



# Newsletter



OIC RESEARCH CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC HISTORY, ART AND CULTURE

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and IRCICA's activities  
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May 2016

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# Newsletter



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## Editorial

The first article in this issue outlines the proceedings of the Thirteenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference which was held in Istanbul during the period from 12-15 April 2016. One of the many important steps taken by the Summit on different spheres of the OIC's action was the adoption of the OIC-2025 Programme of Action. Based on the vision and principles enshrined in the Charter of the OIC, the document marks the second phase of the OIC Ten Year Programme of Action that was initiated in 2015. The programme manifests a renewed commitment by the OIC Member States and the OIC and all its organs to working for a better future by promoting cooperation and joint action towards goals articulated around eighteen priority areas, namely Palestine and al-Quds; counter-terrorism, extremism, violent extremism, radicalization, sectarianism, and Islamophobia; moderation, cultural and inter-faith harmony; peace and security; environment, climate change and sustainability; poverty alleviation; trade, investment and finance; agriculture and food security; employment, infrastructure and industrialization; science, technology and innovation; education; health; advancement and empowerment of women, family welfare and social security; joint Islamic humanitarian action; human rights, good governance and accountability; media and public diplomacy; information and communication technologies and digital information structure; and, OIC institutional reforms. IRCICA's defined mandate within the OIC system touches on practically all these areas.

This first issue of the year covers not the period from January-April as usual but up to May, in order to include the results of the Tenth International Calligraphy Competition which was finalized as of 17 May. The competition results have also been published in the local and international press and through our website.

The calligraphy competition drew 688 participants from 36 countries. 113 participants from 18 countries won awards totaling US\$199,250. IRCICA's international calligraphy competitions, held once every three years, aim to help preserve, foster and promote the classical art of Islamic calligraphy by maintaining its original principles and protect it from trends that would deviate from its classical spirit. In IRCICA's tradition, each competition is dedicated to one of the eminent figures of Islamic calligraphy in remembrance of their contributions and to encourage today's calligraphers to follow their examples. Thus the previous competitions were named after the following masters of calligraphy: Hamid Al-Amidi (1891-1982) Yaqut Al-Mustasimi (?-1298), Ibn Al-Bawwab (?-1022), Sheikh Hamdullah (1429-1520), Sayyid Ibrahim (1897-1994), Mir Imad al-Hassani (1554-1615), Hashim al-Baghdadi (1917-1973), and Mohammed Badawi al-Dirani (1894-1967). The tenth competition is dedicated to Hafiz Osman, a 17th-century Istanbul calligrapher who introduced leading innovations such as revival of some writing styles that had been forgotten and improvements in the forms of the letters. He is also believed to be the first calligrapher to have written a Hilye (physical description of Prophet Mohamed p.b.u.h.) in the form of an artistic calligraphy plate.

During the period under focus, new stages were achieved within the framework of several long-term programs regularly carried out by IRCICA such as: the second congress on the history of Islamic civilization in Southern Africa, the ninth short-term architectural school in the context of the IRCICA & Al-Turath Foundation joint programme, and a session organized during the 7th Global Forum of the UN Alliance of Civilisations, among others. Outlines of their proceedings and results are included in this issue.

At the approach of the holy month of Ramadan, I extend my greetings to our readers and pray that Allah Almighty gives stability and prosperity to peoples of the world.

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

## The 13<sup>th</sup> Islamic Summit Conference, and IRCICA's activities

Istanbul, 12-15 April 2016

The Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) held their 13th Summit Conference titled 'Unity and Solidarity for Justice and Peace' in Istanbul. The Summit Conference was chaired by H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of the Republic of Turkey. Thematic sessions and cultural events were organized on the sidelines of the Summit. On this occasion, IRCICA organized an exhibition of calligraphy and prayer beads (pls. see below).

The foremost subject of concern on the Summit agenda was as usual, the cause of Palestine and Al-Quds. The conference emphasized the centrality of this cause for the Muslim world. It reaffirmed its principled support for the right of the Palestinian people to regain their inalienable national rights, including the right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent and sovereign Palestinian state on the territory occupied since June 1967, with Al-Quds as its capital. (pls. see oic-oci.org for the Final Communiqué and resolutions of the conference).

The conference addressed the problem of terrorism, and condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations regardless of motive and wherever and by whomever committed, and called for equal determination towards all terrorist organizations. It rejected any attempt to affiliate terrorism with any nationality, civilization, religion or ethnic group, and refused provision of any direct or indirect support to the groups that call for violence, extremism and terrorism. It renewed its unwavering commitment to strengthening cooperation between the OIC and other international organizations to prevent and combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. It expressed its determination to continue to strongly condemn all forms intolerance and discrimination based on ethnicity, race, colour, religion and belief and emphasize the importance of nurturing tolerance, respect dialogue and cooperation among different cultures, civilizations and people as the most effective way to combat against the scourges of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and Islamophobia. The conference confirmed its dedication to the goals and principles of the UN Alliance of Civilizations initiative and other similar important initiatives, and declared its political commitment to work towards their implementation. The Summit conference also called on Western states to take necessary measures to combat xenophobia and Islamophobia and to ensure the safety and well-being of Muslims facing these scourges.

Relating to the situation and problems of Muslim minorities living in non-Member States, the Summit called for solidarity with Muslim minorities who still face serious oppression and whose rights are disregarded in many cases even though these rights emanate from international law. It called on all OIC Member States to show solidarity with Muslim peoples in non-OIC Member States who are struggling for their equal status and political equality, to closely associate with them and to increase and expand their efforts in all fields with a view to helping them to overcome their isolation.

The numerous political questions on which the conference took resolutions included, among others, the following (pls. see oic-oci.org for the full texts of the resolutions):

- the aggression of the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan and occupation by Armenia of the Nagorno-Karabakh region and other territories of Azerbaijan;
- the situation in Afghanistan, support for the Afghan National Unity Government established following the Presidential elections in 2014, and efforts for reaching peace and stability in Afghanistan and the region;
- support for the people of Jammu and Kashmir for realization of their legitimate right to self-determination, in accordance with relevant UN resolutions and aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir; in the context of this resolution, the conference called on the Islamic Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) and the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) to undertake activities to protect holy sites in Kashmir and preserve cultural rights and Islamic heritage;
- firm support for the rightful cause of the Muslim Turkish Cypriots and solidarity with the constituent Turkish Cypriot State in their constructive efforts to attain a just and mutually acceptable settlement in Cyprus; call upon all Member States to strengthen effective solidarity with the Muslim Turkish Cypriots, closely associating with them, and with a view to helping them materially and politically to overcome the inhuman isolation which has been imposed upon them, to increase and expand their relations in all fields;
- solidarity with the Government and people of Bosnia and Herzegovina; call upon all political leaders in Bosnia and Herzegovina to join their forces together in expediting the reform process towards building a better future of the country and its people; call upon all Member States to intensify their cooperation with Bosnia and Herzegovina, particularly to intensify their economic ties with the country;

- support and cooperation towards Kosovo and its people; recalling the Resolution No. 18/42-POL adopted by the 42nd Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC which called upon Member States to consider recognizing the independence of Kosovo;

- the Summit Conference underscored the need to shun the sectarian and denominational agenda as it carries destructive impacts and serious repercussions for Member States' security and stability and for international peace and security. It stressed the importance of reinforcing relations of good neighbourliness among the Member States for the good interest of peoples, consistent with the OIC Charter;

- the Conference noted with satisfaction the progress made since the signing on 15 May and 20 July 2015 of the Algiers Peace Agreement for peace and reconciliation in Mali as a good basis for comprehensive and sustainable solutions to the conflict in north Mali and pledged the determination of the OIC as one of its guarantors to actively support the Malian parties in the critical implementation phase; ... it requested the Member States and OIC financial institutions particularly the IDB to contribute to implementation of the agreement and to the long-term development of north Mali; it also called on them to massively extend the necessary assistance for the socio-economic development and reconstruction of the northern regions;

- the Conference noted with satisfaction the steady progress being made by Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) under President Hassan Sheikh Mohamoud and reiterated its full support for the peace building endeavors of the FGS including its outreach efforts with the region in order to achieve comprehensive national reconciliation to lay the basis for durable peace in Somalia...; it welcomed Somalia's remarkable transformation in the areas of security, and federal state building processes, and the latest decision on the election model for 2016 elections reached as a result of the Somali-led nation-wide and inclusive consultation process; it underlined the importance of setting a political road map for universal suffrage by 2020. The Conference commended highly the consent of the State of Kuwait to host a donors' conference to support the education sector of the Federal Republic of Somalia;

- the Conference commended the overall engagement of the OIC, the endeavors of the Special Envoy of the Secretary General to countries in the region as well as the larger international community, since the outbreak of the conflict in the Central African Republic and expressed satisfaction with the progress made in peace building and national reconciliation; it welcomed the successful conclusion of the political transition and reaffirmed the determination of the OIC to continue to support the new authorities address the challenges of sustainable development in the country;

- the Conference reviewed the situation in Cote d'Ivoire and Guinea and expressed satisfaction for the successful elections which have consolidated stability, democracy and good governance; it also congratulated Burkina Faso for the successful conclusion of the political transition and the restoration of constitutional order; It further expressed its full

solidarity with Lake Chad Basin countries of Nigeria, Niger, Cameroun and Chad which continue to face grave security challenges and vicious insurgency arising from the violent Boko Haram extremism and terrorism; it appealed to all the Member States and larger international community to bring all the necessary assistance to these countries through the Multinational Joint Task Force to defeat and eradicate the menace of terrorism as well as contribute to alleviate the dire humanitarian situation prevailing in the region;

- the Conference expressed serious concern over the ongoing violence and bloodshed in the Syrian Arab Republic, and stressed the need to preserve Syria's unity, independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. It reaffirmed its support for a political settlement of the conflict based on the Geneva Communiqué and supported the political process under the auspices of the UN, with a view to implementing a Syrian-led and Syrian owned political transition that would allow building a new Syrian State based on a pluralist, non-sectarian, democratic and civilian system where the principles of equality before the law, rule of law and respect for human rights prevail; the Conference welcomed the unanimous adoption of the UN Security Council Resolution No. 2254 on Syria endorsing an international roadmap for a peace process in Syria; adoption of the resolution showed the global unity on a conflict that has claimed almost 300,000 lives. The Conference stressed the need to implement this resolution. The Conference reiterated its appreciation to the neighbouring countries, notably Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Turkey for generously hosting of Syrian refugees, and commended also other friendly States for the support extended to these refugees. It called on the international community and OIC Member States to support Syrian refugees and countries hosting them as soon as possible, and to develop resettlement programmes for Syrian refugees in order to alleviate their plights and that of the hosting States. It commended the sincere efforts by the State of Kuwait to host three international donor conferences to support the humanitarian situation in Syria in 2013, 2014, and 2015, and its effective participation in chairing the 4th donor conference held in London, on 4 February 2016 in partnership with United Kingdom, the Republic of Germany, Kingdom of Norway, and United Nations in response to the serious humanitarian crisis facing the innocent brotherly Syrians. It expressed deep gratitude to all states, organizations and donor institutions which pledged to donate funds in excess of USD 11 billion to achieve the desired objectives of this conference, and invited states and others organizations to contribute to providing assistance to the Syrian people;

