



Newsletter



OIC RESEARCH CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC HISTORY, ART AND CULTURE

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Editorial

I convey my greetings to our readers through this issue, a record of the Spring-Summer 2015 period at IRCICA. Other than the activities featured in this issue, we have conducted a lot of work in relation with ongoing projects and preparations for forthcoming events. Among the latter, a congress on "Islamic Civilisation in Southern Africa" is in preparation, to be organized jointly with the University of Kwazulu-Natal and the National Awqaf Foundation of South Africa (AwqafSA), in Durban, at the end of November 2015. It will be the second congress on this theme, after the first one which was held in 2006 in Johannesburg. Other congresses are in preparation for later months in the series on the History of Islamic Civilisation in different regions of the world. Meantime, in a totally different area of our Centre's activities, that of Islamic arts, the registration phase for the Tenth International Calligraphy Competition will continue according to the announced calendar, until the end of October 2015. Subsequently, entries will be received for the competition, by the end of February 2016. Again on arts, preparations are made towards the Putrajaya International Islamic Arts and Culture Festival 2015 to be organized by Restu Foundation Malaysia and IRCICA in Malaysia on 29 October-1 November 2015.

As regards the events and activities conducted during the period under review, I am glad to record that the Fifth Congress on Islamic Civilisation in the Balkans, organized in Sarajevo last May, achieved a degree of specialization worthy of the advanced stage reached in this series. The Balkans region offers a multicultural heritage and a multitude of cases and experiences for studies on history of cultures and coexistence of cultures. Our publications resulting from these congresses have already formed a considerable body of references for the use of researchers.

During the same period, two photograph exhibitions offered glimpses of the past of the Muslim world's three holiest cities: Makkah, Madina and Al-Quds. The exhibition titled "Haramein, Makkah al-Mukarramah and Madina al-Munawara during the Ottoman Period" was opened in Kuala Lumpur on 12 June for a three-month period where it travelled to other Malaysian cities. As to the exhibition on Al-Quds, it was opened in Madrid on 4 May for a period of one month.

Another event featured in this issue is the Tabriz International Festival for Arts, Crafts and Creativity which was accompanied by an international congress on Innovation Dimension in Arts and Crafts, the Tabriz International Award for Innovation and Creativity in Crafts, and an international exhibition of Artisans-as-at-Work. The festival took place from 8-15 May 2015. Previously, in 2013, IRCICA and the Ministry of Culture of Iran had jointly organized the Tehran-Tabriz International Congress on Features, Characteristics and Cultural and Economic Contribution of Arts and Handicrafts, proceedings of which were published by IRCICA in 2014. IRCICA's activities concerning handicrafts will continue: as this issue goes to press early September, we shall be launching another, similar event, in Istanbul: the Pendik International Festival of Artisans-at-Work. As in earlier events, the festival will bring together artisans from allover the world.

The first article in this issue outlines the proceedings of the 42nd Session of the OIC's Council of Ministers which was held in Kuwait City at the end of May 2015. As usual under its agenda items relating to activities of the OIC's subsidiaries, the session examined and adopted, among others, IRCICA's activity report for 2015 and its proposed work program for 2016 which will be put to implementation accordingly.

Thank you for your interest,

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



The 42nd Session of the OIC's Council of Foreign Ministers

Kuwait City, ٢٨-٢٧ May ٢٠١٥

The 42nd Session of the OIC's Council of Foreign Ministers was held in Kuwait City, State of Kuwait, from 27-28 May 2015 under the theme: "Session of Joint Vision for the Promotion of Tolerance and Denunciation of Terrorism". H.H. Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Emir of the State of Kuwait opened the session with a statement underscoring the importance of collective action in the face of the many challenges presently facing the Member States. Referring to the conflict situation engulfing the Middle East, the Emir underlined the need for a peaceful solution and settlement away from the military option. His Highness further expressed grave concern on the threat of terrorism and sectarianism, and urged the OIC to confront them.

In his address, H.E. Mr. Iyad Ameen Madani, Secretary General of the OIC, congratulated H.H. Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Emir of the State of Kuwait for his humanitarian endeavors which have earned him the UN Award of "Humanitarian Leader". He evoked the various development assistance the Emir and the State of Kuwait have been extending to several developing countries including OIC Member States.

The Chair of the 41st Council of Foreign Ministers, the Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia H.E. Mr. Adel Al-Jubeir gave an account of their stewardship during the past period since the Council's last session. He also raised the challenge posed by terrorism and called for a strong measures to confront its menace.

H.E. Mr. Iyad Ameen Madani, Secretary General of the OIC, reviewed the activities of the General Secretariat during the past year. He highlighted the need for a new OIC strategy to combat the growing threat of terrorism and extremism. He also emphasized the importance of attending the question of the rights of Muslim minorities in different parts of the world. He emphasized the importance of cooperation in the economic, science and technology, education and cultural fields. He spoke of the need of poverty alleviation, microfinance projects, youth empowerment and human right issues.

On behalf of the Member States' three geographic groups, Kingdom of Jordan for the Arab Group, the Republic of Guinea for the African Group and the Republic of Bangladesh for the Asian Group pledged full cooperation of their respective regional groups with the State of Kuwait in its chairmanship of the Council during its new term. A wide range of issues of interest to the Member States were discussed by the Council leading to the adoption of resolutions on various issues, including the Cause of Palestine and the Middle East; Political Affairs; Statutory, Organic and General Matters; Legal Affairs; Conditions of Muslim Minorities and Communities in non-OIC Member States; Information Affairs; Administrative and Financial Affairs; Humanitarian Affairs; Economic, Science and Technology, Cultural, Social, and Family Affairs. On the sidelines of the CFM, meetings of the Contact Groups on Jammu and Kashmir, Mali, Somali and Muslim minority in Myanmar, were also convened to discuss the latest



H.H. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kuwait, together with H.E. the Secretary General of OIC and the heads of delegations

developments and the way forward. A special brain storming session was convened on terrorism and violent extremism to examine the dynamic nature of these threats and come out with a new unified stand and strategy to confront them. The Council unanimously adopted the "Kuwait Declaration" which addressed major issues affecting the Muslim world (http://www.oic-oci.org/oicv2/page/?p_id=68&p_ref=37&lan=en).

In its review of the activities of the OIC's subsidiary organs during the past year, in the cultural field the Council considered reports submitted by the General Secretariat, IRCICA, International Islamic Fiqh Academy and Islamic Solidarity Fund. In its resolution concerning IRCICA in particular, the Council "noted with appreciation the production of a number of reference books and organization of congresses on subjects relating to history, history of culture, cultural and architectural heritage, arts and traditional handicrafts of the Muslim world in the context of the Centre's various programs and research projects." The Council commended the Centre's activities relating to the Islamic heritage of Al-Quds, in particular the "Al-Quds/Jerusalem 2015" program of architectural studies and workshops, and those concerning the preservation of Islamic architectural heritage in general, including the program of short-term schools titled "Islamic Urban Heritage.

