



# Newsletter



ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION (OIC)  
RESEARCH CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC HISTORY, ART AND CULTURE (IRCICA)

**SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2022**

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September-December 2022,  
No. 119

The Newsletter is published quarterly:  
three issues in the official  
languages of the OIC  
(English, French, Arabic)

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# Editorial

Dear readers,

This issue of the Newsletter offers a glimpse at the gamut of topics in international relations the OIC and IRCICA have addressed during these past months. One main topic is the situation in al-Quds and Palestine, the OIC's perennial issue of concern, and also a priority topic of study at IRCICA. Activities assigned to IRCICA within the framework of the Implementation Plan of the OIC-2025 Program of Action include "accomplishing large-scale research projects based on documents from state archives and other first-hand resources highlighting social and cultural life in al-Quds and historical facts in support of the preservation of the Islamic identity and heritage of al-Quds and Palestine". We are conducting a series of projects to serve this objective, rendering the relevant historical documents available to the public, underlining the centrality of al-Quds for the Muslim Ummah, emphasizing its Islamic identity and its history of multi-faith coexistence. The panel on "Al-Quds and al-Masjid al-Aqsa under the Light of Historical Documents", held at IRCICA headquarters on 22 December, was coordinated jointly by the OIC General Secretariat, IRCICA, Jerusalem Higher Committee of the Presidency of the State of Palestine, and Marmara University Jerusalem Studies Center. The participating experts presented samples of documentary evidence on the clear historical realities that shape the Islamic cause of al-Masjid al-Aqsa, al-Quds, and Palestine.

The subject of "Inter-cultural relations", another main topic featured in this issue, is addressed by the OIC and IRCICA through the prism of global challenges facing the Muslim world and all humanity. The OIC Hybrid Seminar on "Connecting Further at the Post-Covid19 Contemporary World: Enhancing Dialogue between the Islamic World and Other Great Civilizations" convened at the OIC headquarters in Jeddah on 10 October brought together specialists from different faiths and cultures to express their views on issues of

common concern for humanity. Our paper presented at the seminar schematized the evolution of global inter-faith and intercultural platforms in recent decades with special focus on the role of international organizations, proposing coordinated approaches to common problems at international level. The active platforms of inter-faith dialogue acknowledged in the paper included the Seventh Congress of Leaders of the World and Traditional Religions, convened by the Nursultan Nazarbaev Center for Development of Interfaith and Intercivilization Dialogue, Kazakhstan, on 15 September, and the then forthcoming, Ninth Global Forum of the UN Alliance of Civilizations, held in Fez, Morocco, on 22-23 November. Our different presentations at these meetings aimed to contribute IRCICA's views and experiences to their proceedings. In addition to their global coverage in these contexts, themes related to intercultural understanding and multicultural co-existence were alluded to in regional scopes during the conferences we organized and/or attended in South Africa, Uzbekistan, and at UNESCO, as reflected in the outlines of these conferences.

Along with the above, this issue also covers art events, including the International Forum "Central Asia-Center for Islamic Art" held in Samarkand on 1-3 November. This was the first festival event co-organized by IRCICA after the pandemic, comprising exhibitions of handicrafts and ancient manuscripts, art workshops and a conference on library and archive management.

We are also giving brief news about our new project, the series of monthly lectures titled "IRCICA Cultural Heritage Talks". The lectures focus on diverse topics of current scholarly or policy interest regarding the study, preservation, and management of cultural and architectural heritage in the context of the Muslim world. We invite you to attend the future ones online through the announcements on the IRCICA Website.

Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol KILIÇ  
Director General, IRCICA

## OIC ACTIVITIES



## OIC Secretary General H.E. Hissein Brahim Taha visited IRCICA

21 October 2022

His Excellency Hissein Brahim Taha, Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), paid a visit to IRCICA Director General Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç at IRCICA headquarters in Istanbul on 21 October 2022.

Director General Prof. Kılıç welcomed H.E. the Secretary General at the Directorate General office. The meeting was an occasion to brief the Secretary General on the history and different sections of the premises and exchange views on current activities.

H.E. the Secretary General was in Istanbul to attend the 12th Ministerial Session of the Islamic Conference of Information Ministers (21-22 October 2022). 🇵🇸





## 39<sup>th</sup> Session of IRCICA Governing Board held at IRCICA headquarters

1 December 2022

The Governing Board of IRCICA held its 39th annual session at the Centre's headquarters on 1 December 2022. The following members of the Board were present: Dr. Amina Obayd al-Hajri, Director General for Cultural, Social and Family Affairs at the OIC General Secretariat, representing H.E. Hissein Brahim Taha, Secretary General of the OIC; Prof. Dr. Mustafa Sait Yazıcıoğlu (Republic of Türkiye); Ambassador Dr. Shaazim Shaislamovich Minovarov (Republic of Uzbekistan); Dr. Astadjam Haman Saoudi (Republic of Cameroon); Dr. Sallama

Al Khafaji (Republic of Iraq); Sheikh Dr. Boureima Abdou Daouda (Republic of Niger); Mr. Abdulmotaleb Salem Abousalem (State of Libya); Ms. Fareena Mazhar (Islamic Republic of Pakistan), Ambassador Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç, Director General of IRCICA. Dr. Faisal M. al-Shar'abi, Director General of the Administration and Finance Department at the OIC General Secretariat, also attended the meeting. This was the first meeting of the new three-year term of the Board, for 2022-2024. The meeting elected Mr. Abdulmotaleb Salem Abousalem,

the representative of the State of Libya, Chair of the session, and Dr. Sallama Al Khafaji representing the Republic of Iraq, Vice-Chair.

The session started with the recitation of verses from the Holy Quran. Ambassador Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç, Director General of IRCICA, greeted the members and the representative of H.E. Ambassador Hissein Brahim Taha, OIC Secretary General, Dr. Amina Obayd al-Hajri, Director General for Cultural, Social and Family Affairs at the OIC General Secretariat. He expressed the gratitude of IRCICA to the outgoing members of the

Governing Board, Prof. Amadou Cissé Ndiéguène from the Republic of Senegal, the previous Chairman of the Board, and Dr. Abdulaziz al-Turki al-Subaie, the representative of the State of Qatar, ex-Vice-Chairman, for their outstanding contributions to the work of the Centre over the years. He stated that the new members from the State of Kuwait and the Republic of Sierra Leone were expected and welcomed the new representative from the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Ms. Fareena Mazhar, Secretary of the National Heritage and Culture Division. The Director General briefly explained the task of the Board as the immediate supervising body of the Centre, wherein the Board formulates the Centre's policies in accordance with OIC strategies, examines and adopts end-of-year activity reports, annual work program proposals and budget proposals, evaluates the results of IRCICA activities and recommends measures. Director General Prof. Kılıç, emphasized the increasing importance of the Centre in presenting the true image of Islamic civilization and Muslim cultures and promoting mutual understanding and cultural exchange globally. He briefly went over the main themes in which IRCICA engages including the Islamic heritage of al-Quds, eminent philosophers in the history of culture, Islamic monuments and architectural heritage within and outside the OIC membership, Islamic calligraphy, and the arts of the book. Mentioning that he had briefed H.E. the Secretary General Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha on IRCICA activities during His Excellency's visit to IRCICA on 21 October, he expressed his confidence that the Centre would realize its vision through



the assistance of the General Secretariat and H.E. the Secretary General, and the cooperation of the Governing Board.

The next speaker, Dr. Amina Obayd al-Hajri, conveyed the greetings of the OIC Secretary General H.E. Ambassador Hissein Brahim Taha, to the session. Expressing gratitude to the Republic of Türkiye for the constant support and continuous commitment to the mission of IRCICA and the myriad activities undertaken by the Centre to serve the goals of the OIC and the Muslim Ummah, Dr. al-Hajri stated that the General Secretariat bears witness to IRCICA's efforts in promoting the image of Islam throughout the world and in communicating the noble values of openness,

tolerance, moderation, and mutual understanding taught by Islam through cultural activities at the international level. She commended IRCICA for organizing events, meetings, and conferences that contribute to the achievement of overall OIC objectives, including the Ten-Year Programme of Action 2015-2025 and even beyond through greater coordination in collective action, cooperation and mutual support among OIC subsidiary and affiliate institutions. She mentioned that the OIC is currently developing programs to devise mechanisms to highlight the importance of preserving cultural and civilizational heritage, both tangible and intangible. As such, the OIC General Secretariat is working closely with IRCICA on





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(STATE OF LIBYA)



DR. SALLAMA AL KHAFAJI  
(REPUBLIC OF IRAQ)



SHEIKH DR. BOUREIMA  
ABDOU DAOUDA  
(REPUBLIC OF NIGER)

the establishment of the “OIC Platform for the Protection and Preservation of Cultural Heritage in the Muslim World,” expected to bring together experts from Member States and relevant OIC institutions, as well as other concerned expert agencies.

The Centre's activity report for 2022 and proposed work programs and budgets for 2023 and 2024 were presented by the Director General, Prof. Kılıç, with explanations on the trends and priorities currently adopted. Prof. Kılıç said that programs that had to be deferred due to the pandemic, such as training programs and arts festivals, were re-engaged, and plans were underway. Unforeseen activities such as online conferences or training programs were organized in answer to requests from Member States during a given

program year. There have been growing numbers of visitors to IRCICA from all over the world, with requests to see the Centre's artistic collections and publications, use the library and archives, and ask for guidance on historical references. The Director General summarized the activities completed, on-going and planned in the context of the main programs, consisting of:

- \* Studies on the Holy Qur'an
- \* Islamic History and Civilization, comprising programs on the Islamic history and cultural heritage of al-Quds and Palestine; the history of Muslim countries in the light of Ottoman documents; studies on manuscripts, the history of Islamic scholarship; cultural interactions, coexistence, and dialogue between the Muslim world and other cultures
- \* Architectural Heritage
- \* Islamic Arts
- \* Library and Archive.