- concerning Libya, the Conference stressed the importance of peaceful democratic transition and the adoption of a new constitution that guarantees freedoms, the rule of law, smooth transfer of power through full participation of all the components of the Libyan people and the building of a new democratic Libya; it called on all countries to refrain from interfering into the internal affairs of Libya, including the supply of arms to armed groups in violation of Security Council resolutions, using mass media to incite to violence and attempts to undermine the political process;

- the Conference welcomed the steps made in Tunisia on the democratic transition process, especially the adoption of a new consensual constitution and the success in the organization of presidential and legislative elections, and reiterated support for Tunisia at this stage of its history;

- the Conference recalled the resolution 42/42-P on crimes perpetrated by the terrorist entity DAESH and expressed its full support to the Iraqi Government in its efforts to eradicate this terrorist group and restore the territories it occupies. It called upon Member States to contribute to the rehabilitation of the liberated areas. It reaffirmed Iraq's role in countering DAESH and in bringing lasting peace and stability to the region. In this regard, the Conference expressed its support to Iraq in its efforts to achieve political unity, stability, and security;

- regarding Yemen, the Conference reiterated continued support for the constitutional legitimacy in Yemen represented by H.E. President Abdu Rabuh Mansour Hadi, President of the Republic of Yemen, and for his national efforts to achieve security, political and economic stability in Yemen and to resume of the political process towards a political solution based on the full implementation of the Gulf Cooperation Council initiative and its implementation mechanism and the outputs of the Yemeni national Dialogue Conference, and consistent with international legitimacy resolutions, particularly UN Security Council Resolution 2216 (2015);

- the Summit Conference reiterated the support of Member States for the Sudan in its efforts to confront its economic and financial difficulties, and called on the international community to write off Sudan's external debts; it further rejected the unilateral economic sanctions imposed on Sudan, which negatively affected the development and prosperity of the people of the Sudan; it called for an immediate lifting of those unjustified sanctions, and appealed to Member States and OIC financial institutions to contribute to providing all forms of support and assistance to the Sudan to enable it overcome the critical economic situation. It also called for removing the Sudan from the US list of terrorism-sponsoring States;

- the Conference called for renewed efforts to end continued discrimination and denial of political, economic and civil rights of the Rohingya Muslim community mainly in the Rakhine State of Myanmar; it called upon the new Government of Myanmar to take necessary measures to protect the basic rights of the Rohingya Muslim community including their basic right to citizenship. It also called upon the Government of Myanmar to allow easy access (in cooperation with all related parties) to humanitarian assistance towards the Rohingya Muslim community; it further called upon international community to continue working with the Government of Myanmar for protecting minorities in its territories;

- the Conference expressed grave disappointment that the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) Bill was not passed by the Philippines Congress despite the assurances of the Government of the Philippines (GPH) in this regard; it recognized the efforts of the GPH, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and Malaysia in the Southern Philippines' peace process despite the non-passage of the Bill. It strongly urged the GPH

and the MILF to preserve its gains, particularly the Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro (FAB) and the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB) and uphold the implementation of the CAB in the next administration;

- regarding the situation of Muslims in Southern Thailand, the Conference commended the efforts of the Secretary General during his visit to the Kingdom of Thailand and welcomed the formation of a group of representatives of the Muslim community in the South and the decision of the Government to continue the peace dialogue with the group under Malaysian facilitation. The Conference reiterated concerns regarding the situation in Southern Thailand and expressed the hope that the Thai Government will make constructive steps for the implementation of their commitments included in the 2007 OIC-Thai Joint Statement reiterated in 2012;

- the Conference expressed support for the cause of the Turkish Muslim minority in Western Thrace and the Muslim population of Dodecanese, and called on Greece to take all necessary measures to ensure the respect of the rights of the Muslim minority and their identity and culture;

- the Conference followed closely and underlined the importance of the continuing repatriation process of Ahiska Turks who were forced to leave their homeland in 1944; it welcomed the adoption of the "Strategy for the Repatriation of Meskhetians" by the Georgian Government in 2014 and urged for further adoption of a comprehensive action plan with a view to facilitating the return of the Ahiska Turks and their integration into Georgian society;

- the Conference expressed interest in the situation of the Crimean Muslim Tatars in the light of the recent developments in the Peninsula, stressed the need to address appropriately the status, safety and security of the Crimean Tatars and guarantee them effective access to their religious, cultural, educational and property rights.

Addressing the various issues of general concern for the Member States and world community at large, the Summit Conference reiterated its principled position against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, whatever its motives, justifications, and source; affirmed that combating terrorism is the responsibility of all Member States and the international community; it underscored the need to adopt a comprehensive Islamic strategy to combat terrorism and extremism and for the OIC to play an effective role in international efforts to combat terrorism, in the framework of constructive cooperation with States and international and regional organizations and initiatives. on the importance of continue working to consolidate international efforts to combat terrorism. The Conference also took note of the proposal of the Republic of Kazakhstan on unified counter-terrorism coalition under the auspices of the UN. The Conference expressed support for the efforts of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and all Member States to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations; it expressed, in this regard, its backing of the Islamic military coalition to combat terrorism and invited interested Member States to join it.

Furthermore, the Summit Conference welcomed the initiative to launch a process of Islamic rapprochement by the joint

declaration of the President of Turkey, H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, the President of Kazakhstan, H.E. Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev, dated 13 April 2016. The Conference decided to launch the process of Islamic rapprochement as a new paradigm of relations in the Muslim world through demonstration of goodwill and constructive approach for peaceful resolution of disputes, for respect of territorial integrity and sovereignty and the principle of non-interference in internal affairs of each other and friendly relations between the Member States of the OIC, and for strengthening unity of the Muslim world.

The Conference noted with satisfaction the successful conclusion of the Ten-Year Program of Action (2005-2015) which provided a forward looking blueprint with a view to enhancing Joint Islamic Action in various domains. It affirmed commitment to address the shortcomings in the previous decade and to introduce the necessary improvements for the effective implementation of the new OIC Program of Action for 2016-2025. Then it adopted the OIC-2025 Program of Action and called upon the Member States, the OIC organs and institutions, international partners as well as other stakeholders to undertake all necessary measures for its effective implementation.

Numerous resolutions were taken acknowledging progress and recommending actions of cooperation between Member States in the areas of trade, infrastructure, investments, science and technology, energy, water and land resources, transport and communications, public health and combating epidemics, education, and information media (oic-oci.org). On cultural issues, the Summit Conference stressed that culture must be used as a leverage for a sustainable and inclusive development, along with the Islamic values, and the most important action is to mainstream culture as a strategic tool for achieving OIC goals; it commended the efforts of the OIC Secretary General for his initiatives aiming at promotion and defending unified position on issues of common interest, including the dialogue among civilizations and religions; promoting interfaith harmony, tolerance and non-discrimination; to safeguard historic and Islamic character of the holy places as well as Islamic cultural and civilizational heritage properties. Relating to tourism development and cultural tourism, the Conference welcomed the outcomes of the 8th Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM) held in Banjul, Gambia in December 2013 which included inter alia, decisions on the Progress Report on the Implementation of the Framework for Development and Cooperation in the Domain of Tourism between the OIC Member States as well as its recommendations, and the draft Mechanism and Criteria for the Selection of OIC City of Tourism and the draft Mechanism and Criteria for the Award of OIC Seal of Excellence for Handicrafts, as well as the proposed establishment of the Heritage Centre for Islamic Countries. The Conference, therefore called on OIC Member States to implement these decisions.

Another culture-related agenda item addressed the question of stereotypes and biased generalizations facing Islam and Muslims. The Conference called for cooperative action, by issuing clear statements that the Muslim world does not condone the violent acts of marginal, misguided individuals

claiming to speak or act in the name of Islam. It encouraged all Member States and their civil society to step up their counter-Islamophobic measures by promoting dialogue with the international community at both multilateral and bilateral levels, and to engage with the West in order to build a political will and commitment to entering into a higher level of serious dialogue in order to generate reconciliation between faiths, cultures and civilizations. It called on all Member States to increase the role of religious and community leaders to curb tendencies of extremism and Islamophobia by promoting the ideals of tolerance, moderation, mutual respect and peaceful co-existence, and to strengthen existing mechanisms for intra-Islam dialogue in order to help avoiding misperceptions and promote better understanding and mutual respect. It encouraged all Member States to promote inter-faith dialogues within the OIC Member States to raise awareness about religious interpretations and beliefs, and open space for further discussion about Islam and to initiate relevant projects at the level of United Nations Alliance of Civilizations.

The Summit Conference observed that the recent migrant flow from the Middle East to Europe has further exacerbated xenophobic and Islamophobic tendencies in European countries. Xenophobic acts and sentiments are further fuelled by populist rhetoric of the far-right political parties for the sake of short-sighted political interests. Discriminatory discourse sows the seeds of division within societies and undermines the Muslims' sense of belonging to and their trust in the society they live in. The conference underscored the importance of not using Islamophobic and xenophobic tendencies in the society as a tool for popular policies. It also maintained that media and politicians play an important role to direct the societies in a responsible manner on this issue. In this regard, the Conference welcomed the establishment of an OIC Contact Group for Muslims in Europe.

The Conference strongly condemned the crimes committed against tangible and intangible cultural heritage in all its forms in Syria, Iraq, Mali, Libya, and in other Member States, and invited ISESCO and IRCICA, in coordination with Member States and all relevant partners at different levels, to strengthen the cooperation with competent institutions in order to monitor the situation of cultural, civilizational and religious heritage properties in the Muslim world, and take part in countering acts of destruction and vandalism against such heritage, as well as jointly organize an international seminar on "Islamic Action to Protect Cultural Heritage" at the earliest convenience.

The 14th Session of the Islamic Summit



Conference will be held in the Islamic Republic of The Gambia at a date to be determined later.

A number of cultural events were held on the sidelines of the Summit Conference. One of them was a conference on "Enhancing Economic and Cultural Relations among OIC Member Countries: Opportunities and Challenges" which was organized by the Center for Strategic Research (SAM) attached to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey on 13 April 2016. The conference had two main sections: "Economic and commercial cooperation among OIC countries: problems and solutions" (moderated by Amb. Musa Kulaklıkaya, Director General of the OIC Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRTC, Ankara), and "Strengthening social, cultural and scientific ties among Muslim countries" (moderated by Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren, Director General of the OIC Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA, Istanbul). Keynote addresses were given by Dr. El Hassane Hzaïne, Director General of the OIC Islamic Center for Development of Trade (ICDT-Casablanca), Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren and Amb. Musa Kulaklıkaya.

#### *IRCICA's exhibition of calligraphy during the Summit Conference*

During the period of the 13<sup>th</sup> Islamic Summit Conference, IRCICA organized an exhibition of Islamic calligraphy, displaying 56 prize-winner works from the nine international

calligraphy competitions that were organized by IRCICA until then. The plates were illuminated by artists representing different styles of gilding, under IRCICA's coordination. The plates belonged to artists from Iraq, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey and United Arab Emirates. Delegations participating in the Summit Conference visited the exhibition with interest.

In a separate section of the exhibition, prayer beads were presented, dating from the Ottoman and Turkish Republic periods. All selected from the collection of Mehmet Çebi (Istanbul), the beads were made of special materials such as amber, snake wood, tortoise shell, ivory and rhino horn.



