

September-December 2017, No. 104



# Newsletter



OIC RESEARCH CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC HISTORY, ART AND CULTURE

*Protecting Cultural Heritage of  
the Muslim World: international  
conference*

Conference co-organized by IRCICA  
on "2017 Year of Islamic Solidarity in  
Azerbaijan"

ASEAN Calligraphy Festival and  
Exhibition 2017 (Jombang, Indonesia)

"Islamic Calligraphy on the Silk Road"  
Exhibition (Astana, Kazakhstan)

IRCICA's Optical character  
recognition system for manuscripts

# Newsletter



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

September-December 2017, No. 104

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## Editor in Chief

Halit Eren

## Editorial Board

Zeynep Durukal  
Fayçal Benaissa

## Address

Hocapaşa mah., Alemdar cad.,  
Babi Âli girişi, no: 15,  
Cağaloğlu, Fatih 34110  
İstanbul, Turkey

Tel. (+90 212) 259 17 42, 402 00 00  
Fax (+90 212) 258 43 65

www.ircica.org  
ircica@ircica.org

## Graphic Design

Said Kasımoğlu

## Printing

Ultra Grafik  
info@ultramatbaa.com

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# Editorial

Dear readers,

**A**s the present issue went to press, IRCICA launched its work program for 2018. In the same period, IRCICA's Governing Board, meeting on its 34th session on 15 January 2018, approved the Centre's work program proposal for 2019. The proposal will be reviewed and adopted by the OIC Member States' Council of Foreign Ministers during the course of 2018, to be implemented the following year. The Board also adopted the report submitted by IRCICA about its activities implemented during the whole year of 2017. The Board took note with appreciation that the Centre constantly widens the geographical distribution of artistic and academic events it organizes and recommended ways to further enlarge dissemination of the outcomes of activities across the OIC member countries OIC. The Governing Board members, who are specialists in cultural fields appointed by the OIC Member States, are also assisting the Centre in this direction in their own professional circles. The nine Member States currently represented in IRCICA's Governing Board are Chad, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Malaysia, Niger, Pakistan, Qatar, and Turkey.

One of the focuses of the current issue is the International Conference on Protecting Cultural Heritage of the Muslim World, a specialized conference with a high rate of participation of authorities, experts and other parties concerned from the OIC Member States, international organizations, universities and professional circles. We organized this conference jointly with the OIC General Secretariat and ISESCO, on 1-2 November. We were honoured by the presence and speeches of Dr. İsmet Yılmaz, the Minister of National Education of Turkey, H.R.H. Prince Sultan bin Salman, President of the Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage (SCTH), Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the address of H.E. Dr. Abdulaziz bin Ahmed al-Othaimen, Secretary General of OIC read by Mrs. Mehla

Talebna, Director General for Social, Cultural and Family Affairs of the OIC and the message of ISESCO Director General Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri on the occasion of the conference. Contributions by international organizations, including Director General of ICCROM Prof. Stefano de Caro and other eminent experts, coupled with presentations by countries, institutions and specialists on conservation projects carried out at various sites and locations, created an excellent platform of exchanges of experiences. One of the remarkable examples of national policies and programs for preservation of cultural heritage recorded during the conference was that of Saudi Arabia, outlined by SCTH President Prince Sultan bin Salman in their address. In fact, the First Saudi Archaeological Convention, organized by SCTH in Riyadh also in November, highlighted all aspects of those programs through the numerous events of the Convention.

Preservation of cultural and architectural heritage is one of the main areas of IRCICA's activities. Another main area of its mandate is the arts. In addition to organizing events to promote the arts of the Muslim world, IRCICA shares its expertise with governments and institutions across the member countries for devising and implementing programs and events in this field. A recent example is IRCICA's cooperation with the Jombang Calligraphy School in Indonesia on the occasion of a calligraphy competition and exhibition. The art of calligraphy draws great interest in Southeast Asia. IRCICA had also organized exhibitions, as well as workshops and lectures, within the framework of the Putrajaya International Islamic Arts and Cultural Festival, in Malaysia, in 2015 and 2016. This year we shall come up with new events and activities aiming to promote the arts. With my best wishes.

*Dr. Halit Eren*  
*Director General, IRCICA*

# Congresses

## **International Conference on *Protecting Cultural Heritage of the Muslim World***

**Istanbul, 1-2 November 2017**

**A**uthorities and experts in preservation of cultural heritage participated in the international conference on "Protecting the Cultural Heritage of the Muslim World" with a view to assess the state of the heritage and suggest policies and practices to meet needs and enhance effectiveness of preservation efforts. The conference was organized jointly by the General Secretariat of OIC, IRCICA, and ISESCO (Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, Rabat). It took place in Istanbul, on 1-2 November 2017. The opening of the conference was officiated by Dr. İsmet Yılmaz, Minister of National Education of Turkey.

H.R.H. Prince Sultan bin Salman bin Abdul Aziz, President of the Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage (SCTH), Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, delivered a comprehensive address in the opening ceremony.

H.E. Dr. Abdulaziz bin Ahmed al-Othaimen, Secretary General of OIC, addressed a message to the conference which was read by the Director

General of Cultural, Social and Family Affairs of OIC, Mrs. Mahla Talebna.

H.E. Ambassador Hameed A. Opeloyeru, Assistant Secretary General of OIC, was present at the conference.

Eminent experts of cultural heritage from international organizations addressed the conference, as cited below.

The conference theme was addressed through papers and reports on studies and activities conducted on heritage sites presented by 49 experts, specialized professionals and academicians from 25 countries around the world. Knowledge on heritage sites and properties was shared, experiences on preservation and reconstruction work were communicated. Guidelines were formulated as suggestions for future preservation policies and activities. The participants unanimously adopted the Istanbul Declaration on Protection of Cultural Heritage of the Muslim World.





Dr. İsmet Yılmaz,  
Minister of National Education  
of Turkey



H.R.H. Prince Sultan bin Salman  
bin Abdul Aziz, President of the  
Saudi Commission for Tourism and  
National Heritage, Kingdom of  
Saudi Arabia



Mrs. Mahla Talebna, Director  
General of Cultural, Social and  
Family Affairs of OIC



Dr. Halit Eren  
IRCICA Director General

The opening ceremony started with the address of IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren. In this address Dr. Eren said that the Muslim world's cultural heritage which constitutes a major and an integral part of world heritage faces alarming threats and serious destruction increasingly in the present time. Cities where arts and sciences flourished, structures and artifacts representing different styles and customs developed over centuries are being devastated and plundered in various parts of the world including Al-Quds and Palestine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Libya and Mali. He said that the conference was prompted by the urgent need to enhance regular preservation efforts of the cultural heritage and promote international exchange of knowledge and expertise towards reconstruction. IRCICA Director General summarized the activities undertaken by IRCICA in the field of heritage preservation, among them the Prince Sultan bin Salman Islamic Architectural Heritage Database and the training programs conducted jointly with Al-Turath Foundation, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

ISESCO Director General Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri's message was read by Dr. Muhammad Younis, expert, ISESCO. Dr. Altwaijri underlined the necessity that organizations working in the Islamic cultural field, in cooperation with the Member States, scholars and experts everywhere, cooperate to preserve the heritage and revive it so that it can serve the sustained development of peoples and be recorded in the memory of the cultural heritage of entire humanity.

The message of H.E. Dr. Abdulaziz bin Ahmed al-Othaimeen, Secretary General of OIC, was

shared by Mrs. Mehla Talebna, Director General for Social, Cultural and Family Affairs of the OIC. The Secretary General alluded to the increasing current threats faced by Islamic heritage especially in conflict zones, in particular Al-Quds and Palestine, and other regions. OIC Secretary General emphasized the need to reinforce international cooperation, especially between international organizations such as OIC and UNESCO. In this regard the Secretary General referred to various resolutions taken by the OIC Member States at their ministerial conferences and their implementation processes by the OIC General Secretariat, as well as to recent resolutions adopted by the United Nations towards protection and reconstruction of heritage destroyed and pillaged in conflict zones. OIC Secretary General said that the present conference was an occasion to promote exchanges of best practices among the OIC Member States and experts from UNESCO and other international organizations

H.R.H. Prince Sultan bin Salman bin Abdul Aziz, President of the Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in his comprehensive address, expressed his pleasure to be attending the conference on protection of cultural heritage, a subject to which he himself has devoted a large part of his career, and thanked in this regard the OIC, the centre IRCICA and its eminent Director General and his colleagues, and ISESCO for organizing it. Prince Sultan bin Salman pointed out that the Muslim world passes through a quite delicate period which necessitates further coordination of efforts and more commitment towards protecting the heritage. The latter is a

principal element of Muslim identity, of Muslims' place among nations and of the future of our generations and it is at the same time also part of world heritage.

