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Newsletter



OIC RESEARCH CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC HISTORY, ART AND CULTURE

In this issue

Promoting intercultural dialogue

IRCICA's session on "Coexistence of Different Cultures" organized during the Sixth Global Forum of the UN Alliance of Civilizations, Bali, Indonesia

Preservation of cultural heritage

IRCICA & Al-Turath Islamic Urban Heritage Program:
2014 Summer School held in Balkan countries

Studies in history

Workshop on Sheikh Mussa Kamara and his work Zuhur al-Basatin in cooperation with University of Dakar Sheikh Anta Diop

International Symposium on "Scientific Interactions and Higher Islamic Education in the Balkans" organized in cooperation with Istanbul University, Faculty of Theology

Participation in the Sixth International Bolgar Forum, Tatarstan (Russian Federation) and cooperation with Kazan cultural institutions

Meetings, cooperation

IRCICA Publications

Newsletter



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In this issue

2

Promoting intercultural dialogue

IRCICA's session on "Coexistence of Different Cultures"
organized during the Sixth Global Forum of the UN Alliance
of Civilizations, Bali, Indonesia

6

Preservation of cultural heritage

IRCICA & Al-Turath Islamic Urban Heritage Program:
2014 Summer School held in Balkan countries

10

Studies in history

Workshop on Sheikh Mussa Kamara and his work
Zuhur al-Basatin in cooperation with University of
Dakar Sheikh Anta Diop

International Symposium on "Scientific Interactions
and Higher Islamic Education in the Balkans" organized in
cooperation with Istanbul University, Faculty of Theology

Participation in the Sixth International Bolgar Forum,
Tatarstan (Russian Federation) and cooperation with
Kazan cultural institutions

13

Meetings, cooperation

16

IRCICA publications

Editorial

This issue of the Newsletter covers IRCICA's activities during the period from May to August inclusive. One of its highlights is the short-term architectural summer school which was organized by IRCICA and Al-Turath Islamic Heritage Foundation (Saudi Arabia) in Balkan countries throughout August. Among other events highlighted are conferences on history, including the workshop on "Sheikh Moussa Kamara and his book *"Zuhur al-Basatin fi tarih al-sawadin"* which we coordinated jointly with the University of Dakar Sheikh Anta Diop early June, and the symposium on "Scientific Interactions and Higher Islamic Education in the Balkans" which was organized jointly with Istanbul University's Faculty of Theology.

The architectural summer school comes in continuation of the series on "Islamic Urban Heritage. Research, Preservation, Management" that IRCICA and Al-Turath Islamic Heritage Foundation have been coordinating since 2011. The first three summer schools took place in Istanbul and the East of Turkey in 2011, Central and Northern Turkey in 2012, and West of Turkey, Greece and Bulgaria in 2013. More than one hundred Islamic sites and monuments were studied. Meanwhile two Spring Schools were held, in March 2013 and March 2014 respectively. The first one focused on the historic core of Jeddah and the second, on the historical quarters of Riyadh. We are happy that these programs draw great interest and prove successful in upgrading competences in the study, restoration, preservation and re-use of architectural heritage. Historical sites in six countries were visited this year: Macedonia, Kosovo, Albania, Montenegro, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Other events where IRCICA was co-organizer include two meetings relating to cultural interactions and intercultural

dialogue. One of them was the IRCICA session on "Coexistence of Different Cultures: Examples from History as Lessons for the Future" organized during the Sixth Forum of the UN Alliance of Civilizations, Bali, Indonesia. The other one was the Sixth International Bolgar Forum, held in Kazan, Tatarstan (Russian Federation). Its program included a number of cultural events some of which involved IRCICA.

Shortly after this issue appears, we will be holding the "IRCICA International Gathering on the Art of Calligraphy". It will be a large-scale event including symposia, panels, presentation of *ijaza* (licenses to practice and teach calligraphy), workshops, exhibitions and study visits at various venues in Istanbul. Again in September, a festival of traditional arts will begin. This event titled "10th International Traditional Artists Gathering" will be organized by IRCICA and the Municipality of Pendik district in Istanbul. Activities of the coming months will include the symposium on "History and Cultures of Muslim Peoples Around the Black Sea". The symposium will have not only historical but actual relevance, especially insofar as it will address issues related to the conservation of the plurality of cultural heritage in areas where it is under threat - such as in Crimea. We are organizing this symposium in collaboration with two partners: Babes-Bolyai University and the Academy of Sciences of Romania. Our readers will recall that a congress on "China and the Muslim World: Cultural Encounters" was organized by IRCICA and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) in 2012. You will find brief information about this book in the "IRCICA Publications" section.