The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan H.E. Mr. Siroddin Aslov visited the exhibition



The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sultanate of Oman H.E. Mr. H.E. Yusuf Bin Alawi Bin Abdullah visited the exhibition



H.E. Mr. Adel al-Jubeir, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, visited the exhibition, together with IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren



H.E. Mr. Salahuddin Rabbani, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan, guided at the exhibition by IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren

## Calligraphy competition

# Tenth International Calligraphy Competition in the name of Hafiz Osman (1642-1698) finalized

May 2016

The Tenth International Calligraphy Competition organized by IRCICA was finalized and its results were announced on 17 May 2016. Out of 688 participants from 36 countries, 113 participants from 18 countries won awards. Out of 975 works presented to the competition, 314 were kept for the final selection stage. 122 works won awards.

In accordance with IRCICA's tradition to dedicate each competition to an illustrious master of this art, the tenth competition was organized in the name of Hafiz Osman, who lived in Istanbul during 1642-1698 and made seminal contributions to the advancement of this art and perfection of its styles.

The competition results were announced by IRCICA Director General Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren at a ceremony and press conference held in the hall of Istanbul Dedeman Hotel in the morning of 17 May 2016. Artists and art experts and a large public attended the ceremony together with representatives of the international and local press. Dr. Eren opened the ceremony with an overview of the competition and an outline of the activities undertaken by IRCICA to promote the art of calligraphy and reinforce cooperation among the artists. He invited to the floor Prof. Dr. Uğur Derman, calligraphy expert and honorary member of the IRCICA competition jury. Prof. Dr. Derman introduced to the audience the life and works Hafiz Osman and his major contributions to the progress of this art. Then master calligrapher Mr. Hasan Çelebi, honorary member of the jury, was invited to the floor. Mr. Çelebi shared his memories of the past competitions organized by IRCICA since 1986, his views on the importance of these competitions for development of this art and his own teaching experience.



Guests from art circles and universities attended the award announcement ceremony

In the last part of the ceremony, ijzas (license given by the teacher to the student in the traditional way that authorizes the latter to practice and to teach this art) were presented to four calligraphers: Mr Adem Ebrek from Algeria, Mr. Azmir bin Abdulkarim from Malaysia, Ms. Filiz Derindere and Ms. Ayşe Karakuş from Turkey, who had completed their training programs coordinated by IRCICA.

The competition was organized in 11 categories of calligraphic styles, namely Jaly Thuluth, Thuluth, Naskh, Muhaqqaq-Reyhani, Jaly Taliq, Taliq (Nastaliq), Jaly Diwani, Diwani, Qufi, Rika and Maghribi.

The Jury was composed of the following specialists and masters of this art: Mr. Abdulridha Behiye al-Farjawi from Iraq, Mr. Jalil Rasuli from Iran, Mr. Fuad Başar from Turkey, Mr. Mossad Khodeir from Egypt, Mr. Obeyda Banki from Syria, Mr. Hamidi Belaid from Morocco, and Mr. Davut Bektaş from Turkey, with honorary members Prof. Uğur Derman, Prof. Dr. Hüsrev Subaşı and master calligrapher Hasan Çelebi.

In its evaluations the jury gave importance to precision of style. It observed the criteria of conformity with the rules of the art of calligraphy, creativity in composition, and adherence to the conditions of the competition and disregarded negligibly minor mistakes.

Observing that the necessary level of qualification was not reached in the Rika category, the jury withheld the first, second and third prizes for this style, deciding to distribute mentions and incentive awards only. On the other hand, it decided to allocate incentive awards of 750 US\$ each to noteworthy entries other than the award-winners in the Jaly Thuluth, Thuluth, Naskh, Muhaqqaq-Reyhani, Jeli Diwani and Diwani categories. Thus at the end of the competition 38 awards, 33 mentions and 51 incentive awards (122 in total), were distributed to 113 participants from 18 countries. The total amount of prizes is 199,250 US\$.

The winning entries were exhibited at Istanbul Dedeman Hotel. A catalogue of the winning entries will be printed and



Calligraphy Exhibition

distributed to award-winners. The winners will also receive certificates.



*Presentation of the Ijaza by the professors to their students*



By Turan Sevgili to Filiz Derindere (Turkey)



By Levent Karaduman to Ayşe Karakuş (Turkey)



By Hasan Çelebi to Adem Ebrem (Algeria)



By Efdaluddin Kılıç to Azmir bin Abdul Karim (Malaysia)



List of the winners

**JALY THULUTH**

		Name-Surname	Country
1st Prize	8.000 \$	Abdurrahman Depeler	Turkey
2nd Prize	5.000 \$	Resul Afşin Okur	Turkey
3rd Prize	2.500 \$	Osman Çiçek	Turkey
Mention	1.000 \$	Muhammad Noor Amjad	Saudi Arabia
Mention	1.000 \$	Yılmaz Turan	Turkey
Mention	1.000 \$	Ali Mamduh Abd al-Halim	Egypt
Incentive	750 \$	Nihat Kağnıcı	Turkey
Incentive	750 \$	Belal Mokhtar	Egypt
Incentive	750 \$	Hani Faouzi	Egypt
Incentive	750 \$	Muhammad A. Siddique	Pakistan
Incentive	750 \$	Ehab Gareeb	Egypt

**THULUTH**

		Name-Surname	Country
1st Prize	7.500 \$	Muhammad Jabir el-Sayyid	Egypt
2nd Prize	5.000 \$	Maryam Norouzi Khalilani	Iran
3rd Prize	2.500 \$	Mahfoodh Dhannoon Younus	Iraq
Mention	1.000 \$	Abdeh Mohammad H. Gamal	Egypt
Mention	1.000 \$	Abdul Razaq Karakash	Syria
Mention	1.000 \$	Riad Issa Alavdullah	Syria
Incentive	750 \$	Ahmed Lamem Zaedi	Libya
Incentive	750 \$	Hakan Arslan	Turkey
Incentive	750 \$	Mostafa Falouh	Morocco
Incentive	750 \$	Ben Bou Abdallah M.Bel Kacem	Algeria
Incentive	750 \$	Qasim Taher Abbas	Iraq
Incentive	750 \$	Ali Ehsanpour	Iran
Incentive	750 \$	Magdy Mohammad Afify	Egypt

**NASKH**

		Name-Surname	Country
1st Prize	7.500 \$	Sirwan Kamal Ali	Iraq
1st Prize	7.500 \$	Hadi Kadhim Nayyef	Iraq
2nd Prize	5.000 \$	Ehab Ebraheem A. Thabet	Palestine
3rd Prize	2.500 \$	Abdulwahab Ali Hasan Saif	Yemen
Mention	1.000 \$	Abdulrahman al-Abdi	Syria
Mention	1.000 \$	Yasser Mahmoud Mohamed	Egypt
Mention	1.000 \$	Lukman Mohammad Yosif	Iraq
Incentive	750 \$	Nabeel Hussein Farhan	Iraq
Incentive	750 \$	Ben Bou Abdallah Bel Kacem	Algeria
Incentive	750 \$	Moulai Abderrahim	Algeria
Incentive	750 \$	Bouzgou Hassen	Algeria
Incentive	750 \$	Moustafa B.Aek Koudri	Algeria
Incentive	750 \$	Saman Kaka Diwaneh	Iraq
Incentive	750 \$	Safar Bati Mhamed	Algeria
Incentive	750 \$	Khalil Ahmad Husyin	Iraq
Incentive	750 \$	Mahmoud M. Abd el Salam	Egypt
Incentive	750 \$	Mousa Abdulhussein Hussein	Iraq
Incentive	750 \$	Hilmi Karasakal	Turkey

**MOHAQQAQ-RAYHANI**

		Name-Surname	Country
1st Prize	4.500 \$	Mohammad Gaber al-Sayyid	Egypt
2nd Prize	3.000 \$	Ahmad Mohammad Sayyid	Egypt
3rd Prize	2.000 \$	Fatih Özkafa	Turkey
3rd Prize	2.000 \$	Awni Adel Abbas	Iraq
Mention	1.000 \$	Zaki Ali Hasan	Yemen



1<sup>st</sup> Prize in Jaly Thuluth



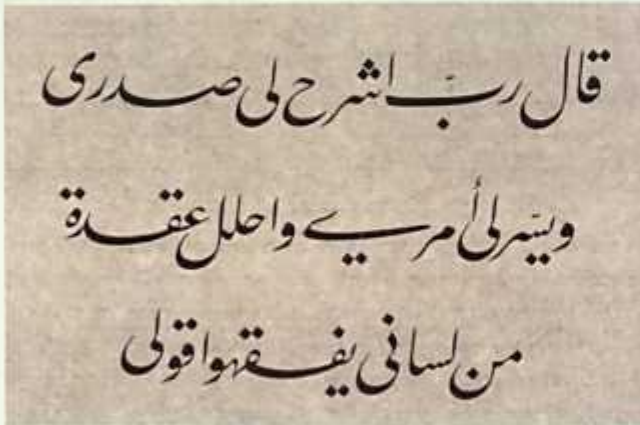
1<sup>st</sup> Prize in Thuluth



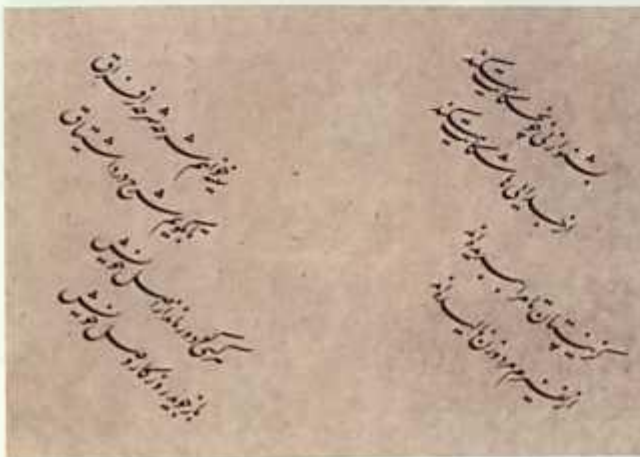
1<sup>st</sup> Prize in Naskh



1<sup>st</sup> Prize in Muhaqqaq



1<sup>st</sup> Prize in Jaly Taliq



1<sup>st</sup> Prize in Nastaliq

Mention	1.000 \$	Abdeh Mohammad H. Gamal	Egypt
Mention	1.000 \$	Haytam Salmo	Syria
Incentive	750 \$	Farhad Shikhani	Iran
Incentive	750 \$	Mohammad Bahsiti	Syria
Incentive	750 \$	Sayyedeh Zeynab Ahmadi	Iran

#### JALY TALIQ

		Name-Surname	Country
1st Prize	5.000 \$	Salim Hamidi	Morocco
2nd Prize	3.000 \$	Habib Ramazanpour	Iran
3rd Prize	2.000 \$	Mithat Topaç	Turkey
Mention	1.000 \$	Muhammad Ali Zahid	Pakistan
Mention	1.000 \$	Yusuf Mazi	Turkey
Mention	1.000 \$	Riad Issa Alavdullah	Syria
Incentive	750 \$	Sevim Şirikçi	Turkey
Incentive	750 \$	Safiye Ergin	Turkey
Incentive	750 \$	Abdullah Eren	Turkey
Incentive	750 \$	Omid Rabbani	Iran
Incentive	750 \$	Yıldız Zenbil	Turkey