Research, Preservation and Management" conducted jointly with Al-Turath Foundation, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Islamic Architectural Heritage Database sponsored by H.R.H. Prince Sultan bin Salman, Secretary General of the Supreme Council for Tourism and Antiquities, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The Council also took note of the activities on inter-cultural dialogue, the international projects and thematic sessions during Global Forums which diffuse correct knowledge on Islam and its civilization, their values of inter-faith tolerance, and their history of interactions with other cultures and civilizations. Concerning the regional congresses focusing on the history of Islamic civilization and Muslim countries, the Council noted that these events help strengthen scholarly bonds between the Member States on one hand and the Muslim communities outside the Member States on the other, and open avenues of cooperation with regions within and outside the Muslim world. The Council also commended the Centre's activity programs and events it organizes with the aim of promoting the arts and handicrafts of the Muslim world.

The 43rd Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, to be held in 2016, will be hosted by the Republic of Uzbekistan.

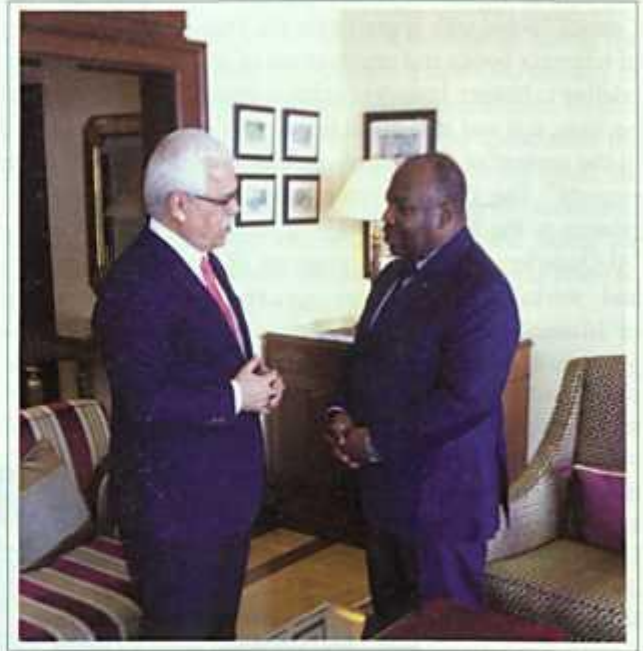


IRCICA Director General received by H.E. Ali Bongo Ondimba, President of the Gabonese Republic

Istanbul, 13 May 2015

Director General of IRCICA Dr. Halit Eren was received by H.E. Ali Bongo Ondimba, President of the Gabonese Republic on 13 May 2015, during the President's state visit to Turkey.

Dr. Eren briefed President Ondimba on the Centre's activities, showing samples of the Centre's publications. President Ondimba expressed his appreciation of IRCICA's activities and his encouragement to the Centre in developing its cooperation with Gabonese cultural institutions and enhancing participation of Gabonese scholars, artists and other interested circles in events it organizes. The idea to hold a congress on the history of Islamic civilization in Central Africa as a joint event of Gabonese academic institutions and IRCICA was discussed.



Presentation of samples of the Centre's publications on the history of Islamic civilization in Africa



A plate bearing the Quranic verse 49/13 adopted by IRCICA as its motto, offered to H.E. the President

Fifth International Congress on Islamic Civilization in the Balkans

Sarajevo, 21-23 May 2015

An international congress on the theme "Islamic Civilization in the Balkans" was jointly organized by IRCICA and the University of Sarajevo, on 21-23 May 2015. The congress was fifth in IRCICA's series on the theme after those held in Bulgaria (2000), Albania (2013), Romania (2006) and Macedonia (2010). Opening addresses were delivered by Prof. Dr. Muharem Avdispahic, HonDSc, Rector of the University of Sarajevo, and Dr. Halit Eren, IRCICA Director General. Keynote remarks were given by Prof. Dr. Mehmet İpşirli (Turkey) and Prof. Dr. Enes Karic (Bosnia and Herzegovina).

In his address, Rector Prof. Avdispahic thanked IRCICA for choosing Sarajevo as the congress venue. He said that the University of Sarajevo had commemorated the week before, the 65th anniversary of its Oriental Studies Institute, and that most of this congress' sessions would take place at the University's oldest institution, Gazi Husrevbegovic Library. The Rector said "Intercultural research is increasingly gaining in importance. The fate of humanity in the 21st century could be in many ways determined by the degree of success of the dialogue between cultures and civilizations" and affirmed that the University of Sarajevo was constantly trying to promote such dialogue.

Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, spoke of the Centre's series of congresses dealing with Islamic history and culture which cover different regions of the Muslim world and neighbouring areas, namely the Balkans, the Caucasus, the Black Sea, Volga-Ural, Central Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, Western, Northern and Southern Africa and the Mediterranean.

60 participants from different countries presented papers at the congress, on subjects related to history, Islamic arts and architecture and also the experience of coexistence of Muslim and non-Muslim peoples in the Balkan context.

While delivering his keynote remarks Prof. Enes

Karic underlined the importance of the congress as an event transcending the academic field, reaching beyond national education systems and particular historical epochs. He thanked IRCICA for its positive approach to requests addressed from Bosnia and Herzegovina for scholarly and cultural cooperation and assistance to researchers and students.

The papers presented during working sessions covered a wide range of topics from development of sciences, philosophy, technology, arts, language and literature to the legacy of Islamic civilization in terms of material culture (architectural heritage and other tangible assets) as well as in terms of intangible and spiritual culture (oral traditions, rituals, mentalities, societies, etc.). The following papers were presented:

Abdurrahman Babacan

Islamic Civilisation and Culture Thought of Aliya Izzetbegović

Agron Islami

The Role of Pious Foundations in the Social Life in Rumelia: the example of Mustafa Pasha's Waqf

Ahmet Murat Özel

Traces of the Shazeli Sect in the Balkans

Ali Erken

Traces of Ottoman Science Tradition in the Twentieth Century and the Bosnian Scholar Tajib Okić



Opening Session

Cemal Çetin

Via Militaria and Its Menzilhanes (1690-1750)

Cemalettin Şahin

A Survey on Turkish Place Names in Greece

Emine Gümüşsoy

The Mevlevi House of Salonica

Eyüp Kul

A New Tax in the Ottoman Mining Sector: Lonik Charge

Fadıl Hoca

The Importance of Myths and Tales on Sarı Saltuk in the Spread of Islam in the Balkans

Fahriye Emgili

Bosnia and Bosnians During the Transition from Ottoman Administration to Austria-Hungarian Administration

Altan Çetin-Galip Çağ

Formation of an Authentic Ottoman Bosnian Identity from Bogomilism, the Christian "Other"

Hatice Oruç

Town of Novi Pazar and Its Pious Foundations

İlyas Rexha

Islamic Monuments of the Early Ottoman Period of 15th and 16th Centuries in Kosovo and Sandjak

İsa Memishi

Inscriptions in Arabic and Ottoman Languages in the Region of Presevo

İsmail Erünsal

Characteristics of Sıbyan Schools in the Balkans According to Their Pious Foundations' Charters

Kamil Çolak

Conversion of Slaves and Concubines in Rusçuk in the Second Half of 17th Century

Mehmet Demirtaş

Hardships Suffered by Balkan Emigrants During the 1877-1878 Ottoman-Russian War and Measures Taken

Mehmet İnbaş

Nicopolis Sandjak and Its Governors (1750-1800)

Tahsin Özcan

Observations on the Treatise of Kemurazâde Seyfeddin Fehmi b. Ali's titled Saraybosna'da Ebniye-i Hayriyye'nin Musavver Tarihi