The Minister of National Education of Turkey Mr. İsmet Yılmaz, addressing the ceremony, underlined the importance of the conference and wished success to the organizers in seeing its objectives achieved. The Minister stated that culture is a treasure of humanity heightening the value of human existence. He said that above everything comes protection of the human being. Then comes protection of the works produced by the human being which constitute the heritage; protecting the latter and transferring it to coming generations is a task. The Minister emphasized that culture and civilization can only be protected by establishing peace. Thus the first condition for protection of heritage is peace. The second condition is provision of education. Efforts must be joined to promote peace and education. Minister İsmet Yılmaz wished success to the conference.

The main themes of the conference were:

- National policies and international instruments to protect and promote Islamic cultural heritage: best practices, assessment of outcomes, ways of improvement
- Education for heritage preservation
- Role of museums in preservation of heritage
- Preservation of intangible heritage
- Management of heritage preservation and development: Modalities of preparation of the strategy to protect and promote cultural heritage in the Muslim world and its implementation mechanism
- Protection of heritage in Muslim countries in advanced stage of conflicts, on the request of their governments
- Advancement of cooperative action for protection of heritage in Al-Quds and Palestine
- Rebuilding heritage in zones of war and conflict.

Each session was moderated by one of its speakers. The inaugural session was moderated by Arch. Amir Pasic (IRCICA). The following experts spoke at this session: Prof. Saleh Lamei (Director of CIAH, Egypt), Dr. Stefano Bianca (Director Em.,



Aga Khan Historic Cities Program, Switzerland), Prof. Stefano de Caro (Director General of ICCROM, Italy), Dr. Zakir Sultanov (Head of the State Service for Protection Development and Restoration of Cultural Heritage, Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Azerbaijan) and, Dr. Mounir Bouchenaki (Special Advisor to UNESCO Director General).

The first session heard general evaluations on the state of heritage sites and international preservation efforts, in the speeches of Prof. Daniele Pini (Expert, UNESCO) – *“Protecting and revitalising the urban heritage of Arab-Islamic cities”*; Prof. Laith Shaker Mahmoud Rashid (University of Baghdad, Iraq) – *“The problem of protecting Islamic heritage buildings in Baghdad City”*; Prof. Nazmi Jubeh (Birzeit University, Palestine) – *“Jerusalem: Preserving Islamic architecture under Israeli occupation”*; Assoc. Prof. Rubo Kasmoo (Fatih Sultan Mehmet Waqf University, Istanbul) – *“The old city of Aleppo after the conflict, reconstruction efforts and their challenges”*; and, Sarah al-Shammas (Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, Palestine) – *“Architectural heritage and forgery of Palestinian Identity – Hebron as a study case”*.

At the following session, moderated by Em. Prof. Mohammad M. Al-Kahlawi (Secretary General, Union of Arab Archeologists, Egypt) – *“The dangers of extremism and armed conflicts on the future of our Arabic homeland”*; the speakers were Mr. Saad bin Abdul Aziz al-Rashid (member of IRCICA Governing Board representing Saudi Arabia) –





*"The protection of Islamic heritage in Saudi Arabia related to the early period of Islam"; Dr. Muhammed Yunis (ISESCO) – "Vision and efforts of ISESCO in the field of safeguarding of cultural heritage"; Prof. Ahmed al-Khatib (Qarawiyn University, Morocco) – "The role of civil society institutions in protecting the human cultural heritage: The case of Mediterranean network of ancient cities and the heritage development in Morocco"; Prof. Atef Abd al-Dayem Abd al-Haye (Fayoum University, Egypt) – "Preserving Islamic architectural heritage in Gaza"; and, Prof. Najat Khalil (IRCICA) – "Human heritage in Yemen".*

The next session, moderated by Prof. Noman Ahmed (NED University, Pakistan) heard Arch. Mahwish Ghulam Rasool (NED University, Pakistan) – *"Status of heritage sites and locations in Indian administrated Kashmir (Politics, policy recommendations, inaccessible site, methodology)"; Prof. Alias Abdullah (International Islamic University Malaysia, IIIM) – "Towards sustainability of Malay-Islamic heritage in Malaysia: challenges and issues in the conservation efforts"; Hassan Taimoor Khan Mumtaz (Founding Director, Hast-o-Neest Institute of Traditional Studies and Arts, Lahore, Pakistan) – "In search of the essence of Mughal Architecture"; Assoc. Dr. Morteza Mirgholami (Tabriz Islamic Arts University, Tabriz, Iran) – "Urban regeneration of historical fabrics and the role of urban catalyst projects: challenges and opportunities (the case of Tabriz historical district)"; and, Prof. Noor Choliz Idham (Universitas Islam Indonesia, Yogyakarta, Indonesia) – "Joglo house,*



*on Islamic architecture legacy of eastern tropical world".*

The protection of cultural heritage continued to be discussed with four sessions held on the second day of the conference. The moderator of the first session of the second day was Assoc. Prof. Ahmed Hussein Adam (Khartoum University, Khartoum, Sudan) – *"The role of museums in preserving cultural identity in the Sudan".* In this session the following papers were presented: Assoc. Dr. Florina Jerliu (University of Prishtina, Prishtina, Kosovo) – *"Ottoman Architecture of Kosovo: the content and the state of protection"; Prof. Ibrahim Numan (Fatih Sultan Mehmet Waqf University, Istanbul) – "Place identity and Islamic heritage in Cyprus"; Prof. Neslihan Dostoglu (Istanbul Kultur University) – "Bursa and Cumalikzik world heritage site, challenges of preserving cultural heritage"; and, Assoc. Prof. Mine Topcubasi Çilingirlioglu (Fatih Sultan Mehmet Waqf University, Istanbul) – "İstanbul world heritage sites; values and urban conservation planning".*

The second session of the second day was directed by Prof. Attilio Petruccioli (Italy) – *"Mending the Tears in the Islamic Urban Fabric between Continuity and Transformation".* The papers of the session were: Assoc. Dr. Bouzid Boudiaf (Ajman University, Ajman, United Arab Emirates) – *"The impact of tourism on the revitalization of the historical center"; Prof. Hisham Mortada (King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia) – "Tolerance and co-existence in old Muslim city:*





the Andalusian prototype"; Dr. Mohsen Alqarni (Director, Historical Mosques Program, Saudi Arabia) – *"The role of museums in protection of cultural heritage"*; and, Assoc. Dr. Hanan Reza Al Kaabi (Al-Mustansiriyah University, Iraq) – *"Architectural elements of the Kefal minaret and its maintenance"*.

The moderator of the next session was Dr. Shadia Touqan (Director, Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage, Bahrain) – *"Challenges of our times; safeguarding our heritage, protecting our identity"* where the speakers were Assoc. Prof. Hania Cheriff (Louinsy Ali University, Algeria) – *"Protection of Islamic real estate cultural assets in the light of the national & International laws"*; Dr. Mostafa Kamia (Chouaib Doukkali University, Morocco) – *"Management of intangible heritage in Morocco; case of Jamaa el Fna square"* and, Dr. Osamah Mohammed Noor al-Gohari (Secretary General, Al-Turath Foundation, Saudi Arabia) – *"The role of Al Turath Foundation in the preservation of cultural heritage in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Muslim world. Case studies: Prince Sultan*

*Ibn Salman Islamic Architectural Heritage Database and Summer School on Islamic Urban Heritage"*.

In the last session of the conference, moderated by Dr. Zeki Aslan (Director of ICCROM-Athar, United Arab Emirates) – *"Toward strategic approaches to the preservation of cultural heritage in post-conflict recovery processes"*, the speakers were Assoc. Prof. Ahmed Weld Mohamed Sidi (High Institute for Islamic Researches, Nouakchott, Mauritania) – *"The role of Mauritanian Institute in researching heritage and protecting Mauritanian manuscripts"*; Dr. Naima Benkari (Project Director, Oman, Old Settlements Plan, Oman) – *"The role of architectural education in the protection of cultural heritage: the case of Oman"*; and, Assoc. Prof. Yousra Zaghdan (High Institute for Arts and Crafts, Tunisia) – *"The museum and the rise of terrorism: The lost and the substitute in the example of 'Mosul Project' "*.

