



Newsletter



OIC RESEARCH CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC HISTORY, ART AND CULTURE

**The 32nd Islamic Conference of Foreign
Ministers held in Sana'a,
Republic of Yemen**

**The second International Symposium
on «Islamic Civilisation
in Volga-Ural Region»
Kazan, 24-26 June 2005**

**Visit of H.E. Dr. Abdullah Gül,
Vice Prime Minister and Minister of
Foreign Affairs of Turkey, to IRCICA**

IRCICA Activities:

International congress on "Bilad al-Sham
during the Ottoman Era" in Damascus,
26-30 September 2005

Architectural competition:
the Prince Faisal bin Fahd Award for the
Preservation of Islamic Architecture

"Islamic Countries Cultural Week"
on the occasion of IRCICA's 25th anniversary:
from 22 November 2005

Participation in the OIC Experts Meeting
on Tourism held in Tehran

**Cultural Institutions:
The Turkish and Islamic Arts Museum,
Istanbul**

Book survey

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Editorial

As the present issue reaches you IRCICA is preparing to commemorate its 25th anniversary. A series of cultural activities will be organised on the occasion, to take place in conjunction with the 21st Ministerial Session of the OIC's Standing Committee on Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) chaired by the President of the Republic of Turkey. Within this framework, an "Islamic Countries Cultural Week" will be held starting from 22 November. The program will comprise folkloric shows, exhibitions of documents, publications, photographs, art and craft works, and film presentations. These cultural events are expected to present samples of the cultural and artistic heritage and contemporary artistic performances of the OIC member countries and at the same time, to promote contacts among the institutions, artists, artisans, publishers, professionals and information media. The commemoration program will also include a plenary ceremonial session of the ministerial delegations of the OIC Member States participating at the COMCEC meeting, to be held in presence of H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Secretary General of OIC. Presentations at this session are expected to project a fresh image of IRCICA on its 25th year and highlight its role and objectives within the framework of the OIC and the global cultural environment at large.

This issue also coincides with the holding of our congress on «Bilad al-Sham during the Ottoman Era» to be held in Damascus, Syria, on 26-30 September 2005. The congress will be organised under the patronage of H.E. Dr. Bashar Assad, President of the Syrian Arab Republic, in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture of Syria. A large variety of subjects will be addressed, including the administrative, economic, social and cultural facts and developments along with the architecture, arts and sciences. This is the first congress that IRCICA devotes to this core region in Islamic history: its previous congresses in this series focused on various regions within and outside the Muslim world including East and West Africa, South and Southeast Asia, Caucasia, the Volga-Ural region, and the Balkans. The present issue of the Newsletter gives highlights of the Second International Symposium on "Islamic Civilisation in Volga-Ural Region" we have organized recently, in June 2005.

As was announced in the last issue of the Newsletter, IRCICA has newly launched an architectural competition: the Prince Faisal bin Fahd Award, which was announced to

the world architectural circles during the XXIIth World Congress of Architecture - UIA 2005 Istanbul (3-7 July 2005). The awards will be given to the best restoration projects of Islamic structures. The purpose is to support the revival of Islamic heritage by encouraging the restoration and conservation of monuments. We include more detailed information on this competition in the present issue.

New avenues are opened for our Centre's studies on the cultural and architectural heritage of Al-Quds and Palestine following my visit to Palestine last May accompanying H.E. the Secretary General of OIC. We are planning to launch a series of workshops aimed at studying and recording this heritage, in which we will certainly benefit from our earlier projects of similar nature such the "Mostar 2004" completed in 2004.

Our news on the above activities are preceded by an outline of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers' proceedings, at its thirty-second session held in Sana'a, the capital city of Yemen Republic, at the end of June. The Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, which meets once every year, is the second highest decision-making body of the OIC after the Islamic Summit Conference, i.e. the Conference of Kings and Heads of State and Government, which meets once every three years to lay down the policy of the Organisation. Numerous resolutions are taken at each session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers among which we shall cite only samples, just to offer a glimpse at the various subjects the OIC deals with.

The Newsletter will continue to serve you as a medium of information on selected cultural events and developments relating to Islamic studies from around the world, and at the same time, on IRCICA's activities. Meanwhile, we are re-introducing our section where we used to present selected cultural institutions from around the world but were not able to include in recent issues due to space limitations. We believe you will enjoy reading about the Turkish and Islamic Arts Museum of Istanbul, one of the world's major museums specialized in Islamic arts and archeology, which had contributed to our congress on Islamic Archeology last April with an exhibition of "Archeological Finds of the Islamic Period".

Thank you for your interest in our activities.

Dr. Halit Eren

The Thirty-Second Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held in Sana'a, Republic of Yemen

28-30 June 2005

The Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers has held its 32nd session (Session of Integration and Development) in Sana'a, Republic of Yemen, from 28-30 June 2005. The address of H.E. Ali Abdullah Saleh, President of the Republic of Yemen, to the 32nd Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, was read by H.E. Abdul Qadir Bajammal, the Prime Minister of Yemen. The President expressed his wish that the deliberations of the conference would end with concrete and operational resolutions enabling the Muslim world to meet in an effective manner the challenges facing it and devising an efficient mechanism founded on the means and capacities with which it is generously endowed.

The opening session was also addressed by H.E. Dr. Abdullah Gül, Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey, in his capacity as the Chairman of the 31st Islamic Conference, H.E. Syed Hamid Albar, Foreign Minister of Malaysia, representing the Chair of the 10th Islamic Summit Conference, and H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Secretary General of the OIC. H.E. Dr. Abu Bakr Al Qirabi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Yemen, was elected as Chairman of the 32nd Islamic Conference. The repre-

sentative of the UN Secretary General addressed the session, expressing the wish for continuous cooperation between the OIC and the UN system.

In his statement delivered at the opening session the OIC Secretary General, Prof. Ihsanoglu stressed the fact that the meeting was taking place under difficult international circumstances which contrasted with the past of the Muslim world when it witnessed its golden eras, when it was a major power, an international fulcrum of scientific and cultural radiance in the world, the cradle of civilization and coexistence between different faiths and creeds. Pointing out that today the Muslim world finds itself in the face of trying circumstances and various challenges, the Secretary General said that this situation imposes the Muslim world to aspire to develop its societies and reform its institutions. Real experience on the ground, he said, tells that it is possible for the Muslim world to emancipate itself from this state, if only it follows the real path of development, armed with unshakable resolve. Prof. Ihsanoglu said that the greatest service to render to the Muslim world is to make the OIC an organization that can bring benefits to the Member States, help it to be resilient in the face of contem-





porary challenges, unite its ranks and stands and reclaim its past glory and dignity. For this objective to be achieved, he said, a clear vision of the Islamic solidarity future perspectives is needed over the coming decade, pointing to the efforts planned towards this aim.

The Conference reiterated that the cause of Al-Quds Al-Sharif is the central cause of the Muslim world and affirmed its full support and backing for the Palestinian people in strengthening their national unity and unifying their internal front. Relating to the situation in Iraq, the Conference strongly reaffirmed its keenness on Iraq's sovereignty, territorial integrity, national unity and political independence and to be ruled by its own people through a broad-based, all-inclusive and fully representative government, in conformity with a nationally endorsed permanent Constitution. The conference examined, discussed and adopted resolutions on political, economic and social problems relating to Somalia, Jammu and Kashmir, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, the reconstruction efforts in The Sudan; it decided to support the African Union's efforts to end the dispute in Darfur, and stressed the OIC's readiness to contribute to these efforts; it also commended the peaceful efforts of the Sudanese government and its willingness to find a peaceful solution to the dispute in Darfur. Relating to the cause of the Turkish State of Cyprus, the Conference reiterated its decision to put an end, within the context of the call made by the UN Secretary General in his report of 28 May 2004 as well as the previous OIC resolutions, to the unjust isolation of Turkish Cypriots and strongly called upon the international community to take, without further delay, concrete steps to end this isolation. The conference urged the Member States to closely associ-

ate with the Turkish Cypriots, to increase and expand their relations in all fields. While reiterating its commitment towards Muslims in countries which are not OIC members, the Conference stressed that the Turkish Muslim Community in Western Thrace in Greece is an integral part of the Muslim world and that the interests, rights and ethnic identity of the Muslim minority in Western Thrace should be respected and upheld.

The conference emphasized the need to strengthen dialogue, cooperation and confidence among the OIC Member States, adopted the relevant principles and guidelines, and mandated the General Secretariat and an inter-governmental group of experts to formulate a Code of Conduct on the Promotion of Dialogue, Cooperation and Confidence among the Member States. Relating to the developmental and humanitarian activities of the OIC, the conference commended the works of the OIC Funds in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Afghanistan and Sierra Leone; it invited the Member States, the Islamic Development Bank and the Islamic Solidarity Fund to support the Funds and make use of them when it comes to implementing their projects meant for the said countries.

The conference reviewed the OIC's activities in the field of human rights, and underlined the importance of following up the Cairo Declaration on Human Rights; furthermore, it endorsed the Rights of the Child in Islam. It called on the Intergovernmental Group of Experts concerned to continue its work and to commence the formulation of other charters on human rights. It called the Member States to continue the existing positive cooperation and coordination among them in the field of human rights, especially at international meetings on this issue, in order to strengthen

Islamic solidarity and counter may attempt to use human rights as a means of exerting political pressure on Member States.

The conference discussed and took resolutions on a large number of economic subjects. It stressed the urgency of implementing the OIC Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among the Member States. It called for speedy accession to the World Trade Organisation (WTO), and reiterated its appeal to the WTO to strengthen the development dimension in the various multilateral trade agreements through a wide range of measures, including the application of the provisions on special preferential treatment for the developing countries and due consideration to the needs of the Least Developed Countries. The conference renewed its appeal to the international community to implement the Program of Action for 2001-2010 adopted by the Third UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries held in Brussels in May 2001. It expressed concern over the widespread poverty in these countries which leads to their marginalisation in the global economy. It reaffirmed the common objective of the Member States of eradicating poverty before the end of the next decade and the need for incorporating Micro Credit Programs within the framework of a strategy for poverty eradication.

Full texts of the resolutions taken on the above and other issues can be found in the website of the OIC: www.oic-oci.org. Within the context of matters relating to international relations, general and statutory matters, the Conference requested the Secretary General to expand contacts with the relevant international and regional organizations in order to establish/strengthen cooperation with them, and to conduct a study on how to identify the appropriate areas of cooperation that are of common interest and submit it to the next session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

In response to the application by the Russian Federation for observer status in the OIC, the conference decided unanimously and on exceptional basis to grant observer status to the Russian Federation.

The 33rd session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers will be held in the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2006.

The 32nd Conference took the Resolution no. 7/32-C relating to IRCICA and its activities. In the operational paragraphs of this resolution, the conference

1. Expresses its appreciation for the successful completion of the ten-year program of international workshops on "Architectural heritage today" with the holding of the tenth workshop on 7-22 July 2004 which was marked by a large-scale closing ceremony under the chairmanship of H.E. Sulejman Tihic, President of Bosnia and Herzegovina, coinciding with the international opening ceremony of the Old Bridge of Mostar, and welcomes the project to publish a comprehensive report on the ten-year architectural program.
2. Lauds the efforts made by IRCICA and particularly its

Governing Board for implementing the Resolution of the Tenth Islamic Summit Conference and the Twenty-eighth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers commissioning IRCICA to attach the name of H.R.H. Prince Faisal Ibn Fahd Ibn Abdelaziz - may Allah rest his soul in peace - to an important sector of its future activities in the field of Islamic heritage, in appreciation of His Highness's unflinching support during his Chairmanship of the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage, and welcomes with appreciation IRCICA's project to devote a new innovative and large-scale activity consisting in creating an Award carrying the name of "Prince Faisal bin Fahd Award for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage" which will be implemented periodically through an international competition to be sponsored from IRCICA's budget. The first of these series will be on the theme of "Prince Faisal bin Fahd Award for the Preservation of Islamic Architectural Heritage" and will be implemented during 2005-2006.

