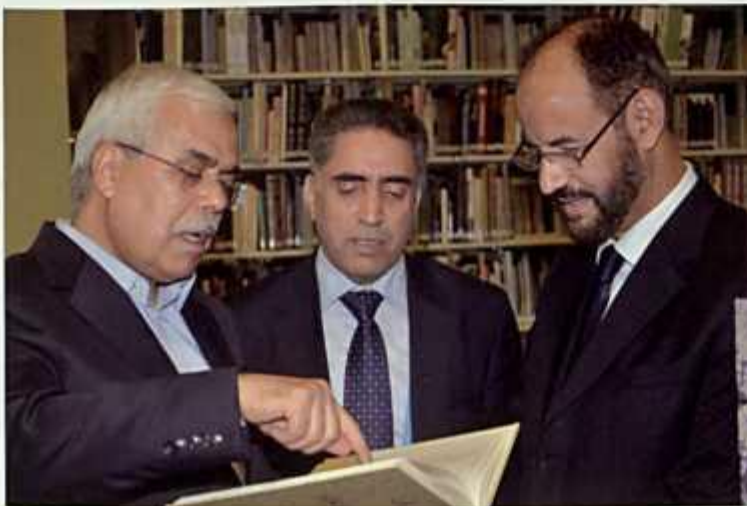
On 26 December 2013 IRCICA received Mr. Ali Mohamed Al-Bashir Hamouda, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs of Libya. The Minister was visiting Turkey officially. During his visit to IRCICA Mr. Hamouda and Dr. Halit Eren had a fruitful meeting



reviewing existing and possible future cultural cooperation between IRCICA and Libya. Then, Dr. Eren guided the Minister to some departments of the Centre among them the library. Minister Hamouda expressed his appreciation of the activities and his wish for further exchanges and collaboration between IRCICA and the cultural institutions of Libya. The Minister recorded his impressions on the Centre's activities in the Visitors' Book (original in Arabic): "We are happy, me and my delegation, to visit this prestigious and eminent venue where we have seen the glories of our nation and the devotion of [the Centre's] employees to the preservation, revival and dissemination of the Islamic heritage... We also had the honour to meet dear Dr. Halit Eren. May God give him success and bless his efforts and carry his work to the scale of good actions”.

## **Visit to IRCICA by Dr. Abdulkarim Khalil, Chairman of the Board of Directors, and Dr. Omar Ahmad al-Naku', of the World Islamic Call Society, Libya**

Dr. Abdulkarim Khalil, Chairman of the Board of Directors, and Dr. Omar Ahmad al-Naku', of the World Islamic Call Society, Tripoli, Libya visited IRCICA on 12 September 2013. The many fruitful outcomes of the collaboration existing between IRCICA and the Society since the 1980s were reviewed. Possible areas of future collaboration were discussed. The two sides informed each other of their institutions' respective activities and future plans. The meeting was followed by a tour to the library and some other



departments of the Centre. Dr. Khalil recorded his impressions about the Centre in the Visitors' Book, as follows (in Arabic), "May God bless your efforts and give you further success in the service of the faith, the civilization and the heritage of the Ummah. I am impressed by what I saw and look forward to more contact and cooperation between the Centre and the World Islamic Call Society. ... Dr. Naku' also wrote down his impressions in the Visitors' Book (in Arabic): "I am happy to have visited this great centre that endeavours to preserve the sacred book of Allah, the Islamic heritage and the waqfs. I am pleased to extend my greetings and y thanks to the employees of this scholarly establishment, at their head Dr. Halit Eren. ....”

## Cooperation agreement signed with Beit al-Hikmah, Iraq

A cooperation agreement was signed between IRCICA and Beit al-Hikmah, Iraq. The agreement was signed during the visit of Prof. Dr. Shamran Serkal al-Ajli, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Beit al-Hikmah and his colleagues to IRCICA on 31 October 2013. It foresees joint research projects, exchanges of publications and other forms of collaboration. Earlier, on 6 June 2012, the two parties had jointly organized on IRCICA's premises a seminar on «Ottoman documents concerning Iraq» focusing on the documents contained in the Turkish Prime Ministry's Ottoman Archives (Istanbul) which constitute original first-hand references for studies in history.