At the end of the conference, the participants unanimously adopted the *"Istanbul Declaration on Protecting the Cultural Heritage of the Muslim World"*. The text of the adopted Declaration is reproduced below.



# Istanbul Declaration on Protection of Cultural Heritage of the Muslim World

2 Nov. 2017

*H*aving heard research papers, survey reports and country experiences; evaluated and discussed the present state of cultural heritage of the Muslim world, problems encountered and threats faced; estimated future prospects and ways of improving the protection and preservation of this heritage, the Conference called upon the OIC Member States, organizations and world community concerned, to

- Identify frameworks and establish modalities for enhancement of inter-state cooperation for protection of heritage and support of national and international efforts, within the framework of UN charter and the principles enshrined in it and include in this regard the subject of considering establishment of a Strategy of Joint Islamic Action for Protection of Cultural Heritage of the Muslim World in the cultural agenda of OIC with such a strategy giving the necessary and due respect and importance to all nations sovereignty and adhering to the principles of non-interference in member states' internal affairs, henceforth rendering it help upon a nation's request.
- Link policies of cultural heritage protection with policies aimed at countering violent extremism, extremism, religious and cultural discrimination, xenophobia and Islamophobia according to the relevant stipulations of the UN charter and its principles.
- Identify the economic, social and tourism aspects of cultural heritage in its different types and categories; and set aims and programs to develop and make better functional use of those aspects.
- Cooperate to improve formal education and professional training on protection of cultural heritage with due attention to the cultural heritage needs of the Muslim world.
- Invite states and institutions to implement joint projects that would create awareness of the authenticity and timeless importance of urban heritage of the Muslim world.
- Invite OIC Member States, regional organizations and universities to take part in the IRCICA Prince Sultan bin Salman Islamic Architectural Heritage Database program.
- Designate OIC-IRCICA and ISESCO as the focal points of activities aimed at Protection of Cultural Heritage in the Muslim world in the framework of the OIC platform.
- Request the member countries of OIC to support efforts for preserving universally recognized and regionally important sacred sites such as Al Aqsa Mosque / Al Haram Al Sharif, heritage sites in Nagorno-Karabakh and occupied Kashmir from various types of manmade damages including excavations, site alterations and overlapping developments in accordance with the OIC charter.
- Invite state parties to recognize, promote and enhance intangible heritage and mainstream it in the conservation process of cultural heritage.
- Invite OIC member states to benefit from the best examples in cultural heritage protection such as the historical mosques conservation program in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- Encourage member states to transform heritage preservation into a socially and economically sustainable enterprise with strong participation from various generations, genders, Muslim diaspora and extended communities.
- Pursue the implementation of Convention for the Protection of Heritage in the Islamic World approved by the OIC and the Convention for the Protection of Urban Heritage in the Arab World approved by the Arab League.
- Evolve mechanisms to document and publicize Islamic cultural heritage that is challenged due to civil wars, communal conflicts and constraints of physical and social access.
- Launch an invitation for establishment of a Special Fund to support cooperation among universities in education, training and research on cultural heritage.
- Launch an invitation for establishment of a Special Fund to support implementation of projects of outstanding value regarding realization of strategies and policies for the protection of cultural heritage of Muslim world in coordination with national authorities of member states upon their explicit request based on priority needs assessment.
- Encourage exchanges of administrative, technical and artistic expertise among OIC Member States as regards to design, development and utility of urban sites.
- Encourage local governments to develop systems for education and awareness-raising processes among local people including all different age groups of children and youth, in relation to protection of cultural and natural wealth in their region.

## First OIC Summit on Science and Technology

Astana, Kazakhstan, 10-11 September 2017

The First Summit of the OIC on Science and Technology at the level of Heads of States and Governments took place in Astana, capital city of Kazakhstan, on 10-11 September 2017.

([https://www.oic-oci.org/topic/?t\\_id=15740&ref=7973&lan](https://www.oic-oci.org/topic/?t_id=15740&ref=7973&lan)) The Summit was aimed at determining priorities and objectives in the field of science, technology and innovation development in the OIC Member States. The Summit was themed "Science, Technology, Innovation and Modernization in the Islamic World".

The President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, H.E. Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev opened the conference with an address. Heads of State and Government and Ministerial delegations of the Member States and Observer States were present, including President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Iranian President Hasan Rouhani, Azerbaijani President İlham Aliyev, Afghan President Ashraf Gani, Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Pakistani President Mamnoon Hussain, Venezuelan President Nicholas Maduro (representing the Non-Aligned Movement) and Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency Council Member Bakir Izzetbegović. The OIC Secretary General

and the IRCICA Director General, together with the representatives of other international and regional organizations were also present.

President Nazarbaev said in his address, "Islam came to our land more than 1000 years ago. We served as a link in the friendly dialogue between the Islamic and Western civilisation". He pointed out several acute issues that the international community, including the OIC, needs to address: "First is extremist and terrorist activity. Primarily, citizens of Muslim countries suffer from their subversive activities. Second is the problem of the spreading of Islamophobia sentiments. Crimes against Muslims are on the rise every year in the Western countries" he said. (<https://astanatimes.com/2017/09/first-oic-summit-on-science-and-technology-takes-place-in-astana/>).

Addressing the conference, the OIC Secretary General H.E. Dr. Yousif Bin Ahmed Al-Othaimeen stated that political and security solutions of contemporary problems ought to go hand in hand with effective social, cultural and economic plans based on science and know-how. The Secretary General said that the OIC is currently working on a comprehensive program of scholarships, particularly in the fields of medicine, engineering,



technology and informatics for all academically outstanding young men and women from the Member States. Dr. Al-Othaimen recorded that Member States spending on R&D rose over the years, substantial investments were implemented in the field of higher education, and 17 universities in the Member States were classified among the 400 best universities in the world in terms of excellence by July 2017.

H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the 13th Islamic Summit Conference, underscored that the way to a strong state is by producing knowledge and processing it in the best manner. He pointed that OIC Member States are consumers and not producers of science and therefore are in a weaker situation. He expressed the readiness of Turkey to cooperate with the OIC Member States in exchange of technology, and of scholars and students. President Erdoğan underlined the need to strengthen the legal and technical infrastructure in order to counter cyber crimes.

The Summit paid tribute to scientists from the Muslim world chosen for their outstanding contributions to their areas of specialization. A group of them were presented with the OIC S&T Achievement Award. Among them are: Prof. Rajaâ Cherkaoui El Moursli, nuclear physicist from Morocco, Prof. Yusuf Yağcı from Turkey who established a chemical laboratory of polymer, Prof. Alouini, electrical engineer from Tunisia, and Prof. Assan Jaye, Head of Research Training and Career Development at the Medical Research Council in the Gambia.

During the working sessions, the participants emphasized the need to improve educational infrastructure and provide better funding for hard-core scientific research. Schemes and modalities of linkages between financial sectors and the research community were also discussed. The importance of university-industry linkages and exchange of best-practice applications among Islamic countries were also high on the agenda. The Summit adopted the Astana Declaration on "Science, Technology, Innovation and Modernization in Islamic World", where the leaders agreed to pursue cooperation among their countries for sustainable development of their

peoples and affirmed their resolve to eradicate poverty from their societies including poverty of the mind, and to bring forth the creative and innovative strengths of all their peoples.

The Summit also adopted the OIC Science, Technology and Innovation Agenda 2026 which identifies priority areas. These include, managing energy requirements by calling for the use of renewable energy and initiating peaceful application of nuclear technology in power and non-power sectors. Among other goals, the Agenda 2026 aims to ensure safety of water, food and the environment; it includes recommendations on the environment, climate change and sustainability; enhancing intra-OIC scientific cooperation; and working together on Big Science Programs on space, astronomy and high performance computer centres. The Agenda also aims to nurture the "Thinking Mind" by building a culture of science and innovation; making people employable through developing their education and skills; improving the quality of higher education and research and focusing on mathematics, physics, biology and biotechnology, and chemical sciences. It also envisages to join efforts to accomplish the goals envisioned in the OIC 2025 Plan of Action and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

A special session on the plight of the Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar was held during the Summit with the initiative of the Turkish delegation.

The participants agreed that the second summit conference on science and technology would be held in Uzbekistan which indicates that the summit will become periodic.