3. Expresses its appreciation for the successful organization by IRCICA of the First International Congress on the Islamic Archaeology at IRCICA, Istanbul, in an innovative way representing a leading initiative that establishes a periodical international congress on Islamic archaeology as a specific field of study within the discipline of archaeology, and expresses its gratitude to H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister of Turkey, for his patronage of the congress;
4. Commends the finalization of the 6th International Calligraphy Competition dedicated to the Iranian calligrapher Mir Imad Al-Haseni on the 400th anniversary of his death, with the announcement of the winners at a ceremony held on 25 March 2004, and welcomes the preparations for the 7th International Calligraphy Competition to be dedicated to the Iraqi calligrapher Hashim Muhammed Al-Baghdadi.
5. Welcomes the project of the Second International Symposium on "Islamic Civilization in Volga - Ural Region" in Kazan, capital of Tatarstan, on 24-26 June 2005, under the patronage of H.E. Mintimer Shaimiev, President of Tatarstan.
6. Welcomes also IRCICA's project to organize the international symposium on "Bilad al-Sham in the Ottoman Period" to be held in Damascus, Syria on 26-30 September 2005, under the patronage of H.E. Bashar Al-Assad, President of the Syrian Arab Republic.
7. Welcomes the initiative taken by the Supreme Commission for Tourism in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA, Istanbul) to organize an international Conference on Tourism and Handicrafts to be held in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 22-28 Shawwal 1427H (13-19 November 2006).
8. Commends IRCICA's program to develop handicrafts in Member States and the series of activities undertaken

in terms of seminars and exhibitions aimed at raising awareness of this important development sector, assessing its current situation, and examining the means appropriate to develop its future prospects in terms of its cultural, economic, social and educational dimensions - which contributed to the preparation of a number of specialized studies which represented a data base containing a wealth of information on the problems facing this sector and the prospects for its development. The most recent of these publications was the volume on "Creativity and Crafts in the Muslim World" which presented a summary of the innovative experiences of some Member States and some craftsmen for the purpose of documenting them on the basis of a survey of many issues

9. Commends the efforts made by IRCICA to activate its cooperation with inter international organizations within the framework of its work as a focal point for cooperation between UN organizations and the OIC and its subsidiary organs on developing arts, handicrafts, and heritage. IRCICA cooperates in this field with UNESCO, UNIDO, the International Trade Centre (ITC), and other relevant bodies and institutions in order to develop this vital area of cooperation. It was particularly noted that the existing Memorandum of Understanding between IRCICA and UNESCO has been recently reviewed and expanded to cover new areas of cooperation.
10. Welcomes IRCICA's project to organise an expanded international "Islamic Countries Cultural Week" on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of IRCICA, highlighting the cultures, arts and handicrafts of the OIC Member States, in conjunction with the 21st Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC), to be held under the chair-

manship of H.E. Ahmet Necdet Sezer, President of the Republic of Turkey, as of 22 November 2005, and invites the Member States to participate in the series of cultural events covered by the Cultural Week.

11. Welcomes IRCICA's initiative to organize an International Symposium on "Islamic Civilization in Southern Africa" in cooperation with the National Awqaf Foundation in South Africa and the University of Johannesburg, on 1-3 September 2006, which will be the first of its kind to be held in the region.
12. Welcomes IRCICA's initiative to organize a second International Symposium on "Islamic Civilization in West Africa" to be organized in cooperation with the Republic of Mali under the high patronage of President Amadou Toumani Toure.
13. Welcomes IRCICA's project to organize the third symposium on "Islamic Civilisation in the Balkans" to be held in Bucharest, Romania, in cooperation with the Romanian Academy of Sciences in 2006.
14. Requests IRCICA to continue deploying its valuable efforts to activate dialogue among civilizations by implementing one of the activities programmed for implementation by the Organisation of the Islamic Conference in this respect.
15. Extends thanks to IRCICA for preparing a feasibility study on the project for the documentation and classification of the archeological and historical Islamic sites and archeological heritage in Member States, and urges the Member States to explore ways to finance it.
16. Expresses its gratitude and appreciation for the efforts made by Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu during his tenure as Director General of IRCICA from its establishment in 1980 until 31st December 2004 which marked IRCICA's activities by an innovative spirit and an outstanding approach, and also expresses its congratula-



H.E. Dr. Abu Bakr Al Oirabi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Yemen, receives information from Dr. Halit Eren on the archive documents displayed at IRCICA's exhibitions.

tions and wishes of success to Halit Eren, the new Director General of IRCICA, who has been appointed to this post as of 1st January 2005, being convinced that IRCICA will continue its pioneering success. This confidence is the result of his dedicated efforts in leading positions in IRCICA for many years, his supervisory and scientific contributions to IRCICA's programs and activities, and his experience in IRCICA's activities. The conference is also convinced that IRCICA will continue its achievements in various fields of Islamic culture and civilization and in promoting inter-cultural relations and dialogue between Islam and other civilizations.

17. Expresses its thanks and appreciation to the host country of IRCICA (the Republic of Turkey) and to the other Member States, particularly the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (host country of OIC) for the voluntary material and moral support they are extending to IRCICA, thus enabling it to fulfill its mission.
18. Expresses its thanks to the Member States which regularly pay their contributions to IRCICA's budget and calls upon the other countries to regularly pay their contributions and settle their arrears to IRCICA's budget.

Documentary exhibitions by IRCICA

During the period of the 32nd Islamic Conference, IRCICA presented an exhibition of documents and illustrations which consisted of three parts: the first part outlined IRCICA's past activities on the 25th anniversary of its establishment (2005). The second exhibition was entitled "Yemen in the Ottoman Official Documents"; it was prepared by the Department of the Ottoman Archives (Istanbul), Prime Ministry of the Republic of Turkey, in

cooperation with IRCICA, and was composed of the reproductions of selected official documents and communications of the Ottoman State relating to Yemen. The third exhibition consisted of historical photographs of cities, monuments and scenes of social life in Yemen in the 19th-early 20th centuries selected from the archives of IRCICA.

Contacts and meetings during the conference period

During the period of the 32nd Islamic Conference, the Director General of IRCICA Dr. Halit Eren met with the Ministers and members of delegations of some Member States, where the emphasis was on ongoing and/or future projects undertaken jointly by the cultural authorities and academic institutions of these countries and IRCICA. Dr. Eren, accompanied by Mr. Mohammed Tamimi and Dr. Nazih Marouf, made contacts with representatives of some cultural institutions of Yemen. The delegation was received by H.E. Mr. Ahmad Mohammad Al-Kohlani, State Minister and Governor of Sana'a City. The talks focused on the cooperation between the cultural authorities and institutions of Yemen and IRCICA. The two parties formulated their intention to cooperate in studies on archive documents relating to Yemen, jointly publish an album of historical photographs of Yemen, and also, jointly organize in coming years a symposium on Yemeni handicrafts.

IRCICA delegation visited the National Center for Archives attached to the Presidency of Yemen. The meeting with Dr. Ali Ahmed Abu El-Rijal, Head of the Center, addressed a variety of research fields of common interest to the Center and IRCICA. It was an occasion for the signing of a Cooperation Agreement between the two parties.



H.E. Mr. Ahmad Mohammad Al-Kohlani, State Minister and Governor of Sana'a City [second at right], received Dr. Eren and his colleagues. On the left, Architect Mr. Jamal Kusheh.

The Second International Symposium on Islamic Civilisation in the Volga-Ural Region

Kazan, Tatarstan, 24-26 June 2005

The Second International Symposium on Islamic Civilisation in the Volga-Ural Region was jointly organized by IRCICA, the Municipality of Kazan, and the Tatarstan Academy of Sciences' Institute of History, at the National Cultural Centre in Kazan, Tatarstan, the Russian Federation, on 24-26 June 2005. The symposium was held under the high patronage of H.E. Mintimer Shaimiev, President of the Republic of Tatarstan. It was placed within the framework of the celebration of the 1000th anniversary of Kazan City, which gave the symposium added significance and at the same time, contributed a scholarly/historical dimension to the anniversary commemoration.

The Volga-Ural region historically includes the territories of the modern Republic of Tatarstan, Republic of Bashkortostan, Republic of Chuvashia, Republic of Mari El, Republic of Udmurtia, Republic of Mordovia, which are situated on Volga and in Ural. A number of important cities of Islamic culture and learning, such as Kazan, Astrakhan, Ufa, Orenburg and Trotsk are located in this region. A particular feature of the region is its historical experience in the multicultural coexistence of peoples from different religions and ethnic origins.

The symposium was the 48th among all symposia and congresses that IRCICA organized in various fields. More specifically, it comes within the series of IRCICA's symposia focusing on the history of Muslim nations and the Islamic civilisation in various regions of the world. The first symposium on Islamic Civilisation in the Volga-Ural Region was held in June 2001 in Kazan, by IRCICA jointly with the academic institutions of the Russian Federation and Tatarstan, with the participation of over sixty scholars and researchers from all continents.

Around 55 scholars and specialists participated in the Second International Symposium on Islamic Civilisation in the Volga-Ural Region. The participants, coming from France, Germany, Holland, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Turkey and the USA, delivered their papers in English, Russian or Turkish. The symposium reinforced and further expanded the objectives of the 2001 symposium. It highlighted the processes of introduction and development of Islamic civilisation in the Volga-Ural region, the history of the coexistence of cultures and religions; relations between Islam and other religions in intellectual context, the Islamic and the multicultural heritage of the region in various fields of science and learning, and



The President of Tatarstan H.E. Mintimer Shaimiev – first picture, fourth from the right - gave the inaugural address. Also seen in the picture: OIC Secretary General Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Dr. Vladimir Anatolevich Yakovlev, Federal Minister of Regional Development of the Russian Federation, Mr. Kamil Iskhakov, the Mayor of Kazan; Dr. Raphael Khakimov, Director, Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences and Advisor to the President of Tatarstan.



H.E. Mintimer Shaimiev
President of the Republic of Tatarstan

the various contemporary expressions and implications of this historical legacy. It is expected to open new avenues in social science research on the region and promote the existing studies all over the world.