## Participants in the meeting of the Arab-Turkish Dialogue Platform visited IRCICA

Participants in the meeting of the Arab-Turkish Dialogue Platform which was held in Istanbul on 3-4 October 2013 visited IRCICA in the afternoon of 3 October 2013. Representatives from 35 countries participated in the meeting, among them Mr. Erşat Hürmüzlü, Chief Middle East Advisor of Turkish President Abdullah Gül and the Platform's Secretary General; Prof. Dr. Emrullah İşler, then deputy in the Turkish Parliament and presently Deputy Prime Minister, Ambassador Muhammed Fatih al-Nasiri, the Arab League's Ankara representative, IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren, Kuwaiti academic Dr. Muhammed al-Rumayhi and Bahraini diplomat Sheikha Haya Raspid al-Khalifa. During the two-day meeting the Platform carried on with its deliberations on ways and means of bolstering dialogue between the Turkish and the Arab peoples. Elections were held for organs of the Platform which envisages to expand its institutional structure building upon the experience gained since its establishment in 2012.



*Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu,*

## **THE ISLAMIC WORLD IN THE NEW CENTURY** **The Organisation of the Islamic Conference, 1969-2009**

C. Hurst & Company, London, xii+330 p. (in English)

Editions in different languages

This is the first book to recapitulate the major international causes sought by the Muslim countries and the joint action they deployed through their intergovernmental body, the OIC, during its first forty years. The author is a leading figure of the OIC: its ninth Secretary General (Jan. 2005-Dec. 2013) Professor Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu.

The main founding objective of the OIC was to work for the cause of Al-Quds and Palestine. But from the very start it also pledged to deal with other concerns shared by Muslim countries and Muslim communities around the world. Over the decades its purview expanded to cover many other areas such as economic development, eradication of poverty, science and technology, education, culture, human rights, the rights of women and the rights of children, post-disaster humanitarian relief, peace building and conflict resolution. Today the organization addresses all international issues relevant for the Muslim world. The number of its member countries grew from 25 at the start to 57 at present.

The author has witnessed and was involved in the OIC's evolution for the past thirty years, in his capacity as the first Director General of the OIC's cultural subsidiary IRCICA from 1980 to 2004 and as OIC Secretary General from 2005 onwards. In the first chapters of this book İhsanoğlu reviews the efforts which were deployed by Muslim leaders starting from the beginning of 20th century towards setting up an umbrella organization for the Muslim countries, culminating in the establishment of the OIC in 1969. Then he describes the progress of the activities and institutional development of the OIC placing this history in the context of developments



in world politics and economy that affected its course. The chapters relating to the period of his mandate review the reform process that was introduced in order to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the OIC, the initiatives taken to reinforce its role in the global scene and the strategies introduced in various areas of the operations such as the Ten-Year Program of Action to Meet the Challenges Facing the Muslim World in the 21st Century (2006-2016), among others.

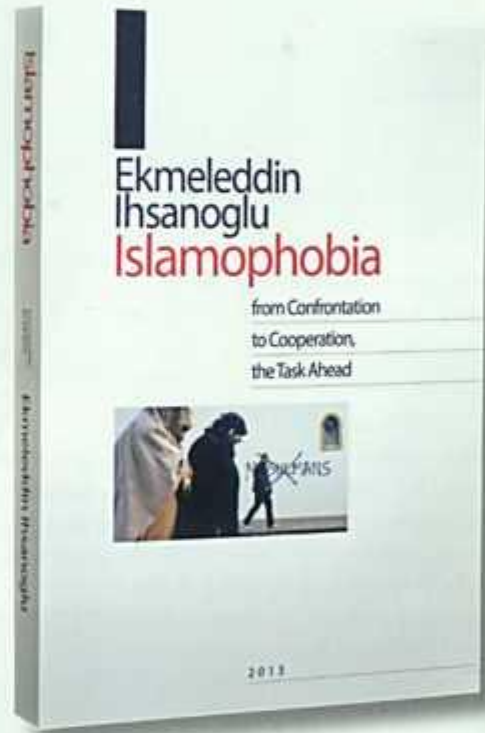
The following translated editions were revised and updated by the author to include latest developments: Arabic (Dar al-Shuruq, Cairo, 2013), Russian (Institute of Oriental Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, 2013), Turkish (TİMAŞ, Istanbul, 2013), Bengali (The University Press Limited, Dhaka, 2013), Urdu (COMSTECH, Islamabad, 2014).

*Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu,*  
**Islamophobia**  
**From Confrontation to Cooperation, the Task Ahead**

Jeddah, 2013, [3], iii, 296 p., 24 cm

This book documents the first ever strategy deployed by the Muslim world to combat a global problem of our time: Islamophobia. This phenomenon, which manifests itself in discrimination and intolerance against Muslims, finds diverse ways of expression in European information media. Combatting Islamophobia was one of the primary objectives of Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu during his term as OIC Secretary General from January 2005 to December 2013. Coincidentally this period saw an escalation of Islamophobic incidents in Europe as in the Danish cartoons (2005) and reprinting of the cartoons in European media, and the Dutch film "Fitna" (2008), among others. Therefore İhsanoğlu gave high priority to solving this problem.

The book vividly describes the major Islamophobic incidents of recent years, reactions they aroused in the Muslim world and the initiatives that were taken accordingly by the Secretary General at the relevant international bodies and in various political, academic and cultural milieus. İhsanoğlu made appeals to all states concerned to foster a domestic and an international environment of religious tolerance and respect. He believes that establishment of such an environment can constitute a turning point "from confrontation to cooperation" in addressing Islamophobia and other forms of discrimination based on religion, faith or belief. An objective towards which he contributed significantly by initiating and guiding the process that led to the adoption by consensus, on 24 March 2011, of UN Human Rights Council Resolution 16/18 on "Combatting intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of, and discrimination, incitement to violence, and violence against persons based on religion or belief". This historic resolution aiming to promote a culture of tolerance and mutual understanding between all peoples was based on the eight points he had provided earlier, in his address to the



15th session of this Council in Geneva on 16 September 2010. To build the political mechanisms for implementation of this resolution, İhsanoğlu in cooperation with US Secretary of State Mrs. Hillary Clinton coordinated the "Istanbul Process" throughout 2011-2013.

The rich account of these measures and developments as provided in the book can supply highly useful guidelines for future international action on the subject. Furthermore, the Annex of the book has six of the statements İhsanoğlu addressed to American and European audiences on the issue.

## IRCICA Publications

### المؤسّسات النجاشية في المشرق العربي العثماني

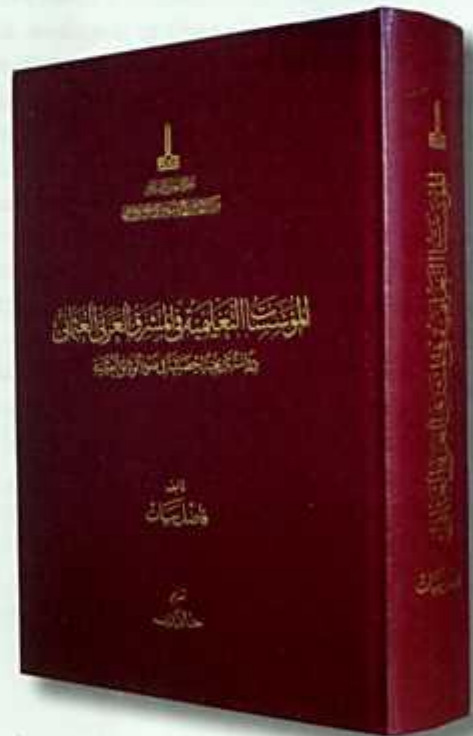
## Fazil Bayat, Educational Establishments in the Ottoman Arab Mashriq: Historical statistical study based on Ottoman documents

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.

## IRCICA Publications

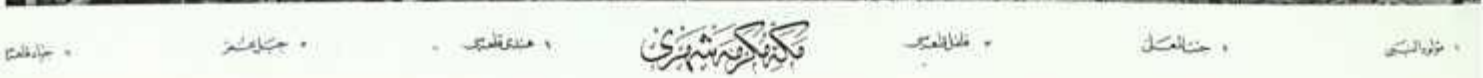
### Haremeyn. Makka al-Mukarrama and al-Madina al-Munawwara in photographs from the Ottoman period selected from the albums of Sultan Abdulhamid II and the collection of Fahreddin Pasha (Türkkan)

prepared by Halit Eren and Salih Sadawi, Foreword by Abdullah Gül, prologue by Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu,  
Series of historical photograph albums 8, IRCICA; Istanbul, 592 p., 37x46 cm., illustrations, maps, plans  
(Turkish, English, Arabic)