## Tenth Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers Khartoum, Sudan, 21-23 November 2017



The Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers held its tenth session in Khartoum, capital of the Republic of Sudan, under the high patronage of the Sudanese President H.E. Field Marshal Omar Hassan Ahmad Al Bashier, on 21-23 November 2017. The theme adopted for this session was "Towards a sustainable cultural development of the cities of the future in the Islamic world". Sudan's hosting the conference was part of celebrating Sinnar as the Arab region's Capital of the Islamic Culture for the year 2017. 42 OIC Member States and international organizations were represented at the conference.

President Al Bashier opened the conference with a speech. The President highlighted the historical and civilizational importance of Sinnar as the capital of Islamic culture for the year 2017. He referred to the massive national celebration of the city as a manifestation of the contribution of all components of the Sudanese people to the preservation of Sudan's historical and civilizational heritage characterized by diversity and pluralism. Speeches were delivered by Dr. Al-Tayeb Hassan Badawi, Minister of Culture of Sudan; Ambassador Hesham Youssef, Assistant Secretary General of the OIC for Humanitarian,

Cultural and Social Affairs who read the message of H.E. the Secretary General of OIC; Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwajri, Director General of ISESCO; Sheikh Hamad bin Hilal Al Ma'amari, Under-secretary of the Ministry of Heritage and Culture of the Sultanate of Oman who read out the address of Sayyid Haitham bin Tariq al-Said, Minister of Heritage and Culture, along with the heads of participating delegations who presented statements on their countries' cultural policies.

The conference discussed the following, among other issues: the Cultural Strategy of the Islamic World; guidelines related to the theme "Culture and the City"; the draft Guidance Study on Cultural Indicators of Development; the Draft Islamic Declaration on Safeguarding Cultural Heritage in the Muslim World; and, the draft Rules of Procedure of the Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers. Among the various resolutions issued by the conference, a resolution stressed the pivotal role of IRCICA and ISESCO in preserving cultural heritage of the Islamic world. The conference also adopted the Khartoum Declaration on the Future Cities Sustainable Cultural Development Requirements.



Dr. Nezhir Maruf, Advisor to the Director General of IRCICA presented the message of Dr. Halit Eren, Director General, focusing on the role played by IRCICA as the first cultural institution established within the OIC. He gave a brief about the international conference which IRCICA organized in cooperation with the OIC General Secretariat and ISESCO under the theme "Protecting Cultural Heritage of the Muslim World", in Istanbul, on 1-2 November 2017.

Later, Dr Maruf had a meeting with Dr. Al-Tayeb Hassan Badawi, Minister of Culture of the Republic of the Sudan about the prospects for developing a joint activity between the Republic of Sudan and IRCICA in the field of cultural affairs. Dr. Maruf presented to the Minister copies of two publications of IRCICA, namely the *Album of the Winning Entries of the Tabriz International Award for Innovation and Creativity in Crafts and Handmade Prayer Carpets Through History*. The Minister expressed his wish that an international festival on Islamic arts and crafts be organized in Khartoum jointly with IRCICA. It was agreed later that Khartoum International Festival of the Artisans of the Muslim World as at Work will be organized in Khartoum during November 2018.



Presentation of the Centre's publications to Dr. Al-Tayeb Hassan Badawi, Minister of Culture of the Sudan

**2017 Year of Islamic Solidarity in Azerbaijan:  
International Conference on *Islamic Solidarity in the  
Example of Turkish – Azerbaijani Relations* co-organized by  
IRCICA together with: Caucasian Muslims  
Administration of Azerbaijan, Presidency of  
Religious Affairs of Turkey, State Committee of  
Azerbaijan for Work with Religious Organizations,  
and Marmara University**

**Istanbul, 25 September 2017**

President of Azerbaijan Republic H.E. Ilham Aliyev declared 2017 the Year of Islamic Solidarity in Azerbaijan. Within this framework, Baku hosted the 4th Islamic Solidarity Games, in May 2017. A series of international conferences on the theme of international solidarity were organized in different countries, including Azerbaijan, Iran, Finland, Russia, Turkey and Uzbekistan. In this context, an international conference titled "Islamic Solidarity in the Example of Turkish-Azerbaijani Relations" took place on 25 September 2017 in Istanbul. IRCICA was co-organizer of the conference together with: Caucasian Muslims Administration of Azerbaijan (Baku), the Presidency of Religious Affairs of

Turkey, the State Committee of Azerbaijan for Work with Religious Organizations (Baku) and Marmara University, Faculty of Theology (Istanbul).

The subsequent conference in the series was titled "Islamic Solidarity in the Example of Uzbekistan – Azerbaijan" and took place on 18 October 2017 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The final conference, titled "2017 Year of Islamic Solidarity: Interfaith and Intercultural Dialogue" took place in Baku on 21 December 2017, under the patronage and with an address by H.E. President Aliyev.

At the Istanbul conference held on 25 September 2017 where IRCICA was co-organizer, the



messages of the President of Turkey H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and the President of Azerbaijan H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev were read to the audience. President Erdoğan pointed out in his message, that all positive and negative developments at regional and global levels are affecting the future of societies directly and indirectly. He said that coping with this situation can be possible by strengthening the relations of friendship and solidarity between countries besides the united will and commitment within each. In his message President Aliyev pointed out that the friendship and brotherhood constantly growing between Azerbaijan and Turkey is a good example of Islamic solidarity. The opening ceremony was attended by the Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey, H.E. Mr. Bekir Bozdağ who delivered an opening address. The conference was also addressed by: IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren; the President of the Caucasian Muslims Administration of Azerbaijan Sheikhulislam Allahshukur Pashazadeh; the Chairman of the Presidency of Religious Affairs of Turkey Prof. Dr. Ali Erbaş; the Head of the State Committee of Azerbaijan for Work with Religious Organizations Mr. Mubariz Gurbanlı; the Chairperson of the Turkey-Azerbaijan Parliamentary Friendship Group and Member of the Turkish Parliament Prof. Dr. Necdet Ünüvar; and, Member of the National Assembly of Azerbaijan and President of the Azerbaijan-Turkey Parliamentary Friendship Group Mr. Ehliman Emiraslanov.

The Istanbul conference was held in round-table format. Religious scholars and representatives

from the Presidency of Religious Affairs of Turkey, the Caucasian Muslims Administration of Azerbaijan, the State Committee of Azerbaijan for Work with Religious Organizations, muftis from the Russian Federation, and Presidents of Religious Affairs of Bulgaria and Montenegro participated in the sessions. The participants emphasized the importance of Islamic solidarity in the struggle against contemporary global problems and denounced terrorism, separatism, extremism, Islamophobia, xenophobia and exploitation of religious ideals for political purposes. The conference ended with closing remarks and the adoption of a final declaration.

As to the conference on “Islamic Solidarity in the Example of Uzbekistan – Azerbaijan” held in Tashkent, capital of Uzbekistan on 18 October 2017, it was organized by the Committee on Religious Affairs under the Cabinet of Ministers of Uzbekistan, the Muslims Board of Uzbekistan, the State Committee of Azerbaijan for Work with Religious Organizations (Baku) and the Caucasian Muslims Administration of Azerbaijan (Baku). Messages of greetings of Uzbekistan’s President H.E. Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev and the President of Azerbaijan H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev were read. The event was officiated by the Prime Minister of Uzbekistan Abdulla Aripov and the State Advisor to the President of Uzbekistan Rostam Komilov. It was attended by representatives of the governments and parliaments of Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan, heads of international organizations, scholars-theologians from the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Germany, Turkey and



Ukraine. Director General of IRCICA Dr. Halit Eren participated in the conference. Issues of inter-faith tolerance and social harmony, interreligious and cultural dialogue, countering current challenges including extremism and terrorism, were underlined. A final communiqué of the conference was adopted. (<http://uza.uz/en/society/islamic-solidarity-serves-to-strengthening-peace-and-interet-19-10-2017>).

The Baku conference, which on 21 December 2017 concluded the Year of Islamic Solidarity, was co-organized by the Caucasian Muslims Administration of Azerbaijan and the State Committee on Work with Religious Organizations, Azerbaijan. Participants in the conference included state, religious figures and scholars from about 40 countries, heads and representatives of eight international organizations, special envoys of heads of states of a number of countries, heads of religious communities, members of governments, general public and parliaments, and representatives of the diplomatic corps (<http://report.az/en/religion/baku-hosts-conference-2017-year-of-islamic-solidarity-interfaith-and-intercultural-dialogue/>). In his inaugural address, President of Azerbaijan H.E. Ilham Aliyev said "We want the interfaith dialogue to strengthen both in the Muslim

world, in Europe and generally in the world." He reminded that Azerbaijan had announced the previous year as the Year of Multiculturalism. (<https://www.azernews.az/nation/124374.html>).

IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren delivered an address at the Baku conference, recapitulating that the Istanbul conference IRCICA co-organized and all the conferences in the series had been an occasion to refresh the affirmation of the spirit of brotherhood in Islam and indelible attachment to its teachings and heritage. As to Islam's relationship with adherents of other religions, Dr. Eren reminded that Islam upholds the principle of tolerance and understanding as indicated in the Holy Quran, surah 109 (Al-Kafirun), verse 6: "To you is your religion, and to me is my religion". He said that IRCICA, as the OIC's cultural research centre working on all scholarly aspects of Islamic civilization, gave great importance to contributing to the activities of the Islamic solidarity year.

The series of conferences marking the 2017 Year of Islamic Solidarity in Azerbaijan have on the whole highlighted the contributions of solidarity between countries and friendship between their peoples to bolstering the idea of international solidarity in general as well as in facing global and regional challenges.



## International Conference on "The Central Asian Renaissance in the History of World Civilization", IRCICA's participation

Samarkand, 28 August 2017

An international conference entitled "The Central Asian Renaissance in the History of World Civilization" was held on 28 August 2017 in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. The conference was held under UNESCO auspices. It was attended by the Speaker of the Senate of Oliy Majlis (The Uzbek Parliament) Dr. Nigmatilla T. Yuldashev, the Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan Mr. Abdulaziz Kamilov, together with senior officials, heads of universities, representatives of international organizations, scholars and specialists from fifteen countries.

The Director General of IRCICA delivered an address in which he emphasized that Central Asia has been cradle of science and learning throughout history. "As such, the region has made substantial contributions to scientific developments and the advancement of world civilization by raising eminent scholars and scientists in various fields." Dr. Eren also stated that "Major schools of thought, world-class research centers and scientific traditions were born in the region, which stood at the crossroads of trade routes and



Director General Dr. Eren presented a copy of IRCICA's historical photograph album on Al-Haramein to the Speaker of the Senate of Oliy Majlis, Dr. Nigmatilla Yuldashev, to be delivered to H.E. the President of Uzbekistan H.E. Shavkat Mirziyoyev

channels of human mobilization. Central Asia has been a major center of trade and inter-cultural relations since antiquity when communities from different ethnic, religious and cultural backgrounds coexisted peacefully. The region played an important role in the transmission of goods and services as well as thoughts, ideas, arts and sciences across societies." Dr. Eren noted that the historical experience gained in the region could give insights for tackling contemporary problems.

The papers presented at the plenary and thematic sessions of the conference highlighted various aspects of the renaissance of science, culture, architecture and art in the 9<sup>th</sup>–15<sup>th</sup> centuries in Central Asia. Particular attention was paid to the study of the historical significance and the role of the Great Silk Road in the economic and cultural development of the Asian continent, as well as in the evolution of scientific thought. The modern development of Uzbekistan was taken up as a separate topic. Presentations devoted to the Uzbek investment and tourism potential were also organized for participants from abroad.



Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan Dr. Abdulaziz Kamilov presented with the album of historical photographs of Makkah al-Mukaramah and Madina al-Munawara published by IRCICA

## Opening of the Islamic Academy of Bolgar: IRCICA Director General participated in the ceremonies

4 September 2017

The Islamic Academy of Bolgar, in Tatarstan, Russian Federation, was opened with a high-profile ceremony held on 4 September 2017 in the presence of the President of Tatarstan H.E. Rustam Minnikhanov, State Advisor of Tatarstan H.E. Mintimer Shaimiev, Presidential Envoy of H.E. President Vladimir Putin to the Volga Federal District Ambassador Mikhail Babich, Rector of Kazan Federal University Prof. Ilshat Gafurov. A number of dignitaries, including members of Government and Parliament attended the ceremony.

Addressing the ceremony, President Minnikhanov qualified the event as one of historic importance and expressed gratitude to Russian President H.E. Vladimir Putin for the support extended towards opening of the Academy. Ambassador Mikhail Babich, Presidential Envoy to the Volga Federal



IRCICA's address at the opening ceremony



IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren presented H.E. Rustam Minnikhanov, President of the Republic of Tatarstan (Russian Federation) with a facsimile edition of an early copy of the Holy Quran published by IRCICA

District, read the message issued by President Putin on the occasion of the Academy's opening. The message pointed out that the two-level education system comprising the university and the medersa that has been instituted in Russian Federation enables Russian Muslims to receive Islamic education in their own country, without needing to go abroad.

IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren presented Tatarstan President Minnikhanov with a facsimile edition published by IRCICA, of a copy of the Holy Quran dating from the 7th century AD, i.e. the first century of Islam, which is preserved at Topkapı Palace Museum, Istanbul.

The ceremony was followed by an informative tour of the campus, during which Rector Prof. Rafik Mukhametshin told about the educational system of the school and future plans. Along with Kazan Federal University, its major partner, and other universities of Tatarstan, the Academy will be involved among others, in reinforcing the spirit of multi-faith coexistence and dialogue.

## Participation in the International Colloquium on «Urban Heritage and Actors of Heritage Making»

Monastir, Tunisia, 6-9 December 2017



An International Colloquium on «Urban Heritage and Actors of Heritage Making» was held in Monastir, Tunisia, on 6-9 December 2017. It was organized by "Association Tunisienne des Etudes et des Recherches Urbaines" (Tunisian Association of Urban Studies and Research) and "Association de Sauvegarde de la Ville de Monastir" (Association for Conservation of the City of Monastir) in cooperation with "Institut National du Patrimoine" (National Institute for Heritage), "Ecole Normale supérieure" (Higher School for Training, University of Tunis) and "Ecole Nationale d'Architecture et d'Urbanisme" (National School for Architecture and Urbanism). IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren chaired the session of plenary lectures that followed the opening and spoke of IRCICA's experiences and observations concerning raising consciousness of urban heritage in societies. A total of 70 studies were presented during 6 and 7 December at

parallel workshops organized under three main themes: "Actors and valorisation of heritage", "Spatial dynamics and territorial challenges of heritage making processes", "Tourism, heritage and development". A final report and a set of recommendations were issued.



# Art festivals and exhibitions

## ASEAN Calligraphy Festival and Exhibition 2017 co-organized by IRCICA and Calligraphy School of Jombang (SAKAL)

Jombang, East Java, Indonesia, 14-17 September 2017

ASEAN Calligraphy Festival and Exhibition 2017 was co-organized by IRCICA and the Calligraphy School of Jombang (SAKAL), in Jombang, East Java, from 14-17 September 2017. The international festival comprised exhibitions, workshops, and an international competition of calligraphy.

IRCICA contributed to the Festival with an exhibition of calligraphic works selected from among award-winners in the competitions it has been holding since 1980. The exhibition was organized in cooperation with MAMBA'UL MA'ARIF DENANYAR (Jombang). The emphasis was on award-winner works from Southeast Asia.

The opening ceremony was addressed with a speech by Hj. Munjidah Wahab, Deputy Governor of Jombang. IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit



Eren addressed the ceremony outlining the Centre's motives and services in its activities relating to the art of calligraphy.

Later during the opening ceremony, Dr. Halit Eren presented to the South East Asian calligraphers the calligraphy certificates (ijazat), which were signed by their teacher, master calligrapher Mr. Belaid Hamidi.

The closing ceremony of the Festival was addressed by Mr. Menghadri Mohaimin Iskandar, Chairman of DPP PKB - The National Awakening Party, Indonesia.

The calligraphy competition was conducted in rika and diwani writing styles. Calligraphers from five countries participated in it. IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren chaired the competition jury of the calligraphy competition. Together with the Director General, IRCICA's Calligraphy Competitions Coordinator Mr. Said Kasımoğlu participated in the implementation of the event.



IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren offered a calligraphic work to Hj. Munjidah Wahab, Deputy Governor of Jombang, as a souvenir of the event.