H.E. Mintimer Shaimiev, President of the Republic of Tatarstan, delivered the inaugural address at the opening ceremony. The President expressed his satisfaction that a second symposium was being held on the theme of Islamic Civilisation in Volga-Ural Region. He pointed out that the history of Islam in Tatarstan and Russia is a deep and rich one that is traced back to the adoption of Islam by the Bulgar state near Kazan in the year 922. By then it was already adopted by the majority of the people in the Middle Volga region and also, much earlier, in Northern Caucasia. "Thus Islam, together with Christianity, which was officially adopted in Kiev in 988, became an integral part of Russian history. ... In those medieval times when the Muslims excelled in sciences and philosophy, and Tatars' embracing this culture and civilisation led to fast advances in culture, science and economy." The President also recalled another major period in Tatar cultural history, namely the Jadidism movement, "with Kursawi and Marjani, and later Ziya Kemal, the Bubi brothers, Galimjan Barudi, Musa Bigiyev, Rizaeddin Fahretdinov and other theologians, who were both scholars and press publishers and also founders of the best medresas. ... We must not forget to mention the Tatar businessmen who made important contributions to the Tatar education system. Thanks to their efforts, the literacy rate among Tatars had reached 100% at the beginning of 20th century. Jadidism's principles relating to such subjects as science, education, interrelations with other cultures, religious freedom, women's rights played an effective role in educating the youth. Leading figures, authors, eminent politicians and businessmen were graduates of the institutions of Jadidism. The Russian Islamic University and the medresas of Tatarstan are pursuing this good tradition." President Shaimiev said

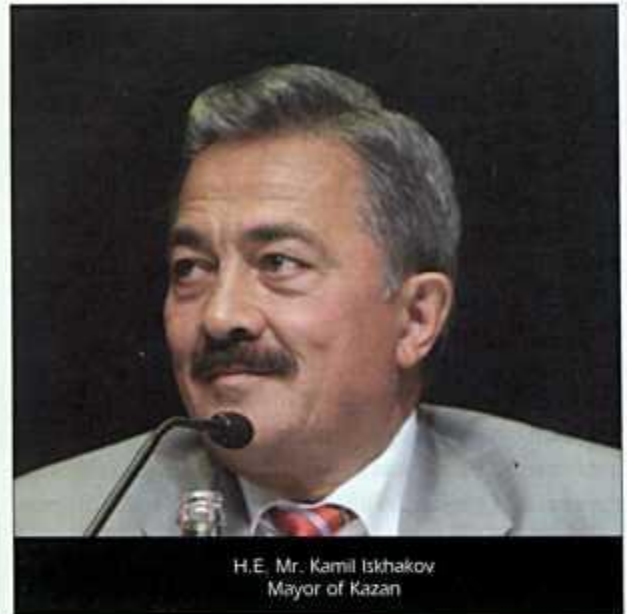
that Tatars, by living side by side with Christians for centuries, developed not only tolerance but also the spirit of understanding. He said that the Russian people are Christians in the majority but that there is a Muslim population of about twenty million. Referring to the cooperation between the OIC and the Russian Federation, the President said that before the Russian Federation, the Soviet Union too had close relations with the Muslim world and today this spirit of cooperation is gaining momentum positively in world politics. He affirmed Tatarstan, together with the other countries, will be pleased to fulfil what is incumbent upon it in the cooperation with the OIC.

Then, H.E. Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Secretary General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference took the floor, pointing out that the symposium was being held for a second time taking into consideration the success of the first one held in 2001 and the academic and public interest created by the theme. He expressed his pleasure to see that the program had acquired permanence and that it was linked with the active and continuous cooperation established between the authorities and the academic and cultural institutions of the Russian Federation, Tatarstan and the other countries of the region. He stressed his belief that this international collaborative network would expand further, not only for the benefit of the academic disciplines, but also for the promotion of knowledge and awareness in the world about the history, the cultures and the civilisational achievements of the Volga-Ural region. He said that presenting objective facts and projecting correct images on the history and the cultures of nations and communities in



all parts of the world are preconditions for the development of good relations and dialogue. Ihsanoglu asserted that one of the priority objectives of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference in the present period was to help strengthen and diversify relations and cooperation between its 57 Member States and the other countries, country groups and international organisations, towards development and dialogue on all scores of life. He expressed his appreciation of the fruitful relations established between Tatarstan and the Russian Federation on one hand and the OIC on the other, through the collaborative scholarly activities of its subsidiary IRCICA, which would contribute to the concretization of the one thousand year-old historical bonds between this region and the Muslim world.

Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA expressed his belief that cooperation between IRCICA and Tatarstan not only led to various scholarly activities but also provided an effective channel for Tatarstan and the institutions concerned in the Volga-Ural region to participate in the activities of the OIC. This represents a strong bond since it works through the medium of culture, research on culture and history which are permanent features of nations and communities, unlike political and economic conditions that are vulnerable to external factors and changes. Dr. Eren asserted that in future, IRCICA will continue to give importance to cooperation, collaboration and the organisation of joint activities with the authorities, academic and cultural institutions of Tatarstan and the Russian Federation and to the promotion of studies on the history and the heritage of Volga-Ural region.



H.E. Mr. Kamil Iskhakov
Mayor of Kazan

The opening ceremony then heard the addresses of H.E. Dr. Vladimir Anatolevich Yakovliv, Federal Minister of Regional Development of the Russian Federation, H.E. Mr. Kamil Iskhakov, Mayor of Kazan, Sheikh Ravil 'Ainutdin, Chairman of Russia Muftis Council and Chairman of the Religious Board of Muslims of the European Part of Russia, and Mufti 'Ousman-Hazrat Iskhakov, Mufti of Tatarstan and Rector of the Russian Islamic University newly opened in Kazan.



The new edition of the "Kazan Mushaf-Quran copy"

The opening ceremony proceeded with the presentation of the new edition of the "Kazan Mushaf - Quran copy". This new edition is a reprint published in Istanbul in 2005 by the Municipality of Kazan, with the cooperation of IRCICA. The Quran had earlier been printed in Europe for scholarly purposes, but its first printing by Muslims was realised in Kazan in 1803. This first edition in the Muslim world was taken as a model for many subsequent printings of Quran copies. This was an important contribution of the Tatar people to Muslim culture. Its reprinting in 2005, on the occasion of the 1000th anniversary of Kazan City, was another significant contribution in the history of printing of the Quran. As Mayor Kamil Ishakov pointed out in his address, its reproduction on the 1000th anniversary of Kazan City eloquently testifies to the connection of times, the existence of eternal spiritual values - preservation and revival, which are necessary for the creation of a civilized and morally healthy society.

The first four copies of the Kazan Qur'an were presented to Mintimer Shaimiev, President of the Republic of Tatarstan, Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Secretary General of the OIC, Vladimir Anatolevich Yakovliv, Federal Minister of Regional Development of the Russian Federation, Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA.

The opening ceremony concluded with the presentation of the new publications of the Institute of History, Academy of Sciences of Tatarstan, including books from the series "Anthology of Theological Thought: Abdunnassir Kursavi, Musa Bigiev".

The opening ceremony proceeded with the presentation of the new edition of the "Kazan Mushaf - Quran copy". This new edition is a reprint published in Istanbul in 2005 by the Municipality of Kazan, with the cooperation of IRCICA. The Quran had earlier been printed in Europe for scholarly purposes, but its first printing by Muslims was realised in Kazan in 1803. This first edition in the Muslim world was taken as a model for many subsequent printings of Quran copies. This was an important contribution of the Tatar people to Muslim culture. Its reprinting in 2005, on the occasion of the 1000th anniversary of Kazan City, was another significant contribution in the history of printing of the Quran. As Mayor Kamil Ishakov pointed out in his address, its reproduction on the 1000th anniversary of Kazan City eloquently testifies to the connection of times, the existence of eternal spiritual values - preservation and revival, which are necessary for the creation of a civilized and morally healthy society.

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Following the opening of the symposium, the President of Tatarstan Mintimer Shaimiev inaugurated the Kul Sharif Mosque in Kazan, a monument of historical and cultural significance for the Tatar people.



Opening of Kul Sharif Mosque, on the occasion of the 1000th anniversary commemoration of Kazan City

The opening of Kul Sharif Mosque was officiated by H.E. Mintimer Shaimiev, President of the Republic of Tatarstan, in the presence of Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Secretary General of OIC, H.E. Dr. Abdallah al-Maatuq, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs of the State of Kuwait, Dr. Vladimir Anatolevich Yakovliv, Federal Minister of Regional Development of the Russian Federation, Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, Ambassador Veniamine Popov, in charge of Contacts with OIC at the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mufti Ravil 'Ainutdin, Chairman of Russia Muftis Council and Chairman of the Religious Board of Muslims of the European Part of Russia, 'Ousman-Hazrat Iskhakov, Rector of the Russian Islamic University, Archbishop Anastasi, the Archbishop of Kazan and Tatarstan, and muftis in Tatarstan, among other guests.

Kul Sharif Mosque, together with Blagoveschensky Cathedral and the other buildings at Kazan Kremlin (the governmental city center), which is recognized by UNESCO as part of the "world heritage of mankind", symbolise the peaceful coexistence of two major religions in Tatarstan: Islam and Orthodox Christianity. A domed building with four minarets at its corners, symbolically reconstructs the Mosque Al-Kabir demolished many centuries ago in the town of Bulgar – an ancient symbol of Islam in the Volga-Ural region. The shape of the dome can be associated with the "Kazan shapka" - the crown/headgear of Kazan khans,

that was taken to Moscow after Kazan fell, and now is exhibited in the Moscow Kremlin's Armory Chamber.

The construction of this highly significant building at the Kazan Kremlin allows the Tatar Muslims to look, in a new way, and more thoughtfully and objectively, at their history and their spiritual and material heritage.

In his comprehensive address at the opening of the mosque, H.E. Mintimer Shaimiev, President of Tatarstan, said that the reconstruction of Kul Sharif mosque after more than 450 years represented a dear wish of the Tatar people. The project took shape within the framework of the President of Tatarstan's Decree on the Concept of Preservation, Development and Operation of the Kazan Kremlin Ensemble, issued in February 1996. The President said that the opening of the mosque is a memorable event preceding the anniversary of the capital of this Republic, the city of Kazan, which treasures as part of its history the name of an outstanding public and religious figure, Kul Sharif, the imam of the Kazan Kremlin mosque, a poet and philosopher. In accordance with the Decree, a tender on the restoration of the mosque was announced: the winners were the architects Shamil Latypov, Iskander Saifullin, Ivar Sattarov and Mikhail Safronov. In rebuilding the mosque they took into account the historical evidence concerning the layout of the mosque, public experience, and local traditions, and thus the mosque has become an integral part of the Kremlin ensemble. President Shaimiev said "This uniquely significant edifice allows comprehending our history, our spiritual and material heritage more carefully. Kul Sharif Mosque is not just a mosque and is not just the main mosque of this republic. It is a new symbol of Kazan and Tatarstan, a centre of attraction for the whole Tatar world. It is kind of a bridge connecting through the present our



President Mintimer Shaimiev speaking at the opening of Kul Sharif Mosque. On the right, Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, OIC Secretary General, and Dr. Abdallah al-Maatuq, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs of Kuwait.





From the right: Mr. Kamil Ishakov, Mayor of Kazan; Dr. Vladimir Anatolevich Yakovliv, Federal Minister of Regional Development of the Russian Federation; Dr. Raphael Khakimov, Director, Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences and Advisor to the President of Tatarstan.

past and future. Kul Sharif Mosque stands next to the Annunciation Cathedral which has a deep meaning, conveying the wish of our multinational people to live in peace and amity. They are located near each other, as a symbol of understanding between the two leading faiths of the country. The construction of Kul Sharif has been a truly joint endeavour. I would like to mention the contribution made by the villagers, who were the first to contribute grain which has always been considered sacred. This is very symbolic. It would have been hard to build the mosque without the help of Tatneft, other organisations, private donations as well as some foreign states: Iran presented carpets, the Arab Emirates donated funds, and Turkey participated in the construction.”

The session themes and papers presented at the symposium were as listed below.