Finally, I convey to those concerned my best wishes for the coming Eid al-Adha. With greetings to all,

Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren

Promoting intercultural dialogue

IRCICA's session on "Coexistence of Different Cultures" organized during the Sixth Global Forum of the UN Alliance of Civilizations

Bali, Indonesia

The Sixth Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations was held in Bali, Indonesia from 29-30 August 2014. The first five forums had taken place in Spain, Turkey, Brazil, Qatar and Austria, respectively.



The theme adopted as a motto for the sixth forum was "Unity in Diversity: Celebrating Diversity for Common and Shared Values". As the earlier ones, the sixth forum brought together political leaders, representatives of international and regional bodies, the private sector, civil society, youth, the arts, and the media as well as donor agencies and foundations, all with the aim of contributing in various ways to fostering cross-cultural dialogue and understanding. Being the first to be held in the Asia Pacific region, the debates benefitted from examples of cultural diversity and coexistence surrounding the venue. Besides, frequent reference was made to the United Nations' post-2015 Development Agenda.

During the two-day forum, two plenary panel discussions focused on the main theme: "Unity in Diversity: Celebrating Diversity for Common and Shared Values" and "Knowing One Another-Urgent Need to Foster Dialogue and Understanding between Eastern and Western Civilizations". A series of

breakout sessions were dedicated to the four pillar areas of activity of the Alliance of Civilizations, namely media, migration, education and youth. These sessions addressed the following issues: Promoting harmony through interreligious and cross-cultural education; Media conversation across lines; Social inclusion and migration: Developments for post - 2015 agenda; Youth participation in peace-building; The role of culture in the formulation of new sustainable development; Harnessing the positive power of social media; Fostering understanding through the power of sports, arts, music and entertainment; Perception of migration: How to change the narratives about migrants?; BBC Debate on media coverage of migration: Defining what is and what is not a migrant story; The use of interreligious and intercultural approaches to advance the broader interests of mediation in conflict-affected settings; The role of women in fostering understanding among cultures.

The forum program also included side events, among them the session organized by IRCICA on the theme "Coexistence of Different Cultures: Examples from History as Lessons for the Future". The themes of the other side events were: "Unity and Diversity among Religions: Building Trust and Cooperation through Interreligious Dialogue" - organized/sponsored by Universal Peace Federation (UPF); "The Role of Business in Promoting Inter-cultural and Inter-religious Peace and Harmony" - organized/sponsored by Indonesia Global Compact Network (IGCN); "Ecological Civilization: Time Calling for Common Values" - organized/sponsored by International Ecological Safety Collaborative Organization (IESCO); "Exploring how diversified food production contributes to strong societies and the role communication must play to sustain these food systems" - organized/sponsored by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); "The investors



Prof. Wiend Nuryanti, Deputy Minister of Culture of Indonesia

and financial sector's global contribution to sustainable development in the general context of cultural diversity" - organized/sponsored by Convention of Independent Financial Advisors (CIFA). A number of panel discussions were organized along with the sessions. (<http://www.unaoc6.or.id>)

The session organized by IRCICA on "Coexistence of Different Cultures: Examples from History as Lessons for the Future" was held with the participation of H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, the High Representative of the UN for the Alliance of Civilizations. The session was moderated by Ambassador Ömür Orhun, the OIC Focal Point to the Alliance of Civilizations and Special Advisor to the Secretary General of OIC. The speakers were Dr. Abubaker Ahmed Bakader, Director General of Cultural, Social and Family Affairs at the OIC General Secretariat; Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA; Prof. Wiend Nuryanti, Deputy Minister of Culture of Indonesia; Prof. Raihana Binti Abdullah, member, OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC), and Assoc. Prof. Sadık Ünay, Senior Researcher, IRCICA. H.E. Mr. Gjorgy Ivanov, President of the Republic of Macedonia and H.R.H. Hassan bin Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan addressed the session via video conference messages.