Opening of the Festival



The Jury at work



Mr. Abdullah Nuchtar Syafii,  
Winner of the first prize



Ms. Hayatee Wado (Thailand) receives her Ijaza from Master  
Belaid Hamidi



Master Bielaid Hamidi gives Mr. Wang Qi Fi (China) his Ijaza



Opening of the Exhibition



Lectures



## **“Islamic Calligraphy on the Silk Road” International Calligraphy Exhibition**

**Astana, Kazakhstan, 8 September 2017**

IRCICA and the International Turkic Academy (TWESCO) in Astana, Kazakhstan jointly organized the International Calligraphy Exhibition titled “Islamic Calligraphy on the Silk Road” along with a Roundtable and a calligraphy workshop. The event took place on 8 September 2017 in the Palace of Peace and Reconciliation, Astana. The exhibition presented a selection of calligraphy works that received awards in international calligraphy competitions organized by IRCICA between 1986 and 2016. The works represent classical calligraphy styles such as Thuluth, Naskh, Kufi, Diwani and Nasta liq in applications from around the world.

Alongside the exhibition, there was a roundtable meeting involving policy-makers, educators and artists from Kazakhstan who discussed the

current state of research on the calligraphy. In addition, during the calligraphy workshop a master demonstrated his professional skills to the exhibition attendees and amateur calligraphy enthusiasts.

Established in 2010 by the leaders of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkey, and known as “Turkic World Educational and Scientific Cooperation Organization” (TWESCO), the International Turkic Academy undertook research projects and comprehensive studies on languages, culture, arts, and history of the Turkic peoples from ancient times to the present day. TWESCO also promotes cooperation with academic and education centers around the world which work on subjects of study relating to the Turkic world.



## **"The Province of Beirut in the Ottoman Period" Photograph Exhibition**

**Beirut, Lebanon, 6-13 October 2017**

An exhibition of photographs from IRCICA's archives relating to "The Province of Beirut in the Ottoman Period" was organized by IRCICA and Yunus Emre Institute of Beirut at the historical Maqasid Institute building. The exhibition was opened on 6 October 2017 in presence of IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren, the Ambassador of Turkey in Lebanon Mr. Çağatay Erciyes, and the Director of Yunus Emre Institute Mr. Reha Ermumcu. A large number of visitors attended the opening. The exhibition continued for one week.

Fourty photographs selected from the albums of Sultan Abdulhamid II (end of the 19th- early 20th century) were exhibited. Views of quarters, architectural structures, schools, hospitals,



Opening of the exhibition

social life and personalities from Beirut, Tripoli, Saida and Tyre drew the interest of the visitors.

The Ambassador of Turkey Mr. Çağatay Erciyes pointed to the high documentary value of historical photographs. He said that Sultan Abdulhamid II gave importance to photography and a collection of more than 35000 photographs from all corners of the Empire and around the world was assembled during his reign.

Director General of IRCICA Dr. Halit Eren briefed the audience on IRCICA's activities in the fields of history and culture. He spoke in particular of the Centre's studies on archival documents and among them its collections of more than 70000 historical photographs. He cited examples of publications issued and exhibitions organized by IRCICA with selections from those collections highlighting regional and historical themes. Dr. Eren expressed his pleasure that this exhibition reflecting the Ottoman times of Beirut was realized and his appreciation of the support and interest extended towards it.



Reproduction of a historical photograph presented to Maqasid Institute's representative as a souvenir

# IRCICA Library

## Optical character recognition system for manuscripts launched by IRCICA

IRCICA implements advanced technologies in its library, including systems adapted to particular needs of research and readers' services in the areas of Islamic civilization and the Muslim world.

The system designed by IRCICA for Optical Character Recognition (OCR) of manuscript texts is now operational. The facility was made available for printed texts a few years ago within the framework of IRCICA's Farabi® Digital Library. Meantime IRCICA was working to develop a software that would be applicable for word search in manuscript texts. Taking into consideration the large body of literature and archival sources available in the Ottoman language, i.e. Turkish in Arabic script, among other major languages of the Muslim world, at a first stage the project focused on character recognition in Ottoman handwriting. This process was conducted with the support of Istanbul Development Agency affiliated to the Ministry of Development of Turkey. Once the operational program was prepared, a team of experts at IRCICA equipped it with sets of characters representing the letters and their variants and rendered it functional for Naskh, Riq'a, Taliq and Nastaliq styles of writing. This task achieved, it became possible to search single words in handwritten texts. The

importance of this function for research purposes cannot be overemphasized. Future extensions of the project can include multiary search and other technical advances. Now that the system is operational on Ottoman texts, it will be easier to extend it to other major languages and scripts of the Muslim world.

The system was introduced to the public at a meeting held at IRCICA on 18 December 2017. The audience, particularly expert staff from libraries and archives holding manuscript collections, showed great interest in the system as it was demonstrated through sample operations. The project and the resulting system were explained to the audience by Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA and Mrs. Özgül Özkan Yavuz, Secretary General of Istanbul Development Agency.



The functioning of the program was demonstrated to the audience

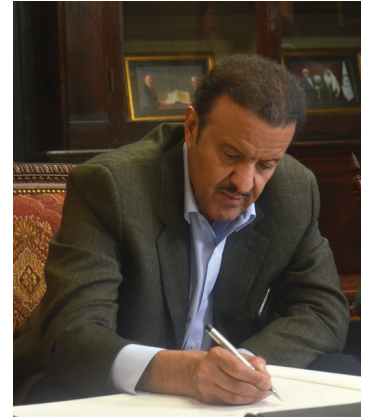
# Visits, Meetings, Cooperation

**H.R.H. Prince Sultan bin Salman bin Abdul Aziz, President, Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage (Riyadh) visited IRCICA**

31 October 2017

H.R.H. Prince Sultan bin Salman bin Abdul Aziz, President, Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage (SCTH, Riyadh) visited IRCICA on 31 October 2017. His Royal Highness was accompanied by a delegation of high officials from the SCTH.

IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren met H.R.H. Prince Sultan bin Salman at the entrance of the Centre's new headquarters. The meeting at the Directorate General revolved around the cooperation between the



SCTH and IRCICA. Then, Dr. Eren guided Prince Sultan bin Salman to the research sections of the Centre.

The next day, H.R.H. Prince Sultan bin Salman addressed the opening ceremony of the International Conference on Protecting Cultural Heritage of the Muslim World which was organized by OIC General Secretariat, IRCICA and ISESCO on 1-2 November 2017.



Souvenir photo with the calligraphy plate offered to H.R.H. Prince Sultan bin Salman and bearing a Quranic verse written with gold ink



Meeting with Prof. Numan Kurtulmuş, Minister of Culture of Turkey and Mr. Vasip Şahin, Governor of Istanbul on the occasion of the Prince's visit

## IRCICA Director General participated in the First Saudi Archaeology Convention

Riyadh, 7-9 November 2017

Under the patronage of H.M. King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the First Saudi Archaeology Convention was organized by the Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage (SCTH) in Riyadh, on 7-9 November 2017 (scth.gov.sa). Accompanied by series of exhibitions, workshops, and launching of various archaeological projects, the Convention highlighted a wide range of sites and finds some dating from many millennia and reflected latest techniques of archaeological surveys and historical analyses.

At the invitation of H.R.H. Prince Sultan bin Salman bin Abdul Aziz, President, Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage (SCTH, Riyadh) the Director General of IRCICA Dr. Halit Eren participated in the Convention.



Dr. Halit Eren with of H.R.H. Prince Sultan bin Salman, President, SCTH

**Prof. Rafael Khakimov, Director of Sh. Marjani Institute of History, Tatarstan Academy of Sciences, Kazan, Tatarstan (Russian Federation)** visited IRCICA on 9 October 2017. Prof. Khakimov was accompanied by Dr. Radik Salikhov, Vice Director for Research; Dr. Lillia Gabdratkova and Dr. Marat Gibatdinov, Vice Director for International Cooperation.



A calligraphy plate bearing the Quranic verse 49/13 adopted by IRCICA as its motto offered to Prof. Khakimov



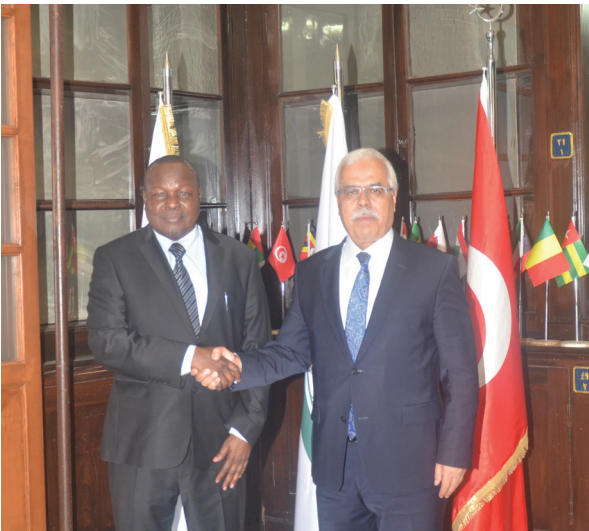
On 13 October 2017, three experts of old manuscripts from the State of **Kuwait** visited IRCICA namely **Sheikh Mohammed Nsser al-Ajmi**, **Dr. Ahmet Abdul Wahab al-Awadi** and **Eng. Ahmad bin Abdulhamid al-Farhan**. The visit was a good occasion for talks on studies on Islamic manuscripts with Director General Dr. Eren.

