



# Newsletter



OIC RESEARCH CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC HISTORY, ART AND CULTURE

The Thirty-ninth Session of the OIC's Council of Foreign Ministers held in the Republic of Djibouti

Twenty-eighth Session of IRCICA Governing Board adopts new projects

### **Congresses on history and culture:**

- "Sudan during the Ottoman Period"
- Panel and exhibition on "Oman in the Ottoman Archives"
- "Islamic Civilization in Central Asia"
- "The Balkan Wars (1912-1913) on their Centenary"

### **Promotion of the arts:**

- Training programs in the art of calligraphy
- Cooperation with Taman Tamadun Islam / Islamic Civilization Park, Terengganu, Malaysia to promote the art of calligraphy
- Art exhibition: Kuşoğlu's works of gold and silver chiseling, mother-of-pearl inlays and engravings

### **Meetings, cooperation**

### **IRCICA Publications**

# Newsletter



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Art and Culture (IRCICA)

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## EDITORIAL

As the present issue appears, IRCICA embarks on its work program for 2013 which was adopted by the OIC Member States' Foreign Ministers at their 39th session held in Djibouti last November. In this issue we are giving highlights of the Council's session which reflect the current overall agenda of the OIC. This is followed by an outline of the deliberations and recommendations of IRCICA's Governing Board on its 28th session held in December concerning the activities and their modalities.

Some of these achievements are related to the congresses we have held recently, on "Islamic Civilization in Central Asia", "Sudan during the Ottoman Period", "Oman in the Ottoman Archives" and "The Balkan Wars (1912-1913) on their Centenary" respectively. Each brought together participants from diverse countries, both senior and younger scholars, and this helped additionally to generating discussions on the topics, sources and methods involved as regards each theme. The congress on Oman focused specifically on the sources; the documents from historical state archives which the congress on Sudan addressed as well. The historical collections in state archives and other national archives contain documents of various types including decrees, orders, internal and external correspondence and numerous other materials indispensable for researchers. In Turkey the Ottoman official documents emanating from Ottoman administration and international relations constitute one of the largest and best maintained such archives of the world. They are preserved in the Turkish Prime Ministry's State Archives' Ottoman Archives located in Istanbul and in hundreds of other collections in Istanbul and other provinces of Turkey. In addition to using these documents for its own research needs, IRCICA undertook to facilitate researchers' use of them which encourages objective research based on first-hand documents. In the latter context our Centre organizes research projects to collect documents on selected general or specific themes and publishes their translations in major languages of the Muslim world. A current series which will soon put out its third volume is titled "The Arab provinces in Ottoman documents". The first two volumes, containing documents from Ottoman registers of the 16th century, were published in 2011. The documents were obtained from the Ottoman Archives Department of the Turkish State Archives, the Library of Topkapı Palace Museum, and other collections. Their subjects range from the Ottoman administrative, financial, and other policies applied in Arab lands, waqfs, and regulation of the pilgrimage to uprisings, complaints by the people to the state, and security measures protecting local and foreign tradesmen. Other

publications of IRCICA in the same context include the title Ottoman Administration in The Sudan in the Light of Archival Documents (2007) containing Arabic translations of Ottoman archive documents concerning The Sudan; it was prepared in collaboration with the Ottoman Archive Department in Istanbul affiliated to the Turkish Prime Ministry. Another publication in the same series was titled Baghdad in the Light of Ottoman Archive Documents" (2008). Besides these publications IRCICA convenes meetings of archive managers and specialists and of historians and other social scientists concerned; such was the seminar on "Ottoman Archive Documents on Iraq" (at IRCICA, June 2012). The panel on "Oman in the Ottoman Archives" which we implemented jointly with the National Archives of the Sultanate of Oman brought valuable new inputs into this work.

Our activities relating to the arts saw further progress during the last few months with the launching of a regular training program on Islamic calligraphy. The courses are conducted on our premises for trainees from within and outside the Muslim world who wish to upgrade their skills in the main styles of writing. Moreover, our Centre continues to cooperate with institutions working for the promotion of this art. Last September we have signed a cooperation agreement with Taman Tamadun Islam (Islamic Civilization Park), a cultural institution in Terengganu, Malaysia which has among its aims the promotion of Islamic arts and we are looking forward to fruitful collaboration. The signing of the agreement took place within the framework of the Terengganu International Islamic Art Festival 2012. During the period I was most honoured to be granted an audience by His Royal Highness the Sultan of Terengganu Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin. It was an excellent opportunity for me to brief His Royal Highness on IRCICA's activities.

Meanwhile, an important event concerning the art of calligraphy in our program for 2013, namely the Ninth International Calligraphy Competition in the name of Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, is progressing according to its calendar; the entries will be received by the end of February and the Jury will meet in April. I am pleased to record that we received applications from around the world for this competition; this shows even at this early stage that at least one of the competition's main aims is already fulfilled: that of monitoring the interest this art enjoys worldwide and encouraging its practice. Future issues of the Newsletter will have more on this.

*Dr. Halit Eren*



## The Thirty-ninth Session of the OIC's Council of Foreign Ministers held in the Republic of Djibouti

The Thirty-ninth Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) was held in Djibouti, Republic of Djibouti, on 15-17 November 2012, under the patronage of the President of Djibouti H.E. Ismail Omar Guelleh. The session bore the motto of "Solidarity for Sustainable Development". The Foreign Ministers of the Member States meet on annual basis with the following mandate: to adopt resolutions on matters of common interest in the implementation of the objectives and the general policy of the Organization, review progress of the implementation of earlier decisions, examine and approve the programs, budgets and other financial and administrative reports of the OIC General Secretariat and subsidiary organs, consider any issue affecting one or more Member States whenever a request to that effect by the Member State concerned is made with a view to taking appropriate measures in that respect, and consider any other issue arising.

The President of Djibouti H.E. Ismail Omar Guelleh delivered a comprehensive address at the opening of the session touching upon the major issues that receive the joint attention and common concern of the OIC Member States in the present time.

President Guelleh received the Heads of Delegations after the opening ceremony. During the reception, IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren presented President Guelleh with a copy of one of IRCICA's major publications resulting from its research and archival activities: the album of historical photographs of Al-Quds entitled Al-Quds/Jerusalem During the Ottoman Period comprising reproductions of photographs dating from the period of Sultan Abdulhamid II (end of the 19th-beginning of the 20th century).

The session was also addressed by the Secretary General of OIC Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, the Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan Mr. Erjan Kazikhanov, Chair the Council since its last meeting held in Astana, and the Foreign Minister of Djibouti Mr. Muhammad Ali Yusuf. In his address, OIC Secretary General Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu briefed the Foreign Ministers on the state of affairs relating to the various subjects of concern for the OIC included in the latter's agenda and the activities carried out and progress made by the OIC relating to these subjects. The Secretary General said that the Muslim world is going through the most testing moment in its modern history since the end of World War I, with decisive and critical changes and successive developments taking place in some of its member countries. He added that the session in the Republic of Djibouti is

also particularly important in that it is held at a time when some countries in the Muslim world are hit by severe crises. The Secretary General then described at length the situations with respect to Al-Quds and Occupied Palestine, the crisis in Syria, Mali and the Sahel region, the Sudan, Jammu and Kashmir, the Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar, while he expressed satisfaction over achievements and/or promising developments recorded as regards Somalia, Afghanistan, the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) in southern Philippines, the Muslim communities in Europe, reporting on the efforts made by the OIC with regard to these issues and the role it played in concretizing progress in some of these areas (the full text of the Secretary General's address is at [oic-oci.org](http://oic-oci.org)). In the economic field, the Secretary General gave statistics indicating improvement in economic growth on both the total OIC level and at national levels. He said that with a combined GDP of US\$ 5.7 trillion representing 8.3 % of the global economic output, the OIC remains a very strong international economic actor and that over the past years intra-OIC trade has also increased in monetary value. Economic cooperation schemes set up within the OIC have given promising results, as indicated by the positive progress achieved in the signing and ratification of the various OIC instruments, such as the Trade Preferential System (TPS). Prof. İhsanoğlu recorded that 101 signatures and 65 ratifications of economic agreements were secured since 2005, which is indicative of the responsiveness of the Member States to the need for rigorously implementing the ongoing Ten-Year Programme of Action which was adopted at the Third Extraordinary



Meeting with the President of Djibouti H.E. Ismail Omar Guelleh where Dr. Halit Eren presented the President with a copy of IRCICA's album of historical photographs of Al-Quds

Summit held in Mecca in December 2005. Progress had also been achieved in other crucial fields of action such as poverty eradication, financial sector cooperation, agricultural development and tourism. He said that the Special Programme for the Development of Africa, which was put in place in 2008, has made all the targeted disbursements of around US\$ 4.5 billion benefitting a total number of 428 development projects. Meanwhile the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development has increased its interventions in such sectors as micro-finance, vocational training and social services. The Secretary General also explained their plans to further activate such development program as the OIC Action Plan on Cotton and Agro-Food Industry, the Regional Project on Sustainable Development of Tourism in a Cross-Border Network of Parks and Reserves in West Africa and the Plan of Action for Cooperation with Central Asia, as well as the Stakeholders' Conference on Post-conflict Reconstruction in Somalia.

Another area in which the OIC recorded progress over the past years is the humanitarian where through its Humanitarian Affairs Department (ICHAD) it worked to alleviate crises and disasters in many Member States; ICHAD's activity expanded to include thirteen countries. The Department also issued a pilot report on disasters in the Muslim world and promoted relations with the international humanitarian community and civil society organizations.

Another field of OIC action where satisfactory progress has been made is that of science and technology. This field is devoted a separate chapter in the OIC's Ten-Year Programme of Action which is under implementation since 2006. The Secretary General said that the Global Innovation Index 2012 (GII) published by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) ranked many OIC Member States including Malaysia, Jordan, Senegal and others, among the good performers. Furthermore, in another priority area, that of higher education, he informed the session that nine universities from OIC Member States are among the top 400 world universities according to QS university rankings for 2012.

The session was presented with the fifth report of the OIC Islamophobia Observatory. On the issue of Islamophobia which remains a source of great concern, the OIC has exerted considerable and dedicated efforts and raised this issue on every pertinent occasion in different parts of the world. It managed to convince the UN Human Rights Council to adopt the resolution 16/18 which includes a genuine condemnation of the defamation of religions and discrimination against people on religious grounds: paragraph 6 of the resolution provides for the adoption of measures to criminalize incitement to violence based on religion or belief. The resolution was also adopted by UN General Assembly by consensus. To enhance the chances of these two resolutions being implemented on the ground, the Secretary General put forward "the Istanbul process" starting from July 2011 which reaffirms the two resolutions, followed by a similar initiative in Washington in December of the same year. A third initiative will follow in England in the name of the European Union in December this year. The Secretary General went on to outline the activities undertaken in the field of human rights. The OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission was established and

activated in half the time set by the aforementioned Ten-Year Programme of Action.