A publication of IRCICA was offered to Prof. Muharrem Avdispahic, Rector of Sarajevo University

Ramiza Smajić

The Socio-Historical and Cultural Segment of Bosniaks' Identity (Not) According to Islam: A Walk Through the Sources of the Ottoman Period

Yüksel Özgen

Administrative and Socio-Economic Situation of Albania in the First Half of the 19th Century According to the Treatise "Arnavutluk Ahvaline Dair (On the Condition of Albania), 1802-1822

Fazileta Hafizović

The Western Frontier of the Ottoman Empire: Sanjak of Klis

Mehmet İpşirli

The Importance of the Conquest of Bosnia in the Ottoman Conquest of the Balkans

Meral Bayrak Ferlibaş

Makbul and Maktul Ibrahim Pasha's Pious Foundations in Hezargrad

Meryem Kaçan Erdoğan

Villages of Rusçuk affiliated to the waqf of Mihrimah Sultan's Kulliye in Üsküdar

Mihai Maxim

Prince Kantemir (1673-1723) and the Islambol/Istanbul Civilisation

Muammer Demirel

Skopje With Regard to Ottoman Migration Mobility



Murteza Bedir

A Book on Usul al-Fiqh (Principles of Islamic Jurisprudence):
Sharh Samt al-Wusul by Aqhisari

Mustafa Can

Renovation Account Registers of Gazi Hüsrev Bey's Pious
Foundations dated 1277H and 1291H (1861 and 1875)

Numan Aruç

Authenticity of Islamic Culture and Civilisation in the Balkans

Reşat Öngören

Religious Orders that Shaped Spiritual Life in Bosnia

Tuğba Eray Biber

The Question of the Mufti's Office in Western Thrace from
Lausanne to Our Time

Yüksel Çelik

France's Proposal in 1807 for Bosnia to Serve as Joint Operation
Base Against the Russian-Serbian Alliance and the Negotiation
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Ayşe Zişan Furat

Perceptions of Bosnian Muslims Toward Austria-Hungary's
Religious Education Policy

Zekai Mete

Ottoman's Public Works in the Balkans: Foundation of the
Towns of Cisirmustafapasha and Uzuncaâbâd-ı Hasköy

Ibrahim Numan, Mine Topçubaşı Çilingiroğlu, Lana Kudumović

Traditional housing structures developed under the Ottoman
rules inside the Balkans and Turkey

Fazileta Hafizović

The Western Frontier of the Ottoman Empire: Sanjak of Klis

Adnan Kadrić

Between the Literature of Apocalypse and Social Criticism in
Ottoman Bosnia

Amra Mulović

Arabic Manuscripts in Bosnia: Landmarks In Grammatical
Tradition

Munir Mujić

The Impact of 'ilm Al-Kalâm and Arabic Logic on Arabic
Rhetoric: A Primer of Manuscripts of Hasan Kafi al-Aqhisari:
Tamhis al-Talhisand Šarh TamhisAl-Talhis

Dželila Babović

The Commentary on Manzūma al-Ahlâq by Ahmad
Hatam Aqowalizade

Alena Čatović

The Persian Intertext in the Works of Hasan Ziya'i
Mostari – Manuscript Collections from Sarajevo and
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Ahmed Zildžić

Two Manuscripts of Bahjat Al-Tawarih in the Balkans

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Divan Poetry as Culture of Memory: The Literature
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Some Sarajevo Women Endowers/Waqifas from the Second
Half of the 19th Century

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Reflections in the Contemporary Islamic Architecture

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Pilgrimage Practice in Classical Era of the Ottoman Rule in
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Aida Idrizbegović Zgonić, Amir Čaušević, Neriman Rustempašić

Historic Urban Landscape - Case Study of the Old City of
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Kerima Filan

On the Teaching of Grammar in Bosnia in the 17th Century

Madžida Mašić

Redif as an Element of Microstructure of Ghazal in Ottoman
Interliterary Community: The Example of Ghazals on Redif
"Ya Rab" by Ahmed Talib Bosnevi and Fuzuli

Sanjin Kodrić

Memorized Tradition: Muslim Orient in Modern Bosniak
literature

Zeynep Emel Ekim

The 19th Century Paintings Themed "The Ottoman Operations
in the Balkans" in the Painting Collection of the Military
Museum

Sefa Sekin

Distribution of Turkish Population in Macedonia in the First
Year of the 21st Century

The abstracts of the papers can be downloaded from: http://unsa.ba/s/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2304&Itemid=348



IRCICA & Al-Turath Islamic Urban Heritage Program 2015 Summer School

Mostar, 26 July-16 August 2015

Al-Turath Islamic Heritage Foundation (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) and IRCICA are carrying out a program titled "Islamic Urban Heritage. Research, Preservation and Management" since 2011. The program consists of specialized short-term architectural preservation schools (one spring school and one summer school every year) for junior professionals and graduate students who are engaged in restoration and preservation of architectural heritage.

The eighth program in the series: "IRCICA & Al-Turath Islamic Urban Heritage Program, 2015 Summer School" was organized in Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina. There were twenty participants in total from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Oman, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Turkey. The program consisted of ten lectures and presentations, case studies and studio works, and visits to key heritage sites in the region.



Motif from the Diocletian Palace in Split – a modern structure in historical context



Second project elaborated in the program: historical reconstruction of the Glamoc Fortress with a mosque inside

The lectures were titled as follows:

Osamah al Ghohari and Amir Pasic: Introduction to the Program

Amir Pasic, series of lectures: Islamic Architecture in Bosnia and Herzegovina; Mostar and its Historic Area - Preservation and Development; Preservation of Historic Urban Landscape of Herzegovina; Historic Area as the base for an Intelligent City

Salem ef. Dedovic, Mufti of Herzegovina: Preservation of Muslim Heritage in Herzegovina

Aida Idrizbegović-Zgonić: Historical reconstruction of the Aladza Mosque in Foca, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Orjana Lenasi, Amra Logo: Role of the Commission to Preserve Monuments of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Ashi Mohammad: Sustainable Development of Ushaiger, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Adis Talić: Contemporary Mosques in Germany

Mili Bijavica: Tourism and Heritage



The participants in studio



Participants from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Turkey, and Sultanate of Oman during the first meeting of the program

As to the case studies and studio works conducted, they can be listed as:

- Rehabilitation of the Radobolja River area in the Old City of Mostar 'World Heritage site
- Historical urban landscape of Herzegovina
- Approach to mosque restoration (examples: Atik and Karadžozbeg Mosques in Mostar, Aladza Mosque in Foca, and Mosque in the Glamoc Fortress).

The following key heritage sites were visited and studied: Sarajevo, Split, Trogir, Dubrovnik, Blagaj, Pocitelj, Mogorjelo, Kravice and Glamoc.

The preceding program, 2014 Summer School was held in six Balkan countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia and Montenegro, during the period from 5-26 August 2014. It was followed by a spring school, titled "Al-Turath, IRCICA & Jeddah Municipality Islamic Urban Heritage Program 2015: Historic Preservation Spring Training Program", on 21-27 March 2015.



