



O.I.C.

RESEARCH CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC HISTORY,
ART, AND CULTURE



NEWSLETTER

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IRCICA commemorated its Fifteenth Anniversary on 7 November 1995, with an international ceremony that was held under the high patronage and in the presence of the President of the Republic of Turkey H.E. Süleyman Demirel. On this occasion, the Centre was honoured to receive messages and cables of congratulation from H.M. King Hassan II, King of Morocco and Chairman of the Seventh Islamic Summit, H.E. Abdou Diouf, President of the Republic of Senegal and Chairman of the OIC Standing Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs, Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamed, Prime Minister of Malaysia, H.E. Prof. Dr. Tansu Çiller, Prime Minister of Turkey, H.E. Mr. Habib Boulares, President of the Chamber of Deputies of Tunisia, and Mr. Federico Mayor, Director General of UNESCO. The ceremony was attended by Ministers of the Member States, Ambassadors, the members of the Governing Board of IRCICA, representatives of international organisations, academic and cultural circles, and the local and foreign press. It was a special privilege for us that this high-level participation, the addresses given and the messages sent by the leaders of the Muslim world, all gave evidence of the growing international interest the Centre's activities arouse. They also reaffirmed the confidence that is placed in the Centre's ability to achieve its objectives.

The success of this ceremony has been a reward for us, for the efforts we spent during fifteen years in order to steadily develop IRCICA and enhance its position as the OIC's cultural research institution. During this period the Centre accomplished hundreds of scholarly and artistic activities; it published three books per year on the average, it organised two symposia or congresses every year, held one art exhibition and one public lecture every two weeks. This considerable record of performance is due to many factors, among them the commitment of the Centre's staff, and the cooperation that hundreds of cultural institutions, students and lovers of Islamic culture have extended to the Centre.

This issue gives brief information on the ceremony of the Fifteenth Anniversary and several other events that took place in the last couple of months. One of them is the Twelfth Session of the Governing Board of IRCICA. This was the first meeting of the Governing Board with its new members elected by the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference for the fourth term of the Board. It convened simultaneously with the ceremony of the Fifteenth Anniversary; hence, the new Governing Board members attended the audio-visual presentations covering the Centre's accomplishments in its first fifteen years. These events took place shortly before the Twenty-Third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea. The conference took note of the Governing Board's report and recommendations, approved the activity report and work program of the Centre. It expressed satisfaction at the Centre's commemoration of its Fifteenth Anniversary and extended its thanks and gratitude to H.E. Süleyman Demirel, President of the Republic of Turkey, for having graciously given his patronage to the commemoration of this event.

Some other events of the last couple of months shall be covered in the next issue of the Newsletter. Among them are the Centre's participation in the Second Istiqlal Festival held in Jakarta, Indonesia in September-October 1995, the international workshop titled Architectural Heritage Today that the Centre organised in the Summer of 1995 in two stages, focusing, respectively, on the Süleymaniye area (Istanbul) and Mostar, Bosnia and Hercegovina, the international seminar on Traditional Crafts in Islamic Architecture with special focus on Mushrabiyya and Stucco Coloured Glass organised jointly by IRCICA and the Ministry of Culture of the Arab Republic of Egypt (Cairo, 3-9 December 1995), IRCICA's participation in the Nineteenth Session of UNESCO's World Heritage Committee held in Berlin, Germany on 4-9 December 1995, and the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation with Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur, on 21 August 1995.

I would like to take this opportunity to renew an invitation to our readers: as usual, we look forward to receiving news items from you on conferences, cultural and artistic events, new publications, heritage preservation activities, etc., to publish them in the Newsletter. We are thankful for your interest in this publication.

Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu

IRCICA CELEBRATED ITS FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY

The Fifteenth Anniversary of the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) was celebrated with an international ceremony held on 7 November 1995 at the Centre's headquarters, under the high patronage and in the presence of His Excellency Süleyman Demirel, President of the Republic of Turkey. His Excellency Dr. Hamid Algabid, Secretary General of the OIC, was also present at the ceremony. The Ministers of the Member States who were attending the Eleventh Conference of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC), the Ambassadors of the Members States and other countries, the members of the Governing Board of IRCICA, high officials of the Government of Turkey, the heads and members of international organisations, and a great number of representatives of the local and foreign press participated in the ceremony. The Centre was honoured by the high patronage that H.E. Süleyman Demirel, President of the Republic of Turkey, gave to this ceremony, as well as by the high-level participation, which all gave evidence of the international interest and appreciation shown to the Centre and its activities.

H.E. Süleyman Demirel gave a comprehensive address at the ceremony. Messages of congratulation were received from the following Heads of State and Government: His Majesty Hassan II, King of Morocco and President of the Islamic Summit; H.E. Abdou Diouf, President of the Republic of Senegal and Chairman of the Standing Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs; and Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamed, Prime Minister of Malaysia. Prof. Dr. Tansu Çiller, Prime Minister of Turkey sent a cable of congratulations to the ceremony. The Centre also received a message from H.E. Mr. Federico Mayor, Director General of UNESCO. The addresses given at the ceremony and messages received are given in the following pages.

After the arrival of the President of the Republic of Turkey to the conference hall at Çit Qasr at 6.30 p.m., the ceremony started with the recitation of verses from the Holy Quran. The Turkish National Anthem was sung.

A short documentary film on the Centre's accomplishments in its first fifteen years was shown to the audience.



Director General Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu welcomed the President of Turkey His Excellency Süleyman Demirel, Their Excellencies the Ministers and the Ambassadors, the Secretary General of OIC His Excellency Dr. Hamid Algabid, and all the participants in the ceremony. He expressed his gratitude for their presence on this occasion, which was a manifestation of the support given to the Centre and a confirmation of the trust placed on it for the fulfilment of the responsibilities it has been entrusted with. The Director General said that the world witnessed major changes in the political, economic, cultural and social fields since the establishment of the Centre, and that throughout this period of fifteen years, the goals for which the Centre was established became even more important. Among these goals are research and publication in the fields of Islamic history and culture and the promotion of cooperation between the Member States towards better introducing the Islamic civilisation in the world. Presently, the principal aim the Centre is to contribute towards the establishment of better understanding and dialogue between peoples of different cultures. This is to be done by preventing the dissemination of ideas such as cultural clash or conflict and by stressing the need for a constructive cooperation among civilisations towards establishing a peaceful coexistence. Concluding his address, the Director General expressed his deep gratitude to Mr. Süleyman Demirel, President of the Republic of Turkey, and to the Government of Turkey, for their continuous support of the Centre during the past years; he also thanked the Member States for their support and cooperation, H.E. the Secretary General of the OIC for his wise guidance of the Centre's activities, the General

Secretariat for its continuous assistance, and the members of the Governing Board for their useful advice.

The Secretary General of the OIC H.E. Dr. Hamid Algabid addressed the ceremony expressing his thanks and appreciation to the Republic of Turkey, to the President, the Government and the people of Turkey for their support of the Centre. He said that the setting up of the Centre was an important step at the stage of the establishment of the subsidiaries of the OIC. He underlined that the Centre was entrusted with the tasks of presenting the Islamic culture and heritage on an international level, refuting in a scholarly way the attacks and criticisms it has had to face during centuries, and asserting, protecting and strengthening the Islamic identity by promoting solidarity between the Islamic nations.

The message of His Majesty King Hassan II, King of Morocco and Chairman of the Islamic Summit was read. His Majesty the King said, in his message, "... We are delighted that the commemoration of the fifteenth anniversary of the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture takes place while we are holding the acting chairmanship of the Organisation of Islamic Conference. We express our warmest congratulations to the Centre's executives and we hail their constructive actions, tireless efforts and noteworthy initiatives that are up to the hopes pinned on the Centre", and also "....You all know that Islamic culture is at the basis of teaching and education. Education crowns all instruction, is a necessary requisite to any training and is materialized in culture. The goals of culture are to form the character, defuse misunderstandings, sharpen intelligence,



Presentation of a plaque of gratitude to H.E. Süleyman Demirel

refine the spirit of method and analysis, ease communication, stimulate sensitiveness and taste, and favor understanding and entente."

The message of His Excellency Abdou Diouf, President of the Republic of Senegal and Chairman of the Standing Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs, was read. President Abdou Diouf said, "...I hope the invaluable achievements that the Centre has to its credit will be strengthened, and I know that the Islamic Ummah can trust the Centre for it. This is all the more important when taking into consideration the present international circumstances which urge us to increase our efforts to make the true image of Islam better known, this in line with the spirit of the pertinent resolution of the Seventh Islamic Summit held in Casablanca, and by bringing out the teachings of tolerance, respect for others, and progress that our religion promotes."

Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir Bin Mohamed, Prime Minister of Malaysia, declared in his message that ".....Malaysia highly

appreciates IRCICA's role as an institution dealing with the promotion of the cultural identity of the Islamic world. The accomplishments made by IRCICA in the last fifteen years have been commendable."

In his message, the Director General of UNESCO Mr. Federico Mayor said "... On the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of IRCICA, I am glad to express my appreciation of the many successful activities undertaken since its inception. They constitute the foundation for a promising future and for continued cooperation with UNESCO in the pursuit of common objectives through the implementation of projects of mutual interest."