The Foreign Ministers deliberated on these and many other issues of political, economic, developmental, cultural and social order; they reviewed the work of the OIC institutions – the subsidiary, the specialized and the affiliated organs and centres. They issued the Djibouti Declaration (see [oic-oci.org](http://oic-oci.org)) reiterating their full commitment to the aims, goals and principles of the Organization and their support for its enhancement to enable it to face current and future challenges. They expressed their full appreciation of the OIC's efforts to strengthen Islamic solidarity and joint Islamic action. They called upon the OIC to exert further efforts to achieve the welfare of the Islamic peoples, and promote coordination and collaboration with international and regional organizations.

Knowing that Djibouti is one of the countries in the Horn of Africa, the Foreign Ministers recorded that this session had a historical importance in that it was held in the region to which the companions of Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) migrated twice during the dawn of the Islamic call to safeguard their faith and where they found warm shelter offered by a kind King. The Declaration goes on to affirm that "The Conference is therefore a historical and cultural indicator and a new welcomed return at a critical time when our Islamic world is facing tremendous challenges in political, socio-economic, cultural, scientific and security fields. As such, this gathering of the Foreign Ministers in Djibouti reinforces the spiritual and strategic bond between the peoples of this region and Islam, and highlights the interest of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and its Member States in the Horn and East of Africa, a bastion of prosperity and strategic depth to Islam."

On top of the agenda was, as usual, the foremost cause of the OIC, namely the problem of Al-Quds and Palestine. The Ministers renewed their full support for the just cause of Palestine and the rights of Palestinian people to mobilize international support for their inalienable legitimate rights, including the right to self-determination and return; they affirmed their full support to the Palestinian move to seek observer status for the State of Palestine at the UN and called upon friendly and sisterly countries to support that. They also condemned the continued inhuman and illegitimate blockade of the Gaza Strip and demanded Israel as the occupying power to immediately cease this illegal collective punishment of the Palestinian people, to lift the blockade fully and abide by the terms of international humanitarian law and human rights law.

The Declaration addressed the Islamophobia problem by strongly condemning abuse and insolence against the person of Prophet Mohammed (PBUH), calling for resistance of all forms of the repugnant Islamophobia against the noble Islamic religion and expressing appreciation of the efforts of the General Secretariat in this regard, particularly the unanimous adoption by the Human Rights Council of resolution 16/18 sponsored by the OIC. The session reaffirmed the principles contained in the inter-faith and intercultural dialogue initiative of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, which was adopted by the World Conference on Dialogue of 2008 in Madrid against defamation of religions and their symbols.

Concerning the problems of Muslim communities and minorities, the session condemned the repression and atrocious massacres of Rohingya Muslims in Arakan Province, Myanmar; they called upon the international community to stand firmly in face of this humanitarian issue and requested the OIC Member States to provide further adequate political and material backing to support Rohingya Muslims and help them recover all their legitimate rights.

The session supported the resolution adopted on the border dispute between Djibouti and Eritrea, and asked Eritrea to immediately abide by the resolutions and respond positively to the mediation of His Highness the Emir of Qatar by releasing the Djiboutian detainees and seriously acting to settle this conflict as quickly as possible for the sake of realizing security and stability in this strategically important region.

Based on the recent achievements in Somalia, including the ratification of its constitution, the election of the new President in a democratic manner and the formation of a new government, the Ministers called upon the international community to support this government to put an end to the tragedy of the Somali people that lasted for more than two decades.

Concerning the situation in Mali, the Foreign Ministers condemned strongly the armed groups actions which threaten the safety of the country; they renewed their total solidarity with the Sahel countries in combating all forms of insecurity and destabilization, and expressed support of the peace initiative sponsored by the Economic Community of West African Countries (ECOWAS) and the African Union. They also condemned the activities of the terrorist armed groups in the north of Mali and Sub Sahara, including cultural terrorism and the demolition of cultural and human heritage, in particular in the Islamic ancient city of Timbuktu.

Relating to Syria, the Declaration notes that at that moment when the Ministers were gathering with Syria's empty seat because of the suspension of its membership in the Organization, they were not forgetting the innocent blood that is being shed in the country. Thereby the Ministers called upon the international community to take a firm stand in face of the violence and the devastation of the economic infrastructure as well as the systematic destruction of people's properties in this deeply rooted Islamic country and a founding member of the Organization. They called for the immediate cessation of the bloodshed and the killing. They recorded their support of the efforts of the joint international and Arab envoy. They welcomed the agreement reached by the various segments of the Syrian opposition on 11 November 2012 in Doha under the high patronage of His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, to form the National Coalition for Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces; and expressed their thanks to the State of Qatar for its laudable efforts to implement the Doha Agreement and to invite the other opposition forces to join this national coalition to be truly representative of all Syrian opposition segments without any exception. They also expressed their solidarity with Syria's neighbours.

The Declaration also includes a provision on the Israeli attack on the Yarmouk factory in Sudan. The Ministers strongly condemned the attack, which is a blatant violation of the UN

Charter and international law, and expressed solidarity with the Republic of the Sudan in the face of the heinous Israeli aggression in taking the measures it deems appropriate, consistent with international laws and customs, to preserve its territorial integrity and the security of its citizens, and to hold Israel accountable and compel it to assume its responsibilities arising from this aggression, including compensation for the damages it caused.

Addressing the problem of terrorism, the Ministers strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, irrespective of perpetrator and place, and reiterated their commitment to enhance joint cooperation in combating terrorism through various means, including the formulation of an appropriate and agreed-upon definition of terrorism, the exchange of information, capacity building, and addressing the root causes of terrorism such as the still unsettled conflicts and the continued oppression, marginalization of peoples and the deprivation of their right to self-determination in the case of foreign occupation; they denounced all attempts to link terrorism either with Islam or with an Islamic country, an ethnicity, a religion, a culture or a nation.

The Foreign Ministers confirmed their continued support for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free Middle East, and demand Israel, the only Middle East country that has not signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, to join the Treaty unconditionally and without further delay, and to place its nuclear facilities under the comprehensive safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The Declaration underlines the importance of the security, sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and legal rights of all OIC Member States, and stresses the need for peaceful settlement of conflicts in accordance with the UN and OIC Charters and based on international law. The Ministers thereby reiterated the resolutions they had issued earlier expressing full solidarity with the Sudan, the Union of the Comoros, Yemen, Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Jammu Kashmir, the Turkish Cypriot State and Kosovo. In this context they condemned Armenia's aggression against Azerbaijan and called for immediate withdrawal of Armenian forces from occupied Azerbaijani territories. They welcomed the Framework Agreement between the Government of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) as a first step towards fulfilling the legitimate demands of the Muslim Bangsamoro people in Southern Philippines; they welcomed the meeting between the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and the MILF on the sidelines of their session in the presence of the Chairman of the session, H.E. the Foreign Affairs Minister of Djibouti, and H.E. the Secretary General of the OIC; they called upon the two fronts to unify efforts and coordinate positions for the benefit of the Bangsamoro people.

Sustainable development, which was also the motto of the session, could not achieve its objectives without solidarity and concerted efforts by all Muslims. Recalling that Islam has established great economic values including zakat (alms) and endowments to cater for the needs of people and provide a decent livelihood for them, the Ministers called for attention to this Islamic ritual and promote its role in funding international Islamic cross-border mega projects for economic integration among the OIC Member States. The Ministers

called for greater coordination and integration as well as for more efficient economic and trade exchanges and investment amongst the member countries in order to achieve sustainable development and make transition from poverty and destitution to honorable self-sufficiency and lasting prosperity.

More specifically in the cultural field and on matters related to the mandate of IRCICA, the session took Resolution no. 1/39-C on General Cultural Matters in which, having considered the reports of the Secretary General on these issues, it recorded decisions on the subjects of first, dialogue among civilizations, and second, the activities in the context of the UN the Alliance of Civilizations. Relating to the former, the session commended the initiatives of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, on Interfaith and Intercultural Dialogue, which was concretized in the conference of Mecca in 2005 which saw the participation of Muslim scholars from different schools of thought and was continued with the Madrid Conference on Inter-Faith Dialogue in 2008 and further, with a high-level meeting by the General Assembly of the UN in November 2008, to which many world leaders participated in support of the results of the Madrid Conference. This was emphasized in the statement of the Secretary General who commended the initiative and its role in the dissemination of the culture of dialogue, tolerance and mutual understanding among all the peoples of the world. The resolution also commends the efforts of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia aimed at activating this initiative through the establishment of the King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Center for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (KAICID), whose headquarters were set up in Vienna and called on the Member States to actively contribute with ideas, suggestions and recommendations for making the Center an effective institution for promoting interfaith and inter-civilizational dialogue. Again on the dialogue among civilizations, the resolution commends the efforts exerted by His Majesty King Abdullah II bin Al Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in initiating, at the UN General Assembly on 23 September 2010, the World Interfaith Harmony Week, which was observed in the first week of the month of February 2011 and 2012. In this resolution the OIC Foreign Ministers expressed their appreciation of the United Nations General Assembly's declaring 2010 as the international year for the Rapprochement of Cultures, on the initiative of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan H.E. Nursultan Nazarbayev; they commended the OIC Member States and the international community for the organization of and active participation in the events aimed at deepening interreligious and intercultural dialogue throughout the year. They reiterated the OIC's support to the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, convened triennially on the initiative of President Nazarbayev, which held its fourth session in Astana on 30-31 May 2012. The session also commended the active role Azerbaijan plays in promoting dialogue between the Islamic world and the West and emphasized the importance of the First Convention of the Global Youth Movement for the Alliance of Civilizations (GYMAoC) co-organized with the UN Alliance of Civilizations and Islamic Conference Youth Forum for the Dialogue and Cooperation (ICYF-DC) in April 2011, in Baku. Furthermore, the Ministers commended the OIC Secretary

General for engaging in dialogue with the United Nations and other international organizations, including the OSCE and Council of Europe, political leaders and civil society to underscore the concerns as well as raise global awareness over the dangers of Islamophobia and for his initiative calling for a historical reconciliation between Islam and the Christianity. They called on the OIC General Secretariat, UNESCO, ISESCO and IRCICA to continue to strengthen inter-cultural and inter-civilizational dialogue through concrete and sustainable activities. They applauded the initiatives, programs and activities taken by the General Secretariat and those by the relevant OIC bodies, in particular ISESCO and IRCICA for celebration of 2010 as the International Year for Promotion of Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue, Understanding and Cooperation for peace. In the second part of the resolution 1/39-C, concerning the activities in the context of the UN the Alliance of Civilizations, the OIC Foreign Ministers took note of the forthcoming Fifth Annual Forum of the UN Alliance of Civilizations to be held in Vienna, Austria, on 27-28 February 2013. They called on Member States that have not yet done so, to join the Group of Friends of the Alliance of Civilizations and invited the Member States to actively participate in the work of the Alliance. It encouraged the Secretary General to consider organizing a sub-event on Islamophobia at the Fifth Annual Forum of the Alliance.