IRCICA's scholarly study on an early partial copy of the Qur'an located at the National Library of France, Paris, was offered to the Mufti of Herzegovina Salem Ef. Dedovic by Prof. Amir Pasic



The 420 cm high Bashich tombstone, the biggest Ottoman tombstone in Bosnia, was visited

Participation in UNESCO-WHC Meeting on “Post Conflict Reconstruction in the Middle East Context, and in the Old City of Aleppo in Particular”

UNESCO, 18-19 June 2015

A meeting of multidisciplinary experts was organized by UNESCO World Heritage Center (WHC) in Paris, on 18-19 June 2015, to brainstorm on the issue of post-conflict reconstruction in the Middle East context. A special session was devoted to the Old City of Aleppo. IRCICA was represented at the meeting by Prof. Amir Pasic, Head of the Architectural Department. The meeting brought together representatives from UNESCO (WHC, Emergency Safeguarding of the Syrian Cultural Heritage Project, Regional Office in Doha and Arab Regional Center for World Heritage), the Syrian General Directorate of Antiquities, and several institutions dealing with this issue including the German Association of Friends of Aleppo Old City, Stuttgart University, Cambridge University and other universities all dealing with and experienced about protection of cultural heritage in conflict situations and post-war reconstruction, and on the political, social, urban, archeological, architectural and technical aspects of the Middle East. The meeting addressed theoretical and deontological matters, made comparative historical overviews of post-war reconstruction since World War I, and heard case studies.

The first session examined reconstruction processes in Europe after World War II and several case studies on Bosnia and Herzegovina, Jerusalem and Beirut. Prof. Amir Pasic, Head of the Architectural Department in IRCICA, presented the example of Mostar, shedding light on the complexity of a reconstruction process and outlining the findings of IRCICA's project that focused on Mostar during 2004-2014.

The second session analyzed the existing theoretical framework and international charters in the area of conservation and their relevance in relation with reconstruction. The participants undertook a comparative analysis of the different approaches and discussed the need for a new charter or for recommendations on post-war reconstruction.

The third session was dedicated to the Old City of Aleppo World Heritage site, the historic center of which has been very severely damaged. For this session,

Prof. Amir Pasic and Dr. Ruba Kasmoo prepared a presentation illustrating the current condition of the Old City, outlining the main components of a sustainable reconstruction process and the possible actions to be taken by IRCICA in this issue.

The fourth session addressed the conclusions of the meeting in two distinct frameworks of discussion: one dedicated to the Old City of Aleppo and the other to reconstruction in general.

The participants agreed on the importance of IRCICA's potential action to establish a program combining research, education and training, to be scheduled in the near future. Present and potential activities of IRCICA on the issue include continuous updating of a database for the built heritage in Syria. This work takes into account the various surveys and documentation efforts made through local and international cultural heritage projects in pre-conflict times in Syria. IRCICA's experience gained through its previous conservation and rehabilitation programs, both on the academic and professional levels, coupled with effective use of the documentation, will help in producing a conceptual framework for rehabilitation of architectural heritage in Syria with a focus on the Old City of Aleppo. The comprehensive scheme IRCICA developed on the subject also includes activities related to training, research and restoration studies.



“Jerusalem in the Memory” photograph exhibition in Madrid

Madrid, May 2015

An exhibition titled “Jerusalem in the Memory” prepared by IRCICA was organized in Madrid jointly with: Casa Arabe, the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey, and the Embassy of the State of Palestine. The exhibition offered views of Jerusalem during the late 19th-early 20th centuries in photographs selected from the albums of Ottoman Sultan Abdulhamid II and IRCICA’s archives at Yıldız Palace, Istanbul. Informative texts published in the exhibition’s brochure were extracted from the album Al-Quds in Historical Photographs (IRCICA, 2009). The pictures dating from the late Ottoman period evoked the shared memory of an era of tolerance where the existence and heritage of each faith was respected and preserved.

A panel conference marked the opening of the exhibition, during which IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren briefed the audience on the contents of the exhibition and also spoke of the present state of the cultural and architectural heritage in al-Quds/Jerusalem. He outlined the efforts made by IRCICA for the preservation of the Islamic historical heritage which constitute the cultural dimension of the OIC’s overall efforts in support of the cause of al-Quds and Palestine. During the panel, the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey Mr. Ömer Önhon, the Ambassador of the State of



The Ambassador of Turkey to Spain Mr. Ömer Önhon, the Ambassador of Palestine to Spain Mr. Musa Odeh, the Director General of IRCICA Dr. Halit Eren and the Director General of Casa Arabe, Ambassador Eduardo Lopez Busquet

Palestine Mr. Musa Odeh, Casa Arabe’s Director General Ambassador Eduardo Lopez Busquet addressed diverse aspects of the history and the present situation of al-Quds. The speakers underlined the importance of the exhibition and the panel in highlighting the multi-faith and multicultural history of al-Quds/Jerusalem.



Photograph exhibition on “Haramain. Makkah al-Mukarramah and Madina al-Munawara during the Ottoman Period”

Kuala Lumpur, June-September 2015

An exhibition titled “Haramain. Makkah al-Mukarramah and Madina al-Munawara during the Ottoman Period” prepared by IRCICA and organized under the auspices of the Malaysian Government was opened at the National Visual Art Gallery (NVAG), Kuala Lumpur, on 12 June 2015. The address of Malaysian Deputy Foreign Minister Dato Hamzah Zainuddin to the opening ceremony was read by Dato Ibrahim Abdullah, Secretary General of the Foreign Ministry. Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA and Dato Mahadzir Lokman, Chairman of NVAG addressed the opening ceremony. Were present Dato Mohamed Najib Dawa, IRCICA Governing Board’s member representing Malaysia, Mr. Haned bin Masjak, Director General of NVAG, and a large number of visitors from cultural and academic circles. In his address IRCICA’s Director General said that evoking the history of Makkah and Madina (the “Haramain”, the two sacred territories) through these photographs represents a commitment to serve them, to increase the knowledge about them, their stages of development, the practices and rituals related to them, and other aspects of their history. He said that the photographs displayed were selected from different collections of IRCICA’s archive, mainly from the Yıldız Albums dating from the reign of Sultan Abdulhamid II (late 19th-early 20th centuries) and from the collection of Fahrettin Türkkan Pasha, who was the Commander of the Ottoman forces in Hejaz and Defender of Madina during World War I. They relate to a wide range of aspects of Makkah and Madina including infrastructural and construction activities,



Dr. Eren gave explanations on the photographs to high officials from Malaysia

maintenance of sacred structures, public services, as well as sacred monuments and locations.

The exhibition is scheduled to continue for three months, after which it will travel to other cities of Malaysia.

IRCICA’s earlier activities offering historical photographs of the Haramain to public view include an exhibition of more than 100 photographs of the Haramain titled “The Two Holy Mosques Photograph Exhibition” which was organised with the coordination of the Ministry of Culture and Information of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and held during February-April 2010 in Jeddah, and an annotated album titled Haremeyn. Makka al-Mukarrama and al-Madina al-Munawwara in photographs from the Ottoman period selected from the albums of Sultan Abdulhamid II and the collection of Fahreddin Pasha (Türkkan) published in 2014.