Session 1:

**Religious Sources and Traditions
of the Tatar People: History, Forms of Expression,
New Research Approaches**

Chairmen: Halit Eren, Rafael Khakimov

Rafik Muhamet Chin

*Role of Islam in transformation of Tatar society in the
end of 18th – beginning of 20th centuries*

Azade-Ayse Rorlich

*Muslim periodic edition of Volga region in the beginning
of the 20th century*

John Eric Lane

*Islamic factor in the modern world: major problems and
trends*

Naseem Ahmad

*Identifying the Roots: A Study of the Emergence of Islam,
social Milieu, and Trade Activities of Volga Ural Region
in the 10th Century*

Uli Schamiloglu

High Islamic culture in the Golden Horde

Abdullah Gündođdu

*Expansion of Islam in the Golden Horde and its conse-
quences*

A. Melek Özyetgin

*Diplomatical Terminology in the State Organization
of the Golden Horde*

Damir Iskhakov

*Kul Sharif – “leader of the greats” (certain aspects of
biography of the last Supreme Sayyid of Kazan Khanate)*

Hisao Komatsu

*Kazan and Bukhara: cultural relations in 18th-19th cen-
turies*

James Meier

*Representation of Volga Muslims in different organiza-
tions and institutions of Russia in the end of the 19th
centur*

Ilia Zaytsev

Manuscripts of Moscow imams Ageevs

Session 2:

**Theological Heritage of Muslims of Volga
and Ural Regions**

Chairmen: Uli Schamiloglu, Nadir Devlet

Bünyamin Erul

Hadith legacy in Tatarstan

Ibrahim Maraş

Volga-Ural Tatars' Traditional Understanding of Islam

Hasan Kamil Yılmaz

A sufi from Kazan in Istanbul: Nimetullah Omar Utari

Sami Erdem

*Ijtihad interpretation of the Turkist thought in early 20th
century and Kazan scholar Halim Sabit*

Aydın Topaloğlu

Musa Jarullah Bigiev's understanding of the divine being

Ramazan Biçer

*Theological views of Kazan scholars Kivamuddin Burslan
and Shihabuddin Merjani*

Dilara Usmanova

*Muslim "sectarianism" in Russian Empire: "the vaiz
movement" on the frontier of 19th-20th centuries*

Dmitri Vasilev, Ilia Zaytsev

*Muslim Manuscripts Written in the Volga-Ural and
Other Regions and Preserved in the Collections in
Moscow*

Session 3:

**Ethno-Cultural and Confessional
Identity of Tatar People**

Chairmen: Ayslu Yunusova, Damir Iskhakov

Paul Gobl

Islam in Russia: view from the West

Nail Muharyamov

Islamic factor in domestic geopolitics of Russia

Hasan Demiroğlu

*The Effect of Ulfet Newspaper on the Social Development
of Volga-Ural Muslims in Early 20th Century*

Nadir Devlet

Islets of Tatar Muslim societies in the Far East

Talip Küçükcan

*Islamic institutions and social change in Tatarstan.
Rediscovery of religious heritage and Muslim identity*

Stoyan Antonov

Tatars in Bulgaria: from Crimea to Kazan

Session 4:

**Islam in the Multi-Confessional and Multi-
National Society: Forms and Principles of Functioning**

Chairmen: Rafik Muhametshin, Ibrahim Maraş

Rinat Nabiev

*Functioning of the Muslim communities of Tatarstan in
the multi-confessional society*

Robert Jerasy

*Nikolay Ostroumov and problem of Russian and Muslim
relations in Kazan and Tashkent*

Aidar Nogmanov

Volga Muslims in the legal space of the Russian Empire

Idus Zagidullin

*Influence of inter-confessional aspect of building of
Muslim cult buildings in Russia (second half of 18th –
beginning of the 20th century)*

Kimitaka Matsuzata

*Islam as the stabilizing factor in society: experience of
Dagestan, Tatarstan and Bashkortostan*

Saime-Selenga Gökgöz

*Missionary-Priest Ye. Malov's Discussion with the
'Shakirt': Tools of the Orthodox Mission Policy in the
Tsarist Russia*

Renat Shigabutdinov

*Tatar mosques and madrasahs in Turkestan in
19th-early 20th centuries*

Ali Merthan Dünder

*Religious activities of the Tatars in Japan: Kobe, Tokyo
and Nagoya mosques*

Session 5:

**Ethno-Cultural Identity of Tatar People and
its Islamic Component**

Chairmen: Azade-Aisha Rorlich, Mirkasim Usmanov

Guzel Valeeva-Suleymanova

*Artistic characteristics of the Muslim art of the Volga
region*

Azmi Özcan

Identity, religion and culture in Kazan

Guzel Sayfullina

*Bagishlau (dedication) as a source on the folk culture of
Islam of the Volga Tatars*

Rezeda Safiullina

*Tatar book-printing in Arabic language in the context of
common Islamic culture*

Yücel Oğurlu

Tatars in the Russian Classics

Kishimjan Eshenkulova

*Issues of development of Central Asian culture
in Kazan periodicals of the beginning of the 20th century*

Cihan Okuyucu

The Tatar Image in Classical Turkish Literature

Iskender Pala

Tatar and Ottoman poetic parallels in the classical period

Aylin Koç

Muslim Terminology in Kazan Tatar Idioms and Phrases

Hayrani Altıntaş

*Ahmed Midhat, an author from Istanbul and the
Northern Turks*

Igor Belich

Written sources on the history of islamization of Siberia

Alfina Sibgatullina

*Sufi motives in the Tatar literature of the pre-revolution-
ary period*

Uldis Berzins

*About the problems of translation of Quran to Western-
european languages*

Alexey Korobeynikov

Qibla-oriented Public Facilities of Medieval Hillforts

The symposium program included visits to major cultural institutions such as the National Library where the first working session was held, the Department of Manuscripts and Rare Books of the Lobachevsky Scientific Library, Kazan State University.

A Resolution was issued at the end of the symposium, stressing the need for "new methodological approaches to new sources and facts in order to better understand the many aspects of Islam in the region such as defining its peculiarities and underlining modern tendencies inside Muslim society, analyzing Islam-state relations, defining forms of its positive experience of peaceful co-existence among different religious movements and learning the role of various schools of Sufism." The resolution urged for organizing such forums regularly (once every three years). Furthermore, in the light of the need for specific and detailed studies on the problems and issues discussed at the conference, it asked the Institute of History and IRCICA to organize specific conferences (round tables, symposiums) to discuss such themes as Jadidism, history of Sufism, functions of different sects and the role of Islam in a multi-religious environment, and bring together scholars and specialists from all over the world towards achieving these aims.

Saban-Tui Festival

On 25 June 2005, the participants in the symposium saw the cultural and artistic events organized on the occasion of the traditional Tatar festival Saban-Tui. This is originally a spring holiday connected with the awakening of the nature and the beginning of the spring activities.

The festival comprised several events such as musical performances, folk dances, short theatrical performances as well as sport activities and games such as wrestling, arm wrestling, horse race, children's competitions, lifting weights, tug-of-war and archery.



The Summit of Local Governments and IRCICA's Participation

Kazan, Tatarstan, Russian Federation, 22-27 June 2005

Several congresses, aimed at promoting international cooperation and solidarity on various issues of common concern for mankind, have marked the 1000th anniversary commemoration period of Kazan City. One of these was the Summit of Local Governments "Millennial Kazan – a window to Europe and Asia" which was held under the aegis of UN Habitat, the Council of Europe and UNESCO, with the objective of "Defining the active ways of development of reformation of local governments engaging the experience of UN. The participants in the Summit were: UN-Habitat, the Council of Europe, the international organization "United Cities and Local Governments", IRCICA/Organisation of the Islamic Conference, the Organisation of the World Heritage Cities, the Russian Union of Historical Cities and Regions (RUHCG), the Organisation of the Islamic Capitals and Cities (OICC), the Sister-Cities of Kazan, and the Kazan City Administration.

The President of Tatarstan H.E. Mintimer Shaimiev, in his message that was read by the Minister of Culture H.E. Mr. Ildus Tarkhanov, greeted the participants by underlining the objective of achieving active cooperation towards solving the major problems of world heritage preservation and development of the local governments.

The Mayor of Kazan H.E. Mr. Kamil Ishakov expressed the wish that these meetings may contribute to the development of local democracy, diplomacy of cities and nations, and that the related initiatives be supported by the inhabitants of settlements and the national governments of the countries of Eurasia and of the whole world, and will help develop intercultural dialogue between cities in different parts of the world.

Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, addressed the opening session of the Summit, commending the initiative to institutionalize international cooperation between the local governments which he lauded as a timely and far-sighted endeavour in the present global environment of increasing interdependencies between regional and local administrations. He said that the necessity of collaboration among local governments is felt increasingly, in various fields of development including the economic, the cultural, the environmental and many other fields.

Several meetings and congresses other than the Summit of Local Governments were held in conjunction with or within the program of the 1000th anniversary of the foundation of Kazan City, including the Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Organisation of World Heritage Cities, the European Heritage Days, the Sixth Congress of Historical Cities and Regions, the meeting of Sister-Cities of Kazan, and a session of the United Cities and Local Governments' Euro-Asia Regional Council.



Visit of H.E. Dr. Abdullah Gül, Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey, to IRCICA

S H.E. Dr. Abdullah Gül, Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey, paid a visit to IRCICA on 5 August 2005. IRCICA was most honoured that H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu, Secretary General of OIC, who was visiting Istanbul, was present during the meeting. On this first visit to the Centre after Dr. Eren's appointment as Director General, H.E. Dr. Gül congratulated him and wished him success in his mission.

It was an occasion for Dr. Eren to brief the H.E. the Minister about the Centre's ongoing and planned activities, particularly its history congresses to be held in Syria, South Africa and Romania during 2005 and 2006, the institutionalization of the International Congress on Islamic Archeology, the newly announced international competition on Islamic architecture, and the planned activities relating to the study and preservation of Islamic monuments in Al-Quds.



The Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr. Abdullah Gül and his colleagues with OIC Secretary General Prof. Ihsanoğlu and IRCICA Director General Dr. Eren.

Director General's visit to Palestine accompanying the OIC Secretary General and meeting with H.E. President Mahmud Abbas

Director General Dr. Halit Eren visited Palestine as a member of the delegation accompanying the Secretary General of OIC H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu on his first official visit to Palestine on 23-24 May 2005.

The Secretary General and Dr. Eren were received by the Palestinian President H.E. Mahmud Abbas in Ramallah, where the talks centered on the Palestine and Al-Quds question, which is the foremost cause of the OIC, as well as the political issues facing the Muslim world and the OIC activities relating to Palestine. In Ramallah the OIC Secretary General and his delegation also met with the President of the Palestinian Legislative Council Mr. Rouhi Fatouh, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Information Dr. Nabil Shaath, Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr. Nasser Kudwa, and the Head of PLO's Negotiations Department and Palestine Administration's Minister of

Negotiations Affairs Dr. Saeb Erakat. Dr. Erakat gave the delegation a comprehensive briefing on Palestine. During these meetings, Dr. Eren outlined IRCICA's existing and planned studies on the cultural and architectural heritage of Al-Quds and Palestine.

The OIC Secretary General and his delegation also visited Al-Quds Al-Sharif, where they met with religious authorities and officials from waqf administrations of the Haram al-Sharif mosque compound and eminent religious, cultural and academic authorities in Al-Quds.