The Governing Board members expressed their views and comments on various aspects of the activities. Sheikh Dr. Boureima Abdou Daouda, the representative of the Republic of Niger, underlined the information dimension, the importance of making known the Centre's activities internationally, and congratulated the Director General for the progress ensured

in this direction. Ambassador Dr. Shaazim Minovarov, the representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan, spoke in particular, on the recording and preservation of the Islamic monuments and manuscripts that are present throughout the Islamic world and prospects of their inclusion in UNESCO's World Heritage List. Dr. Astadjam Haman Saoudi, representing the Republic of Cameroon, proposed guidelines for joint events and activities to be undertaken by IRCICA in cooperation with the Republic of Cameroon. Ms. Fareena Mazhar from the Islamic Republic of Pakistan praised the continuity of the Centre's work in organizing conferences and seminars, despite the hindrances of the pandemic period, and affirmed Pakistan's support of the Centre's activities. Dr. Sallama Al Khafaji from the Republic of Iraq, commended the Centre's concentration on its electronic library and praised its efforts in regard to calligraphy as well, because calligraphy acts almost as a common meeting ground for multiple generations. Mr. Abdulmotaieb Salem Abousalem from the State of Libya expressed his admiration for the work that IRCICA is doing; he suggested that IRCICA publications be distributed electronically, as it has become increasingly difficult



DR. ASTADJAM HAMAN  
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CAMEROON)



MS. FAREENA MAZHAR  
(ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF  
PAKISTAN)

to purchase books physically. Dr. Amina Obayd al-Hajri, Director General for Cultural, Social and Family Affairs at the OIC General Secretariat, thanked IRCICA for all its accomplishments. Dr. Faisal al-Shar'abi, Director General of Administration and Finance Department at the OIC, underlined the usefulness of the Centre's partnerships with universities and cultural institutions to facilitate the funding aspect while also diversifying the activities; he also suggested that the social connection would be useful in informing the public about IRCICA activities, including through short films, whereby everyone, but especially the youth, would be made aware of the immense work that goes on behind the scenes.

At the end of the deliberations, the Director General gave answers and explanations regarding the members' observations. The Director General expressed that IRCICA is prepared and constantly tries to further expand its cooperation with the Member

States and their institutions. In response to the information issues and the possibility of arranging electronic books, the Director General mentioned that the IT section was established as a formal department and expressed his intention to make all IRCICA publications available in electronic format for free, which would nevertheless require some time and the exhaustion of the physical book stocks. Prof. Kılıç also underscored the mandate of the Centre to show the positive truth of Islam. At the end of the discussions, the Board adopted the activity report and proposed work programs and formulated a set of recommendations. Concerning projects on endowments and women's endowments in the Muslim world, the Board took note that IRCICA uses both calls for papers as well as its contacts to find relevant scholars and partners to organize its projects. It was also noted that the Centre organizes workshops at the beginning of each new project to set out its methodology and data collection systems. Taking

note of the need for IRCICA to communicate its activities in as wide a manner as possible, the Board suggested that the Centre engages more on digital platforms and social media to ensure as widespread an audience as possible. The Board praised the Centre's efforts to counter Islamophobia, terrorism, and extremism through its emphasis on the beauty that is present within Islam by way of its exhibits, workshops, and conferences on Islamic arts, calligraphy, architecture, philosophy, and prominent figures.

The Centre's activity report, work program and budget proposals will become effective following their adoption by its General Assembly (the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs as the General Assembly of the Subsidiary Organs of the OIC), the Permanent Finance Committee of the OIC, and ultimately, the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Member States. 🇺🇦






## Fifth Session of the Islamic Conference of Youth and Sports Ministers: “Development of Youth and Sports for a Solidarity Based Ummah”

OIC General Secretariat, Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 7-9 September 2022

The Fifth Session of the Islamic Conference of Youth and Sports Ministers (ICYSM) was held under the theme of “Development of Youth and Sports for a Solidarity-Based Ummah” on 7-9 September 2022 in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The conference was attended by the Ministers of Youth and Sports, policy makers and experts from the OIC Member States, the OIC institutions, and relevant international and regional organizations. IRCICA Director

General Ambassador Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç participated in the session. The conference addressed topics relating to challenges facing the youth amidst current global trends and circumstances, reviewed the progress made towards the implementation of the OIC Youth Strategy adopted in its earlier sessions, and promoted an exchange of ideas on how to enhance the intra-OIC cooperation to advance the social status,

educational and employment opportunities available to the youth. The activities of the OIC’s subsidiary, affiliated and specialized institutions in this field were reviewed.

IRCICA’s role in empowerment of the youth comes basically through its contributions to education, training and promotion of young scholars, teachers, artists and cultural workers in all areas covered by its activities. 




## Sixth Annual Coordination Meeting of Heads of the OIC Institutions

OIC General Secretariat, Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 14-15 December 2022

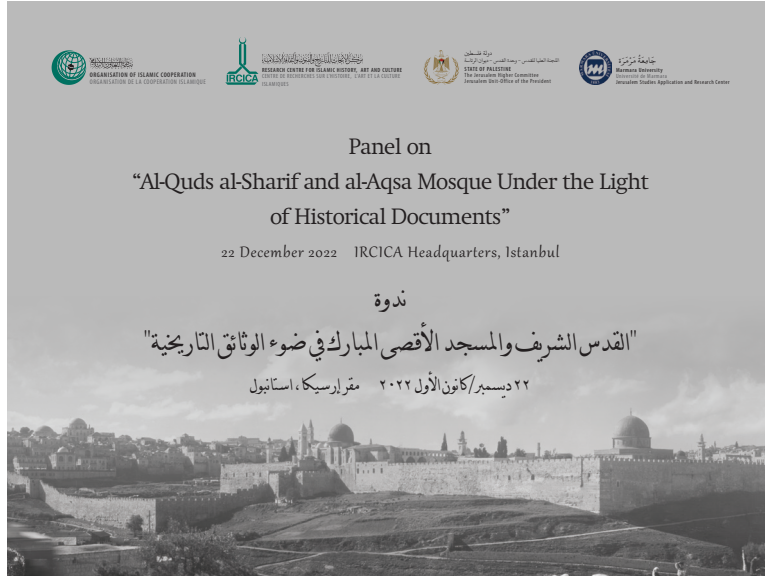
The Sixth Annual Coordination Meeting of OIC Institutions (ACMOI) took place at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the OIC in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 14-15 December 2022. H.E. Hissein Brahim Taha, Secretary General of OIC, welcomed the representatives of the subsidiary organs, specialized and affiliated institutions, commissions and offices of the OIC headquartered in different countries, emphasizing the need to enhance coordination in the elaboration of a successor program to the current 2015-2025 Program of Action for 2026-2035.

The Secretary General noted that "ACMOI's consultations give the OIC and its institutions an opportunity to review priorities and joint actions towards addressing common challenges and help Member Countries in the face of the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic compounded by climate change, natural hazards, and conflicts, among other challenges, in addition to the implementation of OIC programs and initiatives in the various sectors." ([www.oic-oci.org](http://www.oic-oci.org))

The IRCICA delegation composed by Prof. Dr. Aboubacar A. Senghore, Assistant Director

General (Head of Delegation) and Prof. Dr. Sadık Ünay (Head of Research and Publication) presented reports on the achievements of IRCICA in the context of the OIC's current work plan (2015-2025) since the 5th meeting of ACMOI in 2019 and contributed to the planning of work for the period ahead in areas relating to IRCICA's mandate. New plans were adopted, covering both ongoing assignments of the institutions and new requirements emanating from the latest Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) resolutions and decisions of other OIC Ministerial Conferences. 

## AL-QUDS AND PALESTINE



## Panel on "Al-Quds and al-Masjid al-Aqsa under the Light of Historical Documents"

organized by the OIC General Secretariat, IRCICA, Jerusalem Higher Committee of the Presidency of the State of Palestine, Marmara University Jerusalem Studies Center

IRCICA, 22 December 2022

An international panel conference on "Al-Quds and al-Masjid al-Aqsa under the Light of Historical Documents" was organized by the OIC General Secretariat; IRCICA; the Jerusalem Higher Committee of the Presidency of the State of Palestine; and Marmara University Jerusalem Studies Application and Research Center (MUKAM) at IRCICA headquarters, on 22 December 2022. The panel was held within the framework of a joint project undertaken by the Department of Palestine and al-Quds Affairs of the

General Secretariat of OIC and IRCICA with the aim of building a historical documentary reference base on the Islamic history and heritage of al-Masjid al-Aqsa and al-Quds al-Sharif and the holy sites and Islamic properties in the region. Heads and members of the diplomatic and consular corps, scholars and media representatives were present at the panel. Following the opening address of IRCICA Director General Ambassador Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç, the opening session was addressed by Ambassador

Faed Mustafa, Ambassador of the State of Palestine in Ankara; Ambassador Samir Bakr Diab, Assistant Secretary General of the OIC for Palestine and al-Quds Affairs, representing H.E. the Secretary General of OIC; Mr. Mutassem Tayem, Head of the Jerusalem Unit, Jerusalem Higher Committee, Office of the President of the State of Palestine; Mr. Nabil Dabur, Director General, SESRIC, Ankara; Prof. Dr. Ismail Taşpınar, Director of the Jerusalem Studies Application and Research Center, Marmara University.



A documentary film titled "Property Documents of al-Aqsa Mosque / Haram al-Sharif" prepared by the Office of the President of the State of Palestine, was screened. An exhibition titled "Al-Aqsa Mosque in Ottoman Archive Documents and Historical Photos from IRCICA Archives" was visited in IRCICA's conference and exhibition hall.

The first working session, chaired by Dr. Basel al-Jabari (Strategic Planning and Policy Advisor, The Jerusalem Higher Committee), heard the following papers: "Ottoman Empire's Efforts to Preserve the Status of Masjid al-Aqsa" presented by Prof. Fazıl Bayat, Expert on Historical Studies, IRCICA; "Educational Institutions in the Vicinity of Al-Aqsa Mosque" by Prof. Dr. İmad Abu Kishek, President of Al-Quds University; "Al-Aqsa Mosque as a Perpetual Stipulation in Al-Quds Waqfs" by Dr. Alaattin Dolu, Kastamonu University, Department of History; "Wailing Wall: A Place of Worship Created by an Ideology" by Prof. Dr. Yasemin Avcı, Pamukkale University, Department of History.

The second session, chaired by Prof. Dr. İsmail Taşpınar (Director of Jerusalem Studies Application and Research Center, Marmara University), received the papers on "The Israeli Plans to Divide Al-Aqsa Mosque / Al-Haram al-Sharif" by Dr. Basel al-Jabari, Strategic Planning and Policy Advisor, The Jerusalem Higher Committee; "Al-Quds and International Law" by Prof. Dr. Berdal Aral, Medeniyet University, Faculty of Political Sciences and International Relations; "Al-Quds, the Qibla of Three Religions: Historical and Theo-Etymological Arguments and the Issue of its Belonging" by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eldar Hasanoğlu, Hacı Bayram Veli University, Faculty of Islamic Studies. Both sessions ended with Q&A discussions. 🟢





# The OIC Hybrid Seminar “Connecting Further at the Post-Covid19 Contemporary World: Enhancing Dialogue between the Islamic World and Other Great Civilizations”

OIC General Secretariat, Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 10 October 2022

The OIC Hybrid Seminar “Connecting Further at the Post-Covid19 Contemporary World: Enhancing Dialogue between the Islamic World and Other Great Civilizations” was coordinated at the OIC Headquarters in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 10 October 2022. The main objectives of the seminar were to explore views from the Islamic world and other countries and civilizations on the global pandemic seen from a civilizational perspective; international cooperation at times of crisis, experiences in managing the recent pandemic, conducting

international cooperation, expanding cooperation between the OIC Member States and other countries and civilizations. The Secretary General of OIC H.E. Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha, in his statement delivered by Ambassador Tariq Ali Bakhit, Assistant Secretary General for Humanitarian, Cultural and Social Affairs, pointed out that the seminar would review ways through which countries of the Islamic world could interact with other civilizations on country, culture or other levels.