In his opening remarks, Ambassador Ömür Orhun, Moderator of the session, pointed to two key issues underlined in the Concept Note preparatory to the session: the necessity of developing means and channels of "learning about the other", and, in this direction, making an effort to "learn from history".

In his opening speech, Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren stated that as the cultural subsidiary of the OIC, an inter-governmental organization with 57 states in four continents, IRCICA provides the cultural dimension of cooperation for development among its member states. He stressed the linkage between dialogue and peace on one hand and sustainable development on the other. He emphasized that sustainable development, which to be sustainable has to have an internal dynamism, also has



H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, the High Representative of the UN for the Alliance of Civilizations

dialogue and peace, or peaceful coexistence of peoples, as an accelerating force. Coexistence of peoples, in turn, cannot be viable if conceived as a static position. It has to be kept as a dynamic process, that is, coexistence itself has to be sustainable. Accordingly, coexistence has to involve exchanges and mutual impacts between different cultural communities.

The statement of the Secretary General of OIC H.E. Mr. Iyad Ameen Madani was read on his behalf by Dr. Abubaker Ahmed Bakader, Director General of Cultural, Social and Family Affairs, OIC. In his statement the Secretary General thanked IRCICA for organizing this session on a most important theme in the context of interreligious and intercultural dialogue towards promoting cultural and religious diversity against incitement to hatred and intolerance. "It is my perception that many problems in relations between peoples of the different religions has been a consequence of different interpretations of historical facts, different perceptions and approaches to historical events." The





Dr. Abubaker Ahmed Bakader, Director General of Cultural, Social and Family Affairs, OIC

Secretary General evoked examples portraying the high level of tolerance shown to people of other faiths starting from the life period of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) to Spain's Al-Andalusia period where the past has lessons for present tolerance and living together. The Madinah Constitution promulgated by Prophet Muhammad united all the inhabitants of Medina in a pact, where Muslims, Christians, Jews and idolaters were "one nation" and were provided freedom of belief and guaranteed safety and security. The Secretary General also gave examples of tolerance from Seville, Cordoba, Granada, and as a most recent example, Berlin, specifically with its "House of One". In a series of recommendations, the Secretary General urged for a consideration of the theme of the session also "through a human rights lens, as the lack of a peaceful coexistence of different cultures usually leads to human rights violations"; he proposed that emphasis be given to education and learning on how to live together in a globalized world, for which there should be "an identification of the needs, the problems and the windows of opportunity that exist with regard to addressing cultural diversity issues", and, called for close collaboration with civil society organizations to "allow introduction and development of concrete policy guidelines and projects guaranteeing the right to diversity and facilitating a culture of peace and human rights for all citizens."

The High Representative of the UN for the Alliance of Civilizations, Ambassador Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser congratulated IRCICA for its efforts to promote intercultural dialogue and peaceful coexistence of cultures. Al-Nasser expressed his thanks to the panelists and acknowledged the contributions through video conferences by H.E. Mr. Gjorgy Ivanov, President of the Republic of Macedonia and H.R.H. Hassan bin Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. He said that IRCICA and the present joint effort were assisting in the transmission of knowledge between diverse cultures and their linguistic, historical and cultural contributions to humanity. This empowers the younger generations to address

the lack of knowledge about artists, scientists, scholars, writers and intellectuals in different cultures. In this regard Al-Nasser pointed to the role of sports, arts, music and other forms of collective expressions of human values. „These celebrations of humanity's noble yearnings can foster the culture of peace“, he said, „the Alliance of Civilizations is making every efforts to use all these new tools, and we will also draw from Your historical heritage.“