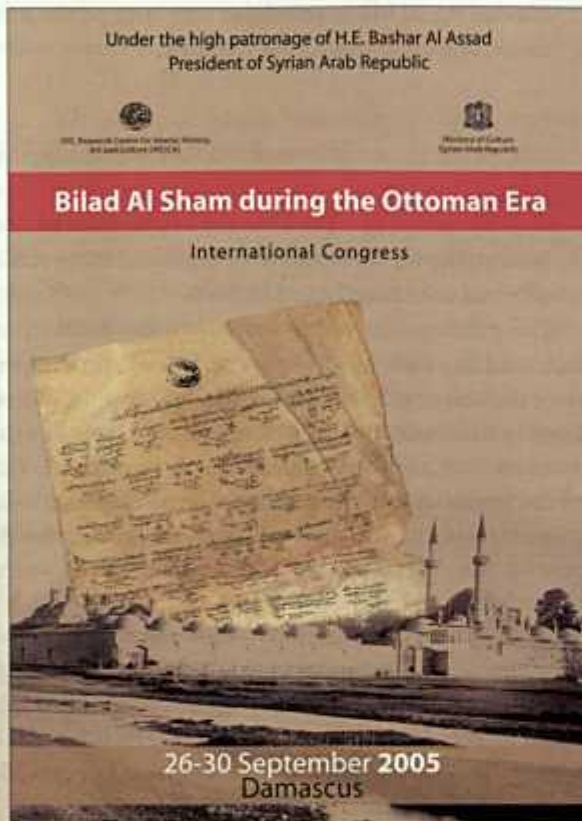
On the occasion of the visit to Palestine, Dr. Eren contacted/meet with the authorities and scholars cooperating with IRCICA in its projects relating to Palestine, and more specifically, towards the launching of the long-term program of workshops IRCICA plans to organise in Al-Quds on the recording, restoration and preservation of the cultural and architectural heritage.



H.E. President Mahmud Abbas and IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren.
In the middle above, Mr. Ufuk Gökçen, Advisor to the Secretary General of OIC.

IRCICA Activities

International Congress on Bilad al-Sham during the Ottoman Era Damascus, 26-30 September, 2005



IRCICA and the Syrian Ministry of Culture are jointly organising an International Congress on "Bilad Al-Sham during the Ottoman Era", in Damascus, on 26-30 September 2005.

The Congress will have a wide multidisciplinary coverage of the history of Bilad al-Sham during the Ottoman era. It will address political, administrative and economic sides

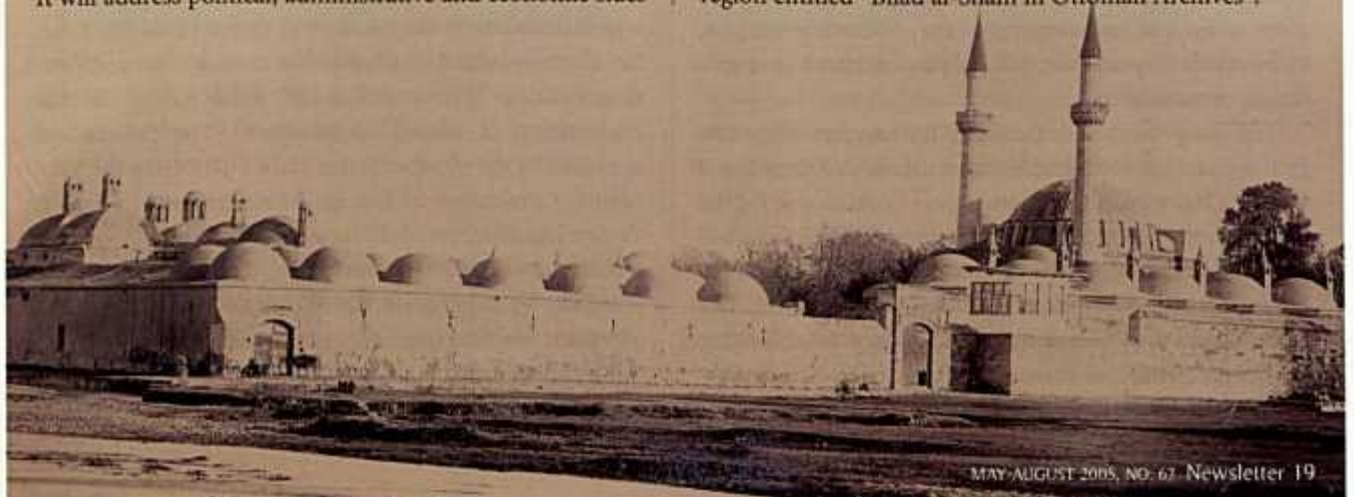
of this history, as well as intellectual life, urbanism and architecture, arts and crafts, the influence of the Industrial revolution in Europe. Papers will be presented on such topics as the relationship between the capital and the provinces; Sufism and zawiya (dervish convents) and the cultural and spiritual influence; the judiciary system and social relations; agriculture; handicrafts and industry; trade and the seaports work; renewal of transportation facilities; financial affairs and the budget; the Ottoman educational system and educational institutions in Bilad al-Sham; scientific and translation activities; printing and press; libraries; travels, etc.

The Academic Committee of the Congress is composed, together with IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren, of the following members:

- Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu (Chairman)
- Dr. Abdal-Razzaq Moaz (Member)
- Prof. Dr. Abdul-Karim Rafeq (Member)
- Prof. Dr. Abdul-Rahim Abu-Husayn (Member)
- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tufan Buzpinar (Member).

Around fifty scholars and specialists from around the world will participate in the Congress. The Syrian Ministry of Culture will organise cultural tours to major Ottoman architectural monuments and some museums in Damascus. The proceedings of the Congress will be published in the form of a book.

The Turkish Prime Ministry's General Directorate of State Archives, Department of Ottoman Archives, is contributing an Exhibition of archive documents relating to the region entitled "Bilad al-Sham in Ottoman Archives".



"Islamic Countries Cultural Week" to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of IRCICA

"Islamic Countries Cultural Week" on the occasion of IRCICA's 25th anniversary:

from 22 November in Istanbul

IRCICA will commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of its establishment with a series of cultural activities entitled "Islamic Countries Cultural Week", to be held as a cultural festival of the OIC Member States representing their cultures, arts and traditional crafts.

The Week's program will be organised in conjunction with the 21st Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) to be held under the Chairmanship of H.E. Ahmet Necdet Sezer, President of the Republic of Turkey, with the participation of the Ministerial delegations of the OIC Member States, and in presence of H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Secretary General of the OIC, in Istanbul, from 22 November 2005.

The Member States are confirming their preparations to participate in the activities of the Islamic Countries Cultural Week, which will comprise the following:

1. *Exhibition of paintings by artists of the member countries reflecting "Expressions of Islamic culture"* This exhibition will consist of works painted in any modern or traditional technique using any kind of materials, including oil paintings, engravings, miniatures, etc., reflecting the tangible and intangible assets of the Islamic cultural heritage, such as artistic interpretations of historical monuments (a tangible heritage) or social traditions (an intangible heritage). The works will be accompanied by information on the artist, the date and dimensions of the work, and optionally, informative explanations on the work. Each country will be offered an area to accommodate the desired number of framed works. IRCICA plans to photograph the works and publish ultimately a catalogue of the exhibition.

2. *Exhibition of traditional handicrafts of the member countries* Samples of traditional handicrafts of the member countries will be presented in this exhibition. Stands of appropriate dimensions will be provided.

3. *Concerts of the national folkloric and/or classical music of the member countries* Solo or group performances of music representative of the national folkloric and/or classical music will be scheduled with large public attendance, and broadcast on TV channels.

4. *Presentation of films and display of publications to be brought by the member countries and introducing their history, archeological sites, arts, architecture and other cultural heritage assets* The films will be presented to interested audiences at sessions to be organised at the conference and exhibition hall of IRCICA.

The publications, which can be of any number, any focus and any type, including research works on the history of the country, books on the national cuisine, samples from periodicals published in the country, tourism brochures, etc., will be displayed at a most frequently visited conference or exhibition venue. The participating countries may wish to offer their publications brought for display to the Library of IRCICA for the use of visiting researchers.

IRCICA in cooperation with the Metropolitan Municipality of Istanbul has made the necessary arrangements to allocate major centrally-located concert and exhibition halls of Istanbul for these events. The latter will be open to the public. They will be diffused and recorded through various mediums, for promotion and as well as academic purposes.

The Prince Faisal bin Fahd Award for the Preservation of Islamic Architecture

IRCICA has launched a competition on the theme of the preservation of Islamic architecture. The awards will be given to the best restoration projects of Islamic structures, to be selected by an international jury architects and specialists of restoration.

The competition is dedicated to the memory of the late Prince Faisal bin Fahd bin Abdulaziz al-Saud. Prince Faisal was the Chairman of the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage (ICPICH), an ad-hoc subsidiary body of the OIC which operated from 1983 until 2000 with IRCICA as its Executive Secretariat. The Commission was merged with IRCICA in 2000, following the demise of its Chairman, and its activities were integrated into the work plans of IRCICA. In response to the

requests of the Islamic Summit and Foreign Ministers Conferences held since 2000, asking that IRCICA dedicates a special activity to the memory of Prince Faisal bin Fahd, the Centre planned to organise an architectural competition entitled "Prince Faisal bin Fahd Award for the Preservation of Islamic Architecture". The project was approved by the Member States of the OIC during the 32nd Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held in Sana'a, Yemen Republic, on 28-30 June 2005.

The purpose of the competition is to support the revival of Islamic heritage - preservation of monuments in order to give them vital functions, either historical or contemporary.

The competition is open to completed projects of extraordinary contribution to the preservation of Islamic

cultural heritage realized in the last five years. The competition will be organized every three years, starting with the first cycle in 2005.

Subsequent competitions will be devoted to other themes concerning the preservation of Islamic cultural heritage.

Governmental and non-governmental organizations as well as individuals are invited to apply to the competition. Every effort in this respect will be properly recognized and will be stated in the conditions of the competitions. Three equal awards will be presented to the best projects. The exhibition of the participating projects will be organized and a catalogue of this exhibition could be published. All projects should be presented in Arabic or English.

AWARD PROCEDURES

Project Eligibility

The Award seeks out the broadest possible range of preservation interventions: restoration and social efforts are considered, as are contemporary design projects in corporation with historic sites and those demonstrating the use of appropriate technologies. Although there are no fixed criteria as to the type, nature, location, or cost of projects to be considered for the Award, eligible projects must be designed for or used by Muslim communities, in part or in whole, wherever they are located.

Application

Applications are the official means of enrollment of projects to be considered for the Award. The identities of applicants will be strictly confidential, as are the names of applied projects.

Identification

In addition to the application procedures, the Award has developed a project identification program which is open to all Governmental, Non-governmental and individuals who wish to bring projects to the attention of the Award. The project identification program ensures a broad geographic and architectural representation of projects, and updates the Award archives on building activity in the Muslim world.

To register a project, preliminary documentation forms may be obtained by contacting the Award Office or by completing the on-line form. Projects will be elaborated through the Award Coordinator office and then presented to the Master Jury.

Documentation

The architects of projects enrolled through the nomination program receive an Award documentation package which describes the standardized presentation requirements. In addition to submitting photographs, slides, and architectural drawings, architects are asked to complete a

detailed questionnaire pertaining to use, cost, environmental and climatic factors, construction materials, building schedule, and, more importantly, design concepts and each project's significance within its own context.

REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCEDURES

Master Jury

The review of projects and the selection of Award recipients is the responsibility of an independent Master Jury specially appointed for each Award cycle. The seven-member international jury of the competition is selected from among world renowned prominent scholars and professionals.

The Jury members of the first competition are:

1. Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, President
2. Prof. Dr. Saad Abdulaziz Al-Rashid
3. Prof. Dr. Zeynep Ahunbay
4. Prof. Dr. Attilio Petruccioli
5. Prof. Dr. Saleh Lamei Mostafa
6. Prof. Dr. Gulzar Haider
7. Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA

Through on-line meetings, the jury will review all submissions prepared by the Award coordination office. The jurors will examine the documentation on each project, and select a smaller group of projects (approximately 10-12) for further study.

These selected projects will be reviewed onsite by Technical Review team members which will be defined by the Jury according to selected applications.

Selection of the Award Recipients

At the final meeting in Istanbul, the Master Jury will study the selected projects to be organized into categories and after evaluating the projects in closed sessions, the jurors will select three Award recipients.