This major publication by IRCICA contains reproductions of historical photographs of Makka and Madina selected from the archives of IRCICA accompanied by a history of the Muslims' devotion and services rendered to these holy lands of Islam. Within the Islamic understanding, the locations that are considered to be more virtuous and sacred spiritually than any other in the world and are landmarks in humanity's sphere of faith and worship, are the Ka'ba (Masjid al-Haram) in Makka al-Mukarrama, al-Masjid al-Nabawi in al-Madina al-Munawwara and al-Masjid al-Aqsa in al-Quds. For this reason, Makka, Madina and al-Quds have a special place in the hearts of the Muslims. Makka and Madina among them are specifically safeguarded by the Islamic jurisprudence and considered to be "harem" (sacred territory) and are called "Haramayn" or "haremân" meaning two sacred territories. These sacred places where the Holy Qur'an was revealed are the originating points of the Islamic faith, its history and civilization and the locations that Prophet Muhammed (pbuh) spent his worldly days; they have maintained and will continue to maintain their importance as sources of knowledge and inspiration, places of worship and visit as well as valuable heritage assets of Islamic civilization.



The book's album section containing the photographs is divided into four parts, devoted, respectively, to photographs of Makka, Madina, the Surra (the caravan carrying gifts and





The book prepared by the IRCICA team has been published under the patronage of H.E. Abdullah Gül, President of the Republic of Turkey who also wrote the Foreword. It has a prologue by Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the OIC. The Introduction by Dr. Halit Eren reviews the services rendered to the holy places by rulers of the Muslim states succeeding each other, with an emphasis on the Ottoman period. These services include: repairs, restorations, constructions conducted in the Holy Ka'ba and other sacred places in Makka, the Prophet's Mosque and other sacred locations in Madina, land development, services and arrangements relating to the Hajj – Muslims' pilgrimage, the Surra welfare assistance provided and endowments dedicated to the holy cities and their peoples, among many others.

The introductory parts and the photographs' annotations are in Turkish, English and Arabic. The photographs contained in the album date from the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century. Altogether the book documents all salient aspects of the history of Makka and Madina, with special reference to the delicate period of this history corresponding to about the last forty decades of the Ottoman State.

money to Makka from the Ottoman Sultans annually), and miscellaneous photographs (adjacent cities, economic and social activities, personalities, etc.)



## IRCICA Publications

### Catalogue of Winners' Plates in the Ninth International Calligraphy Competition in the Name of Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu,

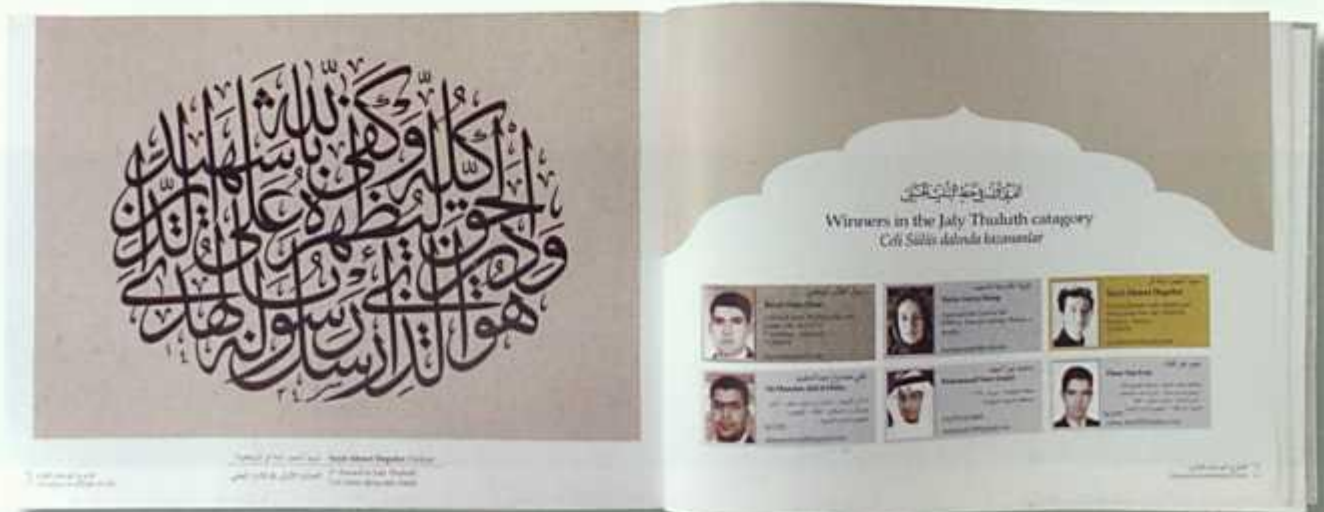
prepared for publication by Said Kasımoğlu, IRCICA, Istanbul, 2013