Exhibition of historical photographs of Makkah al-Mukarramah and Madina al-Munawara

Istanbul, 10 July-10 August 2015



Opening: L-R, the Consul General of Uzbekistan in Istanbul Mr. Abror Guliyamov, Dr. Halit Eren, the Director General of Kültür A.Ş. Mr. Nevzat Kütük, and Projects Director of Kültür A.Ş. Mr. Fatih Yavaş

An exhibition of historical photographs of Makkah al-Mukarramah and Madina al-Munawara from IRCICA's archives was opened in Taksim Art Gallery, Istanbul, on 10 July 2015. The exhibition, on display for one month, was organized in cooperation with Kültür A.Ş., the cultural, art and tourism company affiliated with Istanbul Metropolitan

Municipality. IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren and Kültür A.Ş. Director General Mr. Nevzat Kütük jointly opened the exhibition. Reproductions of 71 photographs were displayed. Guests from diplomatic and academic circles were present at the opening.



Handicrafts

Tabriz International Award for Innovation and Creativity in Crafts, within the Tabriz International Festival for Arts, Crafts and Creativity; International Exhibition of Artisans-as at-Work and International Congress on Innovation Dimension in Arts and Crafts

Tabriz, 8-15 May 2015

By Dr. Neziht Maruf

IRCICA and Tabriz University for Islamic Arts have jointly organized the Tabriz International Festival of Arts, Crafts and Creativity, which took place in Tabriz on 8-15 May 2015. Artisans from the following 29 countries participated in the event: Algeria, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, France, Indonesia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, and Uzbekistan.

The festival gathered innovators and artisans in pavilions forming a traditional heritage crafts village where they displayed their works, their tools and techniques.

The opening ceremony was officiated by H E Minister Ali Janeti, Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Iran, Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, Dr. Ali Kaynijad, Dean of Tabriz University for Islamic Arts. In his address Dr. Eren emphasized that arts and crafts together with other forms of human activity have always served as means of spiritual and intellectual fulfilment for mankind. They also draw interest as fields of study because they mirror peoples' cultures and life styles. Arts and crafts are also matters of government policy and public concern and in our time they gradually won recognition as components of cultural development deserving support through international cooperation. He outlined the activities of IRCICA, those related to arts and crafts of the Muslim world in particular.

H E Minister Ali Janeti, Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Islamic Republic of Iran, underlined the importance of organizing this event, which highlights the role of arts and crafts in widening cultural dialogue as well as its contributions to cultural and economic development. He commended the efforts of IRCICA and Tabriz University for Islamic Arts for joining hands to make this event a real success. He welcomed on behalf of Iran the artisans and specialists who were participating from different regions of the world. He



IRCICA Director General, together with the Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Iran, Mr. Ali Janeti, opened the exhibition

called for the initiation of programs to encourage more cooperation between the artisans and specialists of Iran and their counterparts from other countries.

Dr. Mohammad Al Keynejad, Member of the Cultural Revolution Supreme Council and the University Chancellor of Tabriz University for Islamic Arts gave a welcoming address expressing his pleasure that the university had joined with IRCICA to organize this important festival and to host artisans and specialists in the city of Tabriz. He added that this festival is a proof that brotherhood, which is the symbol of Islam, provided an opportunity for artisans and specialists of the Muslim world to be in direct contact with the Iranian artisans and art experts in Tabriz, the city of miniature, carpets and painting. Dr. Keynejad then gave a brief about his university, which specializes in Islamic arts.

The Festival was accompanied with:

- Tabriz International Award for Innovation and Creativity in Crafts - Awards worth US\$60.000;
- International Exhibition of Artisans-as at-work; and,
- International Congress on "Innovation Dimension in Arts and Crafts".

Among the activities of the festival were:

- Exhibitions of artisans-at-work,
- Arts and crafts market (Bazaar),
- An exhibition of the albums, catalogs and books on arts and handicrafts.

The stands drew thousands of visitors. An important outcome of the festival was the interactions and exchanges of information between the artisans themselves and with the visitors.

Program of Activities

1 - Live Presentations of Artisans-as at-Work

Artisans representing a variety of crafts of OIC member States were displaying their tools, skills and techniques in the fields of arts and handicrafts in special pavilions. Participants and visitors of the exhibition were having the opportunity to get acquainted with this rich heritage, to meet artisans and inquire about their works, and to acquire some of these pieces for those who are interested in handicrafts.

2 - Arts and Crafts Market (Bazaar)

This Bazaar was organized in the form of a craft village where craft products and pieces from different countries were offered for sale. Visitors discovered the diversity of handicrafts such as miniature, sewing and embroidery; traditional costumes; carpets and rugs; binding and gilding of Qur'an copies; marbled paper; architecture; mushrabiya; stucco colored glass; pottery and ceramics; silver and metal crafts; engraving, etc.

Tabriz International Award for Creativity in Handicrafts for the Year 2015

The jury conducted many visits to the stands of the artisans and held a series of meetings on 9-12 May 2015 in order to select the winning entries.

The importance of this award lies in that it draws attention on the creativity aspect in handicrafts and thus makes artisans feel the importance society attaches to their works.

The award seeks the following objectives:

- Promote research, training, cooperation and policies to encourage preservation of authenticity and creativity in handicrafts.
- Increasing young artisans' innovative predisposition through competitive programs and incentives for variation and creativity, and thus providing at the same time renewable production processes.
- Defining a practical policy to ensure innovation spirit in the crafts sector and coming up with a clear plan of action to revive this field, as it constitutes a support in the cultural, economic and tourism sectors.
- Improving artisans' conditions of work and strengthening their innovative capacities.
- Publicizing the works of talented craftspeople of different regions, to promote mutual awareness between world's artisans.
- Improving the living conditions of artisans, acknowledging their efforts, and expressing society's esteem.



Members of the jury:

- 1- Dr. Nezhil Maruf, International Coordinator of the Festival, IRCICA, Istanbul;
- 2- Dr. Mehdi Mohammad-zadeh, Dean of Faculty of Islamic Art, Tabriz Islamic Art University, Tabriz;
- 3- Mr. Indrasen Vencatachellum, Independent Consultant in Cultural and Creative Industries;
- 4- Dr. Asad Arabi, expert in Islamic arts.

The jury members evaluated the craft products according to the following criteria: Excellence, Creative Concept Design, Invention in Traditional Technique. During the assessment and evaluation process the jury took into account all aspects and features of each product, devoting special attention to conformity with the award terms and conditions. The following artisans were declared winners of the Tabriz Festival Award for the Year 2015:



The Jury Committee Members along with the Chairman of Tabriz University for Islamic Arts



1 - Miniature

Category	Name of the Artisan	Country	Amount
1 st Award	Shukriddin Rikhsiev	Uzbekistan	\$3,000
2 nd Award	Jalil Jokar	Iran	\$2,000
3 rd Award	Gulruksor Umarova	Tajikistan	\$1,000

2 - Ornamentation, Gilding and Binding

Category	Name of the Artisan	Country	Amount
1 st Award	Mounira Lallali	Algeria	\$3,000
2 nd Award	Karim Mirzaee	Iran	\$2,000
3 rd Award	Fakhria Rahmatullah (Nizami)	Afghanistan	\$1,000

3 - Carpets, Sadou and Kilims

Category	Name of the Artisan	Country	Amount
1 st Award	Najet Salem	Tunisia	\$3,000
2 nd Award	Mamajan Radjapova	Uzbekistan	\$2,000
3 rd Award	Fathali Qashqayifar	Iran	\$1,000