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**H.E. Ramazan Abdulatipov**, **Russian President's Special Representative on Humanitarian and Economic Cooperation with Caspian Region States, former Head of the Republic of Dagestan, Russian Federation**, visited IRCICA on 21 October 2017. Dr. Halit Eren gave information on the Centre's activities to Mr. Abdulatipov and offered him a calligraphic plate as a souvenir of his visit.

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The **Minister of Secondary Education** of the **Republic of Niger**, **Mr. Sani Abderrahmane**, visited IRCICA on 21 October 2017. The Minister met with Dr. Halit Eren and received information on the Centre's history and its activities.



On 18 December 2017, IRCICA received **Dr. Salahadine Hassan Abdallah**, **Minister Plenipotentiary**, representative of the **Republic of Chad** at the Board of Directors of the OIC Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC, Ankara).



IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren paid a visit of condolence to **Ms. Nermeen Matwally, Consul General of the Arab Republic of Egypt** in Istanbul, on 27 November 2017, after the terrorist attack at al-Rawda mosque in Sinai which left hundreds of victims.

Later, the Consul General paid a visit to IRCICA on 11 December 2017. On this first visit of the Consul General to IRCICA's new premises, Dr. Eren guided the Consul General to research departments of the Centre.



A delegation from Guinea-Bissau visited IRCICA on 16 December 2017; it was composed of **Mr. Bubacar Djalo, Chairman of the Association of Imams of Guinea-Bissau**, Mr. Suleimane Balde, Vice-Chairman, Mr. Cabiro Djalo, in charge of External Relations of the Association and Dr Idrissa Embalo, ex-Ambassador of Guinea-Bissau and Advisor to the Association.



**Dr. Ismatulla Fayzullaev, Senior Counsellor, Chargé d'Affaires of the Uzbekistan Embassy in Riyadh**, paid a visit to IRCICA on 13 December 2017.



**Mr. Faiz Mohammed Othmani, Minister of Religious and Pilgrimage Affairs, Islamic State of Afghanistan**, visited IRCICA on 25 December 2017. The album of historical photographs of the Haramain published by IRCICA was offered by the Director General to the Minister on the occasion of his visit.

**Dr. Saleh Bin Abdulaziz Al-Sheikh, Minister of Islamic Affairs, Endowments, Call and Guidance, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,** visited IRCICA on 14

December 2017. The Minister met with Director General Dr. Halit Eren and received information on latest activities. The Minister recorded his impressions in the Visitors' Book, as follows (original: Arabic): "Today I visited the new Headquarters of IRCICA, of which I had seen before the old Headquarters. I was in front of a great monument that combines diligence with splendor, making a positive contribution to the cultural and civilizational products of history, arts and culture. I would like to thank brother Dr. Halit Eren, the Director General, and all of his colleagues, as well as the Organization of Islamic Cooperation for its support and contributions."

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**Cooperation between the Government and institutions of Tunisia and IRCICA: meeting with Tunisian Minister of Tourism and Handicrafts, in Tunis**

IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren visited Mrs. Salma Elloumi Rekik, Minister of Tourism and Handicrafts of Tunisia, in Tunis, on 8 December 2017. The visit was fruitful, especially regarding cooperation between Tunisia and IRCICA towards development of the handicrafts. In this field, years ago IRCICA and the Office National de l'Artisanat Tunisien (ONA), which works under the Ministry, had jointly organized the International Seminar on Traditional Carpets and Kilims in the Muslim World, in November 1999. During the meeting, it was decided that new joint activities would be organized, to the benefit of the handicrafts sector, with the usual international participation that marks IRCICA's handicrafts festivals and seminars. Dr. Eren was in Tunisia to participate in the international colloquium on «Urban Heritage and Actors of Heritage Making» which was held in Monastir, Tunisia, on 6-9 December 2017.



The forthcoming joint activity of IRCICA with the Ministry of Tourism and Handicrafts of Tunisia through its ONA will be the Tunis International Festival for Textiles, Embroidery and Weaving to be held in October 2019.

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IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren paid a visit to **Dr. Saud Hilal Al-Harbi, Director-General** of the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO, Tunis), on 8 December 2017. Dr. Eren congratulated Dr. Al-Harbi on his taking the office as ALECSO Director-General. It was also a good occasion for the two to talk on cooperation between IRCICA and ALECSO.



IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren paid a visit to **Dr. Hichem Grissa, Rector, Zitouna University, Tunis**, on 6 December 2017. The talks revolved around themes of academic cooperation. Dr. Eren was in Tunisia to participate in the international colloquium on «Urban Heritage and Actors of Heritage Making» in Monastir (6-9 December 2017).



IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren visited **Prof. Abdeljelil Temimi, Founder – Chairman, Fondation Temimi de Recherches Scientifiques et d'Information** (Temimi Foundation for Scholarly Research and Information, **FTERSI**) in Tunis, on 7 December 2017. The Foundation coordinates research on history and humanities and publishes scholarly books and periodicals with focus on the Ottoman and the Moriscos Andalusian history. Its Founder-Chairman Prof. Temimi participated in conferences organized by IRCICA.



## Tabriz International Award for Innovation and Creativity in Crafts Album of the Winning Entries

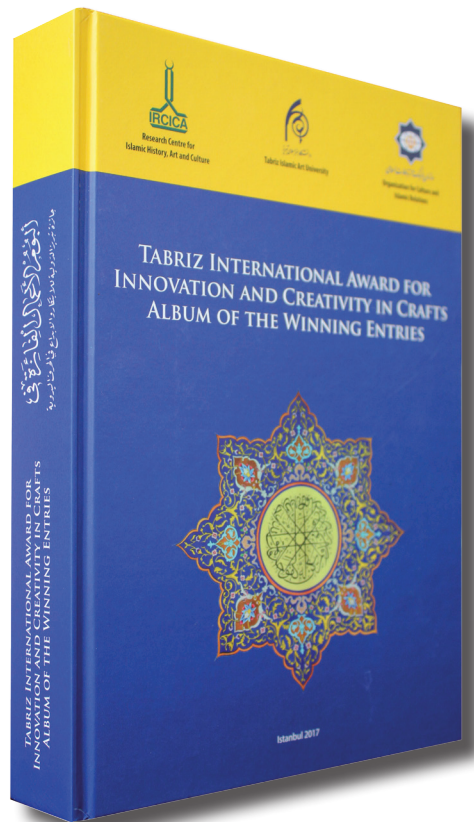
Ed. Nazeih Taleb Maarouf, Preface: Halit Eren, IRCICA, Istanbul, 2017

An album of the award-winning entries at the Tabriz International Award for Innovation and Creativity in Crafts conducted during the Tabriz International Festival of Arts, Heritage and Creativity which took place in Tabriz, Iran, on 8-12 May 2015, has been published.

The festival was organized by IRCICA and Tabriz University for Islamic Arts in cooperation with the Islamic Culture and Relations Organizations of Iran. It includes the winning entries in the fields of: miniature, sewing and embroidery; traditional costumes; carpets and rugs; decorating, Qur'an binding and gilding; marbled paper; architecture; mushrabiya; stucco colored glass; pottery and ceramics; silver and metal crafts; and engraving.

The festival gathered innovators and craftspeople in pavilions forming a craft village where they displayed their works, tools and techniques. Awards amounting to \$60.000 were distributed in ten Craft Topics. Each crafts theme was allocated three awards of \$6.000 in total, in the amount of \$3.000, \$2.000, and \$1.000, respectively.