Prof. Wiend Nuryanti, Vice Minister for Culture, Ministry of Education and Culture of Indonesia, addressed the session on behalf of H.E. Dr. Dipo Alam, Cabinet Secretary of the Government of Indonesia who was at the time in Turkey to represent Indonesia at the inauguration ceremony of the newly elected President of Turkey H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. Prof. Nuryanti extended her "deepest sympathy to the people of Palestine, in particular to those in the Gaza Strip who have been suffering from the prolonged siege as well as continuing military operations by the Israeli forces. ..." She expressed her sincere demand and prayer for the end of the cycle of violence. Prof. Nuryanti then spoke of issues of conflict-solving and examples of countries' efforts towards peace-building. She indicated the solution of the Aceh issue in Indonesia as a successful case of conflict resolution. She said that Indonesia's responsibility to promote intercultural, interfaith and intercivilizational dialogues emanates from the fact that the country is the world's largest archipelago and home to 490 different ethnic groups, who speak different languages and practice different traditions. She also talked about the potential role of various art forms including paintings and fiction novels in promoting intercultural dialogue and peaceful coexistence. Prof. Nuryanti concluded her speech by enumerating significant lessons drawn from past examples of conflict resolution, for use in future conflict cases around the globe. These include such principles as: "For every conflict, there is always a solution"; "Every conflict has its own characteristics and its own behavior": "Preventing conflict before it erupts is always less costly"; and, "keeping peace is as important as peace-making".

Prof. Raihana Binti Abdullah, Professor of Law, Kuala Lumpur, and member, OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC) stated that the world is currently full of examples of the lack of coexistence: bloodshed, political turmoil, economic collapse, cultural and religious disharmony, among others. These are the very reasons for convening gatherings such as this session in order to seek solutions to the challenges facing coexistence in our time and in future. She emphasized that people must first engage in a collective dialogue for the purpose of understanding one another. Then she referred to the rights and status of various groups in society; she said it cannot be claimed that women and the youth are marginalized in societies purely based on the Islamic faith - especially when Islam heavily emphasizes a traditional family structure as the basis of society, which is not made stable by men alone, but



Mr. Gjorgy Ivanov.
President of Macedonia



H.R.H. Prince Hassan bin Talal of Jordan

can only function if the women and children also contribute to its development. She said that when the various groups are allowed to speak for themselves, only then would peoples have a productive dialogue on a level where coexistence is possible.

In his video conference, the President of Macedonia Mr. Gjorgy Ivanov said that today in the second decade of 21st century the world is still not liberated from the disease called “clash of civilizations and religions”. This clash results from prejudice, exclusion, hatred and intolerance towards “the different”. The world’s responsibility is to seek and find a cure for this disease, and certainly lessons can be drawn from experiences of instability as well as of coexistence. The President said that the 3000-year history of the Balkans is generally one of conflicts where periods of peace lasted 200 years. But paradoxically, the longest periods of continual peace were in the Balkans. These periods referred to as Pax Macedonia, Pax Romana and Pax Ottomana give us examples where we can learn from their models of governance in multi-confessional, multi-ethnic, multi-lingual societies. The Ottoman “millet” system gives the example of managing minorities whose faith differed from that of the ruling community. President Ivanov also referred to the historic role of open-minded people who accepted and respected diversity; he evoked the example of Mother Teresa, who was born and grew up in Skopje, Macedonia, in a house surrounded by a Catholic church, an Orthodox church, a Jewish synagogue and a Muslim mosque. President Gjorgy Ivanov said that Macedonia’s model respectful of diversity is based on positive experiences from the past; “If in the past we could live and progress together, we can and must try to achieve it in future.”

H.R.H. Prince Hassan bin Talal of Jordan, in his video conference, expressed his concern today more than before about the trend of fragmentation of the world; Prince Hassan added that “in terms of the Silk Route and the Spice Route, there is the need today for a Route of Ideas”, where the silent majority would cease to be silent. Pointing to the need to be proactive for development goals, Prince Hassan recalled that

during the West Asia-North Africa summit a few months before, over one thousand signatories had called for “justice” as a Millennium Development Goal. In his address Prince Hassan bin Talal also referred to the role of women in fostering understanding among cultures and promoting harmony; to the role of sports, music and art in deepening understanding between cultures, which must be an understanding of the content, not of commercial content, but of aesthetic and philosophical content; to peace-building through activities of the youth, and the importance of the media globally through its diverse means available today.

In his concluding remarks, Ambassador Ömür Orhun highlighted salient points from the speeches. He added his own remarks, underlining the need to move towards a new paradigm, where “the challenge is not to simply dispel misconceptions and discredit myths but to re-fashion and re-shape the way in which we think about ‘the other.’” Multiple dilemmas are involved in creating this new paradigm, “where people of multiple, diverse and mutually enriching identities would refer to one ‘we’: what kind of language is needed to describe this new ‘we’? What is the body of academic work that supports such paradigm? What new ways must be devised to teach history to our children? What new awareness must we create among journalists, opinion leaders and policy makers? I know there are no easy solutions to these dilemmas. However, we must attempt to solve them.”