In the section concerning IRCICA of its Resolution no. 6/39-C on the OIC's subsidiary organs, the Council of Foreign Ministers noted with appreciation the production of a number of reference books and organization of congresses on subjects relating to history, history of science and learning, architectural heritage, arts and traditional handicrafts of the Muslim world in the context of the Centre's various programs and research projects. The resolution referred in this regard to the continuing studies on copies and translations of the Holy Quran in printed and manuscript forms, the activities relating to the Islamic heritage of Al-Quds, in particular the 2011 and 2012 Annual Seminars held in the context of the "Al-Quds/ Jerusalem 2015" program of architectural studies and workshops, the Centre's coordinating international projects aimed at promoting correct knowledge of Islamic civilization and its contribution to world civilization and revising references to these subjects in publications and textbooks which also help combating Islamophobia, the series of regional congresses on the history of Islamic civilization which help strengthen scholarly bonds between the member States on one hand and the Muslim communities outside the Member States on the other as well as with world academic circles, the architectural summer schools titled "Islamic Urban Heritage. Research, Preservation and Management" conducted by IRCICA, the Islamic Architectural Heritage Database sponsored by H.R.H. Prince Sultan bin Salman, Secretary General of the Supreme Council for Tourism and Antiquities, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the multidimensional events co-organized with various host countries in the context of the Craft Development Program, in particular the 2011 and 2012 Muscat International Festival for Arts, Heritage and Creativity held in cooperation with the Muscat Municipality in the Sultanate of Oman, and the International Calligraphy Competition whose ninth edition to be finalized in 2013 is to Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu in homage to patronage and promotion of this art.

## Twenty-eighth Session of IRCICA Governing Board adopts new projects

The Governing Board of IRCICA held its 28th session at the headquarters of the Centre on 31 December 2012. The Board reviewed the activities realized during 2012. It discussed some projects proposed by the Centre for the years to come, approved them and made recommendations on their themes, coverage and modes of implementation.

The following members of the Board were present: Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the OIC; Dr. Abdul Aziz Abdullah Turki al-Subai, State of Qatar (Chairman of the Board); Dr. Saad Bin Abdul Aziz al-Rashid, Saudi Arabia (Vice-Chairman); Mr. Mohammed Ahmed al-Murr, United Arab Emirates; Amb. Sayyid Qassim al Masry, Arab Republic of Egypt; Prof. Amadou Cissé Ndiéguène, Republic of Senegal, Prof. Dr. Mehmet İpşirli, Republic of Turkey; Dato Mohammed Najibuddin Ahmed Dawa, Malaysia; Prof. Meruert Abusseitova, Republic of Kazakhstan; Dr. Halit Eren, Director General, IRCICA. Dr. Mutlaq Rashid Al-Qarawi, the Board member representing the State of Kuwait, was not able to attend the session due to earlier arrangements. The following members of the Executive Committee of the Centre also participated in the meeting: Dr. Salih Sadawi (Assistant Director General), Zeynep Durukal (Head of the Intercultural Relations Research Program), Dr. Nazih Marouf (Head of the Crafts Development Program), Prof. Amir Pasic (Head of the

Department of Architecture and Heritage Preservation), Faisal Benaissa (member of the Editorial Board) and Turuncan Kevser (member of the Editorial Board).

Dr. Halit Eren welcomed the members having joined the Board for the coming period, namely, Prof. Meruyert Abusseitova, Director of the Oriental Studies Institute, Republic of Kazakhstan, and Ambassador Sayyid Qassim al Masry, Former Assistant to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt and current Advisor to the OIC Secretary General. Dr. Eren then gave an overall description of the enlargement of the Centre's scope of researches to cover more of the various regions where the history and the heritage of Islamic civilization have expanded. He cited in this regard the congresses held in China, Tatarstan, Sudan, and the symposiums held in the Centre on archival studies on the histories of Oman and of Iraq, respectively. He also referred to the projects and programs concerning the preservation of cultural heritage, promotion of intercultural dialogue, among others.

Dr. al-Subai, Chairman of IRCICA Governing Board, greeted the OIC Secretary General and welcomed the new members of the Board. He conveyed his gratitude to the Republic of Turkey, the host country of IRCICA, for the continuous support extended to the Centre.



L-R: The Board's Chairman Dr. Abdul Aziz Turki al-Subaie, OIC Secretary General Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren



Dr. Saad Bin Abdul Aziz al-Rashid  
Saudi Arabia (Vice-Chairman)



Mr. Mohammed Ahmed al-Murr  
United Arab Emirates



Amb. Sayyid Qassim al Masry  
Arab Republic of Egypt



Prof. Amadou Cissé Ndiéguène  
Republic of Senegal



Prof. Meruert Abusseitova  
Republic of Kazakhstan



Prof. Dr. Mehmet Ipsirli  
Republic of Turkey



Dato Mohammed Najibuddin  
Ahmed, Malaysia

Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the OIC, lauded the Centre's efforts and the recognition it won around the world in the various fields of its mandate; to the extent that it became a focal point for researchers, artists and for reviving the Islamic heritage. Referring to the conferences organized by the Centre he commended in particular the congress organized jointly with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences on "China and the Muslim World: Cultural Encounters", the projects concerning architectural heritage and the festivals, exhibitions and workshops on handicrafts. The Secretary General expressed his appreciation to Dr. Halit Eren and the officials of the Centre and proposed the renewal of Dr. Eren's term of office. The Board members unanimously approved Professor İhsanoğlu's proposal on the renewal of Dr. Eren's term of office. They praised the initiatives taken and committed efforts made by the Director General which provided an excellent administration for the Centre with regard to all aspects of its operations.

The Board examined the activity report for 2012 and the work program for 2014 presented by the Director General. They

discussed these documents at length and adopted them. In addition to the projects and programs they contain, the Board recommended the holding of a biennial exhibition in Istanbul that would bring together calligraphers from various parts of the Muslim world. It also asked that more efforts be made to distribute the Centre's publications to a larger readership around the world. Concerning the Centre's permanent efforts to project a correct image of the Islamic cultures and civilization around the world through studies and publications, the Board recommended that efforts be continued to cooperate with the relevant international organizations in this regard and particularly in combatting what is generally called Islamophobia today. In the same context the Board lauded the efforts of the Centre in its participation in the forums of the Alliance of Civilisations and requested it to reinforce its role in the forthcoming events. Concerning the Crafts Development Program, the Board asked the Centre to organize congresses and festivals in regions of the Muslim world which it has not covered yet, Southeast Asia among others.



## CONGRESSES ON HISTORY AND CULTURE:

### “Sudan during the Ottoman Period” congress

(Khartoum, 25-26 September 2012)

IRCICA and the National Record Office of Sudan have jointly organized a congress on “Sudan during the Ottoman Era” which was held in Khartoum, on 25-27 September 2012. The opening session was addressed by General Ali Othman Mohammed Taha, First Vice President of the Republic of Sudan. The congress took place in the Sharjah Hall of Khartoum University.

The congress covered a vast array of subjects relating to the period of Ottoman administration (16th- early 20th centuries) in Sudan. In addition to offering a platform for specialists to exchange research results on this period in the history of Sudan, the congress served the important objective of encouraging a review and discussion of approaches and methods applied in these studies, clarification of divergences and fostering of mutual understanding especially among historians from Sudan and from Turkey. The congress themes and presentations were:

Theme 1. Sudan and the Ottoman strategy towards the Arab World and Africa

“Sudan and the Nile Valley before the Ottoman period: remarks on their interactions with local, regional and international developments” (Yusuf Fadl Hassan); “The Ottoman State and the Arab World” (Taj al-Sir Ahmed Harran); “Ottoman politics towards Northern Sudan in the 16th century AD” (Anam al-Kabbashi); “Abyssinia Province: establishment of Ottoman power in Sudan” (Tarik Mohammed Nour)

Theme 2. Ottoman power and administration in Sudan in the 19th century AD

“The circumstances and reasons of Muhammed Ali Pasha’s entry into Sudan” (Hassan Ahmad Ibrahim); “The administrative impact of Ottoman Turks in Sudan”



The First Vice President of Sudan Mr. Ali Othman M. Taha (second at left) received samples of IRCICA’s publications from Dr. Eren. On the left is Mr. Ahmed Fadhl Abdallah, State Minister; from the right, Prof. Kabashar Kuku Gimbel, Secretary General of the National Record Office, Dr. Abdelmajid Chikhi, Director General of the Algerian State Archives

(Mohammed Ali Mohammed Tayeb); “The administrative system in Eastern Sudan and on the Red Sea coasts: Suakin, Taka, Massaoua (1840-1885)” (Awad Abdel Hadi al-Ata); “Education and modernization in Sudan during the Turkish period” (Nasser al-Sayyed)

Theme 3. Ottoman heritage in Sudan: documents, monuments, language, and travelogues

“Sudan in Ottoman archive documents” (Önder Bayır); “Ottoman monuments in Sudan” (Intisar Sghayroun al-Zeyn); “The impact of Turkish vocabulary and expressions in Sudanese lexicon” (Ikhlas Makkawi Ali); “Evliya Çelebi in Sudan and relations between the Ottoman State and Sudan” (Azmi Özcan); “The Ottoman vision about Nubia and the Funj Sultanate: critical and comparative study of Evliya Çelebi’s narrative on Sudan” (Omar Abdullah Hamida)

Theme 4. The Ottoman position vi-a-vi colonial ambitions on Sudan

“Muhammed Mihri Bey’s description of Sudan in his *Book of Travels to Sudan (Sudan Seyahatnamesi)* at the beginning of 20th century” (Mehmet İpşirli); “Colonization attempts in Southern Sudan and intervention of the Ottoman Empire” (Idris Bostan); “Legal Secession of Sudan from Ottoman Rule” (Ali Arslan); “The Ottoman-British conflict over Sudan in the 19th century (Maimuna Mirghani Hamza); “The relation of the Martyr Sultan Ali Dinar with the Ottoman Empire” (Sayyid Ahmed al-Aqid).



Mr. Ahmed Fadhl Abdallah, State Minister at the Cabinet, Sudan, received the participants in his office

## Panel and exhibition on "Oman in the Ottoman Archives" (Istanbul, 5-6 October 2012)

The panel on "Oman in the Ottoman Archives" held at IRCICA on 5-6 October 2012 was the first meeting to focus on the history of relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the Ottoman State as reflected in the official documents of the two countries. The panel was held under the patronage and in the presence of Mr. Bekir Bozdağ, Vice Prime Minister of Turkey and in the presence of Mr. Erşat Hürmüzlü, Chief Advisor to the President of the Republic of Turkey Mr. Abdullah Gül.