After the reading of the messages, His Excellency Mr. Süleyman Demirel, President of the Republic of Turkey, delivered an address. The President said: "I have the pleasure of greeting you all; first, I would like to express my sincere thanks to my brother King Hassan II of Morocco, my brother the President of Senegal Abdou Diouf, my brother the Prime

Minister of Malaysia Mahathir bin Mohamed, and to the Director General of UNESCO Mr. Federico Mayor for the messages they sent to this ceremony, as well as to the distinguished and eminent Secretary General of the OIC Dr. Hamid Algabid, who gave an important address here and who has continuously supported IRCICA. In your presence, I would also like to express my thanks and appreciation to Professor Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu and his staff who, during the past fifteen years, made IRCICA progress and reach its present state."

The President of Turkey also pointed out that today, the majority of the Muslims and Muslim countries are poor, and some people claim underdevelopment is related to Islam; however, if Muslims themselves fully understand the moral and material values of the civilisation that Muslim nations produced over the past 1400 years, they would acquire a well-deserved self-esteem and make an effort to explain the true reasons of poverty. The President emphasized that most of the values and principles enunciated in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights fifty years ago were already established by the Prophet of Islam. He said that IRCICA, whose studies contribute to highlighting the Islamic civilisation, a task which acquires greater importance in our time, must be supported and assisted so that it may continue to fulfill its tasks.

On the occasion of the ceremony, H.E. Prof. Dr. Tansu Çiller, Prime Minister of Turkey, sent a cable of congratulations to the Centre. The Prime Minister wished continuous success to the Centre. She conveyed her greetings to the participants in the ceremony and to the officials of the Centre. The Prime Minister expressed her regrets that preparations

for the parliamentary elections prevented her from attending the ceremony.

The Centre also received a message of congratulations from H.E. Mr. Habib Boulares, President of the Chamber of Deputies of Tunisia, commending the Centre's activities that are centered around the main pillars of the joint action undertaken by the OIC and aim to highlight the contributions of Islam to world civilisation.

The ceremony continued with the presentation of a plaque of gratitude to His Excellency Süleyman Demirel, by His Excellency the Secretary General of the OIC and the Director General of IRCICA. Then, the Director General presented a plaque of gratitude to the King of Morocco and Chairman of the Islamic Summit His Majesty Hassan II for the message sent on this occasion, which was handed over to Mr. Omar Amine ben Abdallah, President of the Economic Commission of Ribat al-Fath Association in Rabat and member of the Governing Board of the Centre. A plaque of gratitude was also presented to His Majesty King Fahd bin Abdulaziz, Custodian of Haramain Sherifeyn and King of Saudi Arabia, host country of the OIC, in appreciation of the generous patronage and support given by His Majesty and by the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the Centre; H.E. Ambassador Nadji Sadiq al Mufti, Ambassador of Saudi Arabia in Ankara received this plaque on behalf of His Majesty the King. H.E. Mr. Fodé Seck, Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Senegal received the plaque of gratitude presented to His Excellency President Abdou Diouf for the message sent on the occasion of the Centre's Fifteenth Anniversary.

The Director General of the Centre presented plaques of gratitude to the following personalities, for the generous donations made to the Waqf that was established by the Centre: His Highness Sheikh Jabir al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait (certificate received by His Excellency Mustafa Shimali, Secretary of the Ministry of Finance of Kuwait); His Highness Sheikh Halifa al-Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar (certificate received by His Excellency Mr. Sayyid Yunus Husein Kemal, Undersecretary, Ministry of Finance, Economy and Commerce); Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamed, Prime Minister of Malaysia (certificate received by Her Excellency Ambassador Dato Zabeidah binti Hadji Ahmed, Ambassador of Malaysia in Ankara); His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said of the Sultanate of Oman (certificate received by His Excellency Mr. Hamood Hilal Hamood al-Habsi, Undersecretary of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance and Economy); His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Muhammed al-Qasimi, member of the Supreme Council of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates (certificate received by His Excellency Abdul Raouf al-Mubarek, Undersecretary, Ministry of Economy and Commerce).

The Director General of IRCICA also presented a certificate of gratitude to the Secretary General of the OIC H.E. Dr. Hamid Algabid, in appreciation of the precious guidance and continuous assistance he has extended to the Centre. Then, the Secretary General of the OIC His Excellency Dr. Hamid Algabid presented Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin

Ihsanoğlu, Director General of IRCICA, with a first order certificate of excellence in appreciation of his services towards strengthening the joint Islamic action and in support of the noble objectives of the OIC.

After the ceremony, the President of the Republic of Turkey gave an audience to IRCICA Director General. Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu submitted to H.E. the President more information on the progress of the Centre's activities. The President wrote the following words on the Visitors' Book of the Centre (original: Turkish):

"IRCICA is a most pertinent and very successful institution. Muslims as well as the adherents of other religions and beliefs ought to see and learn about the riches of this great civilisation. This is a service to peace, tolerance and progress. With congratulations and appreciation."

Süleyman Demirel
President of the Republic of Turkey

On the occasion of its Fifteenth Anniversary, the Centre had organised an exhibition of illustrations and documents representing some of its accomplishments during the first fifteen years of its existence. The President of Turkey and guests at the ceremony visited this exhibition that was arranged at the Silahhane Building of Yıldız Palace, where H.E. the President offered a dinner in honour of the participants.

**ADDRESS OF HIS EXCELLENCY SÜLEYMAN DEMİREL,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
AT THE CEREMONY OF THE FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF IRCICA**



Distinguished guests,

I have the pleasure of greeting you all; at the beginning of my words, I would like to express my sincere thanks to my brother King Hassan II of Morocco, my brother the President of Senegal Abdou Diouf, my brother the Prime Minister of Malaysia Mahathir Mohammed, the Director General of UNESCO Federico Mayor for the messages they sent to this ceremony, as well as to the distinguished and eminent Secretary General of the OIC Dr. Hamid Algabid, who gave an important address here and who has continuously supported IRCICA. In your presence, I would also like to express my thanks and appreciation to Professor Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu and his staff who, during the past fifteen years, made IRCICA progress and reach its present state.

I am happy that we are celebrating the fifteenth anniversary of the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture, an OIC institution which assumed very important tasks towards

establishing unity and solidarity in the Islamic world. This Centre had prepared its first work program fifteen years ago, in May 1980; since then, it has accomplished very successful activities. We are pleased to note that with its projects and publications, the Centre is now known and appreciated in the academic circles of both the Muslim world and the Western world. With its work, the Centre has reflected throughout the world the richness and the depth of the Islamic culture, and there is a great need for that. First Muslims themselves, and then others, must be aware of the great civilisation that millions, billions of Muslims from the Maghreb to the Mashreq have produced over a period of 1400 years, and which is, today, the civilisation of one-fifth of the world population, that is one billion Muslims. If Muslims themselves become fully aware of it, they will truly understand that Islam does not hinder wealth and development in any way and that it encourages moral and material values. Today, the majority of the Muslims and Muslim countries are poor, and there are

people who say the reason is Islam. If Muslims themselves fully understand the moral and material values of the civilisation that Muslim nations produced over the past 1400 years, they would acquire a well-deserved self-esteem and make an effort to explain the true reasons of poverty.

And this Centre, which is established in this big historical city at the crossroads of three continents, this city which houses the masterpieces of Islam and brings together the moral and material products of cultures, would contribute to eliminating conflicts and building peace among cultures, because if the other cultures learn more about the civilisation of Islam, then they would understand that the Islamic civilisation aims to establish peace, that it is a noble and deep-rooted civilisation which diffuses the principles of tolerance, understanding, love and respect for others. Hence, peoples of different cultures would mutually enrich and support each other, and this is what humanity needs most.

No doubt, a factor which contributed to the success of this scholarly research institution the Islamic world is rightly proud of, is the backing given by the Muslim world. The experience of fifteen years has shown that the establishment of this Centre was a most pertinent idea and that a very good institution has been founded here.

Everywhere in the Islamic world, over five continents from Indonesia to Morocco, there are very valuable cultural assets. This Centre will also pave the way towards protecting and reviving these assets. Those cultural works we see here today can be found all over the world, and this reminds us of the need to assess and study them. For example, in a centre I visited in Dushanbe two months ago, I was impressed to see that

numerous products of the Islamic culture were put together. All this shows us that the products of the Islamic civilisation must be brought together and protected, and that peoples of the world, Muslims and non-Muslims alike, must benefit from every aspect of these works, that they must preserve and revive them.

The fact that this Centre accomplished such successful activities is a matter of pride for all those who trust the Centre, who supported the idea of its establishment and gave it their moral and material assistance. We will continue to give our support to this Centre.

The activities of this Centre and similar institutions will have a great share in achieving the future aspirations of the Muslim world. Therefore, it is a duty of the present generations towards their children to enable the Centre to work under the best conditions and ensure its permanence. According to me, this is not only an obligation towards future generations, but also to the whole mankind, because Islam is a religion revealed to humanity as a whole.

Prophet Muhammed has declared Islam to all peoples whatever their language and race. The Prophet has announced to mankind most of the values and principles that were included in the Declaration of the United Nations fifty years ago as ideal human values. Similarly, most of the principles found in the preamble and contents of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights were mentioned by the Prophet during the Hijjat ul-Wida'.

By better preserving our cultural values and assets and by remaining attached to them, we can better establish solidarity and unity among Muslims, as well as among all human beings. With this spirit and thinking, I greet you all.

**MESSAGE OF HIS MAJESTY KING HASSAN II OF MOROCCO
ON THE OCCASION OF THE FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY
COMMEMORATING THE CREATION OF THE RESEARCH CENTRE
FOR ISLAMIC HISTORY, ART AND CULTURE**

IN THE NAME OF GOD, THE CLEMENT AND MERCIFUL
BLESSINGS BE ON OUR PROPHET

Mr. President, Excellencies,

We are delighted that the commemoration of the Fifteenth Anniversary of the Research Centre for Islamic History, Arts and Culture takes place while we are holding the acting chairmanship of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference.