A total of \$ 30,000 US will be awarded as three equal prizes to completed projects for excellence in preservation of Islamic architectural heritage. The Master Jury will decide about possible honorary mentions.

Since the success of a winning project may be the product of efforts by diverse individuals, groups, and organizations, the Master Jury will apportion prizes among the contributors - architects, other design and construction professionals, craftsmen, clients, and institutions - whom it considers most responsible for the success of each project. The decisions of the Master Jury will be final.

Announcement

The ceremony to honor the winning projects will be held in Istanbul on Friday 20 April, 2008. A seminar to present the award-winning projects to a wider public will be organized following the ceremony and provide a forum for the participants to debate architectural issues.

A major monograph bringing together descriptions of the winning projects, the jury deliberations, and essays by the Master Jury will be published on the occasion of the Award Ceremony.

Calendar

Announcement	June 2005
Identification and nomination of projects	15 February 2006
Submission of documentation	October 2006
On line work of the	

Master Jury 1	February - September 2007
Master jury final meeting	October 2007
Award announcement ceremony	April 2008

The Application Form, available by writing to IRCICA at the following address, is to be completed and returned by 15 February 2006: "Prince Faisal Bin Fahd Award Competition, IRCICA, Yıldız Sarayı, Seyir Köşkü, P.O. Box 24, Beşiktaş 34353 Istanbul, Turkey;
Tel.: 90 212 259 17 42, Fax: 90 212 258 43 65,
E-mail: heritageaward@ircica.org

The OIC Experts Meeting on Tourism held in Tehran and IRCICA's participation

The Sectoral Experts Group Meeting on the Implementation of the OIC Plan of Action in the Area of Tourism was held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, on 11-14 July 2005. The representatives of twenty-two Member States, the OIC General Secretariat, and the following subsidiary, specialized and affiliated institutions of the OIC attended the meeting: the Islamic Development Bank (Jeddah), IRCICA, the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT, Casablanca), the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC, Ankara), the Islamic University of Technology (IUT, Dhaka); the ten-member Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO, Tehran) was also represented.

The discussions were centered around the theme of the implementation of the section on tourism of the OIC Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic Cooperation Among the Member States which was approved in 1981 for ratification by the Member States. Within this framework, a series of proposals were made, to foster and support the tourism sector in OIC member countries, such as the preparation of guidebooks, establishment of tourism promotion offices in target markets on regional basis, publication of a joint journal of tourism of OIC countries, establishment of a council of tourism in the ICCI to coordinate contacts among business enterprises and agencies, simplification of visa, customs and foreign exchange formalities for tourists of OIC countries, upgrading and expansion of the technical and vocational training institutions in the area of tourism.

The meeting was opened by Syed Hossein Marashi, Vice-President of Iran and Chairman of the Iran Cultural Heritage and Tourism Organisation. Mr. Oker Gürler, Director of Economic Affairs at the General Secretariat of OIC presented the message of Secretary General Prof. Ihsanoğlu, and at another session, the background paper prepared by the General Secretariat. Recalling that tourism

is identified as one of the ten areas of cooperation in the OIC Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic Cooperation Among the Member States, Mr. Gürler outlined the developments which took place at various levels of the OIC forums, in particular the Islamic Conferences of Tourism Ministers.

During the meeting, a project proposal was presented by the West African group of Member States – Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal – for the creation of a network of Cross-Border Parks and Reserves in West Africa. The meeting congratulated those Member States for their cooperation in this project and agreed that it be submitted for consideration at the 21st Session of the COMCEC Ministerial Meeting to be held in Istanbul as of 22 November 2005.

Each participating institution presented a working paper containing proposals for studies, collection and dissemination of information on tourism, cooperative projects and tourism promotion strategies. IRCICA was represented by Dr. Nazeih Marouf, Head of the Craft Development Program at IRCICA who presented a working paper entitled "Tourism as a Real Marketing Tool for the Crafts and Arts Business". Dr. Marouf also briefed the meeting about IRCICA's other programs and projects from which studies on tourism can benefit, such as: the feasibility study prepared by IRCICA at the request of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers, on the project relating to the documentation and classification of Islamic archeological and cultural heritage sites in OIC member countries and the use of GIS for the purpose; the Islamic Countries Cultural Week to be organized on the occasion of IRCICA's 25th anniversary; and, the planned international congress on Tourism and Crafts to be organized by IRCICA and the Supreme Council for Tourism of Saudi Arabia in November 2006.

Distinguished Visitors

H.E. Lt. Gen. (R.) Iftikhar Hussein Shah, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Ankara, visited IRCICA on 3 June 2005. The distinguished guest was briefed by Dr. Eren on the activities of the Centre, in particular the fruitful cooperation established with Pakistan which resulted in joint symposiums and collaborative publication projects over the years. H.E. the Ambassador wished success to Dr.



H.E. Ambassador Iftikhar Hussein Shah, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Ankara, visiting the rare books section at IRCICA's library.

Eren in fulfillment of his mission and expressed his appreciation of the work of IRCICA. The existing and prospective orientations of cooperation of IRCICA with the cultural authorities and institutions of Pakistan were highlighted during the talks.

H.E. the Ambassador wrote his impressions in the Visitors' Book, as follows:

"It was a great experience to visit the OIC Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture in Istanbul. My appreciation and compliments for the quality of research work taking place here. We must make people in the Muslim world aware of the great effort which is taking place at this centre. I wish you success in your endeavours."



IRCICA was honoured to receive H.R.H. Prince El-Hassan bin Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan at its headquarters on 5 August 2005. Prince El-Hassan bin Talal was accompanied by H.R.H. Princess Wijdan Ali, Chairperson of IRCICA Governing Board. H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Secretary General of OIC, was present during the talks, whereby the distinguished visitor reiterated his congratulations to Prof. Ihsanoglu on his assuming the General Secretariat of OIC as of 1st January 2005. H.R.H. Prince El-Hassan congratulated Dr. Halit Eren wishing him success in his mission as Director General of IRCICA as of the same date.



Prince El-Hassan bin Talal and Princess Wijdan Ali saw a trial copy of the Quran copy attributed to the time of Caliph Othman and being reprinted by IRCICA.

This was the fourth visit of Prince El-Hassan to IRCICA, after his visits in 1982 and 1984 and his participation in the congress on "Learning and Education in the Ottoman World" which was organized by IRCICA on the occasion of the 700th anniversary of the foundation of the Ottoman State" (1999), where he delivered an address at the inaugural ceremony. Dr. Eren presented the distinguished guests a souvenir album containing the photographs of their earlier visits to IRCICA.



H.E. Mr. Bijan Izadi, Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Ankara, Turkey, visited IRCICA Director General Halit Eren on 10 June 2005. Mr. Izadi conveyed to Dr. Eren the greetings of the Ambassador of Iran in Ankara H.E. Mr. Firouz Dowlatabadi.

Comprehensive talks were held during the meeting, covering the many areas of the cooperation between Iran and IRCICA. This cooperation has been fruitful over the years. IRCICA is maintaining regular contacts and exchanges with the cultural authorities, cultural institutions, universities, museums and libraries of Iran. The congress on Islamic Arts and Crafts which was organized in Isfahan, Iran, on 4-9 October 2002, jointly with the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Organisation of Culture and Islamic Relations of the Ministry and IRCICA, was a major international event in its field. Guidelines for future cooperation were discussed.

The meeting was an occasion for Dr. Eren to brief Mr. Bijan Izadi on the ongoing activities of the Centre, recent and planned publications, and the congresses to be organised in near future.



IRCICA was honoured by the visit of a high-level delegation from the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia on 9 June 2005. The delegation comprised the Deputies Prof. Dr. Kenan Hasipi, Mr. Gizim Ostreni, and Mr. Tome Trombev, and their colleagues. The meeting with Director General Dr. Eren centered around those aspects of IRCICA's studies in history and culture that contribute in highlighting and furthering inter-cultural acquaintances. Speaking of the collections of archive documents, bibliographic studies, and research on the history of culture and science, Dr. Eren said that these works contain sources and information relating to various regions of the world where peoples of various creeds, cultures and traditions interacted with Muslim nations, including European nations; thus among them are sources and information relating to the history of Macedonia as well.

The delegation members wrote their impressions of the visit in the Centre's Book, as follows (translated from Macedonian):

"The Parliamentarian delegation of the Republic of Macedonia is honoured to have visited your Centre which through great efforts brings together materials relating to Islamic culture that are characteristics of the brilliant success and the arts of a civilization and its culture and historical witnesses of this civilization. It is specially important that in this Centre there are also works that are witnesses of the history of the Republic of Macedonia, which is friendly and brotherly to the Republic of Turkey."





Amb. M. Abul Seoud and Prof. Ziedan received information on the architectural competition launched recently by IRCICA. From the right: Prof. Youssef Ziedan, Dr. Halit Eren, Dr. Salih Sadawi, Amb. Abul Seoud, Prof. Arch. Amir Pasic.

Ambassador Mohammad Ashraf Abul Seoud, Consul General of Egypt in Istanbul, and Prof. Youssef Ziedan, Director of the Manuscripts Centre and Manuscripts Museum, Alexandria Library, Egypt, visited IRCICA on 3 September 2005. The guests met with Director General Dr. Halit Eren. They were briefed on the activities of IRCICA,

visited some of the research sections, and examined the library collections. Several areas and types of joint cultural activities were proposed for the near future, including exhibitions on the activities of IRCICA and Alexandria Library respectively to be hosted in Istanbul and Alexandria.

Lectures at IRCICA

Recent public lectures held at IRCICA included the following:



“Engineering from the Viewpoint of History of Science” by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mustafa Kaçar (7 May 2005). In his lecture, Dr. Mustafa Kaçar first explained the origin of the word “engineering” and its definition within the context of different historical periods. He pointed out that engineering was regarded as an ordinary profession in antiquity. The greatest leap took place in the history of this science at the end of the 17th and at the beginning of the 18th century. Thanks to the studies of the renowned French general and engineer Sébastien Vauban, engineering became a prestigious profession. Until the end of the 18th century, the term “engineering” was mostly understood as military engineering. Vauban’s greatest contribution to the field was to standardize it. The lecturer then focused on the history of engineering in the Ottoman world, where in general, all scientific activities were carried out in the medersas by members of the learned - *ilmiye* class. In the 18th century, namely the period of modernization, new types of educational institutions were established parallel to the institutions of the classical period. Dr. Kaçar also dealt with the question of how standardized engineering was introduced to the Ottoman State. He stated that the works by the world famous mathematicians, geometers and astronomers were translated into Turkish and taught in the School of

Engineering. The main objective of this school was to train military engineers. The Ottomans transferred those aspects of western science and technology that they needed selectively. Thus, they had a pragmatic attitude. Dr. Kaçar also underlined the role of western military experts in the development of engineering. One such well-known figure was the French nobleman Comte Alexander Bonneval who converted to Islam and took the name of Humbaracı Ahmet Paşa. The lecturer then described and introduced the works of Mehmed Said Efendi, as a portrait of the first Ottoman engineer.



“Abdals during the Formative Period of the Ottoman State” by Haşim Şahin from Marmara University Department of History (21 May 2005). The lecture focused on the role played by the abdals (itinerant dervishes) in the settlement of the population as well as the spread of Islam in Asia Minor during the formative period of the Ottoman State. Mr. Şahin drew attention to the close relations between Sheikh Edebali and Ertuğrul Gazi/Osman Gazi and the fact that the foundations of the Ottoman State were based on the kinship between the sheikhs and the sultans. He mentioned the names of several itinerant dervishes of the periods of Osman Gazi, Orhan Gazi, Murad I. These itinerant dervish groups built lodges on top of uninhabited mountains or in areas near Christian villages, thus contributing to the spread and settlement of the population.