#### NASTALIQ

		Name-Surname	Country
1st Prize	4.500 \$	Habib Ramazanpour	Iran
2nd Prize	3.000 \$	Ehsan Ahmadi	Iran
3rd Prize	2.000 \$	Mostafa Abedini	Iran
3rd Prize	2.000 \$	Safar Galeshi	Iran
Mention	1.000 \$	Alireza Beig Mohammadi	Iran
Mention	1.000 \$	Sajad Haghjoo	Iran
Mention	1.000 \$	Ali Daem Omid	Iran
Incentive	750 \$	Fatemeh Moghimi	Iran
Incentive	750 \$	Ali Kheiri Habibabadi	Iran
Incentive	750 \$	Omid Rabbani	Iran
Incentive	750 \$	Seyyed Mohammad F. Natanzi	Iran
Incentive	750 \$	Mohammadreza Pajand	Iran
Incentive	750 \$	Mehrdad Sheykhi	Iran
Incentive	750 \$	Roohollah Sadeghi Agdam	Iran

#### JALY DIWANI

		Name-Surname	Country
1st Prize	5.000 \$	Seyit Ahmet DEPELER	Turkey
1st Prize	5.000 \$	Mohamad Zaenudin Ahmadun	Indonesia
2nd Prize	3.000 \$	Abdessamad Mihfad	Morocco
2nd Prize	3.000 \$	Mohd Fathy Rosely	Malaysia
3rd Prize	2.000 \$	Hadi Saleh Karkuki	Iraq
3rd Prize	2.000 \$	Mohammad Adeeb Ali	Ürdün
Mention	1.000 \$	Khalid Mohammad Sayyid	Egypt
Mention	1.000 \$	Mahmoud Abdulatif Doshou	Syria
Mention	1.000 \$	Amer Sulaiman Sadoun	Syria
Incentive	750 \$	Homa Gaib Husain	Iraq
Incentive	750 \$	Mohd Zulfikri Bin Mohd Sobri	Malaysia

#### DIWANI

		Name-Surname	Country
1st Prize	3.000 \$	Abdessamad Mihfad	Morocco
2nd Prize	2.000 \$	Abdellaziz Ait Bihi	Morocco
3rd Prize	1.000 \$	Abdo Alrai	Syria
Mention	1.000 \$	Abdul Rahman al-Abdi	Syria
Mention	1.000 \$	Yasser Mahmoud Mohamed	Egypt
Mention	1.000 \$	Ahmad Rafat Abdulhamid	Egypt
Incentive	750 \$	Ali Hasan Abdulhafed	Libya

Incentive	750 \$	Abdulrazzak M. Mahmud	Syria
Incentive	750 \$	Abdul Muhaimin bin Mahyuddin	Malaysia
Incentive	750 \$	Hayatee Wado	Thailand
Incentive	750 \$	Mohannad al Sae	Syria

**KUFI**

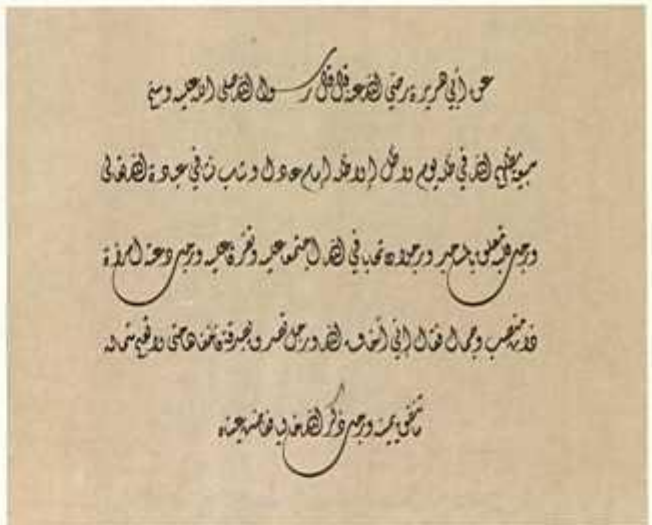
		Name-Surname	Country
1st Prize	2.000 \$	Farhad Yasin Nadir	Iraq
2nd Prize	1.500 \$	Saber Safaei	Iran
3rd Prize	1.000 \$	Djamel Fenineche	Algeria
Mention	1.000 \$	Sara Attarzadeh	Iran
Mention	1.000 \$	Rasha Kassem Abdou Shahbar	Egypt
Mention	1.000 \$	Kemal bin Abdulqader al-Bahri	Tunisia
Incentive	750 \$	Liwa Saad Mhmoed	Iraq
Incentive	750 \$	Ibrahim Khalil Alzaeen	Syria
Incentive	750 \$	Reyhaneh Rahmati	Iran

**RIQA**

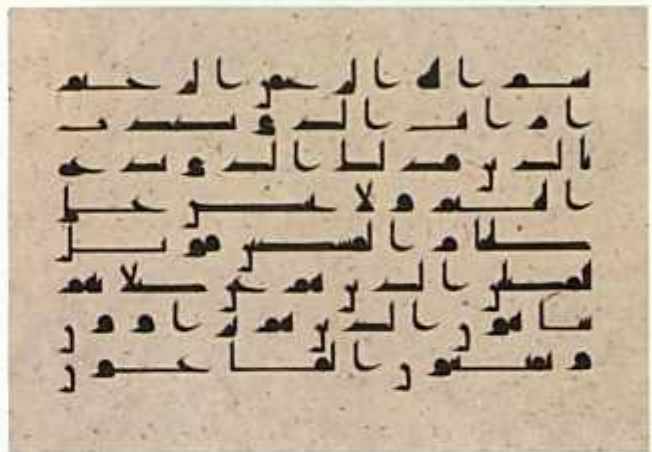
		Name-Surname	Country
Mention	1.000 \$	Abdulrahman Mansi	Egypt
Mention	1.000 \$	Feri Budiantoro	Indonesia
Mention	1.000 \$	Mohammad Hasan Ahmad	Egypt
Incentive	750 \$	Arief Asyhraf bin Zaidi	Malaysia
Incentive	750 \$	Ahmad Hasan Dasuqi	Egypt
Incentive	750 \$	El-Bouanani Abdellatif	Morocco

**MAGHRIBI**

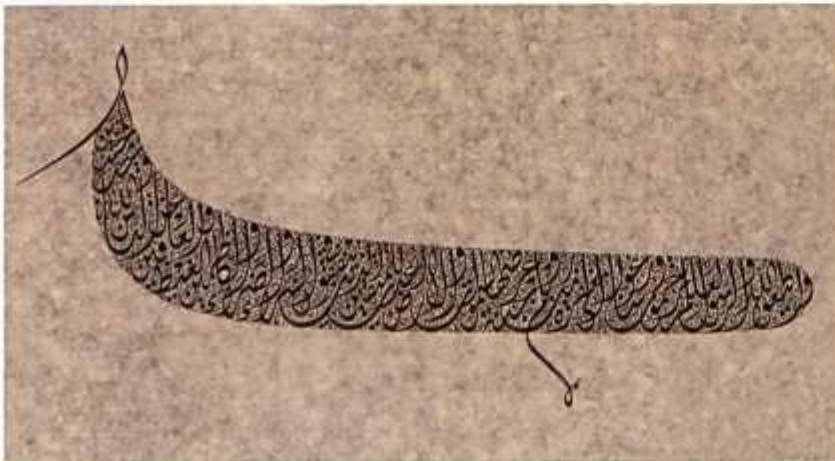
		Name-Surname	Country
1st Prize	2.000 \$	Sahir Yaagoubi	Morocco
2nd Prize	1.500 \$	Darmawan Bin Sarjani	Indonesia
2nd Prize	1.500 \$	Wang Qi Fei	China
3rd Prize	1.000 \$	Mona Saleh	Egypt
3rd Prize	1.000 \$	Novitasari Dewi	Indonesia
Mention	1.000 \$	Ridouan Saibre	Morocco
Mention	1.000 \$	Ahmad Jimly Ashari	Indonesia
Mention	1.000 \$	Souhail Wardighi	Morocco



1<sup>st</sup> Prize in Diwani



1<sup>st</sup> Prize in Kufi



1<sup>st</sup> Prize in Jaly Diwani



1<sup>st</sup> Prize in Maghribi

# International symposium on “Interfaith Dialogue and Peaceful Coexistence in Multicultural Societies” organized by IRCICA and Devawongse Varopakarn Institute of Foreign Affairs (DVIFA), Kingdom of Thailand

Bangkok, 11-12 January 2016

An International Symposium on “Interfaith Dialogue and Peaceful Coexistence in Multicultural Societies” was held in Bangkok, Thailand on 11-12 January 2016. The symposium was jointly organized by IRCICA and Devawongse Varopakarn Institute of Foreign Affairs (DVIFA) of the Kingdom of Thailand. Were present on this occasion: H.E. Mr. Iyad Ameen Madani, Secretary General of the OIC; H.E. Mr. Virasakdi Futrakul, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand; H.E. Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, Former ASEAN Secretary-General and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand; and, Tan Sri Dato’ Sri H.E. Dr. Syed Hamid Albar, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia. Moreover, several academics specializing on interfaith dialogue between the Muslim and the Buddhist communities contributed to the symposium.

The symposium was opened with the welcoming address of H.E. Mr. Dhiravat Bhumichitr, Ambassador at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand and Deputy Director of the DVIFA. Ambassador Bhumichitr explained the process leading to the organization of this crucial symposium and expressed his wish that similar meetings that could contribute to better understanding between Muslim and Buddhist communities could be organized more frequently.

The Director General of IRCICA, Dr. Halit Eren, in his opening speech spoke of the history of relations between the Muslim and Buddhist societies and stressed that there had been always



H.E. Mr. Iyad Ameen Madani, Secretary General of the OIC, H.E. Mr. Virasakdi Futrakul, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Thailand, Ambassador of the Thailand to Ankara, H.E. Mr. Tharit Charungvat and Dr. Halit Eren at the meeting

a harmonious relationship up to recent decades. Dr. Eren indicated that current conflicts in Southeast Asia between the two communities are caused largely by ignorance and lack of proper education, and that systematic efforts should be made to improve the national systems of education in a way that promotes intercultural harmony and peaceful coexistence.

The Secretary General of the OIC H.E. Mr. Iyad Ameen Madani, in his opening address pointed out the opportunities and challenges posed by the multidimensional processes of globalization. Dr. Madani indicated that the swift dissemination of information via conventional and social media was making it

easier to disperse false perceptions, prejudices and stereotypes across borders. Therefore, it is vital to improve face to face contacts and academic/intellectual exchanges among different faith communities to empower a culture of tolerance and peaceful coexistence on a global level. Dr. Madani congratulated IRCICA and DVIFA for organizing this major international symposium and expressed his wish for the organization of several meetings in



the future that would bring Muslim and Buddhist academics, intellectuals, religious representatives and artists together.

The Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, H.E. Mr. Virasakdi Futrakul, in his welcoming speech gave examples from the Buddhist and Islamic teachings concerning the importance of mutual understanding, forgiveness and tolerance. Mr. Futrakul expressed his view that better understanding between the two communities will pave the way for a more peaceful and prosperous future for Asia and the world.

The first session of the symposium was titled "Intercultural contacts and exchanges in multicultural societies as a basis of interfaith dialogue and peaceful coexistence". The speakers of the session included Dr. Surin Pitsuwan (Former ASEAN Secretary-General and Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand); Tan Sri Dato' Sri Dr. Syed Hamid Albar (Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia); and Venerable Phra Dr. Anil Sakya (Deputy Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences of Mahamakut Buddhist University, Thailand).