Panel I on “Countries’ responses during most difficult pandemic times: how were the role of faith leaders?” was addressed by representatives and specialists from the Islamic world, USA, China, Japan, Russian Federation, reflecting national, regional and multilateral perspectives and experiences from the standpoints of Western cultures, Sino culture, Buddhism-Shintoism, and Russian Orthodox, concerning the pandemic period.

Panel II on “Making our contemporary civilizations



more prepared in facing other difficult periods in the future” was addressed by the heads and representatives of international organizations: IRCICA; United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC); Council of the European Union; King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (KAICIID). Observations were formulated by international institutions on various responses to the pandemic, the role of faith leaders, the situations of the

disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, enhancement of national and regional capacities in anticipation for such catastrophes.

Ambassador Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç, Director General, IRCICA, presented a study, describing the panorama of ongoing inter-civilizational dialogue efforts activated through global and regional platforms at different levels to address issues of common concern. Prof. Kılıç evaluated the findings of scientific surveys conducted by various

institutions in different regions of the world concerning the role of local religious institutions in supporting public welfare policies and helping communities surmount crises, particularly as experienced during the pandemic. Underlining the importance of awareness and coordination between all these efforts, the Director General suggested potentially beneficial cooperation areas, with examples from areas included in the mandate of IRCICA.🌍



# Seventh Congress of Leaders of the World and Traditional Religions coordinated by the Nursultan Nazarbaev Center for Development of Interfaith and Intercivilization Dialogue

Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan, 15 September 2022

The Seventh Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions took place in Nur-Sultan, Republic of Kazakhstan, on 14-15 September 2022, under the Chairmanship of the President of Kazakhstan H.E. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev. More than 100 people from 50 countries participated in the Congress. The latter is coordinated every three years by the Nursultan Nazarbaev Center for Development of Interfaith and Intercivilization Dialogue. The Secretariat of the Congress, chaired by Mr. Maulen Ashimbayev, Chairman of the Senate of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan, met on its 20th session on the eve of the congress.

The plenary opening session of the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, held on 14 September 2022, was titled: “The Role of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions in the Spiritual and Social Development of Human Civilization in the Post-Pandemic Period”. President Tokayev gave an opening address; the participating heads of delegations who took the floor included the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, Sheikh Ahmed al-Tayeb and



the Catholic spiritual leader Pope Francis (<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/7th-congress-of-leaders-of-world-and-traditional-religions-begins-in-kazakhstan/2685021>). On completion of its program, the Congress was addressed by President Tokayev with concluding remarks, underscoring that the congress had become a forum for dialogue between civilizations at the global level.

The Congress featured four thematic sessions on its second day, 15 September: Session 1, The Role of Religions in Strengthening Spiritual and Moral Values in the Modern World; Session 2, The Role of Education and Religious Studies in Respectful Coexistence of Religions and Cultures and in Strengthening Peace and Harmony; Session 3, The Contribution of Religious Leaders and Politicians

in Promoting Global Interreligious Dialogue and Peace, Countering Extremism, Radicalism, and Terrorism; Session 4, Women’s Contribution to the Well-Being and Sustainable Development of Contemporary Society and the Role of Religious Communities in Supporting Women’s Social Status.

In his presentations during the Congress, Ambassador Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç, Director General of IRCICA, gave examples of IRCICA’s engagement and contributions in inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogue, explaining that the Centre’s studies review the experiences of inter-faith coexistence and cultural interactions recorded in different regions of the world throughout history and extract information from them relevant for the present world. 🌍

# Ninth Global Forum of the UN Alliance of Civilizations, UNAOC Group of Friends Ministerial Meeting

Fez, Morocco, 22-23 November 2022

The Ninth Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) took place in Fez, Kingdom of Morocco, on 22-23 November 2022, under the theme “Towards an Alliance of Peace: Living Together as One Humanity”. The Forum was opened with the message of H.M. King Mohamed VI of Morocco, emphasizing the importance of finding pathways to peace, unity and solidarity in the current global context, marked by the resurgence of the very causes which led to the creation of the Alliance of Civilizations.

In his opening address of the Global Forum, Mr. Miguel Angel Moratinos, the UNAOC High Representative, asserted that “international conflicts cannot be the sole consequence of religion, culture or civilizations. ... There is no clash of civilizations; there is a clash of interests and a clash of ignorance.” Addressing the same session, UN Secretary General Mr. António Guterres called for the creation of an alliance of peace through recognizing diversity as richness and investing in inclusion; “The Holy Qur’an teaches us that God created nations and tribes ‘so that we might know one another,’ he said, urging at this time of peril, to be inspired by the essence of these meanings and “stand together as one human family – rich in diversity, equal in dignity and rights, united in solidarity.” Guterres said that the problems, the “what” are known, and what is needed now to solve



them is to find out the “how.” (<https://www.morocoworldnews.com/2022/11/352518/un-alliance-of-civilizations-forum-opens-in-fez>)

The opening session was addressed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye Mr. Mevlut Çavuşoğlu and the Secretary of State for International Cooperation of Spain Ms. Pilar Cancela Rodríguez, representing the two co-sponsor countries of the UNAOC initiative, Spain and Türkiye. The initiative of founding the UNAOC, which was sponsored by Spanish Prime Minister José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero and the Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in 2005, was alluded at by various speakers, highlighting the increasing relevance, still today, of the foresighted initiative. Delegations from 96 countries participated in the Global Forum, 50 of them at ministerial level. Around 1000 cultural workers, NGO representatives and volunteers took part in the side events and breakout sessions.

During the plenary session titled

“Voices of the Wise: “Pathways to Peace and Living Together in Mutual Respect”, the following personalities gave statements: Ms. Vaira Vike-Freiberga, Former President of Latvia; Mr. Andre Azoulay, Special Advisor to H.M. King Mohamed VI of Morocco; Mr. José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, Former Prime Minister of Spain; Mrs. Aminata Touré, Former Prime Minister of Senegal; Mr. Amr Moussa, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt, Former Secretary-General of the League of Arab States; Sheikh-ul-Islam Allahshukur Pashazade, Chairman of the Caucasus Muslims Board, Azerbaijan; Mrs. María Fernanda Espinosa, President of the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly, and Former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Former Minister of Defense of Ecuador; Princess Rym Ali, President of Anna Lindh Foundation; Mr. Mladen Ivanic, Former President of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Ambassador Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç, Director General of IRCICA, addressed the Ministerial Group of Friends High-Level



Meeting held within the framework of the Global Forum. The meeting was addressed by 36 ministers and heads of international organizations, preceded by the UN Secretary General Mr. António Guterres, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates of the Kingdom of Morocco Mr. Nasser Bourita, and the UNAOC High Representative Mr. Miguel Angel Moratinos. Professor Kılıç pointed out, in his address, that humankind needs to generate the will and commitment to motivate altruism, reduce polarizations, gather collective solidarity, and endeavor towards “Living Together as One Humanity”.

The Forum program included plenary sessions, breakout sessions and side events on a variety of themes of current global relevance, including: “Role

of Religious Leaders in Promoting Peace, Mutual Respect and Social Harmony” (Interactive discussion between religious leaders from across the faith spectrum); “Deep Dive: Efforts in Preventing and Combating Violent Extremism Against the Backdrop of New and Emerging Threats”; “Culture: A sine qua non for Peace. Museums as Places of Wonder, Discovery, Openness to Others and Dialogue between Cultures”; “Balancing Migration Narratives”; “An Africa with a Strong Cultural Identity, Common Heritage, Shared Values and Ethics”; “Forging A New Social Contract: Combating Discrimination and Intolerance Based on Religion or Belief Anchored in Human Rights (With Focus on Combating Antisemitism, Islamophobia and Christianophobia)”; “Mediation in Cultural and Religious Conflicts: Women, the Forgotten Peace-Makers”; “Global Citizenship

Education: Shaping Global Citizens through Transformative Education”; “Sport as a Vector for Peace and Inclusiveness”; “Halal and Kosher: Bringing Civilizations Closer Together to Generate Prosperity”; “UNAOC Youth Forum: The future they want: an intergenerational dialogue”; “Reinvigorated Multilateralism through A Culture of Peace”; “Countering and Addressing Online Hate Speech on Social Media”.

The Global Forum adopted the Fez Declaration that calls for mutual respect, inclusiveness, international cooperation and solidarity among peoples of the world and encourages the members of the Group of Friends of the UNAOC to condemn the unlawful destruction of cultural heritage and religious sites. (<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/11/1130947>). 🌍





## Third International Congress on “Islamic Civilization in Southern Africa. History, Contemporary State, and Future Perspectives, Dedicated to the Legacies of Muslim Leaders – Shaykh Ebubekir Efendi and Imam Abdullah Haron”

organized by Awqaf SA, IRCICA and  
the University of Western Cape

Cape Town, South Africa, 16-18 September 2022

The Third International Congress on “Islamic Civilisation in Southern Africa. History, Contemporary State, and Future Perspectives, Dedicated to the Legacies of Muslim Leaders – Shaykh Ebubekir Efendi and Imam Abdullah Haron” took place at Cape Town, South Africa, on 16-18 September 2022. The congress was organized jointly by the National Awqaf Foundation of South Africa (Awqaf SA), IRCICA, and the University of Western Cape. The congress achieved a high-level governmental, diplomatic, and academic profile.

Specialists attending from different countries presented papers during panels spread over three days.

A special feature of the congress was its dedication to eminent figures having played important roles in the history of the Muslim community of Southern Africa. Commemorative panels and book launch sessions were held to pay tribute to two Islamic scholars, namely Ebubekir Efendi (d. 1880), who was appointed by the Ottoman State to Southern Africa in 1863 and Imam Abdullah

Haron, who struggled for the cause of the Muslim community and died in 1969 under the Apartheid regime.

Awqaf SA and IRCICA had organized the first congress on “Islamic Civilisation in Southern Africa” in cooperation with Johannesburg University, in Johannesburg, on 1-3 September 2006; its papers were published in 2009. As for the second congress, it was organized by Awqaf SA and IRCICA jointly with the University of Kwazulu-Natal (UKZN) and the International Peace College

South Africa (IPSA), in Durban, on 4-6 March 2016; its papers were published in 2019. Awqaf SA and IRCICA also coordinated an international online conference on the same theme on 17 October 2020 as a prelude to the third congress.