We express our warmest congratulations to the Centre's executives and we hail their constructive actions, tireless efforts and noteworthy initiatives that are up to the hopes pinned on the Centre.

Your institution contributed to making known to the world the richness of Islamic culture, its noble goals and the spirit impelling it from time immemorial.



We followed with satisfaction your action in favor of our written legacy, a so necessary source to have a sound knowledge of the history of Islam, a source likely to reveal to all searchers the marvels of our culture. Thus the contribution of our community to the world civilisation will be better appreciated, for Islam preserved the knowledge of the ancient civilisations and invested it in an open, far-sighted and creative spirit. It paved the way for new phases in the history of sciences, arts and crafts.

The mission you are undertaking serves greatly the Islamic traditional arts, namely calligraphy which plays a key role thanks to its variety and glamour. It superbly decorated manuscripts and illuminations as it enriched plastic arts and woodcut and precious metal with engravings. The importance you granted to these arts is justified. They revealed the artistic beauty of objects and the value of Islamic aesthetics, as illustrated in the various monuments and crafts which contributed to the radiance of Islam and proved its success in blending religious values and the values of humanism, in line with the dignity that distinguishes, according to God, the human person.

You all know that Islamic culture is at the basis of teaching and education. Education crowns all instruction, is a necessary requisite to any training and is materialized in culture. The goals of culture are to form the character, defuse misunderstandings, sharpen intelligence, refine the spirit of method and analysis, ease communication, stimulate sensitiveness and taste and favour understanding and entente.

Islamic culture is characterized by qualities that ensure it a most brilliant future, strengthen its open and tolerant spirit and consolidate its capacity to meet the requirements of our era.

Culture, an uninterrupted course, implies steady conciliation between the past and the future and consequently, greater exchanges in view of the extraordinary and rapid scientific changes that impact daily on the economic, social and cultural life.

A danger is threatening us: The youth of all continents and all ethnic groups are looking like each other and no longer look like their fathers. The present generation, at the turn of the century, perceives the previous generation as an alien human element, what seemed an obvious reality to an ancient poet when he said:

"The end of time resembles its beginning
People are like people and days resemble days."

It is no longer so obvious today. People are constantly changing and so are times. Rupture seems to have prevailed over rapprochement, and movement over lethargy. Nevertheless and more than ever before, we need each other and we feel the need to have deep roots and to be ambitious and optimistic as to what the future holds in store for us.

The continuity of our civilisational identity and the conveying of our Islamic culture to the coming generations exact a new conception, understandable by all, as well as a sound knowledge of the heritage of the past and the sciences of modern times.

The past is by gone only for the dead and the present dries out only by oblivion. It is therefore necessary that our memory be tied by openness and imagination, through the weaving of relations between the legacy we inherited and the legacy we will bequeath to our offsprings. Let us remain faithful to the values of our past and be attached to innovations since they will be part of our children's environment.

We underlined, in the message we sent to the Islamic world on the occasion of the advent of the fifteenth Hijra century, the necessity to safeguard our heritage and the need to put it at the disposal of admirers. We are perfectly aware that the Islamic culture constitutes a matchless richness and that our history harbours signs that marked with their precious impact all the regions of the globe throughout epochs and generations. Islam integrated artistic elements from various corners and enriched them with its creative genius. We see a blatant illustration of this in the monuments of this prestigious city and the architectural work that still bears testimony for the genius of Sinan.

Your institution covers a wide scope encompassing all the values of Islam: conviviality, charity, perfection. The Research Centre for Islamic History, Arts and Culture admirably highlights the Islamic values which are intrinsically linked with the sense of life. The Muslim artist is a believer marvelled by the so rich creativity of the works offered by God to its servants, and marked by this beauty that we find in everything, as is shown in a Hadith (saying) of the Prophet, peace be upon him.

By its history and arts, the Islamic culture requires a sustained attention for its uninterrupted revival. It is the only ancient culture where deep roots and promising prospects are harmoniously blended.

May God help you to serve this culture, to highlight its radiant values of entente, tolerance and peace. May God assist you in assuming your noble mission in favour of the Islamic community and civilisation.

(Original: Arabic)

The messages of His Excellency Abdou Diouf, President of the Republic of Senegal and Chairman of the OIC Standing Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs and Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamed, Prime Minister of Malaysia were published in the Newsletter no. 37, Special Issue on the Fifteenth Anniversary of IRCICA

**MESSAGE FROM H.E. Mr. HABIB BOULARES,
PRESIDENT OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF TUNISIA**

I am honoured to convey my sincere congratulations on the occasion of the commemoration of the Fifteenth Anniversary of the establishment of the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture. I wish this institution achieves even more radiance and excellence in future.

We are convinced that the commendable work assumed by this Centre is centered around the principal goals of the action undertaken by the Organisation of the Islamic Conference aiming to confirm the spirit of tolerance established through the Prophet's mission and to highlight its contributions to the development of world civilisation.

I appreciated your meritorious efforts when I visited your Centre while I was Minister of Foreign Affairs. Now on this occasion, I am most pleased to share with you the happiness of this anniversary, and I wish you continuous success.



*H.E. Mr. Habib Boulares had visited IRCICA on 17 Nov. 1990,
with the Ambassador of Tunisia H.E. Mr. Mohammed Magdich*

**ADDRESS OF HIS EXCELLENCY DR. HAMID ALGABID,
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE OIC
AT THE CEREMONY OF THE FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF IRCICA**

Mr. President,
Honourable Ministers,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to say that I am very pleased to be among you today in this glorious city of Istanbul which, at a time, was a great centre of interest in the history of the Islamic world. Its importance and the decisive role played by it for centuries in the history and evolution of Islam, are so striking that historians consider the arrival of Ottomans at the entrance to Constantinople in 1453, as the end of an era: the middle ages, and the start of a new era: the modern era.

This long period was marked by conflicts among the great powers in those days when each power was seeking to exert its influence over the other and, thus, impose its hegemony over it. The Ottoman Empire which shouldered the responsibility of leading the Islamic world had been able, thanks to the faith of the valiant Turkish people, to defend the world against any invasion while preserving its identity, its cohesion and culture. It was a real stronghold against which all external attempts of domination and dislocation were broken.

Though this great Islamic empire dissolved -an inexorable law of nature-, it still remains true that Istanbul City, with its two beautiful banks watered by the blue waters of the Bosphore River, was the centre of one of the most flourishing and splendid epics in the history of the Islamic civilisation.

Mr. President,
Honourable Ministers,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The establishment of the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) in this city, far from being accidental, corresponded to the OIC's desire to make the Islamic Ummah and the rest of the world rediscover an important part of the Islamic civilisation, as well as the influence which the preceding civilizations exerted on it, and the symbiosis resulting from the breed which reached its peak in this cosmopolitan city which has always been a crossroad of civilisations and cultures.

The Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture which is commemorating this year its Fifteenth Anniversary, has been an important milestone in the phase which marked the setting up of the OIC's subsidiary organs.

Its establishment as well as that of others resulted from the OIC's concern for materializing and carrying one of the objectives assigned to the OIC by various Islamic Summits, in particular, the one of Makkah/Taif, in the cultural field, to enhance our Islamic heritage and make it better known to the international community and thus, face, in a rational and scientific manner, the attacks levelled against it for centuries; and finally to defend and strengthen unity and cooperation among Muslim countries which the enemies of our religion are trying to destroy or weaken so as to isolate our Ummah and, thus, keep it outside the world evolution.

The Centre has achieved a number of its objectives clearly shown by the various achievements of this institution and which gives it an importance and a renown to such an extent that it has become, in the academic and cultural circles within and outside the Islamic world, one of the greatest centre of Islamic culture.

To illustrate this laborious activity, we could note that between 1980 and 1995, the Centre published several works in various research areas; catalogues on Islamic manuscripts relating to the most diverse subjects; documentaries on arts; etc. It also organized a considerable number of lectures and international colloquia.

Such are, schematized to the extreme, some of the Centre's accomplishments of which we have every reason to be proud.

Surely, a long way lies ahead so that it may function at full swing and reach its optimum production and also to overcome certain financial difficulties it is facing. But the mere fact that it managed, throughout this period, to produce simultaneously a high-level research and study on Islamic history, art and culture, proves that it has the capacity to attain that goal and makes us pin a great hope on its future.

In my view, the Centre's future action should be to endeavour in the framework of the search for an adequate solution to the problems of identifying the Muslim peoples and it should examine the various stages covered by those peoples in their struggle against ostracism, invasion and cultural alienation, whence the necessity to rehabilitate and revalue our historic heritage to clean it of every falsification or erroneous interpretation on the part of its adversaries who gave a false idea about our civilization and tarnished its image in the eyes of contemporary societies. To fulfill this objective, the Centre should, henceforth, highlight, through its researches and studies, Islam's veritable universal vocation, its spirit of tolerance and its sense of respect for others as well as its role in the emancipation of peoples and the immense progress it bestowed upon to humanity ever since it was first revealed. The Centre should also shed more light on the revolution it brought about to the political mores and the archaic and retrograde values of an unjust society, resting on tribalism and the spirit of castes, replacing it by a just society wherein relations between men and women were characterized by equality in rights as Islam recognizes no difference between them, save for the work accomplished and intrinsic value of each and every one.