The second session was titled "Education and the role of the youth in maintaining and promoting interfaith dialogue and culture of peace" and the speakers included Prof. Ali Murat Yel (Dean, Faculty of Sociology, Fatih University, Turkey); Dr. Chaiwat Satha-anand (Professor for Politics and Government, Thammasat University, Thailand); Dr. Sriprapha Petcharamesree (Lecturer, Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies, Mahidol University, Thailand); Dr. Steve Taylor (Director of Research and Development, Bangkok Bible Seminary).

The third and final session of the symposium was titled "The influence and role of media and civil society in promoting interfaith dialogue and peaceful coexistence" and the speakers included Dr. Sadık Ünay (Assoc. Prof. for International Relations, Senior Researcher, IRCICA); Dr. Abdulla Numsuk (Executive Director of the Wasatiyyah Institute for Peace and Development, Sheikul Islam Office of Thailand); Mr. Kavi Chongkittavorn (Assistant Group Editor, Nation Media Group, Thailand); Dr. Hassan Abedin (Head of Muslim Minorities Division, OIC). The presentations gave the audience information about the work of the OIC and IRCICA concerning interfaith/intercultural dialogue and peaceful coexistence by indicating concrete examples and specific projects. There were



also references to the use of conventional and social media for the purposes of promoting peaceful coexistence.

At the end of the sessions, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand to Ankara, H.E. Mr. Tharit

Charungvat thanked all the participants. The Director General of IRCICA, Dr. Halit Eren, in his closing speech summarized the main ideas and discussions that came to surface during the symposium. Dr. Eren thanked the DVIFA and the Government of Thailand for their hospitality, H.E. Mr. Iyad Ameen Madani, the Secretary General of the OIC, for his unwavering support and the valued scholars for their contributions. Dr. Eren said that a book comprising the presentations made during the symposium will be published by IRCICA in due course and expressed his wish that similar meetings could also be organized at the ASEAN level.



Dr. Halit Eren presenting Ms. Pattarat Hongtong, Director of DVIFA, with a plate bearing a Quranic verse adopted by IRCICA as its motto.



# “Islamic Civilisation in Southern Africa”: international congress organized by IRCICA, Awqaf South Africa, University of Kwazulu-Natal (UKZN) and the International Peace College South Africa (IPSA)

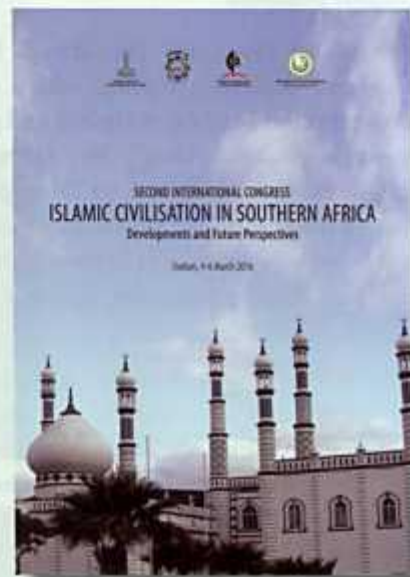
Durban, 4-6 March 2016

IRCICA jointly with the Awqaf South Africa (Awqaf SA), the University of Kwazulu-Natal (UKZN) and the International Peace College South Africa (IPSA), Durban, have convened an international congress on “Islamic Civilisation in Southern Africa”, on 4-6 March 2016. Media institutions from South Africa contributed to the organization of the congress namely ITV, Radio Al Ansaar and Minara Chamber of Commerce.

Within the framework of IRCICA's activities, this was the second congress on this theme after the symposium which was held in 2006 in Johannesburg (organized by IRCICA, Awqaf SA and the University of Johannesburg). Academics, media specialists and editors, heads and representatives of community establishments contributed studies to the congress.

Briefly on the co-organizers: Awqaf SA was pioneered as an independent community-based and owned trust, dedicated to the establishment of the institution of waqf and the empowerment of communities. It is a charitable organization. It allocates its endowment funds to finance a variety of community development projects promoting integrated community development and self-reliance. IPSA is an Islamic institution that was set up in 2005 through amalgamation of two community-based theological institutions: the Islamic College of Southern Africa and Darul Arqam Islamic Institute.

Prof. J. Smit, Dean of the College of Humanities, UKZN, opened the congress with a welcoming speech. Then, Sheikh M. Ihsaan Taliep, Principal of the International Peace College,



made an overview of the congress themes and objectives. Opening remarks were given by Dr. Zeinoul Abedien Cajee, CEO, Awqaf SA, followed by an Introduction to the congress by Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren, IRCICA Director General. A Keynote Address was delivered by Prof. Suleman Dangor from UKZN.

Following this opening and plenary session, eight sessions were held, with 3-4 presentations and question-and-answer parts each. The first working session heard: Prof. Selim Argun (Turkey), on “Ottoman engagement in Southern Africa”; Dr. Jasser Auda (USA), on “The situation of Muslim minorities and prospects for the revival of Islamic civilisation with particular reference to Southern Africa”; Prof. Muhammadullah Khalili Qasmi (India) on “Cultural, religious and academic contribution of Deobandi Diaspora of Muslim community in South Africa”.

The second session had the following speakers: Dr. Umar Ahmed Kasule (International



From left to right: Prof. Suleman Dangor, UKZN, Dr. Zeinoul Abedien Cajee, CEO, Awqaf SA, Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren, Prof. Muhammad Haron, University of Botswana, Sheikh M. Ihsaan Taliep, Principal of IPC

Islamic University, Uganda), with a paper on "The reciprocal influence between Islam and Bantu culture: a case of the Baganda community, Uganda"; Sheikh Edwin Salim Saidoo (University of Botswana, Botswana) on "The interface between Islam and Tswana culture: A case study of marriage amongst the Ngwaketse"; and Ms. Silindiwe Zvingowanisei (University of Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe) on "The interaction between Islam and African traditional religion in Zimbabwe".

Session Three, the same day, comprised the presentations of Dr. Lubna Nadvi (UKZN, South Africa), titled "Leadership and public participation among young Muslim South Africans"; Ms. Fatima Asmal (South Africa), titled "Shakira Cassim – a woman against all odds"; and Mr. Nurudean Ssempe (Medina Institute, South Africa) titled "Rolling back xenophobia through community dialogues".

The next day, Session Four, had Dr. Ahmad Sengendo (International Islamic University, Uganda) with a paper on "Academic development of Muslims in Uganda and prospects for future growth and development"; Mr. Ashraf Docrat (Johannesburg University, South Africa), on "Islamic literature in South Africa as a reflection of the Muslim community"; and Prof. Muhammad Haron (University of Botswana, Botswana), on "Southern Africa's Muslim minorities; scholarly research, bibliographical reflections".

Session Five had the following speakers: Dr. Haroon Aziz (South Africa) on "History, contribution, and challenge – Muslim contribution to the heroic struggle for freedom in South Africa (1668-1994)"; Ms. Annabelle Sutor (USA) on "Decolonizing Islam among South Africans of Gujarati Muslim origin"; and Mr. Haroon Mahomed (South Africa) with "Case study of a cultural co-existence experience in the South African context".

The sixth session heard Dr. Husein Mohammed Bowa (Uganda) on "Awqaf development in Uganda"; Mr. Yousuf Cajee (South Africa) on "Democracy and the problem with nationalisation and control of Awqaf property"; and Dr. Ghamiet Aysen (GEMS, South Africa) on "The greater Edindale Muslim Society (GEMS) program".

The last session of the second day, Session Seven, comprised the papers of Mr. Nazeem Braaf (South Africa) on "Restitution of Muslim heritage-land in South Africa"; Mr. Ebrahim Rhoda (South Africa) on Shrine of Shaykh Yusuf at Macassar"; and Prof. Suleman Dangor (UKZN, South Africa) on "Natal Muslims and international relations".

On the third day, the eighth session heard the following presentations: Prof. Yousuf Dadoo (South Africa) on "Muslims of South Africa: from newspapers to social media"; Dr. Ayesha Mall (Durban University of Technology, South Africa) on "New media: sites of contestation or liberation for South Africa's Muslims"; Mr. Farid Sayed (South Africa) on "From survival to sustainability: can community-based Muslim media meet the challenge? (c. 1960-1986)"; and Mr. Shafiq Morton (Voice of the Cape FM, South Africa) with "A look at



Sheikh M. Ihsaan Taliiep, Principal of IPSA presents a traditional African artwork to Dr. Halit Eren



Dr. Halit Eren presents one of recent publications on al Quds to Dr. Zeinoul Abedien Cajee, CEO, Awqaf SA



the role and impact of a community Muslim broadcaster, Voice of the Cape, 1995-1015".

At the last plenary session, Prof. Muhammad Haron from Botswana summarized the congress proceedings.

A panel comprising IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren, Awqaf SA CEO Dr. Zeinoul Abedien Cajee, Prof. Suleman Dangor from UKZN and Sheikh M. Ihsaan Taliiep, Principal of IPSA gathered conclusive remarks.

The geographical scope of the congress encompassed the whole of Southern Africa, which includes the following countries, some of them OIC member states: Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Comoros, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Lesotho, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

# IRCICA's Networking Session on "Promoting multicultural perspectives to prevent violent extremism" at the 7th Global Forum of the UN Alliance of Civilisations

Baku, 25-27 April 2016

The 7th Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilisations took place in Baku, capital city of Azerbaijan, on 25-27 April 2016. The motto of the 7th forum was "Living Together in Inclusive Societies: A Challenge and A Goal". The forum programme included plenary sessions, breakout sessions and networking sessions on numerous current issues of concern for work community with regard to peace, security and development; mainly, promoting inclusiveness and integration in a multicultural world and countering violent extremism and terrorism ([baku.unaoc.org](http://baku.unaoc.org)).

The high-level meeting of the UNAOC Group of Friends held on 26 April 2016 within the framework of the forum endorsed the Baku Declaration, which covers all matters on the UNAOC agenda, the related goals and objectives adopted and policy measures recommended. The meeting was addressed by heads of state and government and heads and representatives of international organizations from all continents. In his statement, IRCICA Director General Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren emphasized the need to develop and promote a pluralistic social vision and culture around the world in order to eradicate the potentials of polarization, exclusion, discrimination and conflict. He pointed to some needs and impediments faced in the realization of UNAOC objectives by world community. He recommended in this regard that evaluation criteria and indicators be attached to the objectives, specificity be brought to some objectives perceived as too general, wider participation of countries in the Alliance's sessions and projects be ensured, and geographical focuses of the Alliance activities be diversified, among others.