The Cape Town congress kicked off with an academic opening session held in the morning of 16 September 2022, which was chaired by Prof. Dr. Aboubacar Senghore, Assistant Director General of IRCICA and Mr. Zeinoul Abedien Cajee, Chief Executive of Awqaf SA. Following the welcoming words of Mr. Nazeer Osman, Chair, Islamia College, the session was addressed by the Cape Town Mayor Geordin Gwyn Hill-Lewis; Mr. Lhoucene Rhazoui, Director of Cultural Affairs at the OIC General Secretariat representing H.E. the Secretary General Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha; Justice Hafez Abubakar Mohamed, former High Court Judge; Ambassador Ebrahim Rasool, former Western Cape Premier and former Ambassador of South Africa to the U.S.A.

After the academic opening, Panel 1 on the theme of “Muslim Communities: Question of Identity” was held, with four speakers. This was followed by the Roundtable on the “Teaching and Practice of Arabic in the Southern African region” which was discussed by specialists from five educational institutions. The following Panel, on the Muslim Communities of SADC (Southern African Development Community), received speakers from universities in Botswana, Congo, Malawi, South Africa and Zimbabwe. Panel 3 was on “Ajami, Mushafs and Language”, and Panel 4 on “Women, Children and Youth” also evoked issues relating



to population groups with special needs and problems.

The grand opening ceremony took place in the evening of 16 September 2022, with the addresses of H.E. Mr. Ebrahim Patel, Minister of Economic Development of South Africa and the Director General of IRCICA Ambassador Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç, in the presence of Prof. Dr. Annesh Singh, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Western Cape; Ambassador Ayşegül Kandaş, Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye in South Africa; Mr. Mickael Collier, Deputy Chief Executive of Awqaf South Africa; Mr. Muhammed Haron, Academic

Coordinator for Awqaf South Africa and a large number of guests and participants from cultural, academic and media circles.

The second day of the conference, 17 September, featured the special sessions dedicated to Muslim leaders. The session titled “Shaykh Ebubekir Efendi – The Man on a Mission” was moderated by Ambassador Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç, Director General of IRCICA, and Ambassador Ayşegül Kandaş, Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye in South Africa. It was marked by the launching of the book titled *The Crescent at the Cape*. The

real story of Shaykh Abu-Bakr Effendi 1814-1880 written by Dr. Shafiq Morton (historian, author, media editor at VOC -Voice of Western Cape) and published by Awqaf SA, 2022. Talks were given on Ebubekir Efendi and other eminent figures of Islamic culture in Southern Africa. Mr. Hisham N. Effendi, a descendant of Ebubekir Efendi, shared his knowledge of Ebubekir Efendi's experiences, religious and educational services he rendered.

On the same day, a Memorial Panel was coordinated by Imam Haron Foundation, Cape Town, on the theme "Conversation about Imam Haron's Legacy: Thinking Back, Looking Ahead". Five speakers from the Foundation, universities and religious institutions conversed on different aspects of Imam Abdullah Haron's devoted endeavors, religious and educational services and cultural legacy. Prof. Dr. Muhammed Haron, a scholar in religious studies, history and international relations, and academic coordinator of the congress, who is the son of Imam Haron, participated in the sessions.

The panels on 17 September focused on the following themes: 5, "Muslim media"; 6, "Muslim leadership"; 7, "Muslim Tertiary Institutions and Research", 8, "Economics and Development". The sessions graphed in their sequences the leaders and the institutions that played roles in shaping the history of the region in the respective areas.

On the third day, 18 September, Panel 9 on "Extremism and Islamophobia and Muslim Personal Law" and Panel 10 on "NGOs and Environmental Affairs" communicated the region's facts and experiences in each subject area.



R-L: AUTHOR AND MEDIA EDITOR DR. SHAFIQ MORTON, TURKISH AMBASSADOR AMB. AYŞEGÜL KANDAS, IRCICA DIRECTOR GENERAL PROF. MAMUD EROL KILIÇ

The Closing Session evaluated the proceedings of the congress, with concluding remarks by the IRCICA Director General Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç, the Awqaf SA Chief Executive Mr. Zeinoul Abedien Cajee, and Prof. Muhammed Haron. The importance of the congress coordinated by Awqaf SA and IRCICA together with the University of Western Cape was underlined from various angles – for research and education, as an intellectual and cultural bridge between the Muslim community in Southern Africa and the OIC-IRCICA Member States/the Muslim world.

An exhibition titled "Calligraphy, Islamic Art and Culture" was opened on 17 September at Islamia Hall in Cape Town. The event comprised calligraphy and drawing demonstrations, live oud performances, and a documentary and photography exhibition on Imam Abdullah Haron. 🌱



IRCICA DIRECTOR GENERAL PRESENTED MR. EBRAHIM PATEL, MINISTER OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA, WITH A PUBLICATION OF IRCICA IN THE SERIES OF FACSIMILE EDITIONS OF ANCIENT QUR'AN COPIES.



PLATES OF CALLIGRAPHY BEARING IRCICA'S MOTTO, THE QUR'ANIC VERSE 49:13, WERE PRESENTED TO PROF. DR. ANNESH SINGH, UWC VICE-CHANCELLOR, AND MR. MICKAEEL COLLIER, DEPUTY CEO OF AWQAF SA

## Third International Conference on “Islamic Civilization in Central Asia: Past and Present”

organized by the International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan  
and IRCICA

Online, 17 October 2022

The International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan and IRCICA jointly organized, through the IRCICA Chair for Islamic History and Source Studies, the Third International Conference on “Islamic Civilization in Central Asia: Past and Present” on 17 October 2022. The conference was coordinated online from Tashkent. The earlier, two conferences in the series were held on 14 October 2020 and 14 October 2021 respectively; their proceedings were published by the two organizing institutions.

The conference was opened with speeches by Dr. Muzaffar Kamilov, Adviser to the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Cooperation with Public and Religious Organizations, Rector of the International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan, and Ambassador Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç, Director General of IRCICA. The Director General of IRCICA underlined in his address, that this continuity, coupled with the sustained rate of participation, helped to diversify the thematic scope of the conference. The Rector of the Academy emphasized the importance of sharing internationally the results of research conducted in common fields of interest within the framework of Islamic studies. The session was followed by a conference of young researchers led by the IRCICA Chair in the halls of the Academy with the participation of close to 100 graduate students and young academicians.

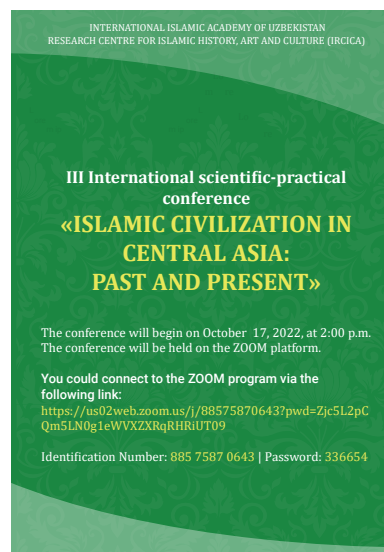
According to the conference concept, the online international session heard presentations by scholars and senior researchers on highly diverse topics in Islamic studies and research, intended to widen the research interests and perspectives of younger scholars. The online session heard presentations by participants from universities in Central Asia and IRCICA:

Mr. Efdaluddin Kılıç (Marmara University, Istanbul): *Significance of Calligraphy in Islamic Civilization*

Prof. Dr. Ashirbek Muminov (IRCICA), *On the Editions of “Kata’ib A’lam al-Akhyar” by Mahmud ibn Sulayman al-Kafawi (died in 1581)*

Prof. Dr. Aidar Khabutdinov (Kazan Federal University, Tatarstan, R.F.), *Mutual Relations between the Leaders of the Volga-Ural and Central Asian Muslim Societies in 1917–1926*

Prof. Dr. Saidakbar Agzamkhojaev (IRCICA Chair for Islamic History and Source Studies, International



Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan, Tashkent), *Features of the Formation of Islamic Culture in Central Asia*

Dr. Timur Kozukulov, Meerim Mаметова (Osh State University, Kyrgyzstan), *Islamic Education in Contemporary Kyrgyzstan: Madrasas, Institutes, Universities, and Educational Centers*



Mr. Omir Tuyakbaev, Dimash Abdrakhanov (Director, Memorial Museum of Academician K.I. Satpaev, Almaty, Kazakhstan), *Oriental Manuscripts' Collection of Alexandr Nevgod, Almaty*

Prof. Fazil Bayat (IRCICA), *Uzbekistan in Ottoman Documents*

Dr. Alidost Ertuğrul (IRCICA), *Preservation of Cultural Heritage: An Important Tool for Sustainability of Islamic Civilization in Central Asia*

Prof. Dr. Zohidjon Islomov (Vice-Rector, International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan), *Application of the Qur'anic Verses in "Mufassal" by al-Zamakhshari*

Dr. Betül Ayaz (IRCICA), *Heritage of*

*Kazakhstan's Qadi Sa'diwaqas Ghilmani (1890–1972)*

Mehmet Serdar Bekar (IRCICA), *Study of Abu Rayhan al-Biruni's Manuscripts Preserved in Turkish Libraries*

Prof. Dr. Najat Khalil (IRCICA), *Process of Writing a Critical Text of "WaŞyat al-Aslaf wa-Tahiyat al-Akhlaf" by Shihab al-Din Marjani (1818-1889)*

Prof. Dr. Shovosil Ziyodov (Director, Imam Bukhari International Scientific-Research Center, Samarkand, Uzbekistan), *History and Traditions of Librarianship in the Muslim East*

Veysel Bulut (IRCICA), *Copy/Codex Evaluation of Correspondence between*

*Avicenna and al-Biruni*

Dr. Jamoliddin Karimov (Director, Imam Maturidi International Scientific-Research Center), *Translation of Imam Moturidi's Work "Ta'wilat al-Qur'an" into Uzbek and Its Importance*

Dr. Shukrullo Umarov (Director, Imam Termizi International Scientific-Research Center, Termiz, Uzbekistan), *Great Contributions of Central Asian Scholars in the Spread of Knowledge*

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Avazbek Ganiyev (IRCICA Chair for Islamic History and Source Studies, International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan), *Factors Behind the Development of Islamic Civilization.*



## International Conference “Sustainable Tourism, Pilgrimage, and Sacred Heritage: People Protecting the Monuments- The Legacy of Ahmed Yasawi”

organized by the Governorate of Turkistan and IRCICA

Turkistan, Kazakhstan, 26-28 October 2022

The Governorate of Turkistan, Republic of Kazakhstan, and IRCICA cooperated to organize the International Conference on “Sustainable Tourism, Pilgrimage, and Sacred Heritage. People Protecting the Monuments- The Legacy of Ahmed Yasawi” on 26-28 October 2022, in the city of Turkistan. The opening ceremony was addressed by Mr. Darkhan Satybaldy, Governor of Turkistan; Mr. Temur Mirzaev, Advisor to the Minister of Tourism and Sports of the Republic of Uzbekistan; Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç, Director General of IRCICA; Mr. Sultan Raev, Secretary General of TURKSOY (International Organization of