4 - Traditional Costumes and Embroidery

Category	Name of the Artisan	Country	Amount
1 st Award	Nargiza Sherkhodjaeva	Uzbekistan	\$3,000
2 nd Award	Zhanara Chyngyshova	Kyrgyzstan	\$2,000
3 rd Award	Jamile El Achkar	Palestine	\$1,000

5 - Metal Works including Jewelry and Silver Artifacts

Category	Name of the Artisan	Country	Amount
1 st Award	Giv Ghassab Abdolnasser	Iran	\$3,000
2 nd Award	Kamran Arasteh	Iran	\$2,000
3 rd Award	Ercan Tabakogly	Turkey	\$1,000

6 - Pottery and Ceramics

Category	Name of the Artisan	Country	Amount
1 st Award	Malik Muhammad Abdul Rehman Naqqash	Pakistan	\$3,000
2 nd Award	Syed Masroor Hussain	Pakistan	\$2,000
3 rd Award	Mohammadmehdi Anoshfar	Iran	\$1,000

7 - Woodwork

Category	Name of the Artisan	Country	Amount
1 st Award	Mohsen Kaveh	Iran	\$3,000
2 nd Award	Not Awarded		\$2,000
3 rd Award	Agus Suprayoga	Indonesia	\$1,000

8 - Paper-making, Ebru (Marbled Paper) and Batik

Category	Name of the Artisan	Country	Amount
1 st Award	Not Awarded		\$3,000
2 nd Award	Aziz Ben Ma as	Malaysia	\$2,000
3 rd Award	Laila Al Khusna	Indonesia	\$1,000

9 - Stucco Colored Glass

Category	Name of the Artisan	Country	Amount
1 st Award	Not Awarded		\$3,000
2 nd Award	Dadas Mehravari	Iran	\$2,000
3 rd Award	Not Awarded		\$1,000

10 - Straw, Baskets, Leather and Sadaf Works

Category	Name of the Artisan	Country	Amount
1 st Award	Omar Diagne Guye	Senegal	\$3,000
2 nd Award	Ahmad Hassan Mofreh	Sudan	\$2,000
3 rd Award	Ahmed Kadous	Sudan	\$1,000



Artisan Shukriddin Rikhsiev, Uzbekistan, 1st Prize in Miniature



Artisan Mounira Lallali, Algeria, 1st Prize in Ornamentation



Artisan Najet Salem, Tunisia, 1st Prize in Carpets



Artisan Giv Ghassab Abdolnasser, Iran, 1st Award in Metal Works



Artisan Nargiza Sherkhodjaeva, Uzbekistan, 1st Prize in Embroidery



Artisan Mohammad Mehdi Anoshfar, Iran, 1st Award in Pottery and Ceramic



Artisan Dadas Mehravari, Iran, 2nd Award in Stucco Colored Glass



Artisan Malik Muhammad Abdul Rehman Naqqash, Pakistan, 1st Award in Pottery and Ceramic



Artisan Mohsen Kaveh, Iran, 1st Award in Wood Work



Artisan Aziz Ben Ma'as, Malaysia, 2nd Award in Batik



Artisan Omar Diagne Guye, Senegal, 1st Award in Leather Works

International Congress on Innovation Dimension in Arts and Crafts

The international congress on Innovation and Creativity in Arts and Crafts aimed to discuss the means to ensure the best use of handicrafts in the cultural and tourism fields. Reference was made to: the income-generating potential of the tourism sector when linked with arts, heritage and crafts; the current situation of handicrafts and prospects of their development; preservation of the authenticity of crafts; making them known through the available channels. Experts of handicrafts, craftspeople, and institutions interested in their worldwide development were invited to the congress. The latter was held from 9-13 May. The papers presented are listed below.

Themes of the sessions and papers presented

First Session: Innovation Dimension in Arts and Crafts

- Intonation and Innovation in Islamic Paintings, *Asad Arabi*;
- Banjaluka Prayer Rugs, *Kenan Surkovic*;
- Contemporary Tabriz Carpets and their Competitive Advantages Based on Principles of Positioning, *Ali Vandshoari and Abdollah Mirzaee*

Second Session: Arts and Crafts from the Perspective of Heritage and Culture

- Miniature between Content and Artistic Form, *Moussa Kechkach*;
- The Turkmenistan Experience in the Field of Arts and Crafts from the Perspective of Heritage and Culture, *Ajap Bayriyeva*;
- The Traditional Crafts and its Effects in the Cultural Interaction between the Peoples of East Arab and West European, *Iman Mohran*

Third Session: Arts and Crafts from the Perspective of Economy and Tourism

- Electronic Trading: A Strategic Approach in Developing the Handicrafts, *Shahriar Shokrpour, Arezoo Khanpour*;
- Perspectives of Handicrafts' Marketing, *Sapara Mambetova*;
- Crafts Related to the Traditional Architecture in Tunisia; Current Situation and Horizons of Development: Plaster Craft as an example, *Fathi Jarray*;
- Batik in Indonesia, *Laila Al Khusna Rahardjo*

Fourth Session: Size of Employed Labor in the Field of Arts and Crafts and its Economic Returns

- Arts and Crafts from the Perspective of Economy and Tourism, *Indrasen Vencatachellum*;
- Traditional Crafts in Sudan: The case and the future, *Abdu Osman*;
- Tourism Potential of Uzbekistan, *Durbek Mukhamedkarimov*;
- Arts and Crafts of the Kyrgyz Republic Today, *Janara Chyngyshova*;

Fifth Session: Perspectives of Handicrafts Marketing

- Role of Handicrafts in the Economic and Tourism Developing Process in the Countries who will Know Well how to Employ this Important Sector, *Nezih Maruf*;
- Craft Futures: Re-envisioning the Evolution of the Craft Industry with Tourism as a Resource for Sustainable Development in Uganda, *Sserunkuuma Bruno*;
- Mauritania Prospects For Traditional Marketing of Handicraft, *Brahim Ndah*

Sixth Session: The role of Arts and Crafts in Introducing the Cultural Heritage Identity, Make it Known, and Encouraging Cultural Dialogue among Peoples:

- Creativity as a Notion for Recognition of Cultural Significance: Tangible Versus Intangible Heritage in an Arab-Muslim context, *Zeki Aslan*;
- "Transfiguration" Power of Art, *Muhammad Asif Sharif*;
- South African Art, *Achmat Soni*;
- The Role of the Government and Government Organizations in the Development and Teaching of Azerbaijani Folk Art, *Irana Ibrahimova*

Seventh Session: Tradition, Heritage and Modernity During the Time of Globalization

- Going Global: Visual Arts in the Arab World and the International Art Scene, *Silvia Naef*;
- The Impact of Globalization on Iranian Handmade Carpets, *Shakiba Sharifian & Mehdi Mohamad-Zadeh*;
- Islamic Art in Globalizing Era, *Mohammadreza Dehshiri*;
- Islamic Architecture in the Age of Globalization, *Mazyar Asefi*;
- Position and Role of Traditional Handicraft in the Domain of Cultural Heritage and Cultural Globalization, *Mahin Sohrabi Nassirabadi*



Eighth Session: Memory, Tradition and Preservation Process

- Memory and Traditional Arts, *Bahman Namvar Motlagh*;
- Modern Conditions and Problems of Development of Applied Kinds of Arts in Tajikistan, *Tohir Habibov*;
- Palestinian Traditional Crafts: How Do We Keep Them? And Why?, *Raed Faris*;

Ninth Session: The Relationship of Arts and Crafts with the Habits and Traditions

- A Review Reading to the Symbols of Architectural Ornamentation in the Tunisian Architectural Heritage, *Zaineb Krifa*;
- Revival of Iranian Forgotten Arts and Crafts, *Mahdi Makkinejad*

Tenth Session: Training and Education Opportunities in the Field of Arts and Crafts

- Experience of Kuwait Center for Islamic Arts in Patronising Handicrafts, *Farid Al Ali*;
- Evolution of Academic Education in Iranian Islamic Arts and Crafts, *Mehdi Mohammadzadeh, Neda Seifi*;
- Teaching Arts through Action according to Islamic Traditions of Education, *Mohammad Hossein Navvab*



A group of the paper presenters at the closing ceremony.