The Networking Session organized by IRCICA on 27 April 2016, titled "Promoting multicultural perspectives to prevent violent extremism", aimed to generate an exchange of experiences, and foster reflection, on practical policies and strategies implemented to diffuse, encourage and activate cultural multiperspectivity and pluralism in societies. It proposed a discussion on such topics as:

- Working towards definition of pluralism and multiperspectivity as attitudes and methods, in terms

The poster features logos for the United Nations, the 7th Global Forum Baku 2016, and IRCICA. The text on the poster reads: "Networking Session on 'Promoting Multicultural Perspectives to Prevent Violent Extremism' led by Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) Wednesday 27 April 2016, 11.30 - 13.00 Baku Convention Centre". Under the heading "THEMES INCLUDING:", there is a list of bullet points: "Working towards definition of pluralism and multiperspectivity as attitudes, methods and social culture", "Defining areas of action for applying cultural multiperspectivity toward prevention and elimination of violent extremism, including the areas of academic research, education, social and family development, community management, information media, among others", "Suggesting ways of integrating pluralistic approaches with development, peace and post-conflict strategies, including, among others, local development, educational, religious and migration policies", "Exchanging information on projects and practices among to identify multicultural perspectives through policy planning, education, scholarship, media, publishing and other sectors from local to global community levels", and "Suggesting channels and methods for global networking and information exchange to contribute to promoting pluralism and combating violent extremism".

applicable to different positions/conditions

- Defining areas of action for applying cultural multiperspectivity toward prevention and elimination of violent extremism, including the areas of academic research, education, social and family development, community management, information media, among others

- Suggesting ways of integrating pluralistic approaches with



Speakers at IRCICA's session

development, peace and post-conflict strategies, including among others rural development, educational, religious and migration policies

- Exchanging information on programs and practices aiming to develop multicultural perspectives through policy planning, education, scholarship, media, publishing and other sectors from local to global community levels
- Suggesting channels and methods for global networking and information exchange to contribute to promoting pluralism and combating violent extremism.

The session was opened with the Message of H.E. Mr. Iyad Ameen Madani, Secretary General, Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) which was read by IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren. The Secretary General emphasized that violent extremism, sectarianism and terrorism cannot be tackled with security or military means alone. Focus is therefore needed on the political, economic and social conditions conducive to these phenomena such as economic deprivation, political and social exclusion, discrimination, among others. Also highly important is the respect for human rights. For these reasons, formulation of a new paradigm for inter-religious, inter-sectarian tolerance and promotion of understanding and moderation through dialogue, is high in the OIC agenda.

Then, Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, emphasized the need to institute a culture of multiperspectivity by means of policies in pertinent areas such as religious studies, history, sociology and international relations. A new understanding has to be introduced in the action towards countering violent extremism which would reach beyond mutual respect among groups; to seek multiperspectivity and pluralism. In this regard he recorded the benefits drawn from IRCICA's programs of research and training on cultural and architectural heritage of specific cultures and civilizations

which enhance multicultural interests and intercultural skills of participants from all cultures of the world.

Mr. Doudou Diene, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance, Paris, pointed to essential questions and evolving issues in the global debate related to multiculturalism and addressed practical implications of the development of the discourse. Mr. Diene underlined the need to deconstruct the concept of multiculturalism intellectually, in order to promote it soundly. He referred to the transformation undergone by identities of communities as a result of which no nation can be defined on the basis of a single identity. As main vectors of such transformation he dwelt upon the effects of migrations, globalization, and structural transformation of populations. He underlined the need to adjust interreligious and intercultural dialogue taking these changes into consideration.

Amb. Gunay Afandiyeva, President of the Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation, Baku, highlighted common cultural elements and heritage assets of the Turkic world that her association promotes towards reinforcing cultural bridges between countries while reflecting their diversities.

Prof. Mohammed Abu-Nimer, Senior Advisor to Secretary General, King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (KAICIID), Vienna, pointed out existing misconceptions about Islam's understanding of such concepts as identity or diversity. He presented as case study the programs run by his institution to assess and evaluate the aims and curricula of Muslims' schools in various countries with respect to conduciveness to radicalism, extremism or separatism.

Prof. Dr. Darkhan Kydyrali, President of the International Turkic Academy, Astana, referred with many examples and quotes, to the concept of multiperspectivity as reflected in

scientific, scholarly, intellectual and literary works of the past and the present. He emphasized the power of these works in promoting inclusiveness and solving today's related key problems. He underlined the important role of scientific and scholarly communities in promoting multiperspectivity and pluralism.

Principal contributions of IRCICA's session to the discussion and cooperation promoted by the UNAOC around the objective of countering violent extremism were:

- an emphasis on "Pluralism" as an active stance that reaches further beyond tolerance and mutual respect and upholds multiculturalism and diversity
- pointing to the need to re-understand the concept of multiculturalism in the light of identity crises and transformations in today's societies
- emphasis on the role of scientific and scholarly communities in promoting multiculturalism
- benefits of vocational training aiming to enhance intercultural operation and communication skills of professionals from all sectors
- pertinence of introspective studies by the various faith and cultural communities aiming to assess any existing trends

or potential factors indicative of or conducive to negative processes such as radicalization and extremism.

IRCICA will continue to collaborate with the UNAOC around its objectives that are common to its own. It can be remembered on this occasion that IRCICA had actively participated in the Alliance's Second Global Forum (Istanbul, 2009) where IRCICA, Council of Europe and North-South Centre of Council of Europe presented one of their joint projects, namely the three-year project titled "A history of interactions within and around the Mediterranean and with other cultures". In the Third Forum (Rio de Janeiro, 2010) IRCICA co-organized, jointly with international cultural institutions, a Thematic Session titled "History as a Tool for Cultural Cooperation" where it made one of the seven presentations. IRCICA also actively participated in the Fourth Global Forum of the UNAOC (Doha, 2011) where it co-organized a Thematic Session on History Education jointly with European institutions and presented a paper. During the same forum it also organized a side session highlighting the importance of Rihla – Travel Literature for cultural dialogue, jointly with ISESCO. The Centre also organized a session during the Sixth Global Forum of the UNAOC (Bali, 2014), titled "Coexistence of Different Cultures: Examples from History as Lessons for the Future".



# OIC Workshop for Reviewing the OIC Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women (OPAAW) and its Implementation Mechanisms

IRCICA, 28-29 January 2016

An "OIC Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women" (OPAAW) is in the course of preparation by the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) at the request of the OIC Member States during a series of Ministerial Conferences on Women that were held in Istanbul in 2006, Cairo in 2008, Tehran in 2010, Jakarta in 2012 and Baku in 2014. The Plan of Action aims at improving the status of women in the Muslim world, enhancing the capacity of women to play active roles in all walks of life and eliminating all discrimination against women, among many other objectives. Its contents were developed and adopted during the Ministerial Conference held in Tehran. The document is in the course of finalization, for its adoption before the ratifications process.



Within this framework, an OIC Workshop for Reviewing the OIC Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women (OPAAW) and its Implementation Mechanisms was held on 28-29 January 2016 at IRCICA. Representatives of the OIC General Secretariat and experts representing the following OIC Subsidiary Organs and Institutions attended the Workshop: General Directorate of Cultural, Social and Family Affairs, OIC; OIC Office in New York; OIC Office in Geneva; Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA); Statistical, Economic, Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRIC); Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO); Islamic Development Bank (IDB); Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA). While keeping the contents of the Plan as adopted by the Member States, the workshop aimed at proposing a reviewed format and a revised text for it and elaborating upon its implementation mechanisms.

At the opening of the workshop the Director General of IRCICA, Dr. Halit Eren gave a welcoming address. Dr. Boubakari Maiga from the OIC General Secretariat conveyed the wishes of success of H.E. the Secretary General of OIC to the workshop, and gave opening remarks in which he outlined



L-R: Dr. Boubakari Maiga from the Directorate General of Cultural, Social and Family Affairs, OIC General Secretariat; Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA; Ms. Zeynep Durukal, Senior Expert, IRCICA

the OPAAW objectives and outlined the stages achieved in the preparation and adoption of the Plan and its Implementation Mechanisms. During the working sessions, the participants undertook a meticulous review of the said documents and also agreed upon a set of recommendations on the implementation of the Plan which were subsequently submitted to the OIC General Secretariat for ultimate consideration by the Member States.

## IRCICA's participation at the Social Sciences Forum in Astana

Kazakhstan, 23-25 May 2016

The Social Sciences Forum convened by the International Turkic Academy, Astana, Kazakhstan on 23-25 May 2016, brought together scholars of Eurasian and Turkic history and culture, statesmen and executives of international organizations to discuss the significance of cultural values of Eurasian and Turkic nations in the development of human civilization, as well as to seek answers to pressing issues of the contemporary world. Its outcomes can be grouped around two axes: to elucidate new trends in Turkic studies that provide fresh perspectives on history, culture and languages of Turkic nations; and, to emphasize the critical role played by science and scientific thinking in the fight against extremism, radicalism and terrorism. More than 140 participants from 20

countries attended the forum, which consisted of four panels. The speakers included IRCICA Director General Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren, the President of the Turkish Academy of Sciences Prof. Ahmet Cevat Acar, the Chair of the Union of Caucasian Universities and Rector of Ardahan University Prof. Ramazan Korkmaz and the Head of the Turkish History Institution Prof. Refik Turan. In his address Dr. Eren shared IRCICA's experiences in its activities aiming to foster international cultural cooperation, emphasizing in particular the regional approaches adopted by IRCICA with focuses on both commonalities and diversities of countries/communities in the different regions of the Muslim world, including those that intersect with Eurasia and the Turkic world.

## IRCICA's exhibition of historical photographs "Al-Quds/Jerusalem 100 Years Ago"

Dakar, Senegal, 3-4 May 2016

An International Conference on the Question of Jerusalem, titled "Jerusalem at the Heart of Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine" was jointly organized by the United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Dakar, on 3-4 May 2016.

On the sidelines of the conference, an exhibition of historical photographs of Al-Quds entitled "Al-Quds/Jerusalem 100 Years Ago" was presented by IRCICA. The exhibition comprised 40 photographs selected from the albums of the Ottoman Sultan Abdulhamid II and IRCICA's archives. It depicted scenes and monuments belonging to the different faiths that coexisted in a peaceful climate at the end of the 19th-beginning of the 20th century.

Representatives of governments, intergovernmental organizations, the UN system and the OIC system participating in the conference visited the exhibition ([http://www.oic-oci.org/oicv3/topic/?t\\_id=11144&t\\_ref=4382&lan](http://www.oic-oci.org/oicv3/topic/?t_id=11144&t_ref=4382&lan)).



## Preservation of architectural heritage

### Ninth short-term architectural school organized by IRCICA & Al-Turath Foundation

Jeddah, 12-19 March 2016

Two palaces in Makkah and a historical area in Jeddah were studied during the Spring Training Course conducted from 12-19 March 2016 with the participation of architecture students. The training course was ninth within the framework of the program "Islamic Urban Heritage: Research, Preservation and Management" being carried out by IRCICA and Al-Turath Islamic Heritage Foundation (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) since 2011.

The city of Makkah, situated on the eastern shore of the Red Sea, is considered by Muslims as their first holy place. The Revelation of Islam started in Makkah; it is the birthplace of Prophet Muhammad p.b.u.h., and where the Prophet returned after his stay in Madina. Makkah houses the Holy Ka'ba, towards which Muslims turn their faces while performing their prayers. Makkah is Muslims' destination of pilgrimage – Hajj.

Makkah has a considerable number of historically important buildings including mosques, forts and palaces. There are a few historical palaces located in Jarool area of Makkah which are studied from the conservation point of view. These palaces represent a composite type of cultural heritage which is a unique in its own. Some of them represent a specific style found only in coral stone buildings of the western coast of Jeddah and Yanbu where wooden mashrubiyas and rabta-khashbiya are essential features of the buildings. A preliminary study was conducted by Al-Turath Islamic Heritage Foundation to study some of these historic monuments from the conservation point of view.

Regarding the historical part of Jeddah (Al-Balad), a general strategy for the preservation and revitalization is being drawn by the Saudi Commission for Tourism and Antiquities (SCTA) in coordination with Jeddah Municipality and with the participation of civil society. The Gate to Makkah located in Jeddah was included in UNESCO's World Heritage List in 2014. The Gate to Makkah is a living urban environment primarily hosting residential and commercial activities with mosques and charitable structures and the headquarters of centuries-old economic enterprises.