Mr. President,
Excellencies the Ministers,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I cannot conclude without expressing my sincere thanks to all the Member States and all the philanthropists who, in one way or another, have contributed to making this Centre what it has become now. In this context, it is relevant to pay a glowing tribute to the Government of the Republic of Turkey, the host country whose constant moral and material support never failed towards this OIC organ since its inception. Such a support enabled it to surmount the enormous difficulties it had to face throughout its fifteen years of existence.

I would also like to re-emphasize the role played by the Centre in fostering our common Islamic action as well as its invaluable contribution to the causes of Islam by better acquainting other nations of different cultures, with the civilisation of our glorious religion.

I would like to congratulate its Director General, Professor Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu, who strives with self-denial, devotion and dynamism to achieve the Centre's noble objectives. My felicitations also go to his qualified staff. I wish every success, as may befit a major event, to the festivities marking the Fifteenth Anniversary of the Centre. I thank you.

**MESSAGE FROM H.E. Mr. FEDERICO MAYOR,
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF UNESCO
ON THE OCCASION OF THE FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF IRCICA**



Mr. Federico Mayor receives the framed logo of the Centre

I was pleased to visit IRCICA last month and to witness the professional quality of its considerable achievements. Through its numerous undertakings involving research, publications, exhibitions, conferences, seminars and colloquia, the Centre has acquired a well-deserved and widespread reputation in its field.

On the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of IRCICA, I am glad to express my appreciation of the many successful activities undertaken since its inception. They constitute the foundation for a promising future and for continued co-operation with UNESCO in the pursuit of common objectives through the implementation of projects of mutual interest.

There is a new phase ahead of us: the history of violence, wars, and confrontations must give way to a new era of justice and harmony indispensable for the peaceful co-existence of cultures and the establishment of a universal culture of peace. UNESCO looks forward to collaborating with IRCICA in this important endeavour, and I am convinced that IRCICA can make an important contribution towards this goal.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu, Director General of IRCICA, and his dedicated staff. I wish all of them every success in the future.

**ADDRESS BY PROF. DR. EKMELEDDIN IHSANOĞLU,
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF IRCICA,
AT THE CEREMONY OF THE FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CENTRE**

Your Excellency the President of the Republic of Turkey,
Your Excellency the Secretary General of the OIC,
Your Excellencies the Ministers, the Ambassadors,
Distinguished members of IRCICA Governing Board,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am greatly honoured to welcome you to the ceremony for the Fifteenth Anniversary of the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture - IRCICA. Your presence today in this historical Yıldız Palace is a source of honour, happiness and encouragement for us. It is another expression of the support and cooperation that the Member States of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference have extended to the Centre's activities. It is also an indication of the confidence placed on us for the fulfilment of the responsibilities we have been entrusted with.

At the beginning of my address, allow me to perform, on behalf of IRCICA, a very special duty. Your Excellency the President, may we pay you a deferential tribute and express our deep gratitude with regard to some decisive moments in the history of the Centre. In the first place, the decision to establish the Centre was taken by the Seventh Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held in Istanbul in 1976, upon the proposal of the Republic of Turkey, when you were Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey. Then, IRCICA started its activities in 1980, again while you were in office as Prime Minister. And today, IRCICA celebrates its fifteenth anniversary under Your Excellency's high patronage as the President of the Republic of Turkey. On this occasion, we are immensely pleased to express our gratitude to Your Excellency for so kindly extending your high patronage to the celebration activities and honouring this ceremony with your presence. May I also take this opportunity to convey our thanks and appreciation to the Government of Turkey, the authorities, the institutions, the cultural and academic circles at various levels who extended an unflinching cooperation to our Centre since its establishment.

IRCICA, the first international institution established in Istanbul and the first subsidiary of the OIC in the field of culture, has to date accomplished numerous activities to achieve its objectives assigned by the Islamic Summit and Ministerial Conferences. For all its achievements of the past fifteen years, the Centre owes much to the support of the Member States, as well as to the positive guidance and the precious assistance of the General Secretariat of the OIC, in particular, His Excellency the Secretary General. The valuable and constructive guidance of the members of the Governing Board of IRCICA has a very important share in the success of the Centre; we are deeply appreciative of their assistance. All this support, coupled with the commitment and dedication of the Centre to its objectives, contributed to developing IRCICA into a scholarly institution capable of meeting the expectations of the Muslim world and of the international academic circles at large.

From 1980 to 1995, the world witnessed major changes in the political, economic, cultural and social fields. It is stimulating for us to note that through this process, the objectives for which IRCICA was originally established have acquired even greater importance and relevance. The Centre was assigned the task of carrying out and disseminating research on Islamic history and culture, of promoting cooperation among the Member States of the OIC, better introducing the Islamic civilisation in the world, and acting as a focal point in the cultural field. With this aim, the Centre undertook studies on the multifarious aspects of the Islamic culture and civilisation. It produced forty-five reference works on the history of Muslim nations, on the scientific, the intellectual and the artistic legacy of Islam within and outside the Muslim world. It organised twenty-five international symposia and seminars, and close to one hundred art exhibitions in different countries. IRCICA was one of the first international organisations to launch research on

the history and culture of Bosnia and Hercegovina as well as an activity program that aims to preserve the cultural and architectural heritage of Bosnia. Through its publications, its cultural and academic activities, and its increasingly active cooperation with hundreds of institutions, the Centre disseminated the results of its research to a growing audience throughout the world.

As the focal point of the OIC in the cultural field, the Centre assumes today an increasingly important role. In the present world order which calls more than ever for peaceful coexistence, tolerance and dialogue between different civilisations, the Centre endeavours to contribute towards mutual understanding between cultures and civilisations. Its new mission in this regard is to help create a true awareness of Islam in the world, particularly in the West. This responsibility was also underlined by the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference, held in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco in December 1994, which requested that the Centre should organise a comprehensive exhibition to highlight the various aspects of the Islamic civilisation and help project a true image of Islam. The Centre's potential contributions towards building understanding between people from different cultures was also emphasized during the visit of the Director General of Unesco to IRCICA last month.

Hence, while the OIC, now in its twenty-fifth year, has become the Islamic counterpart of the world's major international organisations, IRCICA as its cultural arm can be considered as a partner to the major cultural organisations. Indeed, by its mandate, as well as by the fact that it is centrally located in the northern area of the Muslim world in close proximity to the West, and that it is the only OIC institution on the European continent, a great responsibility is incumbent upon the Centre: that of acting as a cultural bridge between the two worlds. In order to successfully perform this mission on behalf of the Muslim world, the Centre needs, in the future just as it did in the past, the moral and material support of the Member States, the cooperation of their institutions and of the cultural and artistic circles at large.

During the past fifteen years, IRCICA has occasionally faced material problems, which sometimes even threatened the smooth implementation of its work plans. Happily, it was able to overcome these difficult times and reach this day with a good record over the past fifteen years. Meanwhile, in order to provide stability and security for the continuity of its work, the Centre established a waqf in 1990. The positive resolutions and decisions of the relevant OIC bodies gave the impulse towards this endeavour. I would like to take this opportunity to convey our deep gratitude to the State of Kuwait, the State of Qatar, the Government of Malaysia, and the Sultanate of Oman, whose generous donations in the past five years helped constitute the initial capital of the waqf. Taking into consideration the increasingly important mission assumed by the Centre, we hope that assistance from the Member States, as well as from cultural and philanthropic circles will increase in future.

Your Excellency the President, Excellencies,

I would like to express once again my gratitude and appreciation to you for attending this ceremony, for your interest in our activities, for your support and assistance. I am also deeply grateful to H.M. Hassan II, King of Morocco and Chairman of the Seventh Islamic Summit, H.E. Abdou Diouf, President of the Republic of Senegal and Chairman of the OIC Standing Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs, Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamed, Prime Minister of Malaysia, H.E. Prof. Dr. Tansu Çiller, Prime Minister of Turkey, and H.E. Mr. Federico Mayor, UNESCO Director General, for their messages sent on the occasion of the Fifteenth Anniversary of IRCICA. And, permit me to express my conviction that with your help, the world of learning will always be proud of this Centre. Thank you.

THE TWELFTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF IRCICA
Istanbul, 6-8 November 1995



The Governing Board of IRCICA held its Twelfth Session on 6-8 November 1995 at the Centre's headquarters. This was the first meeting of the Board's new members who were elected for the fourth term by the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference (Casablanca, Dec. 1994). The session took place in the presence of His Excellency the Ambassador Othman Nazir Othman, Assistant Secretary General of the OIC representing His Excellency the Secretary General. The following members of the Board were present:

- H.R.H. Wijdan Ali, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
- H.R.H. Raja Fuziah bte Raja Tun Uda, Malaysia
- His Excellency Prof.Dr. İhsan Doğramacı, Republic of Turkey
- Mr. Omar Amine ben Abdallah, Kingdom of Morocco
- Mr. Abdullah Hassan Masry, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- His Excellency Ambassador Omar Jah, The Gambia
- Prof.Dr. Ahmed M. Issa, Arab Republic of Egypt
- Prof.Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Director General of IRCICA

Prof.Dr. Afif Bahnassi, previous Chairman of the Board attended some sessions of the meeting. The following members of the Governing Board expressed their regrets for not being able to attend the meeting: Sheikha Hussa al-Sabah (Kuwait), Khwaja Shahid Hussain (Pakistan) and Mr. Ahmad Suwaidi (United Arab Emirates).