In the evening of the first day the participants attended the opening of an exhibition titled "Oman in the Ottoman Documents and International Relations" contributed by the National Archives of the Sultanate of Oman. The exhibition was arranged at Marmara University's former rectorate building in Sultanahmet Istanbul. Omani classical music was played during the opening of the exhibition.

In his welcoming address, IRCICA Director general Dr. Halit Eren said that the panel conference resulted from a joint initiative of the National Archives of Oman and IRCICA and was meant to be given permanence as a project in the context of academic and cultural studies. He expressed his deep gratitude to Mr. Erşat Hürmüzlü, Chief Advisor to the President of Turkey, and Vice Prime Minister Mr. Bekir Bozdağ for honouring the meeting with their presence. He expressed his conviction that the panel would contribute in furthering the studies on the history of Oman and the Ottoman State. In this regard he pointed out that the knowledge of cultural and civilizational features of peoples which contain both common and diverse characteristics have gained unprecedented importance in international relations today besides the knowledge of political and economic history. This is reflected in the research and education spheres in an enhancement of multidisciplinary studies on the cultural interactions having taking places between peoples in history. In addition to bringing progress in cultural studies and international

relations studies, this helps to deepen the insights and findings in political and economic history as well. Dr. Eren went on to outline the programs and projects being implemented by IRCICA in its capacity as the joint centre of the 57 OIC Member States in charge of research on history, culture and arts. He described in particular the activities in the field of history and more specifically those aiming to facilitate the task of researchers from the Member States who are not well-versed in Ottoman Turkish but have to use the Ottoman archive documents, which the Centre does by translating collections of documents on selected subjects into the most widely spoken languages of the Muslim world accompanied by their studies. This project started with a series of such publications in the Arabic language. Dr. Eren then expressed his appreciation of the development of a fruitful cooperation between the Sultanate of Oman and



Mr. Bekir Bozdağ, Vice Prime Minister of Turkey



Mr. Erşat Hürmüzlü, Chief Advisor to the President of the Republic of Turkey Mr. Abdullah Gül



Dr. Hamad bin Muhammad al-Dawyani, Head of the National Archives of the Sultanate of Oman



The opening session

IRCICA in various areas. He recalled among others, the International Festival for Arts, Heritage and Creativity involving the Muscat Award and several exhibitions which was organized in cooperation with Muscat Municipality in 2011 and 2012. The 2011 festival brought together 150 artisans from 25 countries and the second, 118 artisans from 32 countries. On this occasion he renewed his deep gratitude for the conferring upon him, by His Majesty Sultan Qaboos

bin Said of the Sultanate of Oman, of the Sultan Qaboos Order for Culture, Science and Art of the First Degree in 2012.

Dr. Hamad bin Muhammad al-Dawyani, Head of the National Archives of the Sultanate of Oman, addressed the opening underlining the importance of this first conference on the history of relations between the Ottoman State and the Sultanate of Oman which aimed to contribute to studies on history and encourage the use of first-hand archive sources but which would also boost cultural and scholarly cooperation between the institutions and researchers concerned in the Muslim countries and around the world. Dr. Al-Dawyani expressed his appreciation of the cooperation developed between IRCICA and his institution. He expressed his gratitude to Mr. Erşad Hürmüzlü and Mr. Bekir Bozdağ for their presence in the conference. He thanked the Ottoman Archives Department affiliated to the Turkish Prime Ministry for its cooperation in organizing the exhibition of reproductions of archive documents on the sidelines of the conference.

In his address at the opening, Mr. Bozdağ underlined that the relevance of studies in history reaches far beyond the sphere of culture or education: these studies contribute in encouraging peoples to know each other in deeper understanding and positively influences their relations in all areas of life. "The present panel is an effort in this direction. Its taking place in the present period is significant since four days ago the Omani-Turkish Joint Committee held its ninth session where extensive talks on the promotion of relations in the sectors of trade, transport, industry, education, science, agriculture and fishing were concluded by the signing of a protocol. The strong links existing between the two countries since a long history were recalled during the meeting. The economic relations developed in the present time were reviewed and possibilities of further

developing them were considered. Progress and strengthening of cultural cooperation between the two countries parallel to advances in economic relations can contribute in multiplying the areas of cooperation".

Mr. Erşad Hürmüzlü, Chief Advisor to the President of Turkey, addressed the opening. He evoked various aspects and areas of cultural and academic studies that play important roles in promoting cooperation among countries. He elaborated upon the achievements made, needs felt and prospects observable in cultural and academic cooperation among Muslim countries particularly as regards highlighting common aspects and/or aspects of mutual interest in their respective histories and cultures. In this regard he expressed his appreciation of the joint effort deployed by the National Archives of the Sultanate of Oman and IRCICA in organizing the conference.

The speeches were followed by the presentation of a documentary film prepared by the National Archives of Oman and titled "The documents as witnesses of life". The following papers were presented by the participating scholars, in the Arabic or Turkish languages:

Sheikh Muhanna b. Halfan al-Harussi, "Ottoman-Omani relations in history"; İdris Bostan, "A turning point in the Ottoman-Portuguese conflict: the Hormuz and Muscat Wars (1552-1554)"; Said b. Muhammed al-Hashimi, "Ottomans in Muscat; examples from Ottoman-Omani relations"; Mehmet İpşirli, "Ottoman-Omani relations during the period of Sultan Ahmed b. Said (1744-1783)"; Mehmet Gümüşkılıç, "Oman in the work titled Gazavat-ı Bahr-ı Umman ve Sanduk by the first Ottoman Qadi Tursun Fakih"; Nahid Abdulkarim, "The strategic importance of Ottoman-Omani relations between the years 1749-1856"; Mustafa Bilge, "Ottoman-Omani relations in the 19th century"; İsa Mohammed al-Suleymani, "A study of communications between the Ottoman and the Omani Sultans"; Önder Bayır, "Ottoman-Omani relations in the light of Archive Documents"; Torkiya Hamed al-Farisiya, "The role of Omani archive documents in highlighting Ottoman-Omani relations"; Fuad Abdulwahab al-Shami, "Oman in Ottoman documents: an analytical study".

The Abstracts book was received with great interest by the audience from academic and cultural circles attending the conference.



The working sessions



The Vice-Prime Minister of Turkey Mr. Bekir Bozdağ participated in the opening of the congress and the exhibition

## Congress on "Islamic Civilization in Central Asia" (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 12-15 October 2012)

An International Symposium on "Islamic Civilization in Central Asia" was conducted jointly by IRCICA and Kyrgyzstan-Turkey Manas University, on 12-15 October 2012, in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Mr. Aliyasbek Alimkulov, Minister of Youth, Labour and Employment of Kyrgyzstan officiated the opening of the congress.

60 specialists, from USA, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Malaysia, Turkey and Uzbekistan, participated in the congress. The themes revolved around the role and place of Islamic civilization in the cultural history of Central Asia, particularly in the evolution of some distinguishing elements of cultural life in the region such as the coexistence of different faiths and cultures. It was highlighted that Islamic civilization in Central Asia had various aspects yet to be uncovered, in the history of sciences particularly. Prof. Hamit Okur, the Rector of Istanbul Medeniyet University, who presented a paper on the history of medical sciences in the region, pointed to the need to further deepen studies on the contributions of scientists of the region to the progress of sciences in the world. Prof. Bakıt Murzaraimov from Kyrgyzstan-Turkey Manas University alluded to the objectives of the congress from the point of view of the image of Islam and Muslims around the world saying that "In our day negative attitudes have appeared towards Islam and Muslims around the world. We aim to show that Islam is not as they think it is, that it is the religion of civilization, unity and harmony. Over three days, the congress heard papers on themes such as the societal and institutional systems brought by Islam and the effect of religion on society, culture and civilization; major historical and literary works, religious studies and religious scholars; the various sciences and works of philosophy; the sources of history, among others. Manas Destanı, an epic work which is one of the masterpieces of Kyrgyz literature, was analyzed by its specialists (outline by Dr. Ayna Askarova, IRCICA, coordinator of the congress from IRCICA's side).

Speeches were delivered at the opening session by: Prof. Suat Cebeci, Dean, Faculty of Theology, Kyrgyzstan-Turkey Manas University, Prof. Asilbek Kulmirzayev, Acting-Rector, Kyrgyzstan-Turkey Manas University, Prof. Sebahattin Balcı, Rector, Kyrgyzstan-Turkey Manas University, Dr. Halit Eren, Director General, IRCICA, and Mr. Kanat Sidıkov, Minister of Education of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan. The list of the papers presented indicates the diversity of the topics treated during the working sessions:

Session 1. "Medieval Waqf Institutions in Central Asia through Waqı'at Texts" (Murtaza Bedir), "Common Type of Adornment in the Folk Costume of European and Central Asian Muslim Turks" (Guzel Valieva Suleymanovna), "Sacralization of Political Power in Turkic Culture" (Ali Çaksu), "Contributions of Ghaznavid Dynasty to the Islamic Civilization of Central Asia (977-1186). An analysis" (Thowhidul Islam), "The Contributions of Central Asian Scholars to the Development of Natural and Positive Sciences in the Middle Ages" (Asilbek Aliyev)

Session 2. "Relations Between Arabs and Central Asia" (Abuzar Khairi), "Historical Roots and Geopolitical Implications of Russia's Cohabitation With Islam" (Argun Başkan), "Palimpsest of Rebuilding: Arab Interventions on Urban Spaces in Central Asia" (Manu P. Sobti), "Islamic Civilization in Central Asia: an Overview of the Samanid Legacy" (A.K.M. İftekarul Islam), "Russian Man's Burden: Narrating Russian Colonialism in Islamic Central Asia" (Rasa Balockaite)

Session 3. "Sufism and Kyrgyz culture" (Camgırbek Bököşov), "The Role of Ahmed Yesevi in Spreading Islam among the Nomadic Turkic People" (Bakıtbek Amir Maltabarov), "Yusuf Balasagun and the Concept Allah in his Kutadgu Bilig" (Abdilaziz Kalberdiyev), "The Religious Future of Central



L-R: Prof. Suat Cebeci, Dean, Faculty of Theology, Manas University; Prof. Hamit Okur, Rector, Medeniyet University; Dr. Halit Eren, Director General, IRCICA; Prof. Sebahattin Balcı, Rector, Manas University; Mr. Aliyasbek Alimkulov, Minister of Youth, Labour and Employment of Kyrgyzstan; Mr. Abdulatıf Djumabaev, Chairman, Board of Religious Affairs of Kyrgyzstan; Mr. Çubak Aji Jalilov, Mufti of Kyrgyzstan