Preservation of cultural heritage

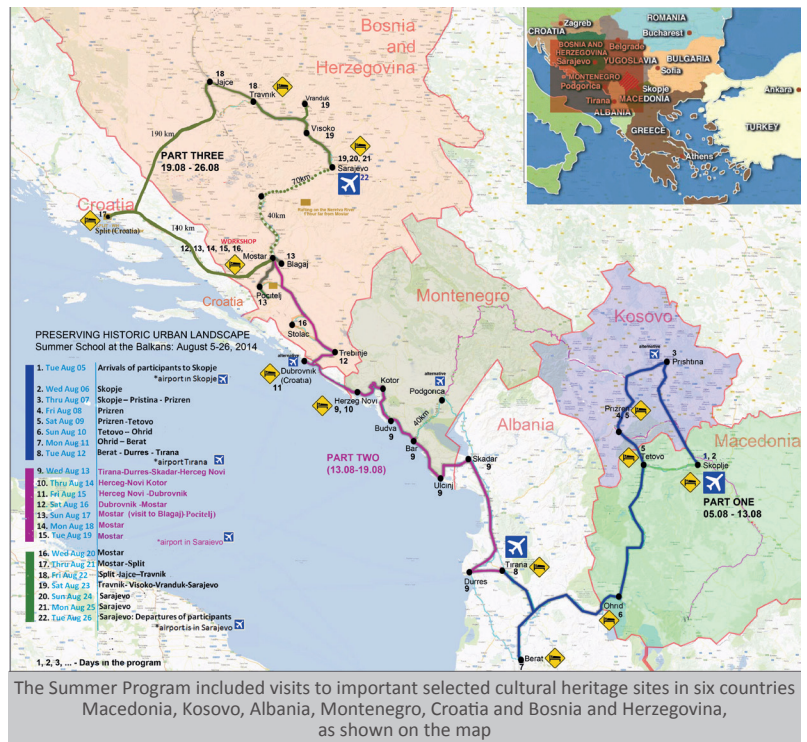
IRCICA & Al-Turath Islamic Urban Heritage Program: 2014 Summer School held in Balkan countries

5-26 August 2014

The 2014 Islamic Urban Heritage Summer School was prepared by IRCICA and Al-Turath Foundation (Saudi Arabia) with the collaboration of the National Built Heritage Center (NBHC) affiliated to the Saudi Commission for Tourism and Antiquities (SCTA) and universities from the six countries which were visited, namely Macedonia, Kosovo, Albania, Montenegro, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The collaborating universities are: Yıldız Technical University, Istanbul; University of Ferrara, Italy; University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina; Marmara University, Istanbul; Istanbul Technical University, Istanbul; Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, Istanbul; Fatih Sultan Mehmet Waqf University, Istanbul; Gazi University, Istanbul; Bahçeşehir University, Istanbul; Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University, Çanakkale (Turkey); University of Donja Gorica, Podgorica (Montenegro); American College University, Skopje (Macedonia).

IRCICA & Al-Turath Islamic Urban Heritage Program is a series of periodical schools aimed to foster awareness and competences in preserving, promoting and encouraging the economic, cultural and touristic development of urban heritage in Islamic countries. It is designed to complement the studies of postgraduate researchers as well as young educators and professionals with lectures given by key international experts and field trips organized to important sites and projects. The schools present contemporary approaches to urban heritage preservation from different educational and policy perspectives. In this respect it is also of interest to tourism managers, local administrators in municipalities and professionals/practitioners in the field of preservation of urban heritage.

The 2014 Preserving Historic Urban Landscape School's trip began in Skopje, Macedonia, followed by visits to key historical cities and sites in Kosovo, Albania, Montenegro, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. As required by the itinerary some venues were visited more than once. Heritage sites were visited, seminars were organized with the participation of national and international experts and representatives of local authorities. An outline of the program follows.