Jeddah is also the gateway for Muslim pilgrims on their way to Makkah since the 7th century, when the Third Caliph Othman bin Affan made it the official port of Makkah. The city grew into a multicultural center characterized by a distinctive architectural tradition. The historical part of Jeddah reflects the Red Sea architectural tradition, a construction style once common to cities on both coasts of the Red Sea that has specific and innovative technical and aesthetic





solutions to cope with humidity and heat. It has typical building materials and decorative patterns.

Al-Balad has traditional mosques, namely Masjid Al-Shafi'i, Masjid al-Mimar, the Mosque of Othman bin Affan or Masjid Al-Albanus and Mosque of Abu Anbah, large houses such as Beit Nasif, Beit Zenal and Beit Noorwali, schools, charity houses (ribat), including Ribat Banajah - Hadhramouth, Ribat al-Khanji Kabir and Saghir and Ribat Al-Maghrabi, charitable foundations (waqf), and springs (ayyun), such as Ain Qausiyah.

During this training program, the participants were taught a complete process of conservation of the historical structures, with a precise delineation of what survives in terms of buildings and urban plans, guidelines for future protection and conservation, and a clear understanding of the threshold beyond which integrity would be damaged if proper preservation were not implemented. A Restoration Manual prepared by Al-Turath Foundation was used as reference.

In its successive stages, the program included: collection of historical data, survey of buildings using traditional methods and computer-laser technology, analyses of buildings' state as to construction (foundation, external and internal walls, wall plaster, beams, joist and all the internal details), materials and types of doors, windows, mushrabiyyas, rabta hasbiyyah (timber pieces of connection placed generally in between coral stone walls), etc., levels and causes of deterioration, etc.), and diagnosis of the problems



of specific buildings for conservation purposes; then, after this assessment and preparation came the conception of the restitution of the buildings to their original state and finally, preparation of a design for rehabilitation and reuse of the buildings.

The training program was carried out under the supervision of Prof. Arch. Amir Pasic and Dr. Osamah al-Gohary, with the participation of local professionals.

# Kuwait International Exhibition on Islamic Arts and its Application on Metal Crafts

Kuwait City, 7-14 February 2016

Under the high patronage of His Highness the Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, in celebrating Kuwait as the "Capital of Islamic Culture 2016" and within the framework of the 7th Kuwait International Gathering for Islamic Arts and History, the Kuwait International Exhibition on Islamic Arts and its Application on Metal Crafts was organized jointly by IRCICA and Kuwait Centre for Islamic Arts of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, with the support of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters, Kuwait. The exhibition was held in Kuwait City on 7-14 February 2016. The event assembled 16 artisans, working in all types and forms of metal handicrafts, including jewelry, decorative swords, boxes, light objects, metal-repousse, metal ornamentations on vases, jugs, plates, etc. The artisans came from the following countries: Algeria, Afghanistan, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, Tataristan, Tunisia, Turkey, and Uzbekistan. In the same context, IRCICA also organized an exhibition of calligraphy and illumination works by illuminator Ms. Fatma



Ozcay from Turkey and her students.

The exhibition was inaugurated by H.E. Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, Minister of Information, Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Chairman of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters, H.E. Minister Yaqoub Al-Sane, Minister of Justice, Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Dr Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, along with the Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Awqaf and the Director General of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters. HE Sheikh Salman in his address affirmed that Kuwait believes

in the role of arts and culture in preparing an enlightened generation capable of contributing to the progress and development of their homeland. He commended the efforts made by the organizers. In particular he highly praised the role of IRCICA in organizing such an important event in Kuwait.

H.E. Minister Yaqoub Al-Sane, Minister of Justice, Awqaf and Islamic Affairs stated that this forum contributes to the status of Kuwait as



Inauguration of the Exhibition

a centre of Islamic arts, adding that over the last seven years the forum rose to prominence and became a global cultural beacon providing a networking opportunity for scholar and researchers and lovers of the Islamic arts.

Dr Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA in his address pointed to the active role of IRCICA in organizing this international Exhibition on Islamic Arts and its application on Metal Crafts and gave a brief of the efforts made during the last few months in contacting the concerned handicrafts authorities in the OIC Member Countries in order to guarantee the participation of eminent artisans who are innovators in the field. The Director General also alluded to the various joint activities implemented by IRCICA in collaboration with Kuwait Centre for Islamic Arts. In this regard he mentioned the First International Exhibition on Handmade Prayer Carpets organized in Kuwait on 29 December 2013-9 January 2014 with the participation of 12 pioneer artisans from 12 countries.

He also mentioned the Kuwait International Exhibition on Ceramic and Pottery held in Kuwait on 4-15 January 2010 which was organized by IRCICA in cooperation with Kuwait Centre for Islamic Arts. He added that all these activities were organized within the IRCICA Crafts Development Program which is one of the major projects of the Centre. The Project, implemented for many years, aims to promote, develop and highlight the important role of Artisans in the Muslim World.

Dr. Eren gave a highlight of the various activities in the Centre in the field of research, scholarly events, and specialized studies on history, culture, arts, architecture and education in the context of Islamic civilization studies; its bibliographic studies on translations of the Holy Qur'an along with studies and publications on the oldest copies of the Holy Qur'an. He also underlined the important role of IRCICA in the field of Calligraphy: the competitions, the training courses, and the publications. Dr. Eren also referred to the exhibitions of historical photographs of Haramain and Al Quds that the Centre organizes at different venues around the world. Furthermore he informed the audience on the architectural workshops that the Centre organizes aiming to promote the skills of young professionals on documenting, restoring and preserving the architectural heritage of the Muslim world.



H.E. Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, Minister of Information, Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Chairman of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters, H.E. Minister Yaqoub Al-Sane, Minister of Justice, Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and Dr Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA visiting the metal crafts stands



H.E. Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, Minister of Information, Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Chairman of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters, H.E. Minister Yaqoub Al-Sane, Minister of Justice, Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and Dr Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA visiting the calligraphers' stands



H.E. Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, Minister of Information, Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Chairman of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters, H.E. Minister Yaqoub Al-Sane, Minister of Justice, Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and Dr Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA visiting the gilding exhibition by F. Özçay and her students arranged by IRCICA



Director General of IRCICA presenting a plate with calligraphy and illumination to H.E. Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, Minister of Information, Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Chairman of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters, H.E. Minister Yaqoub Al-Sane, Minister of Justice, Awqaf and Islamic Affairs.



## Meetings, Cooperation

H.E. Yahya Jammeh, President of the Islamic Republic of The Gambia, met with the Director General of IRCICA Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren on 17 April 2016, before leaving Istanbul after the 13th Islamic Summit Conference. President Jammeh expressed his appreciation of the activities of IRCICA and the outcomes of cooperation between the latter and the cultural authorities and institutions of The Gambia.

Forthcoming joint activities to result from this cooperation are an international congress on the "History of Islamic Civilisation in West Africa" and an international Sub-Regional Art Festival to be held in Banjul from 27-31 August 2016.

The day before, H.E. Dr. Aboubacar Abdullah Senghore, Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology, H.E. Mr. Abdou Jobe, Minister of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment, and H.E. Hon. Justice Mrs. Mama Fatima Singhateh, Attorney General and Minister of Justice, who were in the entourage of President Jammeh, visited IRCICA and discussed with Director General Dr. Eren on the activities.



H.E. Salah bin Abdulaziz Al-Sheikh, Minister of Islamic Affairs, Endowments, Dawa and Guidance of Saudi Arabia visited IRCICA on 15 April 2016, during the period of the 13th Islamic Summit Conference held in Istanbul.



The Minister of Culture and Tourism of Azerbaijan H.E. Dr. Abulfaz Garayev visited IRCICA on 5 February 2016. The meeting with Director General Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren touched upon the diverse areas of ongoing cooperation between IRCICA and the cultural authorities, the universities and cultural institutions of Azerbaijan.



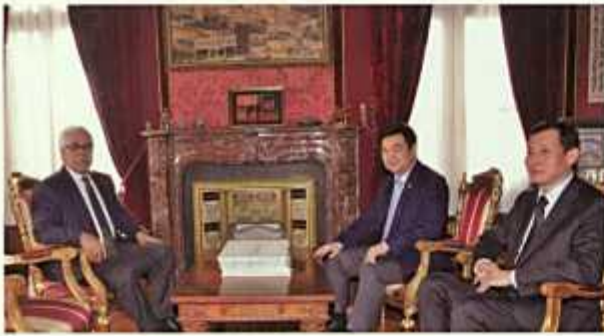
H.E. Mr. Furkan Cako, Minister of State for Foreign Investments in the Republic of Macedonia visited IRCICA's Director General Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren on 4 February 2016, during the period of a visit to Turkey. Sectors of IRCICA's activities relating to the Balkans naturally cover the history, cultural and architectural heritage of Macedonia and draw participants from the country.



Fifteen senior administrative staff from different faculties of Universiti Teknologi MARA Malaysia, Shah Alam, Malaysia, visited the Director General of IRCICA Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren on 24 February 2016



Dr. Sheikh Tidiane Gadio, ex-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Senegal and Special Envoy of the OIC Secretary General for the Central African Republic, visited IRCICA Director General Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren on 23 February 2016.



Prof. Dr. Darkhan Kydyrali, President of the International Turkic Academy, Astana, Kazakhstan, was received by the Director General of IRCICA Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren. Their meeting focused on common areas of interest, among them international academic cooperation in cultural studies within and between regions of the world.

## Remembering the late Justice Javid Iqbal (1924-2015)

IRCICA is deeply saddened that Senior Justice (r.) Dr. Javid Iqbal, a Pakistani philosopher and senior justice at the Supreme Court of Pakistan who was member and Vice-Chairman of the Governing Board of IRCICA, passed away on 3 October 2015. His valuable contributions to the Board's proceedings and cooperation with IRCICA are remembered with gratitude. IRCICA conveys sincere condolences to his spouse, Justice (R.) Mrs. Nasira Iqbal.

Justice Javid Iqbal was member of the Governing Board of IRCICA from 1986-89 and at the same time member of the OIC's International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage (ICPICH), an ad-hoc OIC organ which functioned from 1983-2000 until it was merged with IRCICA and its activity programs integrated into those of IRCICA.

Dr. Iqbal participated in IRCICA's activities several times. He gave a lecture titled "The Image of Turkey from Iqbal's Viewpoint" at IRCICA on 27 April 1987 about the philosopher, politician, barrister and scholar in British India Muhammad Iqbal / Allama Iqbal (1877-1938), his father. Javid Iqbal also participated in the "Commemoration of Muhammad Iqbal" organized at IRCICA on 25 March 1998

Senior Justice Javid Iqbal had the following educational degrees and distinctions: BA (Hon.) in 1944 from the Government College, Lahore; MA in English and MA in Philosophy (Gold Medalist) in 1948, Punjab; PhD in Philosophy in 1954 from the University of Cambridge, U.K.; Bar-at-Law, Lincoln's Inn, London, in 1956; Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters, Villanova University, U.S.A., in 1989; Honorary Doctorate of Islamic Literature and Science, Selçuk University, Konya, Turkey, 1990. Starting from 1956, Dr. Iqbal fulfilled the following functions: advocate, High Court, Lahore, and Visiting Lecturer at the Punjab University Law College, Lahore; Visiting Professor for Islamic Culture, University of Mexico; President, Lahore High Court Bar Association; member, Pakistan Bar Council; Judge, Lahore High Court; Chief Justice, Lahore High Court; Judge, Supreme Court of Pakistan; member, Board of Governors, Government College, Lahore; elected member,

Senate of Pakistan (Upper House of Parliament); during 1995-2005 he was Chairman of the Pakistan Movement Workers Trust and member of Nazaria-e-Pakistan Foundation. From 1985, he held the following honorary positions and distinctions: Vice-President, Governing Body, Iqbal Academy, Pakistan; permanent member, Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research, Amman, Jordan; member, International Committee, Gaddafi Human Rights Award, Tripoli, Libya; awarded Hilal-e-Imtiaz by the Government of Pakistan.