Asia" (Mustafa Erdem), "New Untraditional Religions in Contemporary Kazakhstan: Penetration and Spreading" (Gulnara Mendikulova)

Session 4. Turkic Ethnic History in the Arab Manuscripts of the IX-XIII centuries (Zibagul İlyasova), "Some Features of Eastern and Western Civilisations" (Mustafazade), "Turkic Names in the Arab Sources of the Middle Ages" (Jazira Agabekova), "Spread of Islamic religion and civilisation around Tengri Mountains (According to Archeological Excavations)" (Kubatbek Tabaldiyev), "The Attitude of the State towards missionary groups between 1991-2011" (Olcobay Karatayev)

Session 5. The Ethical Dimension of Islamic Civilisation: An Analytical Study with Reference to the Approaches of Maturidi and Farabi to Ethics" (Arshad Islam), "The Role of the Selcukid State in Galvanizing the Role of Sunni-Islam Faith in Central Asia" (Remzi Ataoğlu), "Formation of Central Asian Islamic Civilisation from the Perspective of Hadith: The Case of Ali bin Osman Sirâceddin el-Üşî" (Mehmet Sait Toprak), "The Gift of Central Asia to Islamic Philosophy: The Merv School" (Agil Shirinov)

Session 6. "Islamic Scholars who enlightened Anatolia from Central Asia" (Ertuğrul Yaman), "The Impact of Abdurrahman Câmî and Celâleddin Devvânî on Ottoman Science and Cultural Life (XV-XVI centuries)" (İsmail Çiftçiöğlü), "The Vision of Farabi as an Example for today's Muslim world" (Ömer Bozkurt, "From Philosophical Rationalism to Scientific Rationalism: The Cases of Avicenna and Biruni" (Hakan Coşar), "A Legacy in the Ottoman Palace: An Iconographic Account on 'Uluğ Bey Chest' " (Gülnehal Küpeli)

Session 7. "Were Turkomans Turgishes?" (Abdullah Gündoğdu), "Isık Lake Calmucs from Buddhism to Islam" (Cengiz Buyar), "Religious Beliefs and Institutions of Qıpçaks" (Mehmet Kıldıroğlü), "From Ancient Turkic Cults to Islamic Faith in the Manas Saga" (Abdulselem Arvas)



The working session

Session 8. "Women and Religious Education in today's Central Asia: Problems and Recommendations" (Dilaram Akramova), "The Perspective of Islamic Philosophy in Central Asia and its Results" (Nuri Adigüzel), "Farabi in National Music Debates (Historical and Sociological Background of a Misunderstood Issue)" (Fazlı Arslan), "Islam in Central Asia: A Strategic Look at Problems and Expectations" (Hasan Oktay), "Religious Education in Post-Soviet Kyrgyzstan: Needs and Problems" (Nuri Kiraz)

Session 9. "Socio-cultural Conditions in Central Asia between 751-1040" (Mehmet Kutalmış), "Comments on Tolerance and Culture of Coexistence in Early Muslim-Turkic States" (Nesimi Yazıcı), "Sociological Results of Mystical Islamisation in Central Asia as a Cultural Network in Historical Context" (Ali Öztürk), "Social Lives of Turkic Nomad Peoples from Central Asia to Anatolia" (Yunus Emre Tansü), "Turkish-Islamic Art of Gilding from Central Asia to Today" (Betül Coşkun),

Session 10. "Contributions of Scholars raised in Central Asia to Arabic Language in XIIth and XIIIth Centuries" (Musa Yıldız), "Lexicological Counterparts of the Turk's Doomsday Conception in the post-Islamic Documents" (Hatice Şirin User), "The Impact of the Social and Cultural Environment in the Emergence of Maveraunnehr as a Civilisational Center" (Osman Aydın), "The Impact of Islamic Culture in the IXth Century East Turkestan in the form of Zakat Institution" (Bahattin Gencal), "The Conception of Faith in the post-Soviet Kyrgyz Family" (Ali Ünal),

Session 11. "Turkestan in the XVIth Century According to Seyfi Chalabi Travel Books" (Merthan Dündar), "Tombs of Saints and Visiting Culture in the 19th Century Western Travellers" (Firdevs Çetin), "City Identity as a Socio-Cultural Memory in Turkish-Islamic Civilisation: The Case of Central Asian Cities" (Adem Sağır), "Thoughts on the Central Asian Turkish-Islamic City of Balasagun and the Question of Position" (Alpaslan Aşık), "The Role of Sufism and Sufi Orders in the Spread of Islam in Kyrgyzstan" (Ali Cusubaliyev)

Session 12. "Arabic Education in Kyrgyzstan and the Effects of Sun'atullah" (Nurettin Ceviz), "Ottoman Influences on Turkestan at the Beginning of the 20th Century" (Ahmet Kanlıdere), "Hajj Journey of Turkestanis During the Ottoman Period" (İsmail Türkoğlü), "The Role of Islamic Tradition in Timur's Governance Approach" (Halil Çetin), "Djadidism in Turkestan: Cultural and Scientific Reforms and Social Change" (Kışımcan Eşenkulova)

The closing session, chaired by Prof. Anvarbek Mokeyev, was addressed by Prof. Suat Cebeci, Prof. Nesimi Yazıcı and Prof. Remzi Ataoğlu.

An exhibition of Islamic calligraphy presented by IRCICA on the sidelines of the meeting and opened on the first day of the congress drew great interest.

This was IRCICA's second congress focusing on the history of Islam in Central Asia after the first one that was held in Astana, Kazakhstan in 2007.

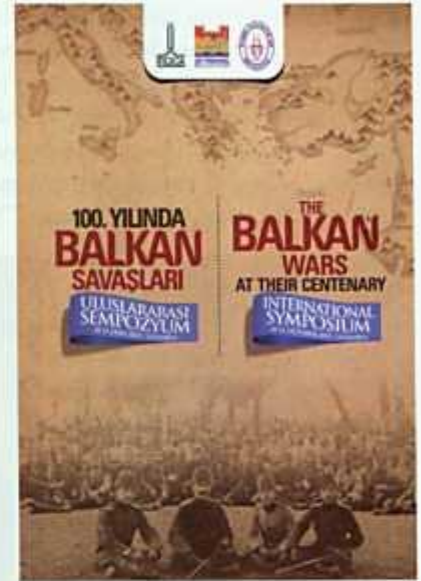
## **“The Balkan Wars (1912-1913) on their Centenary”** **(Istanbul, 20-21 October 2012)**

On the centenary of the Balkan Wars (1912-1913) which marked the end of the Ottoman period in the Balkans and Southeast Europe and generated consequences that had decisive impacts on politics in and around the region, an international history congress was jointly organized by IRCICA and İstanbul Sabahattin Zaim University with the contributions of Zeytinburnu Municipality (Istanbul). Zeytinburnu is a district with a high percentage of population of Balkan origin. The congress took place on 19-21 October 2012. A significant feature of the congress was that its opening session at Zeytinburnu Cultural Centre of was addressed by ministers from the Balkan countries and Turkey: Mr. Mahir Yağcılar, Minister of Public Administration of Kosovo, Mr. Hadi Nezir, Minister of State of Macedonia, Mr. Rafet Husović, Minister of State of Montenegro; Mr. Sulejman Ugljanin, Minister of State of Serbia, and Mr. Idris Naim Şahin, Minister of Interior of Turkey. The opening was also addressed by the Mayor of Zeytinburnu Mr. Murat Aydın and the Rector of Sabahattin Zaim University Prof. Adem Esen. After the speeches, the opening session heard the keynote address of the congress delivered by Prof. Kemal Karpat, which was presented by Prof. Mehmet İpşirli. Prof. Karpat is a senior historian specialist of the history of the Balkans, Ottoman history, among other areas, and recipient of the Turkish Grand National Assembly's Honour Award.

The working sessions, held at the auditorium of the university, heard research findings on a variety of topics and discussions

over academically debated issues. Scholars and specialists from Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Macedonia, Pakistan, Turkey, USA and Uzbekistan. The papers presented were:

“Effects of Politics in the Secession of Balkans” (Salim Aydın), “The Role of Young Turks/CUP in the Balkan Wars Catastrophy” (Necmettin Alkan), “Dreams of Turkish Intellectuals on the Balkan Wars” (Sema Uğurcan), “The Balkan Wars and British India: A Case study of NWFP” (Abdul Rauf), “Reasons for the Successful Mobilization of the Balkan States in the Balkan Wars” (Igor Despot), “Salonika and the Balkan Wars” (Dimitris Michoulopoulos), “Impacts of the Balkan Wars: The Uncharted Parts from Empire to Nation State” (Isa Blumi), “The Ambitions of the Last: Italy and the



The opening session

Balkan Wars" (Alessandro Vagnini), "When Sound Judgement of Statesmen Fails: The Role of Count István Burián in Influencing the Policy of Austria-Hungary during the Balkan Wars" (Demeter Gabor), "Russian Diplomatic Documentation Regarding the Events on the Balkans on the Eve of the Balkan Wars" (Liljana Gushevska), "The Balkan Wars in the Records of the Italian General Staff" (Alberto Becherelli), "The Balkan Wars according to the Ottoman Archive Documents" (Önder Bayır), "Macedonian Emigration Press in Russia on the Balkan Wars" (Biljana Rsitovska), "Human Faith in Balkan Wars in Macedonian Writers" (Jasmina Mojsieva Guseva), "The Balkan War (1912) Through the Eyes of the French War Correspondent Stéphane Lauzanne" (Odile Moreau), "Taking Advantage of a



Mr. İdris Naim Şahin,  
Minister of Interior of Turkey



Mr. Murat Aydın,  
Mayor of Zeytinburnu



Prof. Adem Esen, Rector of  
Sabahattin Zaim University



Mr. Mahir Yağcılar, Minister of  
Public Administration of Kosovo

Crisis to Reform: The Remaking of Religious Education in the Wake of the Balkan Wars" (Amit Bein), "The New Status of the Balkans after 100 years of Ottoman Deportation" (Numan Aruç), "The Balkans and Traces of the Balkan Wars in Ömer Seyfeddin's Stories" (Abdullah Uçman), "Political Critics on Bulgarian Cartoons Related to the Balkan Wars" (Mehmet Köseoğlu), "Reflections of the Balkan Wars, their Reasons and Consequences" (Tahir Kahhar), "Sultan Reshad's Balkan Visit according to İsmail Bey's Voyage (Hâtıra-i Seyahat)" (Nesimi Yazıcı), "The Reality of East Trachea Bulgarian Refugees' Properties" (Georgi Zelengora).