The Itinerary

Macedonia 1- The 2014 Preserving Historic Urban Landscape School began with the introduction of the program in Skopje by Prof. Amir Pasic (IRCICA) and Dr. Osamah al-Ghohary (Al-Turath Foundation). With the guidance of Dr. Mehmed Zeki Ibrahimgil (Gazi University, Ankara) the historic center of Skopje was visited. The first panel of the summer school took place in the Institute of National History of Macedonia. M. Z. Ibrahimgil, Dr. Dragi Gjorgiev (Director of the Institute for National History in Skopje) and Dr. Ahmet Sherif (Institute for History of Macedonia) gave lectures on Islamic heritage of Macedonia.

Kosovo - In Kosovo the participants of the summer school were greeted by Dr. Florina Jerliu (Asst. Program Coordinator 2014, University of Prishtina), Dr. Gjejlane Hoxha (Director of the Kosovo Council for Cultural Heritage) and Dr. Dervish Qerreti (University of Prishtina). Panel Two took place at the Institute for Protection of Monuments of Kosovo (IPMK), with a welcome note by Dr. Vjollca Aliu, Director of the Department of Cultural Heritage, Ministry of Culture, Youth

IRCICA & Al-Turath
Summer School at the Balkans 2014: Preserving Historic Urban Landscape



Edhem Bey Mosque in Tirana, Albania



Traditional house in Ohrid



Edhem Bey Mosque in Tirana, Albania



Priština, Kosovo



Urban fabric of Prizren in Kosovo



Lectures were given at the Institute of National History, Macedonia



The group with the Minister of Environment and Physical Planning of Macedonia Mr. Nurhan Izahiri



Arabati Baba Teke in Tetovo, Maceonia



Kursumli Han in Skopje, Macedonia



Sulejman Mosque in Travnik, Bosnia and Herzegovina



Visiting Reis ul-ulema of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Husein Efendi Kavazović



Visit to a Tekke in Blagaj, Bosnia and Herzegovina

and Sports and an introduction note by Dr. Alban Bakia, Director of IPMK. The panel continued in the National Museum of Kosovo with the welcome note by Dr. Arsim Mehmeti, Director of the Museum and presentations by Dr. Enver Rexha, archeologist and director of the Archeological Institute and Dr. Milot Berisha, archeologist, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports. After the panel, significant architectural heritage monuments of Pristina were visited such as the King's Mosque. The group then moved to Prizren. The

city tour in Prizren included sites such as the Prizren Citadel and part of the historic center (Shatervan square with Sinan Pasha Mosque and Public Bath, the League of Prizren, etc.) and was guided by Dr. Samir Hoxha, Director of Institute Prizren (IPM) and Dr. Shafi Gashi, archeologist, team leader of the Prizren Castle conservation/restoration works at the Ministry. Panel Three started with the presentation of Dr. Shafi Gashi on "Old photographs as the basis for the conservation of Prizren Castle" and continued with the presentation of Dr.

Gjejlane Hoxha, Director of the Kosovo Council for Cultural Heritage on “Conservation Plan of the historic city of Prizren” and presentation of Dr. Florina Jerliu (University of Prishtina) on “Prishtina Historic Core”.

Macedonia 2- The group went back to Macedonia, to Tetovo and visited Alaca Mosque and Arabati Baba Tekke. Panel Four took place here, with presentations by authorities and professionals: Dr. Nurhan Izairi, Minister of Planning of Macedonia; Dr. Mesud Idriz from the International University of Sarajevo and Dr. M. Z. Ibrahimgil. Ohrid Castle, the Old Town and museums were visited. Lectures were given by Dr. Goran Patčev and M. Z. Ibrahimgil on Ohrid’s cultural heritage.

Albania- Berat and Tirana were the cities visited in Albania. Berat’s Castle, Old Town, Red Mosque and museums, and Tirana’s Ethem Bey Mosque were the significant elements of the cultural heritage. As the first part of the program was finalized, a panel was held in order to discuss outcomes of studies on the historic urban landscape of Macedonia, Kosovo and Albania.

Montenegro – Ulcinj was the first city to be visited in Montenegro and a city tour was done at the Old City including sightseeing of the castle and Pašina Mosque. A lecture was given by DR. Igbala Sabovic-Kerovic (UDG University) on Ottoman heritage in Montenegro. Herceg Novi was visited the next day and Panel Seven took place here with the lecture of Dr. Boris Ilijanic (UDG University). A tour through Boka Kotorska and the Old City Kotor (UNESCO world Heritage) was done the same day.