His Excellency Ambassador Othman Nazir Othman, Assistant Secretary General of the OIC read the word of welcome of H.E. Dr. Hamid Algabid, Secretary General of the OIC, wishing the members success in this meeting and pointing to the importance of the 12th session of the Governing Board meeting which was taking place a few weeks after the celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the OIC and coincided with the 15th Anniversary of the Centre. The Secretary General also underlined the importance of cooperation between the member States, the organisations and different institutions working towards the reinforcement of solidarity in the Muslim world, as well as of projecting a true image of Islam. He also congratulated Director General and his staff for their valuable efforts and the achievements of the Centre the Muslim world is proud of.

The new Board members elected H.E. Ambassador Omar Jah Chairman of the Board. Prof. Dr. Ahmed Issa was elected Vice-Chairman.

Dr. Omar Jah opened the session with words of welcome to the Assistant Secretary General of the OIC. He thanked the two previous chairmen for their valuable efforts. He also expressed how honoured he was to have been chosen as the Chairman and stressed the important role played by the Centre in the past and the role it is expected to play in the future in the service of Islamic culture and for the promotion of awareness of the greatness of Islam and its contribution to world civilisation. The Chairman praised the Director General

and his staff for their efforts and contributions in this direction.

The Director General welcomed the members and thanked them for their participation in the Fifteenth Anniversary ceremony of the Centre. He said that the assistance and cooperation of the members of the Board had greatly contributed to the success of the Centre's achievements. He also thanked the two previous Board Chairmen. He said that the success of the Centre was due to three main reasons: the wise guidance and close involvement of the Board members, the commitment of the Centre's staff, and the noble objectives towards which the activities are directed.



From left to right: Omar A. Benabdallah, E. İhsanoğlu, Wijdan Ali, Omar Jah, Raja Fuziah, A.H. Masry, İ.Doğramacı

The Director General said that after fifteen years the Centre had reached a high standard that should be maintained in order to widen the scope of activities to cover the various geographical areas of the Muslim world and the Member States which had newly joined the OIC, with their rich Islamic heritage. He pointed out that this would need new guidelines, wider horizons, and new means for the Centre. Then, he

presented the report of the Centre to the Twelfth Session of the Board, covering the financial and administrative position of the Centre as well as the proposed budget for the coming activity year and the final accounts for the past period. He said that there were many activities that had not been reflected in the report, such as the various scholarly meetings and dialogues with the many organisations and international personalities that aim to reinforce communication and cooperation between the Islamic world and the West.

The Board examined the report and discussed at length the projects and activities presented therein. It approved the report, as well as the final accounts of the Centre for 1994-95 and the budget proposal for 1996-97.

The Governing Board made a number of recommendations on the Centre's activities. A summary of these recommendations is given below.

- The Governing Board commended the Centre for its devoted efforts in carrying out its activities in the best possible way and in meeting the needs and requirements of the Muslim world. The Governing Board members noted that the Centre had not only implemented its work programs, but also closely followed the global developments in the fields of Islamic culture and heritage, and revised and expanded its activities accordingly. In recognition of the fact that these efforts were made despite the scarcity of the resources and the low rate of realisation of the Centre's budgets, the Board underlined that this represented additional evidence of the commitment of the Director General and his colleagues to fulfilling their objectives and functions.
- The Board was pleased to note that the activities of the Centre concerned all the Islamic Ummah, that the report truly reflected the goals of the Centre, as well as the balanced planning and the solid and serious thinking underlying these activities.
- The Board expressed its satisfaction with the various efforts of the Centre towards establishing a dialogue with the different

personalities and international institutions in the cultural fields and advised the Centre to pursue these essential and vital dialogues towards a better understanding between the civilisations and according to principles of tolerance, harmony and peaceful coexistence.

- The Board agreed with the important steps taken by the Centre to examine the ways to present the true image of Islam through meetings held with a number of specialists for the preparation of the international exhibition on the civilisation of Islam, an exhibition to be organised upon the request of the Seventh Islamic Summit in order to highlight the true image of Islam and its civilisation in the West. The Board advised the Centre to persevere with these contacts and more specifically, with UNESCO that had expressed its willingness to support this project. The Board also advised the Centre to distribute the report regarding these meetings to the Member States.
- The Board suggested that a prominent personality from Central Asia should be selected and then voted in by the members during the next meeting; the addition of a member from this area would help expand the field of action of the Centre to this particular region.
- The Board recommended that the Centre should prepare a preliminary study on additional areas in order to include the African Horn and neighbouring regions, to present this study during the next Board meeting and to look for financial support for such projects.
- The Board expressed its support of the idea of a second international seminar on Islamic arts the Centre would hold in the City of Isphahan in the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Board encouraged the Centre to persevere in its efforts and relations with the concern parties in the Islamic Republic of Iran in order to actualize this project.
- The Board agreed with the project for a seminar in summer 1996 on the "Cultural Dialogue between Islam and the West" and the cooperation of the Centre with Dowling College in the USA.

- The Board was thankful for the activities of the Centre in the area of the handicrafts and particularly for the First International Islamic Craft Festival: Artisans-at-Work which helped revive, develop and market the traditional crafts and arts. The Board stressed that such an event not only facilitated the exchange of knowledge and skills between the various craftsmen but also encouraged creativity, distinctiveness, and renewal in the design of the product that would answer the need of the modern market. The Board expressed its support of the projects the Centre plans to undertake in the field of crafts.
- The Board expressed its appreciation of the efforts spent for the organisation of the project titled: "Architectural Heritage Today" which comprises the Workshop on the Süleymaniye Area in Istanbul and the Second Summer School on Mostar 2004 that took place between 1st July and 18 August 1995. The Board agreed with the comprehensive report and summary of research, approximately 100 papers and essays, that are being prepared for publication.
- The Board expressed its appreciation for the activities of the ISAR Waqf and for its achievements in support of the Centre these past years and asked the Governments, organisations, and individuals to help for the development of this Waqf.
- The Board congratulated Prof. Dr. İhsan Doğramacı for his decoration by the Turkish Government, Mr. Amine Omar Bin Abdullah for his election as Vice-President of the World Craft Council in North Africa, Mr. Ahmed M. Issa for his nomination as a Honorary Doctor by the Marmara University in Istanbul, as well as Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Director General of IRCICA for his designation as member of the History of Science Academy in Paris.
- The Board noted, throughout the celebration of the Centre's Fifteenth Anniversary, that the Government of the Republic of Turkey recognizes the important role played by the Centre, a recognition which is reflected in the high patronage given by the President of the Republic of Turkey and his presence during the ceremony. The appreciation of the Centre's activities is also evident in that a great number of Ministers and Ambassadors from the Member States and from other countries, as well as university presidents and high officials were present at the celebration and the exhibitions that the Centre organised on this occasion at Yıldız Palace. This appreciation was also made evident by the various discourses and speeches. The Board expressed its gratitude to the Turkish Government and its officials and the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) for their noble and encouraging stand. The Board also expressed its thanks and appreciation to Prof. İhsanoğlu and his staff for their efforts to organise this splendid ceremony, for what they have contributed and do contribute to the Centre and the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage, and for their continuous services and fruitful activities.
- The Board decided to send a telegram of thanks and appreciation to His Excellency Mr. Süleyman Demirel, President of the Republic of Turkey for having given their high patronage to the ceremony of the Fifteenth Anniversary of the foundation of IRCICA, for the assurance of their support to the Centre and provision of the necessary means in the future. The Board also decided to send telegrams of gratitude to His Majesty Hassan II, King of Morocco and Chairman of the Islamic Summit, His Excellency President Abdou Diouf of Senegal and Chairman of the Standing Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs, Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamed, Prime Minister of Malaysia, and H.E. Prof. Dr. Tansu Çiller, Prime Minister of Turkey, for addressing messages on the occasion of the Fifteenth Anniversary of IRCICA.
- At its last working session, the Board approved the report and recommendations of the Twelfth Session.

**THE TWENTY-THIRD ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS
(SESSION OF PEACE, SOLIDARITY AND TOLERANCE)
CONAKRY, REPUBLIC OF GUINEA
9-12 December 1995**



The President of the Republic of Guinea H.E. General Lansana Conte, the Minister of Waqfs and Islamic Affairs of the Kingdom of Morocco H.E. Mr. Abdel Kabir Al-Alaoui Al-Madaghri, and the Secretary General of OIC H.E. Dr. Hamid Algabid

The Twenty-Third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Solidarity and Tolerance) was held in Conakry, capital city of the Republic of Guinea, on 9-12 December 1995, under the high patronage of His Excellency General Lansana Conte, President of the Republic of Guinea. The conference was attended by forty-five Member States of the OIC and three observer States, as well as representatives of Muslim communities, international and regional organisations, Islamic foundations and societies, and fourteen other countries attending as invitees.

The President of the Republic of Guinea H.E. General Lansana Conte opened the conference with an inaugural address, stressing the extremely complicated circumstances under which the conference was being held; he pointed out that the world was facing numerous deep crises and that the spiritual and moral values were being debased. He said that economic imbalances were increasing poverty and that racial

discrimination, wars, illiteracy and diseases were rife. The President of Guinea called upon the Islamic community to further mobilize and activate a more effective solidarity, particularly in the search for peace in Bosnia and Hercegovina, Afghanistan, Kashmir, Somalia, the Syrian Golan and South Lebanon. H.E. Lansana Conte recommended that the Twenty-Third Islamic Conference be the appropriate framework for assessing development aid and cooperation programs, in a spirit of greater solidarity.