Mr. Hadi Nezir, Minister of  
State of Macedonia



Mr. Rafet Husović, Minister of  
State of Montenegro



Prof. Kemal Karpat, Prof. Mehmet İpşirli



Mr. İsmet  
Yılmaz, Minister  
of National  
Defense of Turkey  
addressed the  
closing session  
of the congress

## **IRCICA's participation in the conference on "Management of the Cultural Archive Heritage of the Ottoman Geography and the Role of Land Registry Archives"**

**(Istanbul, 21-23 November 2012)**

A large-scale conference on "Management of the Cultural Archive Heritage of the Ottoman Geography and the Role of Land Registry Archives" was organized jointly by the Turkish Ministry of Environment and Urbanism and the Directorate General of Land Registry and Cadastre with contributions from several universities. The conference took place in Istanbul, 21-23 November 2012. It was opened with addresses by the Deputy Prime Minister of Turkey Mr. Bülent Arınç, the Minister of Environment and Urban Planning of Turkey Mr. Erdoğan Bayraktar and the General Manager of Land Registry and Cadastre Mr. Davut Güney.

Participants from all over the world presented analytic and comparative studies which can be classified roughly under two groups: first, historical studies based on the land registry archives pertaining to different regions of the

Ottoman geography, from Asia to Europe. These registers reveal a number of historical information about provincial administration, land ownership systems and connected subjects; second, presentations of assessments and experiences regarding the conservation and digitalization of the cultural archive heritage. Apart from the working sessions, there was a panel titled "Ottoman Geopolitics – Regional Studies and Cooperation" where institutions outlined their activities in contribution to the study and the conservation of this heritage. IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren spoke in this panel about IRCICA's studies in history that are related to both of the two aspects of the theme as grouped above, as also did Prof. Zekeriya Kurşun (Foundation of Middle East and Africa Researchers – ORDAF, Istanbul) and Prof. Abdeljelil Temimi (Temimi Foundation for Scientific Research and Information-FTERSİ, Tunis).

## **IRCICA's participation in UNESCO's meeting of the Seventh Session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage**

The Seventh Session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage took place at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, on 3-7 December 2012. More than 800 participants including governmental officials, experts and practitioners from 110 countries participated in the meeting. IRCICA was represented at the meeting by Dr. Nezih Maruf, Head of the Crafts Development Program. The meeting revolved around the general theme of the assessment of the world's intangible cultural heritage and review of measures undertaken at global, regional and national levels. Sixteen new periodic reports by states parties to the Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage were examined, highlighting the diverse aspects of national capacity-building for safeguarding the heritage, in particular the training of government staff and NGOs for effective implementation of the Convention. The Committee

inscribed four new elements on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding and twenty-seven elements on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Intangible cultural heritage encompasses living practices and traditions that are transmitted from one generation to the next and continuously recreated by communities in response to their environment and their experiences. Intangible cultural heritage comprises five domains: traditional craftsmanship (such as traditional weaving skills); oral traditions and expressions, including language; performing arts, such as dances; social practices, rituals and festive events; knowledge and practices concerning nature and universe.

The next session of the Committee will be held in Azerbaijan in December 2013.

## PROMOTION OF THE ARTS:

### IRCICA's training programs in the art of calligraphy

IRCICA is probably the only inter-governmental organization that has the fine arts as one of its main areas of activity, as also included in the Centre's very name. Since the early 1980s IRCICA instituted multifarious work programs aiming to promote the various Islamic arts and encourage the preservation of their authentic features that were established and perfected starting from the earliest development of Islamic culture and civilization. Among the events and activities IRCICA organizes are conferences on Islamic arts bringing together specialists and educators in these arts with state authorities and institutions concerned, exhibitions for artists from all over the Muslim world and award programs covering the different arts such as calligraphy, gilding, bookbinding, marbled paper, tiles, miniatures, etc. The very first international symposium organized by the Centre was on "Common Principles, Forms and Themes of Islamic Arts" (Istanbul, 1983); a second, similar one on "Islamic Arts and Crafts" was held in 2002 in Isfahan, in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance of Iran. As to exhibitions, hundreds of them have been held on the Centre's premises and in the member countries. One of the major programs of the Centre in the area of arts is the International Calligraphy Competition which is being held once every three years since 1986. The ninth competition in this series will be finalized in the course of 2013. Another regular program consists of training courses in Islamic calligraphy that IRCICA has been coordinating with master teachers from Istanbul to upgrade the writing skills of calligraphers from all countries. These courses are organized on request on individual basis, with an emphasis on the main styles that are widely used in the Muslim world. 76 calligraphers from 28 countries received Ijazas (the traditional "license/diploma" in writing calligraphy) after training, some in more than one style. The next outcome of this program will be the presentation of diplomas, at the Centre's headquarters in Istanbul, to a group of calligraphers which have been trained in the USA by master calligrapher Mr. Mohammed Zakariya, who has participated in IRCCA's activities in this field for many years now. Currently, calligraphers from Libya and South Africa are being trained in Istanbul by master calligrapher Mr. Hasan Çelebi and will also receive Ijazas.

Since October 2012 a new period has started as regards the training courses in calligraphy. While coordination of the above courses continues, a training program of



regular character with specific curricula has been instituted. The program continues since the last week of October with two days of courses per week taught by master calligraphers Mr. Ferhat Korlu and Mr. Mümtaz Seçkin Durdu. One calligrapher from Egypt, one from Indonesia, two from Malaysia, one from Nigeria, one from Saudi Arabia, two from Syria, two from Yemen are currently participating in the program. Mr. Said Kasımoğlu, Coordinator of the Calligraphy Training Program at IRCICA, points to an authentic feature of the program: "It is noteworthy that though such a large group is being trained, the course is taught on individual basis and is tailored to each trainee's level and capability, in a master-pupil relationship that exactly follows the classical tradition. This allows the trainee to observe the teacher's hand movements closely. It also allows newcomers to join in any time." As to the styles of writing, the emphasis is at start on thuluth and naskh of the essential styles while other styles will also be taught in the course of time and upon demand.



OIC Secretary General Prof. İhsanoğlu and Dr. Halit Eren together with the trainees participating in the calligraphy courses

## IRCICA's cooperation with Taman Tamadun Islam (Islamic Civilization Park), Terengganu, Malaysia to promote the art of calligraphy

Within the framework of the Terengganu International Islamic Art Festival 2012, a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed on 14 September 2012 between IRCICA and Taman Tamadun Islam Management Sdn Bhd (TTIMSB, Islamic Civilization Park), an institution based in Terengganu, Malaysia. Taman Tamadun Islam works to promote Islamic culture and arts. The MoU foresees cooperation for the promotion of Islamic arts, particularly calligraphy, through provision of training in calligraphy. Furthermore, the Terengganu International Institute for Islamic Calligraphy will be established to promote this art by organizing training courses, among other activities. A ceremony was held on the occasion, which was addressed by Terengganu's State Secretary Dato Mazlan bin Ngah and IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren. The MoU was signed by Engku Md. Azmi bin Engku Abd. Rahman, Managing Director of TTIMSB and Dr. Eren. The ceremony ended with a press conference by the State Secretary and the Director General of IRCICA. In his address Dr. Eren said that IRCICA as the OIC's subsidiary which has arts and cultural heritage



The MoU was signed by Dr. Halit Eren and the Managing Director of TTIMSB Engku Md. Azmi

among its main fields of activity, is ready to extend its expertise and experience to the TTI and its objectives. On this occasion he reviewed IRCICA's cooperation with the Malaysian Government and institutions over the past years; Malaysia has been one of the OIC's Member States with which IRCICA has been able to cooperate most actively.

The opening ceremony of the Terengganu International Islamic Art Festival 2012 took place in the presence of H.R.H. the Sultan of Terengganu Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin, on 15 September. Addressing the opening, the Chief Minister of the State of Terengganu Dato Ahmad bin Said said that the Festival was being held at international level for the first time. He welcomed Dr. Halit Eren, and, referring to the institute to be established which will specialize in calligraphy with the assistance of IRCICA, he said that it would be a research and learning centre where calligraphic skills could be taught to aspiring calligraphers especially from non-Arabic speaking countries. The Sultan affirmed the intention of the State Government to promote relations and exchanges between the OIC member countries in the field of calligraphy, a work that is already being conducted by IRCICA.

Before the opening of the Festival, H.R.H. Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin received the Director General of IRCICA Dr. Halit Eren; during the meeting Dr. Eren briefed H.R.H. the Sultan on IRCICA's activities in the different fields of its mandate and presented the Sultan with samples of the publications.

H.R.H. Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin inaugurated the exhibition which was organized by IRCICA and visited its stands. The exhibition consisted of calligraphies selected from among award-winning works in IRCICA's calligraphy competitions.



H.R.H. Mizan Zainal Abidin, Sultan of Terengganu, opened and visited the exhibition of calligraphies which was contributed by IRCICA

## A variety of Islamic arts displayed at IRCICA: Kuşoğlu's exhibition

From 24 September to 3 October 2012 IRCICA hosted an exhibition of the Kuşoğlu family: Zeki Kuşoğlu, professor at the Department of Graphic Arts, Marmara University and versatile artist in several branches of these arts; and, painters and engravers Sevinç Kuşoğlu (a graduate of the Department



of Graphic Arts) and Aslıhan Kuşoğlu (PhD student in graphic arts). The exhibition comprised 120 items by Zeki Kuşoğlu consisting of 35 replicas of Ottoman sultans' monograms

chiseled in gold and silver, and various objects such as mirrors and plates with gold, silver and mother-of-pearl inlays, medals and engravings.



There were 19 paintings by Sevinç Kuşoğlu and 17 by Aslıhan Kuşoğlu. During the period of the exhibition Zeki Kuşoğlu gave a lecture on "About Islamic arts, and why and how they should be taught".

## MEETINGS, COOPERATION

*Meeting with Indonesian Foreign Minister Dr. Marty Natalegawa; IRCICA's participation in OIC Conference on the Role of Women in Development (Jakarta)*

H.E. Dr. R.M. Marty Natalegawa, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, received Dr. Halit Eren on 4 December 2012. The meeting covered issues related to cultural cooperation among the OIC Member States as conducted and/or supported through IRCICA's work. In this connection Dr. Eren briefed the Minister on the progress of IRCICA's projects and programs. The Minister expressed his appreciation of the activities and readiness for promoting cooperation between the Indonesian governmental and academic institutions and IRCICA. At the Minister's instructions, a meeting was held subsequently, on 6 December 2012, which was chaired on the Indonesian side by Ambassador Dr. Hasan Kleib, Director General of



Multilateral Affairs of Indonesia. A number of suggestions were made, opening new avenues of cooperation between Indonesia and IRCICA. The joint projects proposed in this context include conferences, exhibitions and other scholarly and cultural events. Contacts continue in this direction.