Turkic Culture); Mr. Magnus Magnuson, Director of UNESCO Office in Almaty, Mr. Marco Alberti, Ambassador of Italy to Kazakhstan. The plenary session

heard keynote addresses under the theme of “Historic Urban Landscapes: Tourism Development and Site Conservation”. During the press conference that

followed, IRCICA Director General highlighted the main headlines of the comprehensive conference theme. Elaborating upon peoples' relationship with their cultural heritage, Prof. Kılıç said that peoples' spiritual attachment to sacred places far and near is a lasting bond that appeals to them to visit these places. The themes of the parallel sessions held over two days included the following: "Peculiarities of Tourism Development at Sacral Sites and Pilgrimage Routes"; "History of Sacred Sites in Central Asia"; "Management of Cultural Heritage Sites"; "Tourism Promotion and Marketing at Sacred Sites: Best Practices and Recommendations"; "International Cooperation of Educational Institutions in Sacred Tourism"; "Conservation, Restoration, Documentation of

Sacred Heritage Sites"; "Spiritual Layers in the Culture of the Turkic Peoples"; "Studying of Middle Ages Manuscripts". A workshop was held on "Developing A Management Plan for a UNESCO World Heritage Site on the Case of the Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi". The multi-disciplinary conference received papers presented by experts from Asian and European universities and international organizations, including IRCICA. Two specialized workshops were organized on the sidelines of the conference. The first one, chaired by Prof. Dr. Necdet Tosun (Türkiye) focused on "Sufi manuscripts in the collections of Central Asia". The second workshop, chaired by Prof. Dr. Ashirbek Muminov (IRCICA), was on "The collections of documents contained in the

sacred mausoleums of Central Asia". The State Historical and Cultural Museum-Reserve "Aziret Sultan" and other institutions dealing with cultural heritage took part in the conference.

On the eve of the conference, a Book Donation Ceremony was held at Turkistan Scientific Universal Library "Farab", where the Director General of IRCICA Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç presented the Director of the Library Ms. Jannat Shardarbekova with samples of IRCICA's publications in various fields, including studies on early copies of the Holy Quran and proceedings of various conferences. A Memorandum of Cooperation between the two institutions was signed, towards exchanges of publications and information. 📖

## International Book Launching Conference jointly with the Institute of Oriental Studies, Almaty, Kazakhstan

Online, 28 December 2022

R.B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies, Ministry of Science and Higher Education, Republic of Kazakhstan, and IRCICA, held an online conference to launch their joint publication titled *Islamic Civilization in the Great Steppe*, on 28 December 2022. The book contains the papers that were presented during the conference on "Scientific Readings Dedicated to the Memory of Outstanding Kazakh Scholar in Oriental Studies Dr. Timur Kasymovich Beisembiev (1955-2016)" that was organized by the two institutions in Almaty, in 2017. Opening words were given by Dr. Duken Masimkhanuly, General Director, Suleimenov



Institute of Oriental Studies and Prof. Dr. Meruyert Abusseitova, Director of the Republican Information Center for the Study of Historical Materials in the

same Institute. The conference continued with the addresses of Prof. Bakytzhan Zhumagulov, Member of the Senate of the Republic of Kazakhstan; Prof.

Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç, Director General of IRCICA; Prof. Dr. Zhanil Zhunusova from the Department of Theoretical and Applied Linguistics, L.N. Gumilev Eurasian National University (Astana City), and Prof. Dr. Ashirbek Muminov, Advisor to the Director General of IRCICA on Programs.

Prof. Dr. Abusseitova, who was the Director of the Oriental Institute for more than fifteen years and represented Kazakhstan in the Governing Board of IRCICA from 2009 to 2014, expressed her thanks and appreciation to Director General Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç and IRCICA for the support extended to the conference and the publication dedicated to Beisembiev. She explained the significance of Beisembiev's research, publications, and academic contacts in various countries, which contributed

to strengthening the position of historiography studies about Kazakhstan and Central Asia at international level. In his address, IRCICA Director General Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç outlined the objectives of IRCICA's research projects and conferences focusing on the history and historiography of Islamic culture and civilization in their different regional contexts across the world. Director General Kılıç said that the cultural and academic institutions of Kazakhstan are actively cooperating with IRCICA and that Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies was one of the first to organize joint events. The Director General referred in this respect, to the First Conference on "Islamic Civilization in Central Asia" co-organized in Astana in 2007 and the reinforcement of cooperation under the current Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation signed in 2021.

In his speech, Prof. Dr. Ashirbek Muminov (IRCICA) reviewed the theoretical and practical aspects of the research project that produced this book and thanked the authors of the articles.

Following the introductory addresses, several scholars and researchers spoke of research on historiography; they also alluded to international and inter-institutional cooperation in history studies and evoked the subjects studied by Timur Beisembiev. The speakers also paid tribute to the memory of the late Professor and former Grand Mufti Abdsattar Derbissali, who opened the 2017 conference and contributed to editing its book as the Director of the Institute of Oriental Studies.

The book is presented in greater detail in the "Publications" section of the present issue. 📖

## "Neighborliness of Cultures of Central Asian Countries in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century"

International Conference organized by Nursultan Nazarbayev Center for the Development of Interfaith and Intercivilization Dialogue

Online, 8 November 2022

Nursultan Nazarbayev Center for the Development of Interfaith and Intercivilization Dialogue, Kazakhstan, coordinated an international online conference on the theme "Neighborliness of Cultures of Central Asian Countries in the 21st Century", on 8 November 2022. Opened by Ambassador Bulat Sarsenbaev, Chairman of the Board of Nursultan Nazarbayev Center, the conference was addressed by Mr. Bakirov Bauzhan, Deputy Chairman of Religious Affairs Committee, Ministry of Information and Social Development of Kazakhstan; Director General of IRCICA Ambassador Prof. Dr.



Mahmud Erol Kılıç; Prof. Albadr Alshateri from the National Defense College of the United Arab Emirates and Board Member of the International Institute for Cultural Diplomacy, and dignitaries from Central Asian countries including: the Chairman of the Ulema Council of Tajikistan, the Grand Mufti of Turkmenistan, the Deputy Chairman of the Board of Muslims of Uzbekistan, the

Deputy Chairman of the Spiritual Board of Muslims of Kazakhstan, the Assistant to the Chairman of the Spiritual Administration of Muslims in Kyrgyzstan, the Administration Head of the Russian Orthodox Church in Kazakhstan, the Chairman of the Conference of Catholic Bishops, and the representatives of TURKSOY (International Organization of Turkic Culture)

and UNESCO. In his address, Ambassador Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç underlined the concept of neighborliness of countries on the basis of cultural factors along with geographical proximity and described the regional approach adopted in IRCICA's research projects on the history of culture in the Muslim world. 🇹🇷

## International Conference “Aral-Caspian Region in the History and Culture of Eurasia”

organized by Aktobe Governorate, Valikhanov Institute of History and Ethnology, Margulan Institute of Archaeology, Zhubanov Aktobe Regional University

Aktobe, Kazakhstan, 24-25 November 2022

More than 200 historians, archaeologists, ethnologists, ethnoarchaeologists, art historians, culturologists took part with presentations in the International Scientific Conference “Aral-Caspian Region in the History and Culture of Eurasia” was organized by the Governorate of Aktobe Provinc, Chokan Valikhanov Institute of History and Ethnology, Alkey Margulan Institute of Archaeology, Kudaybergen Zhubanov Aktobe Regional University, in Aktobe, Kazakhstan, on 24-25 November 2022. The main goal of the conference was to highlight the special importance of the Aral-Caspian region in Islamic history and culture based on comprehensive, interdisciplinary research.



Within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding in effect between IRCICA and Kudaybergen Zhubanov Aktobe Regional University, IRCICA made a book donation from among its publications to the Library of the University. Prof. Dr. Ashirbek

Muminov, Advisor to the Director General of IRCICA on Programs, took part in the conference with his presentation “Prospects for the study of epigraphic monuments in Arabic script in the Aral-Caspian region”. 🇹🇷

# International Forum commemorating the International Day of the Turkic Language: "Turkic Civilization and Global Culture: İterish Qutlugh Qaghan's Inscription"

UNESCO, 15 December 2022

15 December is commemorated by UNESCO as the "International Day of the Turkic Language". The decision was taken in 2021, at the outcome of a process carried out by the UNESCO National Commissions of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. It corresponds to the date of announcement, in 1893, by the Danish philologist Wilhelm Thomsen that he had deciphered the Orkhon Inscriptions.

An International Forum titled "Turkic Civilization and Global Culture: İterish Qutlugh Qaghan's Inscription" was organized by the International Turkic Academy (TWESCO, based in Astana, Kazakhstan) affiliated to the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic States (TURK-PA, Secretariat in Baku, Azerbaijan), with the support of the National Commissions of the Academy's Member States for UNESCO, at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France, on 15 December 2022. Academician Shahin Mustafae, President of the International Turkic Academy, gave the inaugural address. Speeches were delivered at the opening session and the plenary session that followed, by the Secretary General of TURK-PA, Ambassador Mehmet Süreyya Er; the Secretary General, International Organization of Turkic Culture (TURKSOY), Mr. Sultan Raev; the Director General of IRCICA, Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç; the ambassadors and permanent delegates of TURK-PA Member States to UNESCO, and presidents of national academies.



The speakers emphasized the importance of analyzing, recording, and disseminating information on the contributions of Turkic language and culture to world civilization. In his study presented at the plenary session, Prof. Dr. Kılıç said that one of the ways to learn about other cultures is to learn about their languages, therefore, the diversity of languages is not a divisive but a unifying factor. A glimpse at the history of development, trends of expansion and linguistic interactions of Turkic languages shows that this group of languages, estimated to be spoken by more than 200 million people today, evolved internationally for centuries spreading in all geographical directions. Turkic-speaking peoples in different regions of the world maintained strong cultural connections owing to the works of authors, scholars and philosophers that were translated into different languages, crossing times and borders. Recalling that

the Member States of the Turkic organizations are all members of the OIC and IRCICA, Prof. Kılıç informed the audience on the Centre's cultural studies covering the different regions of its membership area undertaken in cooperation with states and international organizations.

The Forum continued with two working sessions, titled "The Writing Culture of Turkic Civilization: İterish Qutlugh Qaghan" and "Turkic Languages in the Global World: Issues of Preservation and Development". Papers were presented by specialists from Azerbaijan, Germany, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Poland, Tatarstan (Russian Federation), Türkiye, and the Forum's partner organizations.