The album constitutes a documentary catalogue of all the winning entries of artisans from various geographical regions of the world. It shows images of the latest achieved creativity by leading master artisans in fields like miniature, gilding, illumination, carpets, kilims, costumes,



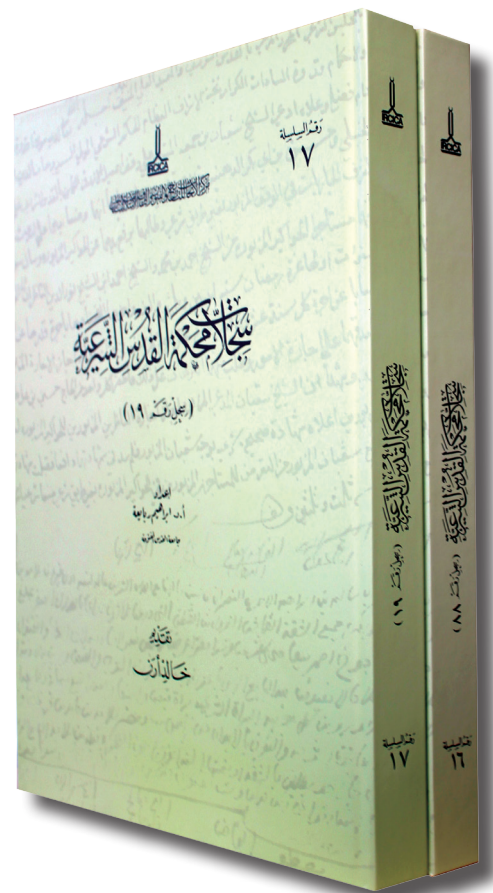
embroidery, mosaic, decoration, glass works and many more. The Album is published in English (457 pages) and Arabic (425 pages).

## Series on the Sharia Court Registers of Jerusalem Volumes on the Registers no. 88 and 19

Prepared for Publication by Ibrahim Rabaia, Preface by Halit Eren  
IRCICA, Istanbul, 2017 (in Arabic)

IRCICA publishes a series of volumes on the registers of the Sharia courts that functioned in Al-Quds/Jerusalem during the Ottoman period. There are altogether 412 registers, dating from 1529 to 1909. These registers are valuable first-hand records of cases reflecting daily life in the region, relations between the local administration and the people, interaction among different faith communities and people of different social statuses. Therefore the court registers reliably complement other sources. The index of terms, places, communities and professions are useful additions.

The first volume published in 2013 is related to the register no. 107 which comprises the period between 5 August 1623 and 10 April 1624 and contains cases reflecting social and economic life in the region. The three volumes published in 2014 contain the following registers: register no. 119 of al-Quds Sharia Court (23 Jan. 1632-13 Nov. 1632), register no. 149 (20 Nov. 1653-20 Dec. 1654), register no. 183 (22 Jan. 1680-20 Feb. 1681). The four 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). The volumes published in 2016 are related to al-Quds Sharia Court registers no. 67 (dated 10 May 1587 - 10 Dec. 1588), no. 191 (dated 6 Sep. 1688 - 11 Jan 1690) and no. 201 (dated Aug 1707 - Jul. 1703). Six volumes have been published in 2017, related



to al-Quds Sharia Court registers no. 19 (dated 11 April 1547 - 26 November 1547), no. 36 (dated 26 March 1558 - 28 Nov. 1558), no. 46 (dated 12 Oct. 1564 - 30 April 1565), no. 28 (dated 2 March - 7 Dec. 1554), no. 54 (dated 5 Jan. 1571 - 10 April 1572), and no. 88 (dated 16 March 1608 - 7 January 1609).

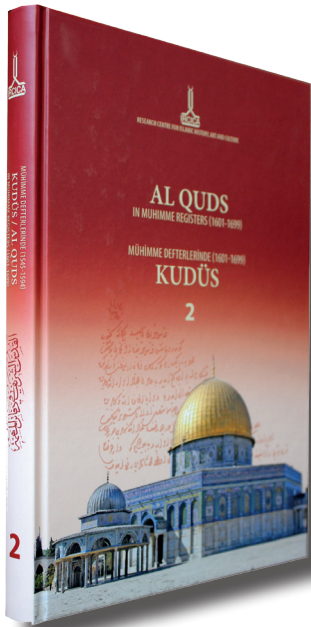
## Al-Quds in Muhimme Registers Volume II (1601-1699)

Prepared for publication by Murat Uluskan, Yuksel Celik, Davut Hut; Editor: Halit Eren, Istanbul, 2017; 263+13 p.

(Translation: Arabic, Najat Khalil; English, Sadik Unay)

Within the framework of a long-term research project on the history of Al-Quds, IRCICA produces a series of studies based on Ottoman official archive documents. Of particular importance are the Ottoman State's "Muhimme" Registers, where the decisions of the Ottoman Council of Ministers were recorded. These registers are valuable first-hand sources concerning the social, economic, cultural and architectural history and heritage of al-Quds.

The series started with publication of documents dating from the 16th century. The first volume under this title covered the period of 1545-1594. It was published in 2016. The present, second volume contains reproductions of the originals, transcriptions, and English, Arabic and Turkish summaries of documents selected from Muhimme Registers. The series will continue with volumes relating to documents dating from subsequent periods.



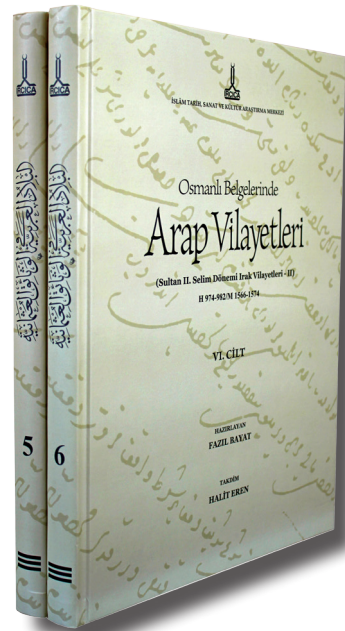
## The Arab Provinces in the Ottoman Documents. Al-Haramayn during the period of Sultan Selim II Volumes V, VI

Compilation, translation and study by Fazil Bayat. Foreword: Halit Eren

History of Muslim countries through Ottoman Archive Documents, IRCICA, Istanbul, 2017

With its series entitled *The Arab Provinces in the Ottoman Documents* IRCICA aims to facilitate access of researchers whose working 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, comprise documents from the periods of sultans Selim I and Sulaiman the Lawgiver. The fourth volume, published in 2015, is related to the Haramayn (Makkah al-Mukaramah and Madina al-Munawara) in the period of Sultan Selim II (974-982 H / 1566-1574).

Volumes V and VI published in 2017 are related to the Iraqi provinces of the Ottoman Empire during the reign of Sultan Selim II (H 974-982 /1566-1574 AD). They contain the reproductions of selected original documents in Ottoman, together with their translation and study in Arabic. The research project and book series will continue.



# IRCICA Journal

## A Journal on Islamic History and Civilization

### *Volume III, Issue 6, Fall 2015*

The sixth issue of IRCICA Journal has appeared. It is an interdisciplinary refereed journal published in Spring and Fall issues. It includes articles in English, French and Arabic.

This volume focuses on the subject of Anti-Muslim Extremism and Islamophobia in Europe. The articles selected for the volume trace the origins of anti-Muslim sentiments and perceptions, their emergence in certain national contexts and their practice with negative effects for the daily lives of Muslims residing in the Balkans, as well as Central and Western Europe. The articles were selected from among the papers presented at an international symposium organized jointly by IRCICA and the Center for Balkan and Black Sea Studies (BALKAR) of Yıldız Technical University in Istanbul.

The following articles are included in this issue:

Introduction: "Islamophobia in Europe", by Assoc. Prof. Isa Blumi, Stockholm University, Institute for Turkish Studies, Sweden, and Assoc. Prof. Mehmet Hacısalihoğlu, Yıldız Technical University, Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences, Istanbul

"Nothing New: Islamophobia by Default in Postwar Europe", by Assoc. Prof. Isa Blumi, Stockholm University, Institute for Turkish Studies, Sweden

"'Willkommenskultur' in Arab Eyes: Arabic Traditional and Social Media Discourses on Syrian Refugees in Germany", by Dr. Peter Polak-Springer, Qatar University, Humanities Dept., Qatar



"Questioning Islamophobia in the Context of Greece", by Dr. Ali Hüseyinoğlu, Trakya University, Edirne, Turkey

"Muslimphobia as a Western Tool of Fearmongering", by Assoc. Prof. Ali Çaksu, Yıldız Technical University, Philosophy Dept., Istanbul

"Patriotism as the Modern Justification of Islamophobia", by Dr. Elena Lukinykh, Oldenburg University, Germany

"The Social Impact of Islamophobia on Muslims in the Netherlands", by Dr. Leyla Yıldırım, Sabahattin Zaim University, Istanbul.