The Director General of IRCICA was in Jakarta attending the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the OIC on the Role of Women in the Development of the OIC Member States (4-6 December 2012). The conference was opened by the Vice President of Indonesia H.E. Dr. Boediono, who reaffirmed Indonesia's active engagement in the OIC's activities: "Indonesia has always been present, from the early days of the OIC through many important milestones that have marked the struggle and transformation of the OIC as a multilateral organization. We continue to support the OIC's reformation and restructuring process" Boediono said. 200 delegations from 42 OIC Member States participated in the conference, which adopted the comprehensive Jakarta Declaration calling

for women's equal access to full employment and decent work, removal of structural and legal barriers to women's employment, providing them access to education and vocational training, among many other measures and objectives. IRCICA Director General spoke at the conference describing the Centre's role in contribution to women's advancement through its various cultural projects. He recalled two activities as examples: the first one, the symposium on the theme of "The Family in the Muslim Countries and Communities" which IRCICA had organized in Istanbul in April 2012 jointly with the Turkish Ministry of Family and Social Policies and Sancaktepe Municipality, Istanbul; the symposium was opened by Ms. Emine Erdoğan, spouse of the Prime Minister of Turkey, and was addressed by Ministers and scholars from the OIC Member States and other countries, and the second one, IRCICA's exhibitions and publication in the context of the international symposium on "Female Calligraphers" which was held in Istanbul on 4-6 April 2010.

## Book launching in Cairo: the English version of Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu's book *The Turks in Egypt and Their Cultural Legacy* appeared

*The Turks in Egypt and Their Cultural Legacy* by Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu was published in Arabic and in Turkish editions by IRCICA in 2006. Its English edition, translated by Humphrey Davies, appeared at the American University in Cairo Press (2012). The book launching was hosted by the Ambassador of Turkey Mr. Hüseyin Avni Botsalı at the residence of the Turkish Embassy in Cairo on 4 November 2012 in the presence of diplomatic and cultural figures and representatives of universities. The author, OIC Secretary General Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu spoke of the book starting from the very conception of its idea and answered the media representatives' questions: "This book resulted from forty years of research and a duty I owed to history." İhsanoğlu said that Turkish presence

in Egypt began in the middle of 9th century and interactions in the cultural and social spheres continued up to now. "I felt that throwing light on the last 150 years of this history was a task of mine and I worked on this for forty years with great happiness. As the first book in its field it met great interest in the academic circles." The author signed the book for the visitors. The program also included a presentation about



Prof. İhsanoğlu signs the book

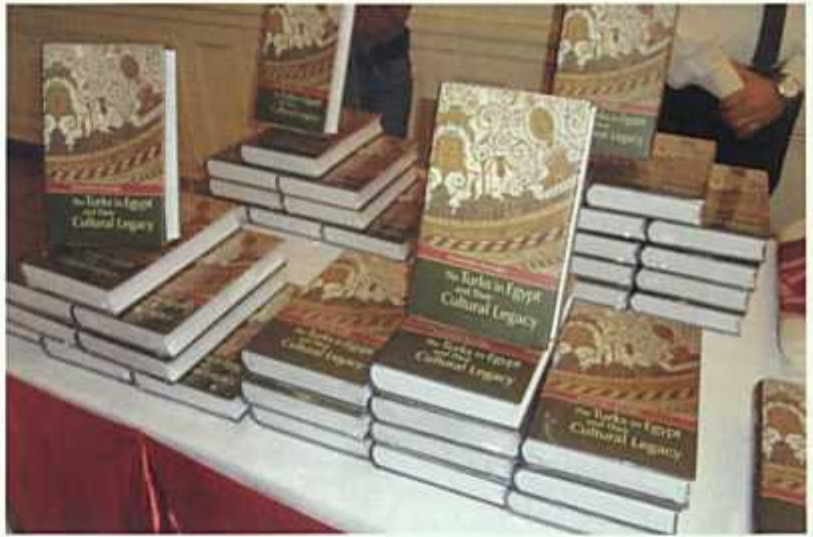
IRCICA and its activities, by Director General Dr. Halit Eren. The 2006 IRCICA editions of the book were also introduced.

During his visit to Cairo on this occasion, OIC Secretary General Prof. İhsanoğlu met with Egypt's Vice President Mr. Mahmoud Mekki and Prime Minister Dr. Hesham Qandil separately. The Secretary General briefed them on OIC activities at various levels. Discussions were held in

preparation for the Twelfth Islamic Summit Conference scheduled to take place on 2-7 February 2013 in Cairo. Dr. Halit Eren, who was accompanying the Secretary General at these meetings, outlined the cultural side of the OIC's activities as implemented by IRCICA, mentioning in particular IRCICA's publications, including the reproductions of the earliest copies of the Holy Quran, the books on Ottoman architectural heritage in Egypt and the conferences, recalling in this regard the symposium on "Egypt During the Ottoman Period" held in Cairo in 2007.

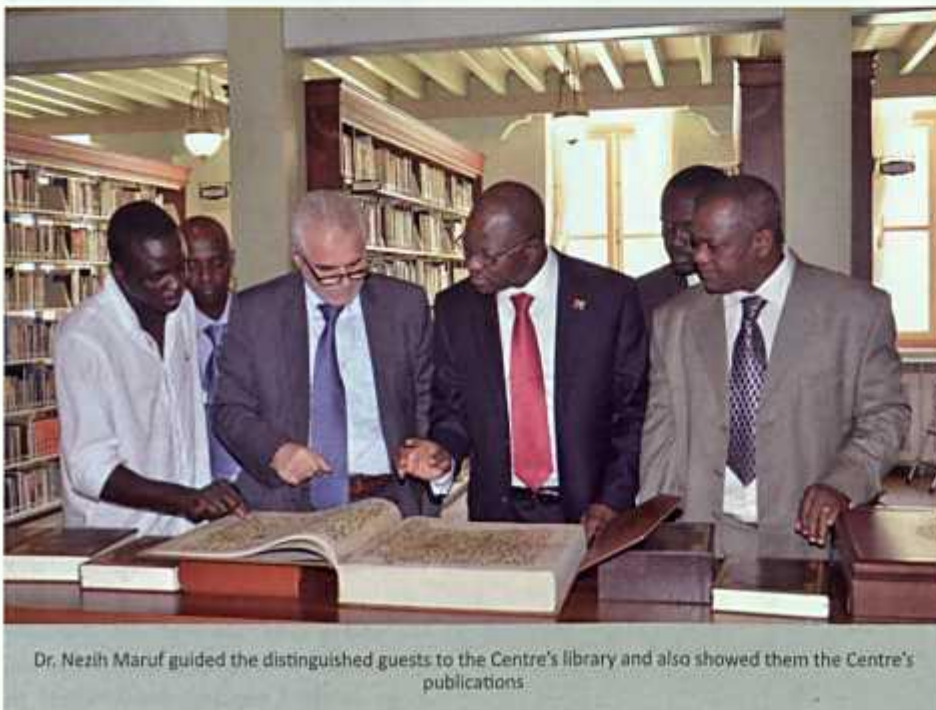
During the same period Dr. Halit Eren met with the Minister of Culture of Egypt Mr. Mohammed Arab, who was formerly Chairman of the General Egyptian Book Organization. During the discussions it was agreed that IRCICA would participate in the Cairo International Book Fair 2013.

Dr. Halit Eren also met with Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim, Egyptian Minister of State of Antiquities. The exchange of views on



possible projects that could be undertaken jointly for the protection of Islamic heritage and antiquities in the Muslim world led to the decision to hold a symposium on this subject. In the follow-up of this meeting the symposium took place on 31 January 2013.

**High-level visits from Guinea-Bissau: H.E. Mr. Faustino Fudut Imbali, Minister of Foreign Affairs; H.E. Mr. Ariceni Abdullai Jibrilo, Chief Advisor to the President of Guinea-Bissau and State Minister; H.E. Mr. Carlos Moreno, Chief of the State Protocol**



Dr. Nezh Maruf guided the distinguished guests to the Centre's library and also showed them the Centre's publications

On 12 October 2012 the Centre was honoured by the visit of H.E. Mr. Faustino Fudut Imbali, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guinea-Bissau and H.E. Mr. Ariceni Abdullai Jibrilo, Chief Advisor to the President of Guinea-Bissau and State Minister. In the absence of Dr. Eren, who was abroad on official mission, Dr. Nezh Maruf received the guests and briefed them on the Centre's activities. He referred in particular to the symposia and publications concerning the history and the heritage of Islamic Civilization in various parts of Africa. He guided the guests to the library where he informed them on the library's holdings and services.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Faustino Fudut Imbali recorded his impressions in the Visitors' Book with the following words: "The greatness of this Centre is a symbol of civilization. According to me and my delegation this intercultural center is a symbol of peace at the heart of the faith and of the world."

About one month earlier, on 10 September 2012, IRCICA had received H.E. Mr. Carlos Moreno, Chief of the State Protocol of Guinea-Bissau. During the meeting, Mr. Moreno and Dr. Eren had exchanged views on possible ways of promoting cultural cooperation between Guinea-Bissau and IRCICA.

The Minister recorded his impressions about the Centre in the Visitors' Book



## Dr. Mohammad Bagheri Khoramshad, President of the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization, Islamic Republic of Iran, visited IRCICA

On 7 December 2012 Dr. Mohammad Bagheri Khoramshad, President of the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (ICRO) affiliated to the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance of Islamic Republic of Iran visited IRCICA. During the meeting at the Directorate General, Dr. Khoramshad and Dr. Eren evoked the projects which were implemented jointly by ICRO and IRCICA in the past years, including the congress on "Islamic Arts and Crafts" (Isfahan, 2002) and the Persian edition of the book *Islamic Civilization in the Malay World* (1997). After the talks Dr. Eren guided Dr. Khoramshad and the accompanying delegation to the library



Dr. Khoramshad was presented with a plate bearing the verse from the Holy Quran adopted as the Centre's motto



and some of the research departments of the Centre and showed samples of the recent publications.