## Training Programs on Research and Librarianship in Islamic Studies

\* "Professional Training Program for Librarians",  
jointly with the Center of Islamic Civilization in Uzbekistan

15 December 2022

IRCICA and the Center of Islamic Civilization in Uzbekistan, Tashkent, organized a Professional Training Program for Library Employees in Uzbekistan. The program was conducted online. It aimed at promoting experience sharing and exchange of advanced librarianship practices. Librarians from the following institutions in Uzbekistan attended the program: National Library of Uzbekistan named after Alisher Navoi; International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan; Library of the Muslim Board of Uzbekistan; Uzbek State World Languages University; Tashkent Islamic Institute named after Imam Bukhari; Journalism and Mass Communication University of Uzbekistan; Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies; Imam Bukhari International Scientific-Research Center; Imam Tirmizi International



Scientific-Research Center; Imam Maturidi International Scientific-Research Center. Six lecturers from IRCICA and the Center of Islamic Civilization in Uzbekistan covered theoretical, technological and practical aspects of new trends in library management including analysis of modern cataloging practices and working with visual archive

documents, such as IRCICA's photography archive. Know-how exchange among institutions was emphasized, towards promoting best practices in the conservation and restoration of manuscripts, lithographic works and archival documents and organization of specific collections, including the manuscript fund of the Center of Islamic Civilization in Uzbekistan.

\* "Importance of Oriental Manuscripts in Conducting Research in the Fields of Historical and Islamic Studies" in cooperation with the Institute of History, Uzbekistan Academy of Sciences

23-24 June 2022

Fourteen experts and researchers from the Institute of History, Uzbekistan Academy of Sciences, attended the program, which focused on studies on manuscripts and studies based

on manuscripts as references. Eight IRCICA experts made presentations on research projects and archival studies relevant for the program theme. The library of IRCICA and its collections were

introduced to the participants. Certificates were presented to them by Director General Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç at the end of the program.

## \* “The Importance of Oriental Manuscripts in Conducting Research in Islamic Studies”

jointly with the International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan

25-26 May 2022

This training program took place at IRCICA, with the participation of five faculty members – professors, associate professors, and assistant professors (Dr. Rakhimdjanov Durbek Abidjanovich, Dr. Yusupova Nigora Jaloliddin kizi, Dr.

Khakimova Nigora Alisherovna, Dr. Okilov Saidmukhtor Saidakbarovich, Dr. Tuychieva Nilufar Makhsutjanovna) and three MA students (Mr. Ruziev Toir Bobanazarovich, Mr. Abdullaev Fozil Rakhimovich, Mr. Saydakbarov Khalilullokh

Saidmukhtor ugli) from different universities in Uzbekistan. Moderated by Prof. Dr. Ashirbek Muminov and Prof. Dr. Sadik Ūnay, the program featured study visits to IRCICA Library and the historical Süleymaniye Library.



## \* “Importance of Oriental Manuscripts in Conducting Research in the Fields of Historical and Islamic Studies”

jointly with the International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan

28-29 November 2022

The program was organized for experts from the International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan and conducted at IRCICA. It enabled an exchange of knowledge and expertise, with lectures by the IRCICA experts on the first day, and lectures by the guest experts, on the following topics: “Shash – One of Islamic Scientific and Cultural Centers in the Period of the Muslim Renaissance (9<sup>th</sup>–11<sup>th</sup> Centuries), by Prof. Dr. N. Mukhamedov; “Scientific and Spiritual Heritage of Ubaydallah ibn Mas’ud Taj al-Shari’a” by Prof. Dr. N. Nasrullaev; “Influence of the Administration System of the Islamic Period on the First Renaissance in Central Asia” by Dr. Z. Zinatullaev.



## ARTS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE



### International Forum “Central Asia–Center for Islamic Art”

organized by the Ministry of Tourism and Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Imam Bukhari International Scientific Research Center, and IRCICA

Samarkand, Uzbekistan, 1-3 November 2022

The riches and diversity of book arts and traditional handicrafts in Central Asia and the Islamic world were displayed to 300 visitors from within and outside Uzbekistan during the International Forum “Central Asia – Center for Islamic Art” held in Samarkand, on 1-3 November 2022. The Forum was organized by the Ministry of Tourism and Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Imam Bukhari International Scientific Research Center (Samarkand) and IRCICA. It was placed within the framework of the “International Ziyarah Tourism Week” in Uzbekistan. The

opening ceremony was officiated by the Minister of Tourism and Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Mr. Aziz

Abdukhakimov; the Governor of Samarkand region, Mr. Erkinjon Turdimov; the Director General of IRCICA Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol



Kılıç; the Director of the Center of Islamic Civilization in Uzbekistan, Dr. Shoazim Minvarov; the Director of Imam Bukhari International Scientific Research Centre, Dr. Shovosil Ziyodov. The three-day Forum events included:

- exhibitions of applied arts with demonstrations by artisans, including the arts of the book – “Book culture in Mawarannahr”, miniature painting, pottery, ceramics, epigraphy, marbling (ebru), Samarkand Paper, engraving, wood carving;
- calligraphy selected from the collections of IRCICA and Imam Bukhari Center, accompanied by a workshop and lecture by the Calligrapher Efdaluddin Kılıç;
- exhibitions of ancient Qur’an copies;
- “Modern Islamic architecture” exhibition;
- international conference on “Improving the System of Preservation and Research of Ancient Written Sources” spread over two days with sections on: “Uzbekistan and Foreign Experience in Improving the System of Preservation and Research of Ancient Written Sources” and “Conservation and Restoration of Rare Manuscript Sources, Registry, and Digitization”.

Addressing the opening ceremony of the Forum, Ambassador Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç said that the Forum, coordinated by IRCICA together with several cultural institutions in Uzbekistan, was an innovative, multidimensional event, first of its kind in the context of cooperation between Uzbekistan and IRCICA. Director General Kılıç stated that “The Forum combines different interrelated areas of knowledge, studies and expertise relating to historical and present-day aspects of Islamic arts and culture. From ancient manuscripts and traditional book arts to modern techniques of conservation and analysis, from the artists who conceive and produce artworks to the institutions that help to promote and preserve their products, the Forum will show a rich segment of the culture and arts panorama in Central Asia.” At the opening of the international conference on “Improving the System of Preservation and Research of Ancient Written Sources”, Prof. Kılıç pointed out that library and archive management, particularly management of ancient, rare and manuscript sources, are dynamic and progressive areas of specialization; the conference, which enlisted a high rate of international participation, was a good opportunity for the organizing bodies and the participants alike, to learn about state-of-the-art methods in the field.



CALLIGRAPHER HABIBULLAH SALIH, FROM UZBEKISTAN, PRESENTED IRCICA DIRECTOR GENERAL PROF. MAHMUD EROL KILIÇ WITH A WORK WRITTEN IN KUFIC STYLE ON LEATHER, AS A SOUVENIR OF THE FORUM

# Calligraphy Exhibition and Workshop at Bahrain Contemporary Art Association

Manama, Bahrain, 12-17 October 2022



The Exhibition “IRCICA Generation of Calligraphers: Samples of Award-Winner Works in International Competitions” organized jointly with Bahrain Contemporary Art Association, was opened at the Association’s headquarters in Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain, on 12 October 2022. IRCICA Director General, Ambassador Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç opened the exhibition, at the ceremony attended by Parliamentarians, the Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye in Bahrain H.E. Esin Çakıl, representatives of Bahrain National Museum, calligraphers, art specialists and appreciators. In his address, the Director General of IRCICA underlined the characteristics and universal appeal of the art of calligraphy in its spiritual and aesthetical dimensions. Prof. Kılıç also briefed the audience about IRCICA’s activities aiming to promote the art of calligraphy and introduced the collection on display, consisting of award-winning works from the first ten rounds of the IRCICA International Calligraphy Competition held over 30 years (1986-2016). The Director General said: “Some award-winners in early rounds of our competition saw their students win awards in later rounds - this is the theme of our exhibition.”

The program of the six-day event featured daily calligraphy



workshops conducted by the Calligrapher Ferhat Kurlu from Türkiye. Mr. Kurlu’s student from Bahrain, Mr. Waliullah Mashhood, who completed IRCICA’s training programs, was presented an Ijaza, i.e. the certificate signed by the teacher, authorizing the student to practice and teach this art. The exhibition program also

included a presentation by Mr. Said Kasımoğlu, Chief of the Arts and Handicrafts Section, IRCICA, on the calligraphy competition program carried out by IRCICA since 1986. Mr. Kasımoğlu also outlined the tangible outcomes of the competition program, which contributed to introducing this art to wider cultural audiences.



## IRCICA's "Cultural Heritage Talks": the first two lectures

IRCICA started a program of thematic talks on Islamic cultural and architectural heritage, addressing issues of current theoretical and practical significance for policy-makers,

institutions and researchers. The program consists of lectures delivered in hybrid format in IRCICA's conference hall and online, aiming to build a platform of information exchange.

The first two lectures, held in November and December 2022, were attended by professors and students of history of arts and architecture.

### Prof. Dr. Ali Uzay Peker's lecture on "Cosmologic Content in Islamic Architecture"

25 November 2022

The lecture of Prof. Dr. Ali Uzay Peker, faculty member at the History of Architecture Graduate Program, Middle East Technical University, Ankara, on "Cosmologic Content in Islamic Architecture" described the philosophical foundations and interpretive expressions of Islamic architecture in its integrative cosmological principles. Analysing the structural, scriptural and decorative components of

monuments spanning from the Dome of the Rock to Karatay Medrese, Alaattin Keykubat Mosque, Süleymaniye Mosque and Alhambra Palace, Professor Peker interpreted the holistic cosmological content that emanates from the harmony of the built sections, decorative motifs and sourahs inscribed at different heights that reach from bottom to top, from earth, nature and worldly life up to the *alems* and domes' windows, symbolizing the quest to Allah. Prof. Peker also spoke of various theoretical approaches adopted in interpreting monuments in the context of scientific research, particularly the differences between political-historical classifications or references to literary sources on the one hand, and religious-metaphysical-symbolic interpretations on the other. The lecture ended with a Q&A session.



### Prof. Dr. Zeynep Gül Ünal's lecture on "Hybrid Threats and Protection of Cultural Heritage"

26 December 2022

Prof. Dr. Zeynep Gül Ünal from the Faculty of Architecture, Yıldız Technical University, Director, YTÜ Center for

Preservation of Historical Heritage, Istanbul, and Vice-President of ICOMOS (International Council on



Monuments and Sites) gave a lecture titled “Hybrid Threats and Protection of Cultural Heritage”. Prof. Ünal described the increasing variety of threats facing cultural heritage in conflict zones due to the diversity of technological weapons, giving examples of the forms and means of aggressions on monuments during the recent conflicts in various regions of the world. She pointed out that everywhere in the world and particularly in the Muslim world, including Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mali, Syria and Yemen, attacks on

cultural heritage properties are aimed at weakening peoples' cultural identity indicators and breaking their solidarity in protecting cultural heritage properties. The lecturer also spoke of on-going efforts of international organizations, including ICOMOS, to incorporate measures against



new forms of risks in the international conventions in effect.