IRCICA organizes international calligraphy competitions every three years since 1986. The Ninth International Calligraphy Competition was announced in 2012 and finalized in 2013. Keeping with its tradition of dedicating each competition to an eminent figure of this art, IRCICA organized the ninth one in the name of Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General (outgoing) of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and patron of the art of calligraphy. This has been an expression of gratitude for the seminal contributions İhsanoğlu has made over decades to revive interest in the art of calligraphy around the world, encourage observance of its classical rules and principles and help foster education in this field.

The results of the ninth competition were declared at a ceremony held at IRCICA on 30 April 2013. 672 calligraphers from 39 countries participated in the Ninth Competition with a total of 900 works in the 10 categories of writing styles; 28 prizes, 26 mentions and 23 incentive prizes



were distributed to calligraphers from 23 countries. This catalogue includes reproductions of the works which won awards in the different categories of styles and information on the winner calligraphers.



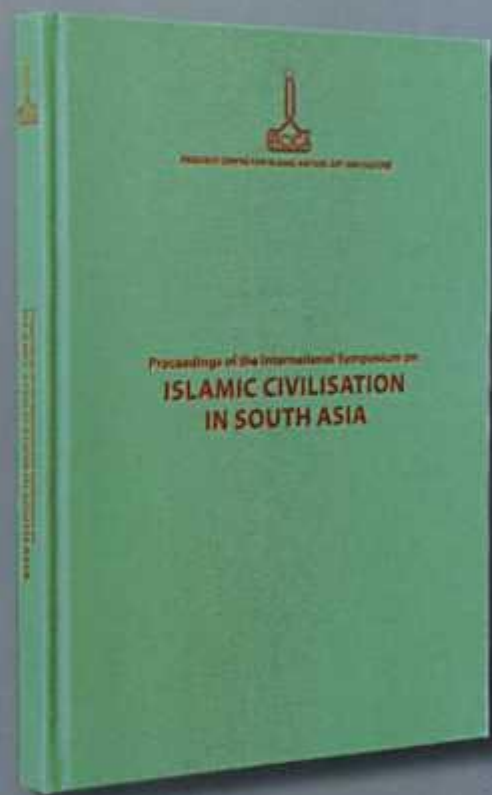
## IRCICA Publications

### Proceedings of the International Symposium on Islamic Civilisation in South Asia

Sources and Studies on the History of Islamic Civilisation Series 29, IRCICA, 2013

The Symposium on "Islamic Civilization in South Asia" was co-organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and IRCICA in association with Dhaka University and held in Dhaka on 16-18 November 2008. As Dr. Halit Eren says in the Preface, the symposium contributed to diversification of studies on Muslim world history by drawing scholarly attention to South Asia, which one of the main geo-cultural regions of Islamic civilization: South Asia is indeed one of the environments where Islamic culture flourished from deep roots, activated the region's cultural progress and also drew from it for its own overall advancement. This mutual enrichment can be observed in the manuscript and printed works, foremost among them the copies and translations of the Holy Quran, and in the architecture, the inscriptions, decorations and artworks. It can also be observed in the outputs of the region in Islamic cultural studies and literary production - in particular, in the evolution of Urdu as a language of learning and literature from the time of the South Asian sultanates until modern times whereby it has been used as a prolific intellectual medium not only because it is one of the most widely spoken languages of the Muslim world but also due to the richness of scholarly and cultural activity conducted in this language.

Furthermore, the cities of civilization where these processes took place, represented in the built environment of the region, display marvelous monuments reflecting the Islamic influences assimilated, enriched and re-expressed through the artistic spirit and tastes of the rulers and the artists. The riches of artifacts, archeological, architectural heritage in the region are known to peoples of the world. The symposium



was an excellent opportunity for the participants to visit these sources and this heritage and learn more from them, particularly in the context of the host country, Bangladesh.

The book contains 17 papers in the English language. Most of them address topics relating to the history of Islam in the region, language, art and architecture.