The conference heard the speeches of the Ministers and Heads of delegations of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Mali who took the floor on behalf of the Arab, Asian and African Member States respectively. Then, His Excellency Dr. Hamid Algabid, Secretary General of the OIC gave an address, commending the generous hospitality of the Guinean people whose history is spangled with epic feats and who have, over the years, set an example of

determination in their struggle to assert their identity, their sovereignty and genuine African values. H.E. the Secretary General expressed his deep gratitude to His Majesty Hassan II, King of Morocco and Chairman of the Seventh Islamic Summit, for the unflagging solicitude and continued support shown to the OIC by His Majesty, his Government and People. H.E. the Secretary General noted with satisfaction the progress made in settling some major issues of concern to the Islamic community, but expressed his regret at the continuation of a number of disputes and conflicts and the procrastination of the international community in finding solutions for other world crises. The Secretary General stressed the need to promote greater economic cooperation between the Member States. In the cultural field, he commended the work done by the Group of Government Experts on the Image of Islam which was set up by the Seventh Islamic Summit. He called on the Member States to encourage and support the Islamic institutions entrusted with teaching the precepts of Islam.

H.E. Mr. Kozo Zoumanigui, Minister in the President's Office in charge of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Guinea, was unanimously elected Chairman of the conference. The Foreign Ministers of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Republic of Azerbaijan and the State of Palestine were elected Vice-Chairmen. The Kingdom of Morocco was elected Rapporteur General. H.E. Mr. Kozo Zoumanigui addressed the conference following his election as Chairman, stressing the importance of economic and social cooperation among the Member States and expressing satisfaction at the results achieved in this respect. He also expressed his conviction that the human and economic capacities of the Islamic countries constitute a reliable basis for the construction of a group of powerful nations.

The conference discussed a number of organisational, statutory and general

questions on its agenda. It welcomed the full membership of the Republic of Kazakhstan, previously an observer State, in the OIC. It also welcomed the offer of the Republic of Indonesia to host the Twenty-Fourth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers in 1996. Regarding political matters, the conference discussed and took resolutions on the question of Palestine and Al-Quds Al-Sharif, on Bosnia and Hercegovina, Jammu and Kashmir, Afghanistan, Somalia, the cause of the Turkish Muslim Community of Cyprus, questions of security and solidarity, disarmament, the problems of refugees, assistance to Muslim minorities, among others.

On economic affairs, science and technology, the conference urged the Member States to pursue efforts aimed at strengthening economic cooperation among them so as to maximize the complementarities in their economies; it called on developed countries to create a more practical, equitable and transparent environment enabling developing countries to implement their structural adjustment programs and enable them to achieve sustainable development. The conference also took up the problems of the least developed and land-locked member countries. It took several resolutions to promote economic assistance to these countries, and also declared that the complete eradication of poverty in all Member States before the end of the next decade constitutes a common objective of the OIC.

The report of the Director General of IRCICA covering the Centre's achievements during the past year and its work program for 1996-97 was submitted to the Cultural and Social Affairs Committee of the conference. The conference discussed and adopted the report and the work program; it also examined and approved the report and recommendations of the Twelfth Session of IRCICA Governing Board. The conference took a special resolution on the celebration of the Fifteenth Anniversary of IRCICA and congratulated the

Centre on this occasion. Hence, by its Resolution no. 29/23-C on IRCICA, the conference

1. Commends the efforts of the Centre as reflected in its pioneering accomplishments and its activities aimed at meeting the needs of the Muslim Ummah and keeping pace with international developments in the field of culture and Islamic heritage in the optimal way, thus warranting satisfaction with and appreciation of the efforts exerted in this respect.
2. Approves the report submitted by the Centre on its activities and future plan of action as well as the report and recommendations of the Twelfth Session of the Governing Board of the Centre, and the recommendations of the General Assembly of the Centre made at the Nineteenth Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs.
3. Expresses its appreciation for the diverse activities carried out by the Centre with the aim of raising the awareness of the world opinion with respect to the Islamic cultural heritage in Bosnia and Hercegovina, and for the efforts it exerts for the maintenance and preservation of that heritage.
4. Requests IRCICA in Istanbul to make contacts with the Member States to prepare an exhibition on Islamic heritage and culture pursuant to the relevant resolution of the Seventh Islamic Summit, aimed at publicizing the different dimensions of that culture and its role in building human civilisation and its values and ideals.
5. Expresses satisfaction at the Centre's commemoration of its Fifteenth Anniversary and, on this occasion, extends its thanks and gratitude to H.E. Süleyman Demirel, President of the Republic of Turkey, for having graciously given his patronage to the commemoration of this event which will enhance the prestige of the Centre in the world academic circles.
6. Expresses thanks to the Arab Republic of Egypt for hosting the first international seminar on Traditional Crafts in Islamic Architecture which was organized jointly by the Centre and the Ministry of Culture of Egypt in Cairo in December 1995.
7. Expresses its thanks and appreciation to the host country (The Republic of Turkey) and to the other Member States, particularly the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the voluntary material and moral support they are extending to the Centre, thus enabling it to carry out its tasks in a satisfactory manner.
8. Expresses its thanks to the Member States which regularly pay their contributions in the budget of the Centre in accordance with the resolution of the Sixth Islamic Summit Conference, in particular the State of the United Arab Emirates, and calls on the Member States in arrears with their contributions to follow its example in compliance with the resolution of the Sixth Islamic Summit Conference.
9. Recommends the Member States to pay their contributions to the budget of the Centre on a regular basis and calls upon the Member States in arrears to settle their contributions so that the Centre can implement its current and future plans of action.

IRCICA was represented at the Twenty-Third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers by Director General Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu, and researchers Mr. Mohammed Tamimi, Mr. Acar Tanlak and Mr. Anara Elmochtar.

Activities of the Centre on the occasion of the Twenty-Third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers

On the occasion of the conference, the Centre organised a comprehensive exhibition of illustrations and documents representing the results of its activities accomplished during the first fifteen years of its existence, as well as the accomplishments of the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage (ICPICH). Another

section of the exhibition comprised reproductions of historical photographs of Islamic cities and monuments, particularly those of African member countries, selected from the Centre's archives, and a third section displayed photographs of Bosnia and Hercegovina together with a set of architectural plans and drawings related to the restoration and reconstruction of the monuments of Bosnia and produced by the participants in the architectural workshops that were organised by the Centre. The exhibition met the interest and appreciation of the delegations attending the conference, representatives of the press and other visitors. After the closing of the conference, the Centre offered the exhibition materials to the related Guinean authorities.

The Director General of IRCICA was received by the President of the Republic of Guinea H.E. General Lansana Conte when the President granted an audience to the Heads of Delegations attending the conference. The Director General was also received by H.E. the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guinea and H.E. the Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs; the meetings addressed cultural issues in general, and matters related to the relationship and cooperation between the cultural institutions of Guinea and the Centre. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs both expressed the readiness of the Guinean Government to extend its

moral and material support to the Centre and to help promote this cooperation. The Director General and representatives of IRCICA also met with some of the Heads of delegations attending the conference. They paid visits to some cultural institutions. At the meeting with H.E. Haji Mamadou Saliou Sylla, Secretary General of the National Islamic League of Guinea, the focus was on preparations related to the International Seminar on Islam in West Africa that the Centre plans to organise, and coverage of the cultural institutions of Guinea in the forthcoming edition of the Centre's International Directory of Islamic Cultural Institutions. H.E. the Secretary General expressed the hope that cooperation between the two institutions will increase in future, especially as regards greater participation by Guinean trainees in the Centre's future training programs, and the Centre's providing guidance to Guinean students to be sent on scholarship to Turkey. The Centre's delegation also visited the National Archives of Guinea, the National Museum, the King Faisal Great Mosque and its Islamic Centre. Fruitful talks were held with the officials of these institutions on how to promote the exchange of information and publications with them. These meetings were very useful; the Centre's delegation had the opportunity to receive information on their activities and to present them samples of its publications.



Visit of IRCICA delegation to the National Museum of Guinea

CULTURAL DATA ON OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES

This section gives brief information reflecting the cultural life in the OIC member countries. Sets of information drawn from the Centre's data files of statistical indicators and directories of cultural institutions are published in the form of brief country surveys. The purpose is to disseminate part of the data that are being collected in the framework of the Centre's projects titled *International Directory of Islamic Cultural Institutions and Studies on the Cultural Dimensions of Development in the OIC Member States*. It is hoped that the institutions concerned will assist the Centre in updating and completing the information given here. The addresses of some of the cultural institutions of the Republic of Guinea are given below, together with summary statistics.