Croatia 1- In Croatia, Dubrovnik’s Old City and its preservation processes were observed before moving to Mostar.

Bosnia and Herzegovina 1- A workshop took place in Mostar with introductions by Prof. Amir Pasic and Dr. Osamah al-Ghohary. The old city and the old bridge were visited on the first day. Pocitelj and Blagaj (towns near Mostar) were visited with the guidance of Dr. Lana Kudumović (University of Sarajevo). The next day, the workshop continued with lectures by Prof. Amir Pasic and Dr. Tihomir Rozić (site manager of old bridge reconstruction) on the restoration process of Mostar. On the same panel there were many lectures on the restoration of monuments and sites in Mostar: Dr. Mine Topcubasi-Çilingiroğlu (Fatih Sultan Mehmet Waqf University) gave a presentation on the restoration work of the Waqf Building in Mostar; Dr. Aida Idrizbegović Zgonić (University of Sarajevo) spoke on reconstruction of Pocitelj and Foca Mosques, Dr. Salem Salih Bubalo and Dr. Darko Minarik (Planning Office of Mostar) spoke on the management plan of Mostar and Dr. Orjana Lenasi (Bosnia and Herzegovina Commission to Preserve National Monuments) on preservation of national monuments and the Commission’s role. Visits to the Mufti of Herzegovina and the Saudi Cultural Center in Mostar took place the next day, followed by visits to Muslibegovića House, Karacozbey Mosque, Bišćevića House and Old Bridge Museum with the guidance of Dr. Esved Dugalić, expert.

Croatia 2- Croatia’s famous World Heritage site, the Diocletian Palace in Split and the town of Trogir were visited.

Bosnia and Herzegovina 2- Accompanied by Dr. Senka Ibrišimbegović (University of Sarajevo), the group visited the fortress and Sulejmanija Mosque in Travnik. The vernacular architecture of the town of Vlačić was also observed the same day. The Old City of Vranduk along with its fortress, museum and Fatih Mosque was visited before arriving to Sarajevo. The bazaar area of Sarajevo was studied on site and Ilidza area of the city was observed. International University of Sarajevo was visited where a lecture was given by Dr. Mesud Idriz. Among institutions visited in Sarajevo there were the Faculty of Islamic Studies with a lecture given by Dr. Enes Karić, and Gazi Husrev Bey Library with the guidance of Dr. Mustafa Jahić. The summer school group was also welcomed by Reis ul-Ulema of the Islamic community of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Husein Efendi Kavazović. The program was closed with a final discussion co-moderated by Prof. Amir Pasic and Dr. Osamah al-Ghohary.

On the whole, the 2014 Preserving Historic Urban Landscape School focused on safeguarding and management of the sites and the promotion of sustainable development of the Islamic urban heritage. Specifically,

1. Theory and practice of historic preservation: The panels focused on preservation of historic urban landscape and the history, theory and practice of preservation in different regions of the Balkans. Participants were introduced to international and national approaches to research, preservation and management of urban heritage through local, national and international cases and discussions on experiences. Lectures and presentations were given by international lecturers and national experts. There were visits to various sites with significant restorations.
2. Practical issues and cases:
 - a) Practical issues on historical preservation – The section involved lectures given on site or at the facilities, on history, architectural restoration and urban conservation practices.
 - b) Practical case studies field trips – The case study field trips included visits to important urban heritage sites. The seminars dealt with the sharing of local preservation practices and experiences, which were complemented with case studies on site.

Participants in the program included graduate students in architecture and connected fields, 62 in total from 10 countries: Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Macedonia, Kosovo, Albania, Montenegro, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Turkey and Kazakhstan. Among them, Albania is a member state and Bosnia and Herzegovina an observer state of OIC and IRCICA. The whole region comes under focus in the context of IRCICA’s various projects such as studies on history of Islamic civilization and Muslim cultures, multicultural coexistence and interactions, history of sciences and arts, as well as architectural heritage and its conservation.