## Obituary notice

### Ms. Mihin Lugal, senior librarian, ex-member of IRCICA, passed away

IRCICA Library continues to fondly remember its Senior Librarian Mihin Lugal after her death on 29 September 2022. She was an eminent specialist of librarianship in historical and social sciences. Lugal was esteemed by her colleagues and friends for her professional competence and personal qualities. She became well known to researchers in Islamic history and manuscript studies internationally, especially during her services in the Library of the Turkish Historical Society (1956-1983, Ankara) and IRCICA (1987-2013). She contributed to IRCICA Library's development; established its exchange program and systematized the specialized services to researchers. She retired from IRCICA in 2013.

A brief biography: Mihin Lugal graduated from the Faculty of Language, History and Geography, Department of

German Language and Literature, Ankara University, in 1949. She obtained her Master of Arts in Library Science (MALS) degree from the University of Michigan, U.S.A. in 1956. Mihin Lugal worked at the Turkish Historical Society as Librarian (1950-56), Head of the Library (1956-80), Expert Librarian (1980-82), and Deputy Director General (1982-83). Between 1983 and 1987 she was the Secretary of the Atatürk Cultural Centre in Istanbul. From 1956 to 1958 she carried out the preparatory work for founding the Hacettepe University Library in Ankara. Mihin Lugal took part in the



organization of many academic meetings and documentary exhibitions of the Turkish Historical Society and Atatürk Cultural Centre. She joined IRCICA in 1987 as Consultant and Expert Librarian. She had a very good knowledge of German and English. She wrote articles and book reviews, compiled bibliographies, and co-authored (with Nimet Bayraktar) the book *Bibliography of Manuscript Libraries and the Publications Located in these Libraries* (IRCICA, 1995).

## MEETINGS, VISITS, COOPERATION

### ● Visit of the Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam

H.E. Ambassador Shafiee Kassim, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Brunei Darussalam in Türkiye, paid a visit to Ambassador Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç, IRCICA Director General, at IRCICA, on 31 October 2022. The meeting emphasized the potential benefits of expanding the existing cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and IRCICA, especially in the field of Islamic arts.



### ● Cooperation with “Aziret Sultan” Museum, Kazakhstan

Mr. Maulen Sadykbekov, Director, State Historical and Cultural Museum-Reserve “Aziret Sultan”, Turkistan, Republic of Kazakhstan, and Mr. Nurlan Dukenbaev, Deputy Director, paid a visit to Director General Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç at IRCICA, on 30 September 2022. A Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation was signed in view of joint projects, including the international conference “Sustainable Tourism, Pilgrimage, and Sacred Heritage: People Protecting the Monuments- The Legacy of Ahmed Yasawi” which was held one month later in Turkistan.



### ● Managers of “Merhamet” Humanitarian Aid Association from Eastern Europe visited IRCICA

Managers of “Merhamet” Humanitarian Aid Association from Albania, Kosovo, Macedonia and Serbia were received by IRCICA Director General Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç on 30 September 2022. The guests were guided to a calligraphy exhibition on display in the conference hall and shown a brief documentary film on IRCICA’s activities.



### ● Visit from the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore

Ms. Sri Nurayu Mat Aris, Manager, Madrasah Policy and Planning, and Mr. Syed Muhammad Aljunied, Senior Executive, Student Career and Welfare Office, from the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (MUIS - Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura), paid a visit to IRCICA on 4 November 2022, in the context of their official visit to Türkiye. The guests were introduced with the activities of IRCICA by the staff members Fazıl Bayat, Zeynep Durukal and Yekta Zülfikar. IRCICA cooperates with Islamic cultural institutions in Singapore in the field of arts, calligraphy in particular.



### ● Cooperation with the University of Darussalam Gontor, Indonesia

IRCICA Director general Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç received Prof. Dr. Amal Fathullah Zarkasyi, President of the University of Darussalam Gontor, East Java, Indonesia, together with Ms. Elizabeth Diana Dewi, Consul for Social and Cultural Affairs at the Consulate General of Indonesia in Istanbul, at IRCICA headquarters, on 30 November 2022. Possible areas of scholarly cooperation between the University and IRCICA were discussed.



### ● Visit of Prof. Damir Mukhetdinov, First Vice-Chairman, Muslims' Spiritual Directorate in Russia

IRCICA Director General Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç received Prof. Dr. Damir Mukhetdinov, First Vice-Chairman of the Spiritual Directorate of Muslims of the Russian Federation, Moscow, at IRCICA on 21 December 2022. Prof. Mukhetdinov, who is also Rector of the Moscow Islamic Institute, and Prof. Kılıç, discussed subjects within the framework of Islamic studies.



### ● Cooperation between Kuwait Awqaf Public Foundation and IRCICA

IRCICA Director General Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç received Ms. Iman Al-Khatrash from Kuwait Awqaf Public Foundation, on 6 October 2022. The two parties exchanged views and experiences, mainly on the state of studies relating to the history of waqfs.

### ● Publication exchange with Tripoli Old City Documentation and Data Centre, Libya

IRCICA Director General Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç received Prof. Basma Ahmed, Director, Tripoli Old City Documentation and Data Centre, Libya, on 6 October 2022. Archival studies concerning heritage cities were reviewed; the two centers' publications were exchanged.

**Proceedings of the International Conference in the Memory of Timur Beisembiev (Islamic Civilisation in the Great Steppe)**

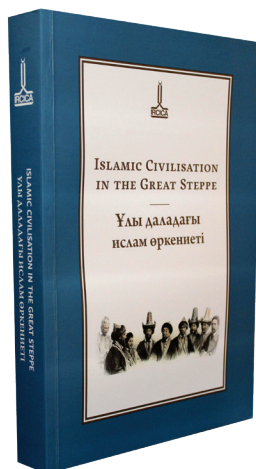
**(Ұлы даладағы ислам өркениеті) Тимур Бейсембиевті еске алуға арналған халықаралық конференция материалдары**

MARCH 2017, ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN  
 НАУРЫЗ, 2017, АЛМАТЫ, ҚАЗАҚСТАН

ED. MAHMUD EROL KILIÇ AND  
 ABDSATTAR QAZHY DERBISSALI;  
 PREPARED FOR PUBLICATION BY  
 ASHIRBEK MUMINOV ... ET. AL.,  
 ISTANBUL: IRCICA, 2022. 615 P.: COL.  
 ILL. SOURCES AND STUDIES ON THE  
 HISTORY OF ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION  
 SERIES; NO. 52)

(IN ENGLISH, KAZAKH AND RUSSIAN)  
 ISBN 987-92-9063-405-8

This book contains 50 scientific articles based on the materials of the international conference on “Islamic Civilisation in the Great Steppe. Scientific Readings Dedicated to the Memory of Outstanding Kazakh Scholar in Oriental Studies Dr. Timur Kasymovich Beisembiev (1955-2016)” which was organized by IRCICA in cooperation with R. B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan and held in Almaty, on 30 March 2017. The book begins with the Preface of IRCICA Director General Prof. Dr. Mahmud Erol Kılıç and the text of the opening address which was delivered at the conference by Prof. Dr. Abdsattar Qazhy Derbissali (1947-2021), then Director of R.B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies (a scholar in Islamic history



and Supreme Mufti in Kazakhstan from 2000-2013).

The first chapter, titled “Islamic Civilisation in Aral-Caspian Region” includes articles by leading researchers of Kazakhstan about the Islamic monuments of the region. The main focus is on the identification, registration, and primary study of the monuments where inscriptions in Arabic script are concentrated. The studies have helped to identify about 400 memorial and cult complexes. They appraise the state of studies and preservation regarding the monuments and suggest further tasks for the in-depth study, preservation and preparation of future publications on these monuments.

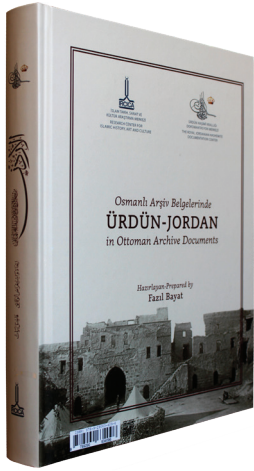
The second chapter, titled “Islamic Studies”, bring together articles that look into the recently discovered written sources on the history of Islamic civilisation in the Great Steppe. Their findings are of interest for research in the fields of history, archeology, sphragistics, diplomacy, folklore, and manuscript heritage.

The third chapter contains articles on a variety of “Historiography”

topics about Kazakhstan and Central Asia. Many of them were studied by the famous Kazakh scholar Timur Kasymovich Beisembiev (1955–2016). The fourth chapter, titled “Academic Activity of Timur Beisembiev”, contains six articles highlighting his academic contributions from various viewpoints. Another article records his biography and a description of his archive, which is the outcome of a whole life devoted to collecting, classifying and studying written sources on the history and culture of Islamic civilisation in the Great Steppe, particularly on Kokand historiography. The last article presented in the book belongs to Beisembiev T.K., “Central Asian (Chagatai) Turki and Central Asian Farsi – Written Languages of the Kazakh Khanate”.

Beisembiev was an important scholar in Oriental Studies and on the history of Central Asia and its sources, well-known particularly for his research and publications on the period of the Kokand Khanate (1710–1876). His publications include the Annotated Indices of the Khoqand Chronicles and his translation and commentary on the biography of Alimqul Amir-i Lashkar of Khoqand, among others.





## Jordan in Ottoman Archive Documents

PREPARED BY FAZIL BAYAT,  
PUBLISHED BY IRCICA AND THE  
ROYAL JORDANIAN HASHEMITE  
DOCUMENTATION CENTER,  
ISTANBUL 2022, 720 P. (IN ARABIC  
AND OTTOMAN TURKISH)  
ISBN 978-92-9063-409-6

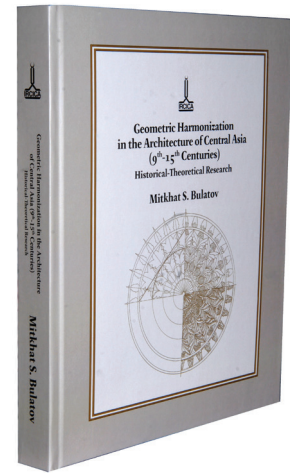
This book came out as a result of IRCICA's continual engagement to publish documents from the Ottoman archives to render them accessible to researchers. It was prepared at the request of the Royal Jordanian Hashemite Documentation Center. IRCICA's expert Prof. Dr. Fazıl Bayat was assigned to prepare the book, which was done on the basis of the hundreds of documents that are preserved in the Ottoman Archives in Istanbul. These documents are among the rarest sources on the history of Jordan, most of them unpublished before. The documents shed light on the four centuries of Ottoman administration in the region.