GUINEA

Summary information *

Population	7 100 000 (1993)
Annual population growth	3.1 % (1993)
Share of urban population	28.1 % (1993)
Religion	85 % Muslims, 5 % traditional beliefs, 10 % others
Capital city	Conakry
Major cities	Kankan, Labe, Nzerekore
Adult literacy rate	27 % (1992)
School enrolment ratios (1992)	First level 42 % (Gross) (Male: 57 %, Fem.: 27 %)
	Second level 12 % (Gross) (Male: 17 %, Fem.: 6 %)
Student/teacher ratio (1992)	First level 36
	Second level 19
	Third level 8
Total educational expenditure as % of GNP (1992)	3.2
Current exp. on education (1992)	First level 35.1 %
	Second level 29.7 % (General: 20.6 %, Teacher training: 3.1 %, Vocational: 5.9 %)
	Third level 17.5 %
	Other 15.3 %
Number of libraries and archives	9
Number of museums	3
Number of daily newspapers	2
Number of weekly newspapers	4

* Sources: SESRTCIC, *Statistical Pocketbook of the OIC Countries 1995*; UNESCO, *Statistical Yearbook 1994*; IRCICA

Cultural institutions of Guinea

Learned societies and research centres

Institut National de Recherches et de Documentation

B.P. 561

Conakry

Association Guinéenne pour la Promotion de la Culture Islamique

B.P. 12634

Conakry

Ligue Islamique Nationale de Guinée

B.P. 391

Conakry

Centre Islamique Roi Fayçal

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Association des Femmes Musulmanes de Guinée

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Conakry

National library and archives

Bibliothèque Nationale

B.P. 561

Conakry

Archives Nationales

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National museum

Musée National

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Conakry

Universities and educational institutions

Ecole Nationale des Arts et Métiers

Conakry

Institut d'Etudes Arabes et Islamiques Complémentaires

c/o Collège Technique

Conakry

Association pour la Promotion de la Jeunesse Islamique de Guinée

B.P. 12373

Conakry

The following associations Guinea request material assistance from benevolent and philanthropic institutions and personalities:

**Association Guinéenne pour la
Promotion de la Culture Islamique
(A.G.P.C.I.)**

(Guinean Association for the Promotion
of Islamic Culture)

Mme. Saran Diawara, Coordinator
B.P. 12455, Conakry, Guinea, or
B.P. 12634, Saranette, Tanènè Marché,
Conakry, Guinea

AGPCI is a non-governmental, non-profit institution established in 1987. Its objectives include the following: setting up a cultural centre endowed with the necessary means of information to help promote culture and encourage the people, especially the youth, in this respect; to actively participate in spreading knowledge of the Arabic language and in generalizing literacy in the national languages, as well as in Arabic and other languages; to organise conferences, seminars, training programs, and publish a journal to promote awareness on the Islamic culture. Until now the Association carried out several training programs, built sanitary infrastructure and teaching facilities for schools. It presently needs assistance to set up a cultural centre that would comprise a library, a conference hall, and appropriate rooms where to collect, preserve and study historical manuscripts and documents.

**Association Guinéenne pour la
Promotion de la Jeunesse (A.Gui.P.J.)**

(Guinean Association for the Promotion
of the Youth)

Mr. Ali Ibrahim Sylla (President)
B.P. 12373, Conakry, Guinea
Dixinn Port 3, Conakry, Guinea
Fax: 44 29 95

This non-profit association undertakes various philanthropic and social activities aiming to raise the level of culture and education of Muslims in Guinea, build schools, mosques and homes, and help victims of natural disasters. The association is in need of financial help for its activities.

The Centre would like to invite the readers of the Newsletter to renew their subscriptions through payment to the Administrative Section, IRCICA either by cheque or by filling the enclosed credit card form.

Annual subscription rates (3 issues)

Institutions US\$ 20.-

Individuals US\$ 15.-

**THE THIRD ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF INFORMATION MINISTERS
and IRCICA's participation (Damascus, Syria, 21- 25 May 1995)**

The Third Islamic Conference of Information Ministers was held in Damascus from on 21-25 May 1995. H.E. Mr. Mahmoud al-Zu'bi, Prime Minister of Syria inaugurated the conference at the Palace of Ummayyads, Damascus. H.E. Dr. Mohamad Salman, Minister of Information, Syria, was elected Chairman of the Third Islamic Conference of Ministers of Information. The conference decided to form a follow-up Committee at the Ministerial level to carry out the implementation of its decisions, consisting of Syria (Chairman), Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Senegal, Palestine, Kuwait, Malaysia, Egypt, and the General Secretariat of the OIC.

The conference considered the report of the Second Meeting of the Ministerial Follow-up Committee of the Second Islamic Conference of Information Ministers (Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt, January 1992) and the report of the Secretary General of the OIC on the implementation of the resolutions of the Second Islamic Conference of Information Ministers. It also examined the activities accomplished in the framework of the Information Action Program for 1994-95, as well as the report on the activities of the OIC information centres. Among other decisions, the conference

- approved the report of the expert group on mechanisms to implement the Islamic Information Strategy.

- approved the resolution on the two reports of the expert group to study the feasibility of a project for the formation of a pool for the exchange of televised news and information (Islam vision).

- approved a resolution on the report submitted by the expert group assigned to study the possibility of reaching an

agreement on reducing telecommunications tariffs applicable to the media organs, and establishing an Islamic agreement in this field.

- decided to set up a committee of engineering experts to follow up the latest technological developments.

- approved the decision of the previous Ministerial Follow-up Committee on the draft statute for the establishment of an Islamic Journalists Union in the Islamic countries.

Upon the invitation of the Syrian Arab Republic, IRCICA participated in the conference and submitted a report on the activities it carried out to disseminate information in the field of its mandate, covering the period since the holding of the Second Islamic Conference of Ministers of Information (January 1992). IRCICA was represented in this Conference by Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Director General and Mr. Nazih Maarouf, Head of External Relations and Information. The Conference commended IRCICA's activities in its resolution no. 13, stating as follows: "The Conference heard a comprehensive report on the various activities of the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture, Istanbul which bear an informational mark, and expressed its appreciation for the Centre's numerous scholarly and informational activities. The conference was also informed that the Centre will celebrate this year, the fifteenth anniversary of its creation as a cultural institution dealing with the assertion of the cultural identity of the Islamic World and with the preservation and enrichment of our common heritage. The conference invited the Member States to participate in this event to contribute to the proposed program of activity and to support the noble mission of the Centre".

During the period of the conference, IRCICA delegation had talks with H.E. Dr. Najah al-Attar, Minister of Culture, Syria on future cooperation and matters of common concern. In this framework, the parties discussed the preparational process for convening the first international seminar on "Arabesque in Traditional Crafts of OIC Countries" in Damascus, in January 1997. They also discussed the possibility of undertaking a joint research project on the history of Islamic architecture in Syria. H.E. Dr. Najah al-Attar expressed the willingness of the Ministry of Culture of Syria to contribute to the international travelling exhibition on the Image of Islamic Civilisation planned to be organized by IRCICA during 1998.

IRCICA delegation visited the Directorate General of Archaeology and Museums and met with Director General Dr. Sultan Muheisin to discuss the prospects of future cooperation between the two institutions. The delegation also had a meeting with Prof. Jack Langad, Director, French Institute for Arabic Studies, Damascus, where the two institutions agreed to exchange publications and to assist each other in the collection of references needed for research. The delegation also had a meeting with Mr. Adnan Salem, Director of Dar al-Fikr for Publishing and Distribution, Damascus. The parties agreed to continue the exchange of publication lists and information on new publications.



Meeting with H.E. Dr. Najah al-Attar, Minister of Culture, Syria

Visit of UNESCO Director General Mr. Federico Mayor to IRCICA

UNESCO Director General Mr. Federico Mayor's visit to IRCICA on 3 October 1995 gave great pleasure to the Centre; it was also a very fruitful opportunity with regard to the reinforcement of cooperation between the two institutions. At their meeting, the Directors General of UNESCO and IRCICA reviewed the collaboration achieved and common activities realized until now and discussed specific areas of culture and heritage preservation in which they could jointly promote international efforts.

IRCICA Director General Prof. İhsanoğlu informed UNESCO Director General on the Centre's activities, in particular, those areas of common interest for the two institutions. Regarding the preservation of the cultural heritage of Bosnia and Hercegovina, Mr. Mayor said that after the peace settlement in Bosnia, a program for cultural rehabilitation and education should be started, and expressed UNESCO's wish to be associated with and regularly informed of the Centre's Bosnia project. Mr. Mayor also expressed UNESCO's particular interest in assessing and saving the Islamic manuscripts, especially those in less developed countries, taking into account that these are part of the world heritage, or "world memories"; therefore, UNESCO is giving full support to IRCICA's activities for the conservation of manuscripts. On the other hand, UNESCO is interested in IRCICA's project to organize a comprehensive exhibition which would reflect the true image of Islam and its culture to the outer world. Prof. Dr. İhsanoğlu said that there is a growing understanding of Islam in the West and particularly in Europe, and that promoting dialogue between Islam and Europe would open a new page in relations between human civilisations. In this regard, activities such as conferences and exhibitions would be most helpful to establish and awareness of the Islamic culture as a world

culture and to bridge the gap between the two civilisations. The two Directors General decided there will be a follow-up meeting at UNESCO headquarters soon to set up a plan of action on the project to organize a Travelling Exhibition on the Image of Islamic Civilisation. They also recalled the projects on which UNESCO and IRCICA successfully cooperated in the past, including the First International Islamic Artisans-at-Work Festival and international seminar on Creativity in Traditional Islamic Crafts (Islamabad, Pakistan, October 1994), and the publication of the methodological guide on the collection of crafts data, as well as other joint projects that are planned for the future.

UNESCO Director General and his delegation visited the Bosnia and Hercegovina project department, the photograph archives and the library of the Centre. Then, they were invited to the conference hall where Prof. Dr. İhsanoğlu thanked them for their visit to IRCICA and presented Mr. Mayor with a certificate of honour for his contributions towards establishing peaceful coexistence between peoples of different cultures, opening a new era of cultural understanding and bridging the gap between cultures after the Cold War, not only as the Director General of UNESCO but also with his personal qualities as a scholar, a scientist and an intellectual. In his reply, Mr. Federico Mayor thanked IRCICA for the warm welcome and underlined the necessity for all the institutions of the world to join their efforts in order to show that mankind is not at the end of history but at the beginning, that it wants to be at the end of the history of confrontation, of war, of violence and of indignity, and start a history of peace, a history of real freedom for each person, where it will not have to always restore, always rebuild, where it will not see the refinement of nuclear weapons but the refinement of the capacity to join hands. UNESCO Director General added that UNESCO and IRCICA had agreed to work together in this spirit.