He lectured all around the world on a variety of themes related to Islamic culture, philosophy, languages, politics and particularly the thoughts and works of his father, the illustrious Pakistani philosopher Muhammad Iqbal. During 1960-62, and in 1977 and 1999 he was the delegate of Pakistan to the UN General Assembly and in 1984 and 1987, Pakistan delegate to Human Rights Commission in Geneva. His publications include the following: Ideology of Pakistan and its Implementation (1959, revised edition 2005); Stray Reflections: A Note-Book of Iqbal (1961); Legacy of Quaid-e-Azam (1968, in English and Urdu) Mai Lala Faam (1968, collection of papers on Iqbal, in Urdu). Zinda Rood (1984, biography of Iqbal in three volumes, in Urdu); Afkare-Iqbal (1992, interpretation of Iqbal's thought); Islam and Pakistan's Identity (2003, in English); Jehan-e-Javid (2004, plays, short stories and philosophical essays, in Urdu); Khutbat-e-Iqbal, Tashreeh-o-Tafheem (2007, Interpretation of Iqbal's Six Lectures on the Reconstruction of Religious Thought of Islam, in Urdu); Intellectual Legacy (2012, essays on academic, literary, educational issues, in English); Razia Sultan (2014, historical play); Dramatised Urdu Translation of Javid Nama (2015, epic Persian poem of Allama Iqbal).

### Günümüze Ulaşan Mesahif-i Kadime. İlk Mushaflar Üzerine Bir İnceleme

(Old copies of the Quran that reached our time. A study on the earliest copies),

prepared for publication by Dr. Tayyar Altıkulaç, published by IRCICA, Istanbul, 2015; 375 p.

(in Turkish, English and Arabic editions in preparation)

IRCICA carries out a research program on the earliest copies of the Holy Quran that are located in various libraries around the world. The aim is to trace the process of transmission of the Quran starting from the first manuscripts and examine cases and developments relating to aspects such as script, orthography and physical composition, among others, with reference to historical periods and geographical locations. In this context IRCICA published six studies until the present, relating to: the copies attributed to the time of the Third Caliph, Uthman bin Affan and preserved, respectively, at Topkapı Palace Museum in Istanbul (2007) and at the Central Library of Islamic Manuscripts attached to the Ministry of Awqaf of Egypt in Cairo (2009); the copy attributed to the time of Ali bin Abi Talib and located in the Manuscripts Library near Sana'a Grand Mosque, Yemen (2011); the copy dated to the period of Uthman bin Affan and preserved at the Islamic Arts Museum in Cairo (2014); the early fragment preserved at the National Library of France, in Paris (2015).

The present book represents the culmination of the rich findings and experiences accumulated throughout the above work. It synthesizes the observations and comparisons made in the study of earliest copies of the Quran and presents them in a concise and instructive format, as the book's section titles indicate: the Introduction underlines the importance of the comprehensive field of research related to copies of the Quran and evokes efforts made in this field in the Muslim world and in Europe. Section 1 is on the origins and history of development of the Arabic language and the Arabic script. Section 2 is a comprehensive history of the earliest copies, including the processes of compilation of the Quran in book form between two covers, the "Rasm al-Uthmani", i.e. the script and orthography of the copies made under the supervision of Caliph Uthman bin Affan and the different scholarly opinions about the necessity of conformity with it, the assignment of vowel signs, reading signs and punctuation signs to the Quranic text and many other subjects. Section 3 outlines the works and contributions of Orientalists in Quranic studies and collection of Quran copies. Section 4 examines the copies that



are attributed to the period of Uthman bin Affan and Section 5, those attributed to the period of Ali bin Abi Talib. Section 6 outlines the findings of detailed studies conducted within the framework of IRCICA's project on the copies located at the National Library of France, the Islamic Arts Museum in Cairo and the library of Tübingen University, Germany. The book was authored by Dr. Tayyar Altıkulaç, an authoritative scholar in Quranic studies and former President of Religious Affairs in Turkey.

البلاد العربية في الوثائق العثمانية  
الحرمان الشريفان في عهد السلطان سليم الثاني

## The Arab Provinces in the Ottoman Documents Al-Haramayn during the period of Sultan Selim II

Compilation, translation and study by Fazil Bayat. Foreword: Halit Eren  
Volume IV, History of Muslim countries through Ottoman Archive Documents, n°3,  
IRCICA, Istanbul, 2015, 308 pp.+ CD, reproductions of sample documents, 29 cm.  
(texts of documents : in Ottoman ; translation and study : in Arabic)

This is the fourth volume published by IRCICA to facilitate access of researchers whose main language is Arabic to the Ottoman documents concerning the Arab provinces of the Ottoman State. The first three volumes, published in 2010, 2011 and 2014 respectively, comprised documents from the periods of sultans Selim I and Sulaiman the Lawgiver. As to the fourth volume, it is related to the Haramayn (Makkah al-Mukarramah and Madina al-Munawara) in the period of Sultan Selim II (974-982 H / 1566-1574).

A relatively larger number of documents are inherited from that period; this first study is devoted to those on the two holy places of Muslims on account of their importance for Muslims. Dr. Fazil Bayat, expert at IRCICA, prepared the book with the same methodology as in the earlier ones, by transliterating, translating and analyzing each Ottoman document. A detailed index facilitates the reader's task. The documents studied in this volume were selected from among the *Hükmü Hümayun* (Imperial Decrees) contained in the *Muhimme* (essential questions) registers 7-26 in the Ottoman Archives in Istanbul.

The documents on Al-Haramayn are classified in the book under fourteen subject headings: constructions and services in Makkah, construction and services in Madina, the project concerning the Arafah water canal in Makkah, supply of water for visitors at the Prophet's mosque in Madina, the employees for different services in Al-Haramayn, waqfs and religious affairs, maintenance and cleaning in Al-Haramayn, schools, services and resources of the waqfs, provision of soup and grains to people of the region, pilgrimage (Hadj) affairs and pilgrims, notables of Makkah, economic affairs in Al-Haramayn, and miscellaneous questions.



The series will continue with volumes focusing on the history of other regions, the next one on Iraki provinces.

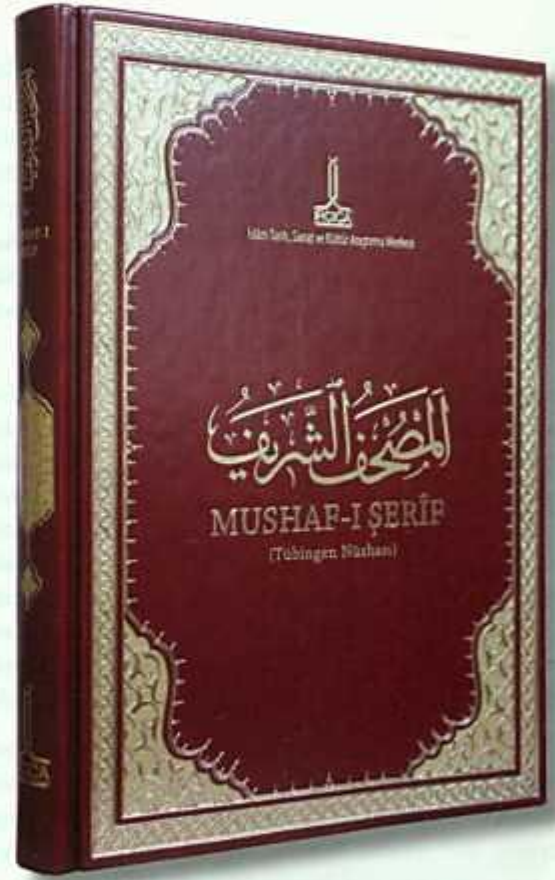
## Al-Mushaf Al-Sharif (Tubingen copy)

prepared for publication by Dr. Tayyar Altıkulaç,

IRCICA, Istanbul, 2016; 50, [1], 309, 54 pp. (Text in Arabic and Turkish)

IRCICA's research program on the earliest copies of the Holy Quran continues. It aims to trace the process of transmission of the Quran starting from the first manuscripts and examine features as to script, orthography and physical composition, among others, with reference to the historical periods and geographical locations. In this context IRCICA published six books until the present, relating to: the following copies: those attributed to the time of the Third Caliph, Uthman bin Affan and preserved, respectively, at Topkapı Palace Museum in Istanbul (2007) and at the Central Library of Islamic Manuscripts attached to the Ministry of Awqaf of Egypt in Cairo (2009); the copy attributed to the time of Ali bin Abi Talib and located in the Manuscripts Library near Sana'a Grand Mosque, Yemen (2011); the copy dated to the period of Uthman bin Affan and preserved at the Islamic Arts Museum in Cairo (2014); the early fragment preserved at the National Library of France, in Paris (2015) and now, the early fragment located at Tubingen University Library in Germany (2016).

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



as to vowel signs, dots and symbols and their significance. The study contributes importantly to knowledge on the history of dissemination of the Holy Quran. At the same time, its conclusions disprove the attempts made by some orientalist to raise questions of the authenticity of the Quranic text.

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

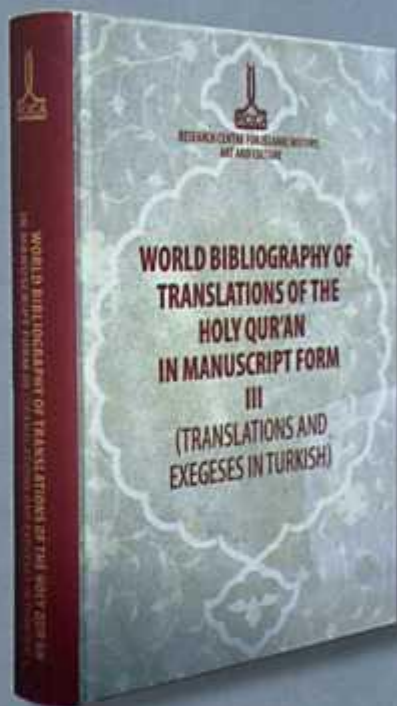
Bibliography on the Holy Quran series no. 4, Istanbul, 2016, xviii, 511 p., 29 cm.  
(in English and Turkish)

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

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

The second volume, the *World Bibliography of Translations of the Holy Quran in Manuscript Form II (Translations in Urdu)*, compiled by Mr. Ahmad Khan (Pakistan) and containing 226 entries, appeared in 2009.

Now IRCICA presents the third volume, an extensive one titled *World Bibliography of Translations of the Holy Quran in Manuscript Form III (Translations and Exegeses in Turkish)*. It has been compiled from various library catalogues, studies and publications. Presently in preparation by IRCICA and next to appear is a fourth



volume of the same series, which will be on translations and interpretations in the Persian language preserved in institutions, libraries, public and private collections around the world.