Documents relating to Jordan hold an important place in the collections of the Ottoman Archives due to the historical significance of Jordan located on the pilgrimage routes that cross Bilad al-Sham from Damascus to the Haramayn and on account of the various events the region witnessed throughout the Ottoman

era. These documents are classified in the Ottoman Archives system under the same designations they were assigned by the Ottoman State departments. In the book, the author grouped them under chronologically ordered subject headings and gave information on their contents, delving into the background and general historical context of each subject treated in the documents. Given the impossibility of publishing whole collections of documents, the author limited the book to 413 documents that he examined under the following chapter headings: The Early Rise of Ottoman Rule in the Regions of Ajlun, Karak, Shubak and Ma'an; Qansuh Bey Al-Ghazzawi Family: The Emirs of Ajlun and Karak; The Rule of Pashas; Administrative Affairs; Municipal, Urban, Public Health and Public Services Affairs; Education and Teaching Establishments; Christian Missionary Educational Institutions; Judicial Affairs; Islamic Institutions, Waqfs and Religious Affairs; Matters Relating to Christian Communities; Jordanian Personalities in the Local Administrations and the Ottoman Chamber of Deputies (*Meclis-i Mebusan*); Tributes Paid to City Notables and Chieftains; Accommodation of Immigrants.

The majority of the documents published in the book consist of single sheets, most of them official letters also comprised in the Registers (*Defter*). The book also contains two geographical maps and 23 historical photographs of Jordan from early 20th century.

The documents presented in the book clarify many unknown aspects of the history of Jordan and demystify some facts surrounding this history. Therefore, they are essential sources for anyone interested in the history of Jordan during the period under focus. 📖



## Mitkhat S. Bulatov, Geometric Harmonization in the Architecture of Central Asia: 9<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> Centuries (Historical - Theoretical Research).


TRANSLATED FROM RUSSIAN BY  
LILIYA SATTAROVA, IRCICA, 2022.  
PROJECT DIRECTOR: MAHMUD EROL  
KILIÇ; CONTRIBUTORS TO ENGLISH  
EDITION: ASHIRBEK MUMINOV, TAHA  
ZAHID ÖZDEMİR, ZEYNEP DURUKAL.  
ISLAMIC ARCHITECTURE AND HERITAGE  
PRESERVATION NO. 3. 430 P.: ILL.,  
PLANS (IN ENGLISH)  
ISBN 978-92-9063-410-2

IRCICA published the English edition of the book *Geometric Harmonization in the Architecture of Central Asia: 9th-15th Centuries (Historical - Theoretical Research)*, the most well-known work of Mitkhat S. Bulatov (1907-2004), architect, architectural historian and urbanist. The book was originally published in Russian by Nauka Publishers, Moscow, in 1978.

IRCICA's publication consists of the first complete translation of the book. It is based on the 1988 Russian edition, which contains an introductory article by the art historian Lazar Rempel (1907-1992). The idea of the English edition was suggested to IRCICA some years ago by Prof. Shakhirjan Pidayev, Director of the Institute of Fine Arts, Uzbekistan Academy of Sciences,

where Mitkhat Bulatov worked from 1970 to 1991. The translation project was coordinated within the framework of IRCICA's publication program on architectural heritage in the Islamic world.

A major center of architecture and urbanism throughout history, Central Asia saw golden achievements in monumental construction after the advent of Islam in the region. Islamic architecture prolifically built upon the experience embodied in the largely urbanized Central Asian environment making use of the powerful mathematics and geometry of the Golden Age of Islam. In this pioneering study and minute examination of numerous monuments in and around Central Asia, Mitkhat S. Bulatov explored the geometrical rules and computation tools that were applied in construction and ornamentation. The author presented historical information and mathematical analyses based on hundreds of illustrations and schematized drawings of ground and elevation plans of the buildings; in a separate chapter, he analyzed their ornamental patterns. In describing the monuments, Bulatov frequently referred to the works of Islamic scientists of the past and publications of his time on Islamic architecture. The book is a comprehensive reference on the history and architectural characteristics of important monuments, most of them well-known heritage sites of today.

IRCICA hopes that the English edition will further widen the readership of this remarkable book. 


## The Thuluth & Naskh Mashqs by Mehmed Shawqî: Exercise Books of Islamic Calligraphy

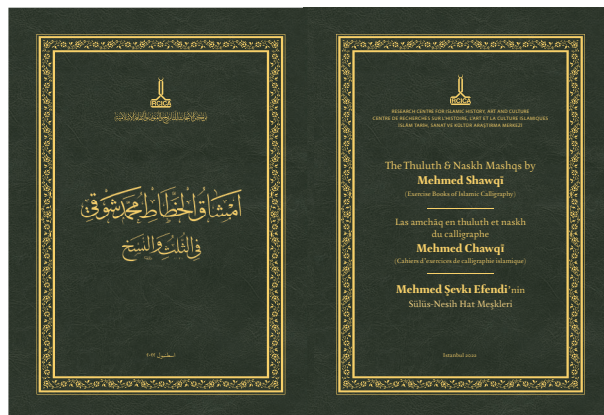
INTRODUCTORY TEXTS: UĞUR DERMAN; PREPARED BY: SAİD KASIMOĞLU; ISTANBUL: IRCICA; 2022. ISLAMIC CULTURAL HERITAGE SERIES; NO. 6, 3RD ED., REV. AND ENL.; 70, [2] P., COL. ILL.; 30 CM. (ENGLISH, ARABIC, FRENCH, TURKISH) ISBN 978-92-9063-404-1

IRCICA published the third, revised and enlarged edition of Mehmed Shawqî Efendi's (1829-1887) calligraphy worksheets (*mashqs*) for the thuluth and naskh styles. The first edition, dated 1999, was prepared by IRCICA in its capacity as the Secretariat and Executive Organ of the OIC International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage - ICPICH and published by ICPICH. The second edition was published in IRCICA's art book series, in 2010, after the merger of ICPICH and IRCICA in 2000. The book is in high demand among calligraphers wishing to hone their talents. It is also highly valued by appreciators of this art. The edition contains facsimile copies of the worksheets, with explanatory annotations. It begins with instructive texts by Prof. M. Uğur Derman about the teaching of calligraphy, its methods and procedures, Mehmed Shawqî's activities, and the exercise books he prepared for his pupils.

Mehmed Shawqî received his training in calligraphy in Istanbul

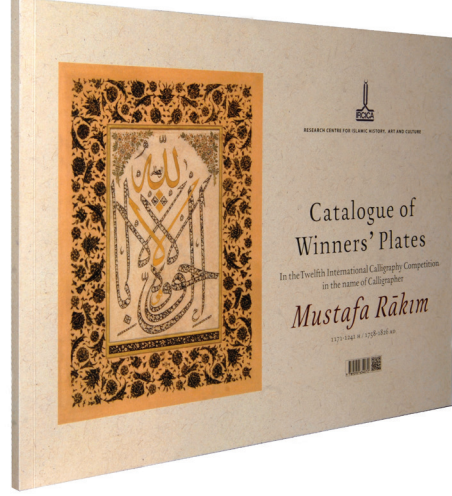
starting from a young age, learning thuluth, naskh, and rîqa from his uncle Mehmed Hulûsi Efendi (d. 1874), and obtained his ijaza at the age of twelve. Perfecting his skills over the years, he invented a style of his own inspired by great calligraphers, including Hâfiz Osman (d. 1698) and Mustafa Râkım (d. 1826), which came to be known as the "Shawqî School." He taught calligraphy in the government school which trained military scribes and also gave private lessons to student groups, while his principal job was at the Secretariat of the Ministry of War. He calligraphed twenty-five Mushafs, as well as a great number of prayer books.

The publication contains his *mashq* related to *mufradât* (exercises on single letters) and *murakkabât* (exercises on combinations of letters) reproduced from its original preserved in the Library of Topkapı Palace Museum, followed by the *mashq* for *murakkabât* and the *Qasida al-Alfiyya* worksheet reproduced from the Ekrem Hakki Ayverdi collection preserved in the Kubbealtı Academy Culture and Art Foundation, Istanbul. The final section presents al-Hilya al-Nabawiyya al-Sharîfa (description of the sublime characteristics of the Prophet Muhammadsaw) prepared as a *mashq* for *murakkabât* by Mehmed Shawqî, who gave importance to learners' practicing on this text, which was reproduced from its original preserved in the Library of Topkapı Palace Museum. 



**Catalogue of Award-Winning Plates in the Twelfth International Calligraphy Competition in the Name of Calligrapher Mustafa Rākım (1171-1241 H. / 1758-1826 A.D.)**

PREPARED BY SAID KASIMOĞLU,  
ISTANBUL: IRCICA; 2022. ISLAMIC  
CULTURAL HERITAGE SERIES; NO.  
5, 104, [4] P., COL. ILL.; 33X24CM.  
(ENGLISH, ARABIC, TURKISH, FRENCH)  
ISBN 978-92-9063-407-2



The twelfth round of IRCICA's International Calligraphy Competition, conducted in 2022, received 697 works by 535 participants from 31 countries; out of this total, 61 works, submitted by 49 calligraphers from 10 countries, won awards. The competition was organized in ten categories of styles: Jaly Thuluth, Thuluth, Naskh, Muhaqqaq, Thuluth-Naskh, Jaly Taliq, Taliq, Jaly Diwani, Diwani, Qufi. Its results were announced on 21 May 2022. The Jury, composed of experts from Egypt, Iraq, Iran, Morocco, Syria and Türkiye, commended the general artistic quality of the winning entries.

In line with IRCICA's tradition to dedicate each round of the

competition to an important master of this art, the twelfth round was dedicated to Mustafa Rākım (1758-1826), who contributed to the advancement of this art with innovations in measures and composition, particularly in the Jaly Thuluth style. Mustafa Rākım was also a painter. Sultan Selim III appreciated a painting made by him and invited him to have his portrait made. He was granted the title of müderris (professor), and also assigned with designing coins and writing tughras (monograms). Later Rākım taught Thuluth and Jaly Thuluth calligraphy to Sultan Mahmud II. He also made works in the Taliq style and excelled in

the Jaly, producing inscriptions on monuments and tombstones. As was customary among Ottoman scholarly circles, he was granted the title of *Kadı* (Judge) of Izmir in his honor. Obtaining several promotions over time, he was finally, in 1823, appointed *Kadıasker* (Chief Judge) of Anatolia with full status.

The catalogue contains the reproductions of the works winning the first three prizes and the mentions in each category. It is a valuable record and a souvenir of the competition, and will also be of interest to learners and appreciators of this art. 🟢