Cultural Institutions



The present section briefly introduces the Turkish and Islamic Arts Museum in Istanbul, its activities and its collections. IRCICA is thankful to Mr. Seracettin Şahin, Director of the Turkish and Islamic Arts Museum, for supplying the necessary information for the present section together with samples of the museum's numerous publications.

The Turkish and Islamic Arts Museum, Istanbul, Turkey

The Turkish and Islamic Arts Museum attached to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey was established in 1914 as the first large-scale museum to gather and to study the Turkish and Islamic works. From its foundation until 1983, the museum functioned within the Suleymaniye historical complex; on that year it was transferred to Ibrahim Pasha Palace, a magnificent stone structure representing 16th-century Ottoman architecture. The building was allocated by Sultan Suleiman the Lawgiver to grand vizier Ibrahim Pasha in 1520. Its builder is not known with certainty, but some parts added later are known to have been built by Mimar Sinan. The building was restored during 1966-1983 and given its present structure and arrangements as museum.

Turkish and Islamic Arts Museum is one of the leading

museums of the world in the field of Islamic and Turkish arts. Its collection, which exceeds fourty thousand items, is remarkable in many respects. It displays a large variety of articles dating from the earliest periods of Islamic arts until the 20th century, comprising works from the Omejad, Abbasid, North African, Andalusian, Fatimid, Seljukid, Ayyubid, Ilhanli, Memluk, Timurid periods, the period of the Beyliks, the Safawid period, various regions of Caucasia, and the Ottoman period.

The Carpets Section offers a wealth of information to the specialist and a fascinating experience to the lay viewer. With its vast collection of 1 700 articles it ranks first among the world's carpet museums. The collection contains rare and precious articles such as the group of carpets with geo-



metrical motifs inspired by kufi writing which were produced in Asia Minor during the 15th-17th centuries and are known in the West as "Holbein carpets", as well as numerous gigantic Persian and Caucasian carpets of splendid beauty.

The Section of Manuscripts and Calligraphies contains a rich and high quality collection of manuscripts, mostly Quran copies, and also numerous books on various subjects written in various corners of the Muslim world. In addition to the Quran copies, the manuscript books, and the calligraphic works decorated with miniatures, there are documents such as state decrees, deeds of foundations, etc.,

with which the number of entries in the section rises to 13 thousand. In this section the visitor can find books dating from the various States and periods in Islamic history.

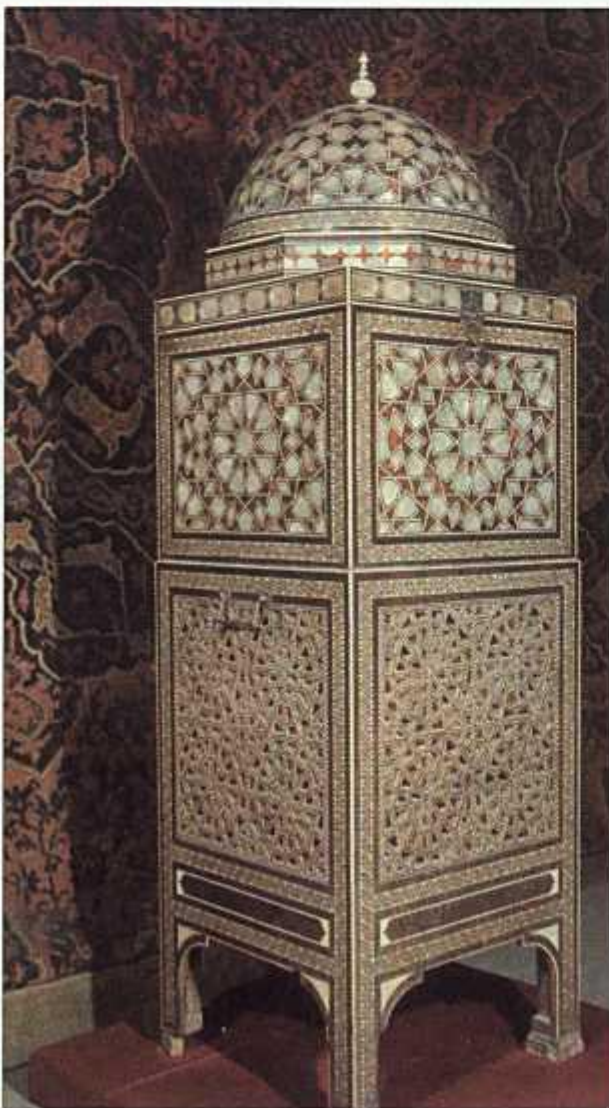
The Section of Woodwork is composed mainly of wooden articles from 9th-10th century Samarra and 12th-13th century Asia Minor. It contains rare articles from the periods of Anatolian Seljuks and the Beyliks, and outstanding examples of woodwork inlaid with mother-of-pearl, ivory, etc. from different centuries of the Ottoman period.

The Metal Works Section of the museum is important especially from the viewpoint of medieval metalworking



arts. The number and variety of the collection preserved in this section are large enough to allow the researcher to trace the development of this art and its various branches over the centuries. The objects contained here range from the smallest decorative objects to ornamented doors brought from buildings that vanished long ago. There are articles dating from the 12th-14th centuries – the Seljukid Empire, the Anatolian Seljuks, and a large variety of objects from the 16th to the 19th centuries representing Ottoman metal-working arts often combined with other decorative arts such as inlaying and engraving.

The Stone Arts Section displays a fascinating variety of sculptures and engravings with figures of animals and legendary creatures, scenes of hunting and calligraphic inscriptions, as well as pieces from architectural structures such as parts of columns, which constitute a collection of remarkable quality and quantity. The articles in this section come from various corners of the Muslim world (Palestine, Cairo, Damascus, Aleppo and all parts of Asia Minor) and date from the Omejad, Abbasid, Memluk, Seljukid and Ottoman periods.



The Ceramics and Glass Works Section mainly displays the archeological finds from excavations conducted at the beginning of 20th century, especially in Samarra, Rakka, Aleppo and the surroundings. This collection of the museum reflects the stages of development of early Islamic ceramics arts. Another collection contained in this section is composed of mosaics and tiles from the Seljukid and Beylik periods, and samples of Ottoman tile and ceramics arts. The collection of glass objects contains samples from 9th-century Islamic glassmaking, 15th-century Memluk glass and examples of Ottoman glassmaking.

The Ethnography Section contains various objects reflecting social life such as costumes, household objects, art and craft tools, nomads' tents, and in particular, sets of articles representing the customs of daily life such as the coffee house, the public bath and the shadow theatre.

The collections of the Turkish and Islamic Arts Museum are made known to the public through various publications, special exhibitions on various occasions and other promotional activities. The museum is a focal point in its field for interested researchers from around the world; it is also a must-see for cultural tourists visiting Istanbul.



Book Survey

Studies and Sources on Culture

Research Trends in Modern Central Eurasian Studies (18th-20th Centuries): A Selective and Critical Bibliography of Works Published between 1985 and 2000

Part 1, Edited by: Stéphane A. Dudoignon and Komatsu Hisao, in cooperation with Abstracta Iranica, Tehran-Paris. Tokyo, The Toyo Bunko, 2003, xiii, 211 p.

■ This work, consisting of seven studies conducted by various academicians from the USA, Europe, Russia, Japan and Turkey, mainly presents an epistemological survey of the research trends in various disciplines, and in various national or regional schools of modern Central Eurasian studies, covering the period of 1985-2000. In the foreword, written by Stéphane A. Dudoignon and Komatsu Hisao, it is mentioned that the present volume is to be followed by a second one, presenting a selective and critical bibliography for the same period. The work was published with the cooperation of Abstracta Iranica and the Research Department of Toyo Bunko. For mainly organizational reasons, the area defined has been restricted to Central Eurasian societies of Islamic tradition, for instance Mongolia and Tibet were left out of the scope of this work, as well as the Slavic or Chinese populations of several sub-areas of the large Central Eurasia. The contributions in this volume trace the research trends in various parts of Central Eurasia, namely European Russia and Siberia; the former Soviet Central Asian countries; the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (Western China), Turkey as well as in Japan and the European Union. In their study, Marsel Farkhshatov and Christian Noack examine how the breakdown of the highly centralized political and administrative system in Russia in the late 1980s and early 1990s influenced the institutional framework of research on Islam and the Muslim peoples. The article focuses on studies on the history of Bashkirs, Volga and Siberian Tatars. Another study by Uyama Tomohiko focuses on the different research methods of various fields of learning under the influence of the Marxist-

Leninist philosophy and examines the research trends in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. Hamada Masami's article reveals trends in studies concerning Eastern Turkistan - also referred to as Xinjiang - with the perspective of a historian. In her article, Laura L. Adams examines the approach of sociology as a discipline as it relates to research on Central Eurasia. İsmail Türkoğlu surveys the process of research activities on Central Eurasia from the late Ottoman period to present-day Turkey. The main purpose of this study is to introduce the research that was conducted once the indications of Soviet weakening were seen. Komatsu Hisao presents a short overview of recent research trends in Japanese studies on modern Central Eurasia in his essay. Finally, Stéphane A. Dudoignon gives an insight on the development of modern Central Eurasian studies in the countries of the European Union.

Foundation Adil Zulfikarpašić, Bošnjački Institut

Catalogue of the exhibition held at Dolmabahçe Palace in Istanbul on 28.11.04-28.12.04, organised under the auspices of Turkish Grand National Assembly, Sarajevo, 2004, 107 p. (in Bosnian, English and Turkish)

■ This publication is the catalogue of the comprehensive exhibition on "Bosniac Institute" – the Bosnian Institute – and the associated foundation, the Adil-Beg Zulfikarpašić Foundation. The exhibition was organized as part of the cultural event entitled "Bosnia and Herzegovina Culture Days in Istanbul". The catalogue is in three parts: Part One gives brief information on the Bosniac Institute; Part Two presents the founder of the foundation Adil-Beg Zulfikarpašić; Part Three is devoted to the works displayed at the exhibition. At the end of the catalogue there is a list of the works of art and the artists as well as the lists of archival materials; Arabic, Persian and Turkish manuscripts; oldest printed books and editions published or co-published by the Bosniac Institute.



The Bosniac Institute of Zürich and Sarajevo, founded by Adil-Beg Zulfikarpasić, is the largest foundation (*vakuf*) in Sarajevo and in Bosnia and Herzegovina as a whole since that of Gazi Husrev-beg. The institution carries out studies on archival and literary documents, manuscripts, folklore and artistic materials primarily

concerning Bosnia and the Bosnians as well as other peoples related to Bosnia. It has a large and valuable library comprising more than 80 000 catalogue entries, placed on 7000 meters of shelves. It offers rich research facilities for work on Bosnian history, culture, language, literature, art, tradition and folklore. The collection includes newspapers and journals from Bosnia and neighbouring countries.

The Istanbul exhibition by the Bosnian Institute Adil-Beg Zulfikarpasić was the first such activity since its establishment in Zürich in 1988 and its expansion and foundation in Sarajevo in 2001. The main sections and stands were the following: the art gallery, original archival documents, photographs of the Institute, a model and display panels of the vakuf, rare manuscripts, postcards dating from the Austro-Hungarian period, the cartographic collection, periodicals, books, old editions, valuable historical records, works of Bosnian painters (including the paintings of the contemporary "classics" such as Mersad Berber and Safet Zec as well as prominent artists such as Ismet Mujezinović and others), graphic artists and sculptors.