Dr. Halit Eren informed the guests about the album of historical photographs of Al-Quds

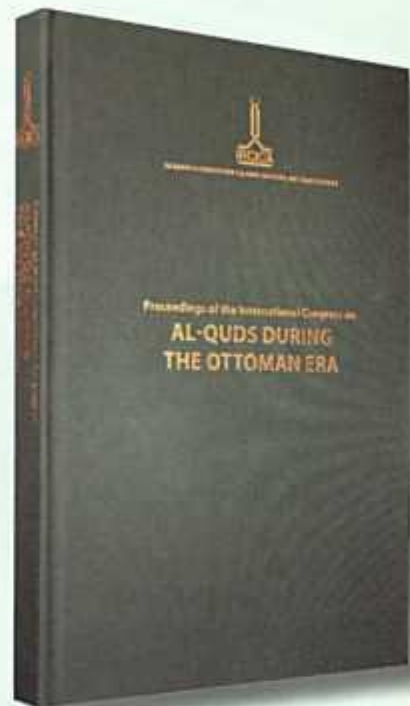
## IRCICA Publications

### Proceedings of the International Congress on Al-Quds during the Ottoman Era, Damascus, 22-25 June 2009

Studies on Al-Quds and Palestine Series 3, IRCICA, Istanbul, 2012

A scholarly congress was organized on the theme of "Al-Quds during the Ottoman Era" jointly by IRCICA and the Ministry of Culture of Syria within the framework of the program "Damascus Capital of Arab Culture, 2009". The papers which were presented at the congress have been collected in a volume. The articles in English contained in the volume are: "The development of Al-Haram al-Sharif during Ottoman Rule" by Michael Hamilton Burgoyne; "The early period of Ottoman rule in Jerusalem" by Feridun M. Emecen; "Examples of intellectual life in Jerusalem in the late Ottoman period" by Kairia Kasmich, and those in Arabic, "Inscriptions and decorations of the Dome of the Rock" by Ahmed Mufti; "Hosting of the nomads from Bersabe in the surroundings of Jerusalem during the reign of Sultan Abdulhamid II" by Asma R. al-Sheikh Khalil; "The Arabic manuscript heritage in Jerusalem" by Iad Khaled Altabba; "Sufism in Jerusalem as observed by some Muslim travelers" by Bushra Kheir Bek; "Waqfs and services in Jerusalem in the 18th century AD (1112-1214H./1700-1799)" by Ziad A. M. Madani; "Introduction on justice and social relations in Jerusalem during the first half of 16th century AD in the light of the Jerusalem Sharia court registers" by Abla S. Muhtadi; "Urban revival in Bilad al-Sham towards the end of the Ottoman period (Jerusalem and Aleppo as examples)" by Omar Addaqaq; "The phenomenon of the expansion of education in Jerusalem in the light of Ottoman - foreign rivalries" (Fazil Bayat); "The physicians of the hospital of Jerusalem in the Ottoman period" (M. Yasser Zekkour); "The wall of Jerusalem: its importance, its characteristics and the related tales" (Yousef Saeed Natsheh).

In his Preface, Dr. Halit Eren expresses the hope that the book will contribute importantly to research literature on al-Quds and also serve its ongoing cause by highlighting myriad aspects of this heritage city that call for consciousness about its cause in world opinion. "The cause of al-Quds and Palestine is the founding motive of the OIC and therefore also the foremost mission IRCICA serves. As is known, the urgency of preserving Jerusalem's Islamic heritage continues to grow day by day. In the face of this issue of deep concern for Muslims, IRCICA from within the framework of its mandate organizes research programs, conferences and field studies the results of which are published." From the beginning of its activities IRCICA gave importance to developing research on al-Quds history and heritage. Its first publication resulting from these studies, titled Muslim Pious Foundations and Real Estates in Palestine



(1982), was based on Ottoman official documents contained in the Ottoman Archives in Istanbul. Another, major publication is the annotated album titled Al-Quds/Jerusalem in Historical Photographs (2009) which contains photographs selected from the Yıldız Palace Albums dating from the reign of Sultan Abdulhamid II that are part of IRCICA archives. It highlights the multi-faith cultural and architectural heritage of al-Quds during the 19th and early 20th centuries. In 2010 IRCICA published another book, the two-volume study by Mohammed Ghosheh, on the Islamic Endowments in Jerusalem (in Arabic). Other than research and publications, IRCICA carries out long-term programs of architectural studies and workshops on the subject of al-Quds Islamic urban heritage.

Two exhibitions organized by IRCICA were opened on the occasion of the congress, displaying reproductions of Ottoman archive documents and of historical photographs from IRCICA's archives, respectively. Another feature of the congress on its sidelines was two working sessions on the present state of al-Quds City.

## Muscat International Festival for Arts, Heritage and Creativity 2011, Muscat International Award for Innovation and Creativity in Crafts, Album of the Winning Entries

prepared for publication by Nazeih Taleb Maarouf, Foreword by Halit Eren, IRCICA, 2012, illustrated

IRCICA is pleased to publish this album of the winning entries of the Muscat International Award for Innovation and Creativity in Crafts. This award was conducted during the Muscat International Festival for Arts, Heritage and Creativity 2011 organized jointly by Muscat Municipality and IRCICA in January-February 2011. The award totaling US\$ 100,000.- was distributed as US\$ 10,000.- to each of ten handicraft themes, each receiving a 1st award of US\$ 5,000.-, a 2nd award of US\$ 3,000.- and a 3rd award of US\$ 2,000.-. More than 212 artisans participated in the award from various countries including the host country the Sultanate of Oman, Algeria, Burkina Faso, Egypt, India, Iran, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Macedonia, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan, Qatar, Palestine, Russia, Senegal, South Africa, Syria, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkey, Uzbekistan. During the evaluation process the Jury took into account the characteristics and the technical features of each product with special attention to the following assessment criteria: excellence, creative concept design, and invention in traditional technique. It is noteworthy that one million visitors were received at the stands and various activities of the Muscat International Festival, which lasted from 27 January to 24 February 2011.



The album gives comprehensive information on the objectives, the principles and modalities of the award and the Festival activities at large. Each award-winner artisan is devoted one page featuring samples of his/her works.

## Osmanlı Belgelerinde Arap Vilayetleri. Hicri X-Miladi XVI. yüzyılın ortaları

(The Arab provinces in Ottoman documents. Mid-Xth century H-XVth century AD), Vol. 2, prepared by Fazıl Bayat, preface by Halit Eren, Muslim Countries in the Light of Ottoman Archive Documents Series no. 3, IRCICA, Istanbul, 2011, xx+384+xix pp., images of the documents in CD

(in Arabic, introductory parts in Arabic and Turkish)

The Ottoman official documents, preserved at the Department of Ottoman Archives in Istanbul attached to the Turkish Prime Ministry, are invaluable sources for studies on the history of the countries which were once part of the Ottoman Empire. To render these references accessible to researchers, the Centre collects archive documents relating to the Arab provinces as to all aspects of their situation and their relations with the State and on administrative history, rural development, public works, public health, education, science and scholarship, press and publications, etc., and publishes their Arabic translations in volumes ordered according to the periods with their contents arranged thematically. The first volume, containing Arabic translations of documents from Muhimme registers of the first half of 16th century, was published in 2011. This second volume contains the selected re-prints, type-set texts in Ottoman, and Arabic translations of 107 Ottoman documents pertaining to Arab countries. The documents were obtained from Muhimme registers and various other collections from the Department of Ottoman Archives and the Library of Topkapı Palace Museum some of which were collected and studied by Dr. Fazıl Bayat (IRCICA) since years ago. The documents reproduced, transliterated and translated in this volume are classified under the subject headings of "General Situation", "Administrative Affairs", "Waqfs and Religious Affairs", "Emirs of Makkah al-Mukarramah and Pilgrimage", "Legal Affairs", "Economic Affairs", "Tribes and Bedouin Emirates", "Military Operations, Provision of Security and Order", "Miscellaneous Subjects". The series will continue; the third volume is in preparation.



# Yüzüncü Yılında İkinci Meşrutiyet Milletlerarası Kongre Tebliği Proceedings of the International Congress on The Second Constitutional Period of the Ottoman State on Its Centenary

History of the Ottoman State and Civilization Series 11, IRCICA; Istanbul, 2012

The International Congress on "The Second Constitutional Period/Meşrutiyet of the Ottoman State on its Centenary" was organized by IRCICA in Istanbul, on 7-10 May 2008, with the participation of 106 scholars and researchers presenting 102 papers. The papers are published in this book in their original language: English, Turkish or Arabic.

The 1839 Tanzimat and the 1856 Islahat initiatives of the Ottoman State, proclamation of the Constitution and establishment of the Parliament in 1876, subsequent dismissal of the Parliament and suspension of the Constitution, and its reinstatement thirty years later in 1908, each of these events resulted from the interplay of external and internal factors but were all motivated by the objective of keeping the empire in unity. This constitutional process of the Ottoman State inspired many attempts of democratization in other parts of the world. Some of the ensuing political and ideological currents constituted turning points in the history of countries.



Similar to other examples of dissolution of empires in the world, the decline of the Ottoman empire led to the birth of new nation-states of varying sizes and diverse political regimes. Transformations in the mosaic of nations and communities that had emerged from it continued throughout twentieth century. The papers examine the period from various angles: the factors that prepared the reinstatement of the Ottoman Constitution in 1908, the political, social, economic, cultural, legal and other consequences of the Second Constitution in the capital and in the provinces, its echoes in different parts of the empire and in other countries of the East and the West, its reflections in the press, in literature, its impact on educational institutions, among other developments.

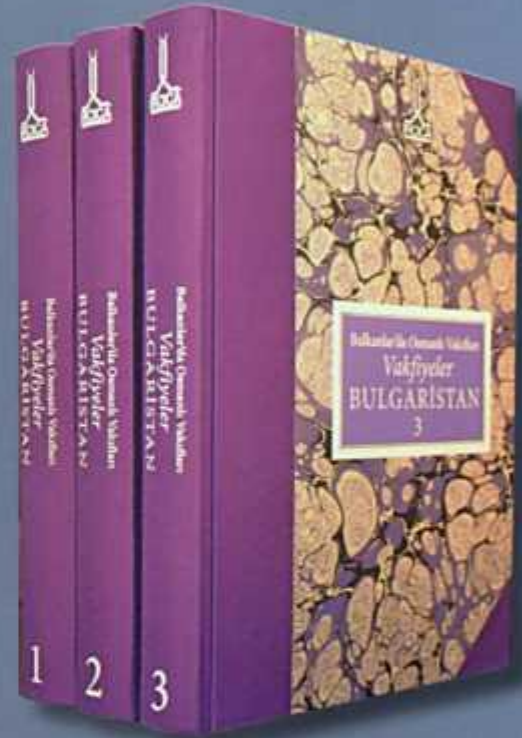
## Ottoman Waqfs in the Balkans. Waqf Deeds. Bulgaria

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



of their founder(s), the donation (which can be in cash and/or in kind, an estate, etc.) their aims, the language of their deeds and their reference in the archival registers. The Introduction gives historical information on the waqfs' legal procedures, systems of registration, modes of operation, sources of income, founders and also observations on the availability and the locations of the deeds and other pertinent registers. The introductory texts, the table and the summaries of the deeds are given in English, Arabic and Turkish.

The first two volumes contain the texts, the table and the transliterations with summaries, while the reproductions of the originals are provide in the third volume.