"UNESCO will join efforts with this research centre, to contribute to peace throughout the world, showing the splendour of the Islamic civilization, and ensuring our children and their children that all the civilizations will live together peacefully."

F. Mayor

Istanbul, 3.10.1995

The visit of Cardinal Francis Arinze, President of the Pontifical Council for Inter-Religious Dialogue, Vatican

His Eminence Cardinal Francis Arinze, President of the Pontifical Council for Inter-Religious Dialogue, Vatican, visited the Centre on 5 October 1995. Cardinal Arinze was in Istanbul to attend the International Symposium on Tolerance organised by the UNESCO Turkish National Committee at Sabancı Centre. During his visit to IRCICA, Cardinal Arinze was accompanied by His Excellency Monsignor Louis Pelâtre, Bishop, Apostolic Vicar of Istanbul, Monsignor Georges Marovitch, General Secretary of the Bishops' Conference in Turkey, and Prof. Dr. Niyazi Ökem, Dean of the International Relations Faculty, Galatasaray University, Istanbul.

IRCICA Director General gave information to the Cardinal on the Centre's activities, with special emphasis on its participation in the

international efforts that aim to promote a dialogue between the different religions. The Director General also informed Cardinal Arinze of the Centre's activities aiming to better introduce Islam and its culture on a global scale.

The Cardinal spoke of the frequent meetings his office is holding with the relevant organisations, institutions and personalities of the Muslim world to promote the inter-religious dialogue. During their talk on recent developments regarding the dialogue, the Cardinal and IRCICA Director General referred to the arguments about a possible conflict among civilisations that had been put forward by some Western politicians and academicians, and pointed out that the inter-religious dialogue is expected to be based on principles of faith and not on political or other considerations.

Cardinal Arinze said that on many social issues of interest to the world opinion, the stand of Catholics and Muslims had been very near to each other, and that to promote mutual awareness between people from the two religions, they had agreed with the OIC, the Muslim World League and the World Muslim Congress to hold regular meetings and continual contacts. IRCICA Director General and Cardinal Arinze agreed they would remain in touch particularly as regards to developments in the dialogue process.



Egyptian scholars Prof. Ahmad Issa, Prof. Nasrullah Tirazi, and Dr. Hussain Mujib al-Misry conferred Honorary Doctorate by the University of Marmara in Istanbul



The president of Marmara University presents Prof. A. Issa the degree certificate

Prof. Ahmad Mohammed Issa, specialist of Islamic arts, Vice-Chairman of the Governing Board of IRCICA, Prof. Nasrullah Tirazi, specialist of Islamic manuscripts and professor of Turkish culture and literature, and Dr. Hussain Mujib al-Misry, scholar in Turkish literature, were conferred the title of Honorary Doctorate by the University of Marmara in Istanbul.

A ceremony took place at Marmara University Presidency building on 9 November 1995, in the presence of Prof. Dr. Ömer Faruk Baturel, President of Marmara University, Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Director General of IRCICA, H.E. Mr. Mohammad Mahdi Fathallah, Ambassador of Egypt in Ankara, Mr. Ibrahim Shaban, Consul General of Egypt in Istanbul, faculty members of the University, and members of the press.

In his opening address, Prof. Dr. Ömer Faruk Baturel said that the Senate of Marmara

University had unanimously decided, at its session on 11 July 1995, to confer the title of Honorary Doctorate upon the three scholars in recognition of their remarkable services to the scholarly study of Turkish culture and arts, and especially in appreciation of their contributions to making better known the Turkish culture and arts in the Arab world. The President of Marmara University said that on behalf of the University and himself as a Turkish scholar, he was proud of the services these three eminent Egyptian scholars have rendered to Turkish culture.

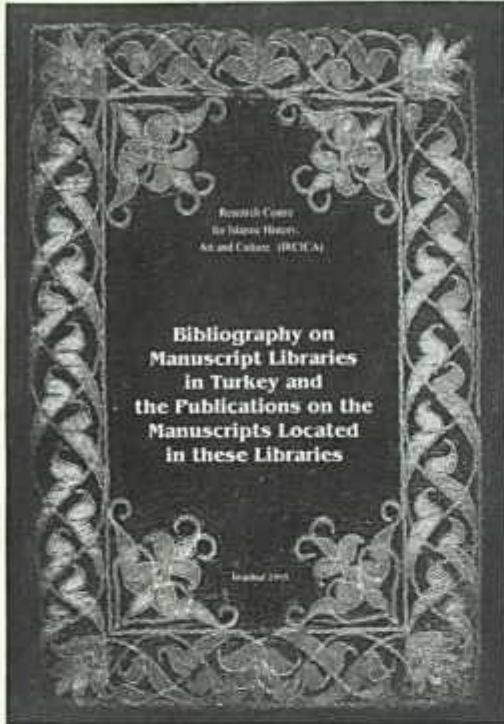


Prof. N. Tirazi delivers his speech of thanks

The President of Marmara University presented Prof. Ahmad Issa and Prof. Nasrullah Tirazi with their Honorary Doctorate certificate. Prof. Issa and Prof. Tirazi took the floor to thank the President, the Senate and the faculty members of Marmara University for having honoured them with this title. The certificate of Dr. Hussain Mujib al-Misry, who was unable to attend the ceremony because of his health condition, was presented to him later in Cairo by Prof. İhsanoğlu and the Ambassador of Turkey to Egypt H.E. Mr. Yaşar Yakış, at a ceremony organized at the Embassy of Turkey.

NEW PUBLICATION BY IRCICA

Bibliography on Manuscript Libraries in Turkey and the Publications on the Manuscripts Located in these Libraries, prepared by Nimet Bayraktar and Mihin Lugal, Edited by Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu, Istanbul, 1996



This book resulted from research conducted in the libraries of Turkey which have collections of manuscripts. Its purpose is two-fold: on the one hand, it is an extensive bibliography of the manuscripts, on the other hand, it is a guide book of manuscript libraries. In the section devoted to each library, there is information on its address and affiliation, its collections, the number of manuscripts it contains and their distribution according to language, its catalogue, particularly already published handlists and catalogues as well as various publications and short histories about the library. The previous bibliographies that were published about persons or subjects or about the manuscripts located in a particular library, are also included in this bibliography.

The Introduction by the Editor reviews the development of libraries and librarianship in Turkey. Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu traces the history of libraries established in the Ottoman period most of which were founded as waqfs, by referring to the deeds of these waqfs which are primary sources of information on this subject. He also reviews the development of librarianship in the period of the Turkish Republic, the accomplishments of the Cataloguing Commission established under the Ministry of Education, and the various catalogues of manuscripts published in Turkey until the present time.

The first part of the book consists of two main sections: the first is a guide to the libraries, and the second consists of a bibliography about these libraries. The second part of the book contains the bibliography of publications about the works located in the collections of these libraries, arranged in alphabetical order of the names of authors. Indexes have been prepared for names of authors, translators, compilers, personal names cited in titles, the titles of the articles and books and the titles of works cited in them. It is expected that this catalogue will be of great help to researchers concerned.

NEW PUBLICATION BY IRCICA

Catalogue of the Islamic Manuscripts in Cyprus, prepared by Ramazan Şeşen, Mustafa Haşim Altan and Cevat Izgi; Preface by H.E. Rauf Denктаş, introduction by Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu, published by the Waqf for Research in Islamic History, Art and Culture, Istanbul, 1995

This catalogue resulted from a project undertaken jointly with the National Archives and Research Centre of Northern Cyprus starting from 1987. It is a record of the written Islamic cultural heritage that is now preserved in the libraries and archives of North Cyprus, namely in the Sultan Mahmud II Library, the Selimiye Mosque, the Laleli Mosque and the National Archives.

The book has a Preface by H.E. Rauf Denктаş, leader of the Turkish Muslim Community of Cyprus. Recalling that Islam was introduced to Cyprus as early as the year 28 H./648-49 A.D. and that the island acquired a Muslim Turkish character after its conquest by the Ottomans in 978 H./1570-71, H.E. Mr. Denктаş points out that with the establishment of institutions such as waqfs, mosques, medreses and libraries, the country had flourished as a centre of science, culture and arts. Taking into consideration that its collections of historical manuscripts are part of the heritage that testifies to this brilliant cultural history, Mr. Rauf Denктаş underlines the importance of this catalogue with respect to recording this heritage and introducing it to the coming generations.



The Introduction by Prof. Ihsanoğlu gives a brief political and cultural history of the island, as well as information on the Islamic monuments and the major libraries, and short biographies of some of the Muslim scientists who lived in Cyprus in the Ottoman period. The catalogue has three main parts covering Arabic, Turkish, and Persian manuscripts respectively; there are 1948 manuscripts in Arabic, 211 manuscripts in Turkish, and 96 manuscripts in Persian, i.e. 2255 works in total. In each part, the bibliographic entries are arranged according to their subjects: copies of the Quran and manuscripts on Quranic sciences, the Hadith, the life of the Prophet, Islamic jurisprudence, literature, philosophy, history, logic, astronomy, and other subjects. At the end of each part, there are indices of authors, titles, copists, waqfs and other institutions, places, and reference works.