Meetings, Cooperation

IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren's lecture at Devawongse Varopakarn Institute of Foreign Affairs (DVIFA), Bangkok, Thailand: "Cultural diplomacy in the Muslim World: the OIC-IRCICA Experience"

10 June 2015

At the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, the Director General of IRCICA Dr. Halit Eren gave a lecture at Devawongse Varopakarn Institute of Foreign Affairs (DVIFA), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, Bangkok, on 10 June 2015. The lecture was organized within the framework of the Ministry's Foreign Affairs Executive Programme, which has "Thailand and the Muslim World" as its theme for this year. The lecture was titled "Cultural diplomacy in the Muslim World: the OIC-IRCICA Experience". Dr. Eren talked about the growing importance of the cultural factor in international relations and the role of international organizations in activating this role. He underlined that an early and effective example of realization of this role of culture is found in the Muslim world. In this regard he reviewed the process of establishment and development of the OIC on the basis of Islamic solidarity and cooperation. A review of IRCICA's founding motives and activities followed.



After the lecture, Dr. Eren came together with a group of Muslim students from Southern Thailand who were participating in training courses in Bangkok. The meeting was held at the same Institute, the Devawongse Varopakarn Institute of Foreign Affairs.

Participation in the 7th Constantine Calligraphy Festival

Constantine, 1-7 June 2015

Organized within the framework of the program "Constantine. Arab Cultural Capital 2015", the 7th Constantine Calligraphy Festival was inaugurated by the Minister of National Education of Algeria Mrs. Nouria Benghabrit. The festival program included exhibitions, workshops, and a calligraphy competition, in which 160 calligraphers from 22 countries participated.

IRCICA was invited to the 7th Constantine Calligraphy Festival as guest of honour. IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren delivered an address at the opening ceremony, in which he outlined IRCICA's activities aiming to promote the art of Islamic calligraphy.



The Minister of National Education of Algeria Mrs. Nouria Benghabrit and high officials from Algeria visited the exhibitions.

"Third World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue" and IRCICA's participation

Baku, 18-19 May 2015

The "Third World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue" organized by the Government of Azerbaijan in partnership with UNAOC, UNESCO, UN World Tourism Organization, Council of Europe and ISESCO, took place in Baku, Azerbaijan, on 18-19 May 2015. The Third World Forum was given the title "Sharing Culture for Shared Security".

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Ilham Aliyev delivered a speech at the opening. "Today we have representatives here from over 100 countries. It is really very important that these people have come to Azerbaijan to share their opinions because there are a lot of conflicts in the world. Blood is being shed in these conflicts, battles are taking place in Europe and also in our region. In this case Azerbaijan is like a stable island in the region," stressed the president. (<http://bakuforum-icd.az/service/lang/en/page/44/nid/76>)

The theme this year was "Culture and sustainable development in the post-2015 development agenda," with a view to marking the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development on May 21. Topping the agenda of the forum were the security problems facing the world and also violence sparked by extremism.

The opening ceremony was addressed also by the High Representative of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser. Then H.E. Mr. Iyad Ameen Madani, Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) delivered an address, underscoring the OIC's commitment to intercultural dialogue as a means

to achieving peaceful coexistence and mutual respect of differences. UNESCO Director General Ms. Irina Bokova and ISESCO Director General Mr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri also addressed the ceremony.

A number of plenary sessions and thematic workshops were convened by partner and participating organizations during the Forum. IRCICA participated in the workshop on "The Role of Arts and Heritage in Cross-Cultural Relations" which was organized by the Government of Azerbaijan. During the workshop, IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren spoke of arts and heritage as marking features of cultural identity by which communities are referred to or distinguished from each other. He said that the role of arts and heritage in cross-cultural relations stems from their mirroring cultural identity. The workshop was moderated by Mr. David Lordkipanidze, General Director of Georgian National Museum; the other speakers were Ms. Sevda Mammadaliyeva, Deputy Minister of Culture and Tourism, Azerbaijan; Mr. Peter Mousaferiadis from "Cultural Infusion", Australia, Mr. Kishor Kumar Tripathy, Editor, Cultural Informatics Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, Ministry of Culture, India; Ms. Dragana Filipovic, Ambassador, Head of the Council of Europe office in Baku; Ms. Carlotta Del Bianco, Vice President, Del Bianco Foundation; Ms. Katerina Stenou, former Director of the Division of Cultural Policies and Intercultural Dialogue, UNESCO; Ms. Diana C. Altman, Executive Director of Karabakh Foundation, Ms. Angela Gkerekou, former Minister of Tourism, Deputy of Culture and MP, Greece.

Visits to IRCICA

IRCICA is honoured to receive guests from around the world on official or working visits. Below is a chronology of recent visits:

- A group of officials from Malaysian institutions: Ms. Tengku Aina Bt YTM Shah Tengku Ismail, Director of Corporate Communications, Perbadanan Putrajaya (Putrajaya Corporation), Ms. Nor Ratasha Kasim, Special Officer to The Chairman, Restu Foundation, and Ms. Zarina Mahusin, Chief of the Operations Department, Restu Foundation, Malaysia, visited IRCICA on 11 May 2015. The talks focused on cooperation in promoting the Islamic arts, and specifically, the Putrajaya International Islamic Arts and Culture Festival (PIIACUF) 2015 on the theme "Silk Road – The Path of Faith and Glory" to be organized by Restu Foundation and IRCICA at Putrajaya, Malaysia, on 29 October-1 November 2015.



- A delegation of press and media representatives from Kuwait, on 15 May 2015. The delegation visited IRCICA, Istanbul after having completed their official meetings with the Turkish Directorate General of Press and Information and major news agencies in the capital Ankara.



- A group of four professors and twenty-three students from Ludwig Maximilians University, Institute of Ottoman and Turkish Studies, Munich, visited IRCICA on 22 May 2015.



- A group of Australian Muslim women from different cultural backgrounds, who were in Turkey on a study visit as guests of the Turkish Presidency of Religious Affairs, visited IRCICA on 26 May 2015.



- The Governor of Istanbul Mr. Vasip Şahin visited the Director General of IRCICA Dr. Halit Eren on 5 June 2015.