Arts

Dia Aziz Dia

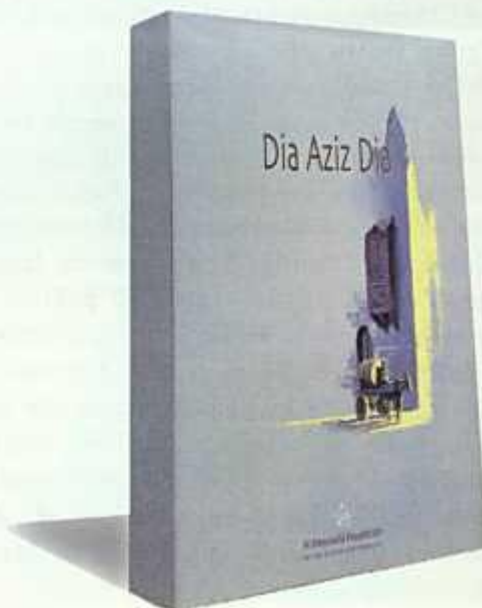
Al Mansouria Foundation for Culture and Creativity, Paris, 63 + 230 p. (English and Arabic).

■ This beautiful, large-size album and biography closely introduces us the sculptor and painter Dia Aziz Dia and his works. By this publication on Dia Aziz Dia and a concomitant exhibition of his works, Al Mansouria Foundation for Culture and Creativity initiated the first of a series of publications aiming to document the works of leading Saudi artists. The project aims at "consolidating and dating Saudi plastic art forms to constitute a core collection of a future national artistic resource intended to allow art to spread and grow, and become known to the largest audience possible" as indicated in the book. The collection will certainly also serve as a reference for researchers, artists and viewers. The present book consists of two essays: "Dia Aziz Dia: The Enigmatic Journey of an Inspired Artist" by Said Al Seraihi and "Returning to the Origins: Impressions on the Expressions of Light and Colour in Dia Aziz Dia's Work" by Nabil Naoum. The essays are followed by a biographical account of the artist in his own words, accompanied by photographs of his works with interesting explanations on each project.

Dia Aziz Dia was born in Cairo in 1947. He enrolled in the Academy of Fine Arts in Rome in 1968. He then

settled in Jeddah, where he was appointed as an art teacher in the public school system. He worked in the Al Thaghr Model Schools, where he had once been a student. From 1980 onwards, he designed various sculptures that were exhibited in some of Jeddah's main plazas and streets.

In his essay, Said Al Seraihi traces the influences of Dia Aziz Dia's parents on his life as a child and his travels which left their mark on the artist's personality. As the family was constantly traveling, places were always



changing. Thus he felt himself cut off from the notion of place. Instead, he concentrated on the human being, particularly the human face. In his view, the secrets and inherent potential of a person could be questioned only by capturing the details of his face and this could be achieved in a process of drawing and erasing. According to Said Al Seraihi, in Dia's work the subject is always characterized by its context and this is true when he depicts an aspect of daily life or a face.

Nabil Naoum points out that Dia Aziz portrayed his rich experience related to the intertwined smells, places and times, faces and colors, lights and shadows he gathered from his travels. He owes his creativity to the knowledge of human, animal and plant anatomy, color, light, and a vision that tends to give a form to imagination rather than reconstructing reality. Then he examines the main topics of Dia's paintings: the natural scenery; traditions and crafts; children's games; old quarters, streets and buildings.

Six Centuries of Islamic Art in China / Enam Abad Kesenian di China

Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia, 95 p.
(in English and Malay)

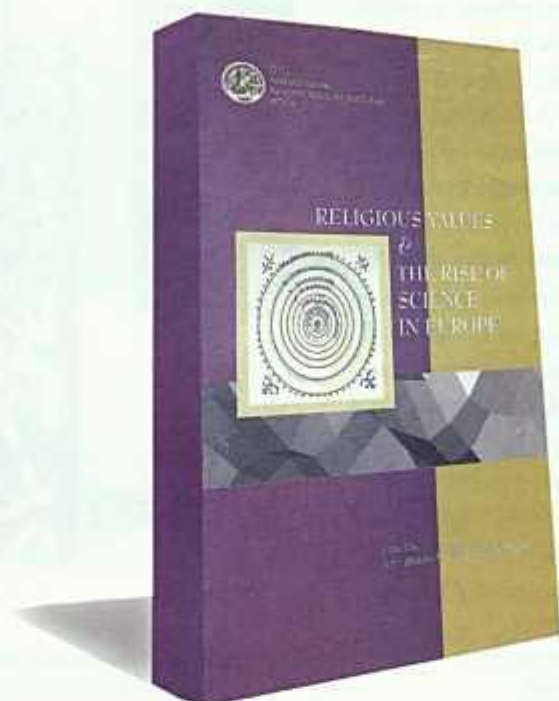
■ This book is the catalogue of the exhibition entitled "Six Centuries of Islamic Art in China" which was organised through the collaboration between Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia with the Museum of Cultural Palace of Nationalities of Beijing and the North West Minorities University of Lanzhou. The exhibition was held at the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia on 28 July-28 October 2001. The book has a comprehensive introduction which presents the background of the spread of Islamic faith in China during the various dynasties. This informative history is followed by a review of the exchanges that occurred between China and the Islamic lands of Western Asia in the artistic and cultural fields. The mutual influences between Chinese and Islamic art are discussed. Chinese Islamic decorative techniques used in ceramics, calligraphy and illumination, textiles and metalwork, as well as Chinese-Islamic decorative motifs such as cloud scrolls and calligraphic scrolls, phoenixes, dragons, celestial horses, lotuses, chrysanthemums, pomegranates, cranes, and butterflies are introduced. The final section of the catalogue introduces the ten different ethnic Muslim minorities in China, with brief information on their origins and cultural characteristics. These are the Hui, the Uyghurs, the Kazakhs, the Kirghiz, the Dongxiang people, the Salar, the Tajiks, the Uzbeks, the Bao'an, the Tatars. The catalogue includes a chronology of Chinese and Islamic dynasties, a glossary, 2 maps and 66 illustrations, 39 in colour and 27 in black and white.



Cultural Treasures: Textiles of the Malay World National Museum, New Delhi, 2003 (xiii+63 p.)

■ The present book is the catalogue of the exhibition entitled "Cultural Treasures: Textiles of the Malay World" which was held at the National Museum, New Delhi on 11 February 2003 – 11 May 2003. It gives a colorful and vivid picture of different aspects of the textiles in the Malay World. Following Chapter 1, which is of an introductory nature, Chapter 2 introduces various textile weaving techniques and the kinds of cloths woven according to these techniques. This chapter informs the reader about the Limar cloth, the Songket cloth, and the Pua kumbu cloth. Chapter 3 focuses on textile decoration techniques. The reader is informed about the batik cloth, different ways of applying the batik technique such as block painted batik and hand drawn batik; telepuk cloth, its historical background, different usages of telepuk technique, telepuk design and motifs. There is also information about Malay embroidery, its historical background, different types of embroidery in the Malay peninsula, various motifs used in Malay embroidery, important colors used in Malay culture, the use of synthetic dyes in Malay textiles, etc. Chapter 4 introduces the reader to the costumes and accessories peculiar to the Malay Peninsula including men's costumes and women's costumes for special occasions and the sarong, the most important traditional garment of the Malay world. Chapter 5 describes the various kinds of decorative and ceremonial Malay textiles. The book has a glossary and a bibliography as well as a map and illustrations.

New publications by IRCICA



Religious Values and the Rise of Science in Europe

Edited by John Brooke and Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu,
Series of Studies and Sources on History of Science no.
13, IRCICA; Istanbul, 2005, 258 p.

■ Most of the articles collected in this book were presented at the workshop on the theme "Science and Human Values" which was organised by the European Science Foundation in cooperation with IRCICA and the Turkish Society for History of Science, on 6-7 October 2001, at IRCICA's headquarters in Istanbul. The workshop was co-chaired by Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, who was then the Director General of IRCICA (1980-Dec. 2004), and Prof. Dr. John Hedley Brooke from Oxford University, Chairman of the European Science Foundation. İhsanoğlu and Brooke also cooperated in editing the book for publication by IRCICA.

In the Foreword, Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, underlines that in order to correctly and fully understand the course of scientific development, it is necessary to have a knowledge of the social and cultural environment surrounding scientific activity. This environment, in turn, is determined by people's mentalities, beliefs and

conceptions on matters relating to science. In other words, scientific development cannot be evaluated accurately disregarding the socio-cultural environment in which it takes place. The research articles contained in the present book review some trends and developments of early modern science during the 16th and 17th centuries, and explore how various values affected them, either positively or negatively. Particular attention is devoted to values based on religion, with some of the articles' giving new insights into the relation between science and religion and suggesting the proper perspectives to be adopted in the analysis of this relation.

Prof. John Brooke's comprehensive Introduction presents and discusses the theme and the articles' contributions to it. It is followed by ten articles, by John North; Peter Barker; Charlotte Methuen; Anne-Charlott Trepp; Kenneth Howell; Paolo Ponzio; Mariano Artigas, Rafael Martinez and William Shea; Robert Iliffe; Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu; Sonja Brentjes. Some focus on European and others on Muslim societies, with comparative analyses. Prof. İhsanoğlu examines the social and cultural values and attitudes that surrounded the introduction of western science to the Muslim world with a case study on modern astronomy during the 1660-1860 period.

New publication by IRCICA



Cultural Contacts in Building A Universal Civilisation: Islamic Contributions

Edited by Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, based on the proceedings of the international congress held under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohamed Al-Qassimi, Member of the Supreme Council of the United Arab Emirates and Emir of Sharjah, on 17-19 January 2004. Studies and sources on the history of Islamic civilisation series, no. 11, IRCICA, 2005x, 413 p.

■ Contacts between peoples of different cultures have been determining factors in the evolution of universal knowledge and civilisation.

Islam played an active role in this process from its earliest centuries, by interacting constructively with other cultures within and outside its own realm in different fields of learning, science and arts. This book offers fresh multidisciplinary analyses of these interactions and highlights their contributions to the history of development of selected fields in humanities, sciences and arts. This analysis is followed by an evaluation of the existing and potential implications of these contacts for intercultural relations in our time.

The majority of the articles contained in this book were presented at the international congress on "Cultural Contacts in Building A Universal Civilisation: The Role of Islamic Contributions" which was held under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin

Mohamed AlQassimi, member of the Supreme Council of the United Arab Emirates and Emir of Sharjah, and organised by IRCICA in conjunction with the American University of Sharjah (pls. see the Newsletter no. 63, April 2004).

The authors of the articles were invited to join in this collaborative effort on account of their authority in the fields under study.

Their contributions are grouped under the following chapter titles: "humanities", "sciences", "arts". The last chapter, entitled "contemporary perspectives", discusses the implications of these contacts for intercultural relations in our time.

The articles of each chapter are arranged subjectwise or in the chronological order of their topics. The Introduction by Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu is followed by the contributions of (in the order of the articles) Abdulwahab Bouhdiba, AbdulHafez Helmy Mohammad, Enrico Berti, David Lea, William Gallois on contacts in various fields of humanities; Régis Morelon, Paul Kunitzsch, Irfan Shahid, Roshdi Rashed, William R. Shea, Ahmad Y. alHassan on contacts in science and technology; Oleg Grabar, Géza Fehérvári, Wijdan Ali, Ginsel Renda on contacts in arts, and Majid Fakhry on contemporary perspectives.

The first two articles are in Arabic, accompanied by their abridged English versions. The other articles are in English.