Islamic Monuments in Cairo in the Ottoman Period

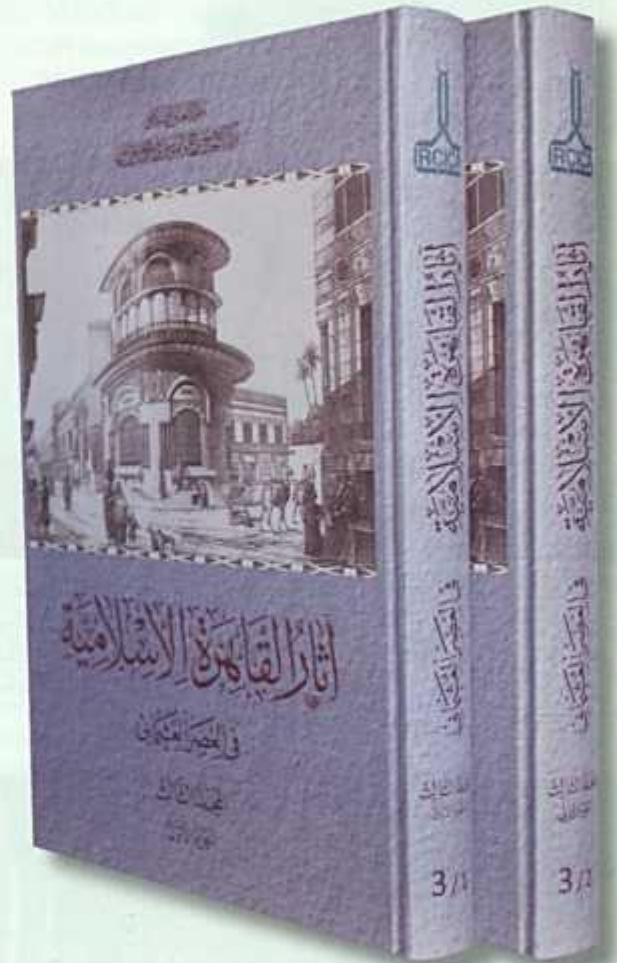
Volume III (2 parts), 1138 p.

Prepared by Mohamed Abul Amayem; Introduction: Halit Eren
IRCICA, Istanbul, 2015 (in Arabic)

The third volume in IRCICA's series titled *Islamic Monuments in Cairo in the Ottoman Period* has appeared. The publication aims to record all types of monuments dating from the Ottoman period in Cairo; their architectural features, functional uses, present state. The volumes result from the work of Engineer Mohamed Abul Amayem, specialist of historical monuments and architecture. They are arranged according to the types of structures. Thus Volume I, published in 2003, is on Mosques, Madrasas and Takiyas; Volumes II (parts 2 and 3), published in 2011, are devoted to Public Fountains, Schools and Watering Places; and, Volumes III (parts 4 and 5) published in 2015 cover the Caravanserais [*wakāla* or *khān*] and the Marketplaces [*kissariya*], which are topped by structures called *rab'*.

Ottoman governors of Egypt from 1517 took care of architecture in general but they were particularly active in building ports (e.g. Bulaq, Rashid and Alexandria) endowing them with Ottoman-type caravanserais, public baths, shops, mosques and medersas. However urban development activity lost speed towards the end of the 16th century due to the governors' preoccupation with a growing vital problem, that of the Mamluk threat. Therefore the majestic structures at Bulaq, especially the caravanserais, reflect the strength and the wealth at the disposal of Ottoman governors during the said century, after which architectural activity became limited to simpler new constructions and renovation or reconstruction of Mameluk buildings.

In the preceding volumes, the monuments were classified chronologically according to date of construction, i.e. from the earliest ones to those of Khedive Abbas Hilmi II's period ending on 1914. In the present volumes III, the caravanserais are ordered geographically from the north to the south of Cairo. This is more appropriate in the case of the caravanserais since these public buildings with commercial functions were placed at the city center and along the main avenue (*al-shāri' al-āzam*), which runs from *al-Huseyniyya* Place in the



north to the south of Cairo through the old city. The author described each monument in detail as to its architectural specifications and their evolution over time, its location, date of construction, identity of the founder and ownership status. He added various supplementary materials including maps, plans, vertical and horizontal cross-sections of the buildings, old and recent photographs.

Series on the Sharia Court Registers of Jerusalem

4 new volumes: Registers no. 96, 78, 136 and 167

prepared for publication by Ibrahim Rabaia, preface by Halit Eren
IRCICA, Istanbul, 2015 (in Arabic)



IRCICA publishes a series of volumes on the registers of the Sharia courts held in Al-Quds/Jerusalem during the Ottoman period. There are altogether 412 registers, dating from the period from 1529 to 1909. These registers are valuable first-hand sources that record cases reflecting life in the region, the relations between the local administration and the people, between different faith communities and between people of different social statuses, and many other subjects. Therefore they reliably complement other sources for studies on those aspects of history. The index of terms and the indexes of place names, communities and businesses are useful additions to the books. The first volume which was published in 2013 is related to the register no. 107 which refers to the

period from 5 August 1623 to 10 April 1624 and contains cases reflecting social and economic life in the region. The three volumes published in 2014 contain the studies on the following registers: register no. 119 of Al-Quds Sharia Court dated (23 Jan. 1632-13 Nov. 1632), register no. 149 dated (20 Nov. 1653-20 Dec. 1654), register no. 183 dated (22 Jan. 1680-20 Feb. 1681).

The volumes published in 2015 are related to Al-Quds Sharia Court registers no. 78 (4 Jan. 1597 - 21 Feb. 1598), no. 96 (18 Nov. 1614 - 9 Sep. 1615), no. 136 (26 Jan. 1646 - 2 Feb. 1646), no. 167 (26 Oct. 1666 - 19 Sep. 1667). They have been prepared with the same methodology as in the previous volumes.

JERUSALEM IN PHOTOGRAPHS FROM PAST TO PRESENT

IRCICA, Istanbul, 2015

Historical Photograph Albums Series, 9

223, 13 pp., ill., 33x30 cm., in English, Arabic, Turkish

This album is first of its kind as an attempt to document the damage and destruction done to Islamic architectural heritage in Al-Quds/ Jerusalem by comparing old and recent photographs of monuments. The old photographs were selected from the archives of IRCICA and the new ones were taken by Mr. Khaled Zaghari. The explanatory texts were written by Dr. Najih Baqirat. The publication results from a project initiated by Mr. Sefer Turan (Chief Advisor to the President of Turkey) and coordinated jointly with IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren. It was published with the contributions of the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA).

The fact that Al Quds is considered a sacred city by Muslims, Christians and Jews, and that it is a place for pilgrimage meant that it was frequently visited by pilgrims, travellers, scholars, artists, and after the second half of the 19th century, photographers. These visitors and travellers took pictures from every part of the city and recorded detailed information about it. Unfortunately, many of the historical buildings visible in historical photographs have disappeared ever since. Destructions and modifications in the historical parts of the city as part of Israel's settlement policy still continue in our time.

IRCICA undertook a variety of activity programs towards recording and preservation of Al Quds heritage. Among these, it published in 2009 an annotated album containing photographs of Al Quds selected from the collection of Sultan Abdulhamid II (end of the 19th-early 20th centuries).



IRCICA Journal.

A Journal on Islamic History and Civilization

Volume II, Issue 4, Fall 2014

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

Lists of the contents of Volume I in its Spring and Fall issues (2013) and Volume II, Issue 3, Spring and Fall issues (2014) are given below.

Vol. I, Spring 2013

Articles in English:

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

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

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

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

Articles in Arabic:

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