Studies in history

Workshop on “Sheikh Moussa Kamara and his book *Zuhur al-Basatin*”

Dakar, 7 June 2014

An international workshop on “Sheikh Moussa Kamara and his book *Zuhur el-Basatin*” was coordinated by Sheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar, the Institut Fondamental d’Afrique Noire (IFAN) and IRCICA, in Dakar, on 7 June 2014. The specialists participating in the workshop highlighted aspects of the life and works of the Senegalese historian and anthropologist Moussa Kamara and their importance as sources. Sheikh Kamara (1863-1945) was a leading Muslim scholar of West Africa during the colonial period. The book *Zuhur al-Basatin fi tarih al-sawadin* (Flowers from Gardens of the History of the Blacks) authored during 1920-25 is a unique source on the history of Islam in Senegal region and its scholars in the 19th century. It is a voluminous book which reviews and records the ethnic and faith communities, the administrative units and territorial entities of West Africa during the said period. Based mostly on oral accounts, Kamara systematically brings together and analyzes records and biographies of social groups and individuals having played a role in shaping history. The work has been of particular interest for historians and anthropologists dealing with West Africa and the development of Islamic culture in the region. Sheikh Kamara has other well-known books, including *Tarikh al-Hajj Umar* concerning Umar Tall, a prominent Muslim scholar of the time; *Al-Majmu an-Nafis*, which is a valuable source on Moors and Fulani tribes, *Tanqiyat al-Afham* (Purification of ideas on the uncertainties of biases) about the origins of some tribal communities, *L’Islam et le Christianisme*, and *Condamnation de la Guerre Sainte* which tell about local peoples’ struggle against colonialism, among others.

The workshop was opened with addresses by Prof. Saliou Ndiaye, President of the University of Dakar; Mr. Mouhamadou Bassirou Kamara representing the Kamara family, Prof. Hamady Bocoum, Director General of IFAN; Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren, IRCICA Director General; and, Mr. Birane Niang, Deputy Minister of Culture of Senegal. There were two working sessions. Prof. Thierno Ka, Dr. Mohamed Said Ba, Dr. Temba Tewe and Dr. Abdoul Malal Diop in the first session and Dr. Papa Toumane Ndiaye, Prof. Khadim Mbacke, Dr. Temba Tewe and Dr. Soulaymane Gaye in the second session spoke on the life, cultural background and environment, study trips and works of Kamara, editions and translations of his works and publications about him. Recommendations were made with the aim of rendering Moussa Kamara’s works more readily accessible to world’s researchers. It was suggested that a research



Presentation of a plate bearing IRCICA’s motto: Prof. Saliou Ndiaye, President of the University of Dakar (middle); Prof. Hamady Bocoum, Director General of IFAN (R)



center be set up, an analytical edition and a French translation of *Zuhur el-Basatin* be published, laboratories be established at IFAN to restore manuscripts and train conservation specialists, among others. Dr. Halit Eren affirmed IRCICA’s readiness to extend its collaboration for these purposes.

International symposium on “Scientific Interactions and Higher Islamic Education in the Balkans” organized in cooperation with Istanbul University, Faculty of Theology

27-28 May 2014

IRCICA and the Faculty of Theology of Istanbul University jointly organized an international symposium on “Scientific Interactions and Higher Islamic Education in the Balkans”, which was held in Istanbul, on 27-28 May 2014. The symposium focused on the Balkan region considering the presence of OIC Member States (Albania, Turkey) and an Observer State (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and the existence of a remarkably large Islamic cultural and architectural heritage spread all over the region including non-member countries. Deans of faculties of theology in the Balkan countries, grand muftis and heads of state religious departments, and scholars from different disciplines attended in the symposium.

The opening was addressed by Prof. Murteza Bedir, Dean of the Faculty of Theology, Istanbul University, Assoc. Prof. Halit Eren, IRCICA Director General, Prof. Yunus Söylet, Rector of Istanbul University and Prof. Mehmet Görmez, President of Religious Affairs in Turkey.

A workshop held within the framework of the symposium discussed the situation of Islamic higher education and its problems in the Balkan countries. Three questions were taken up namely, “What are the fundamental problems of Islamic higher education in each country?”, “What should be done in order to improve higher Islamic education in each country?” and “What kind of cooperation can be established between the Balkan countries concerning Islamic higher education?” Government representatives briefed the audience on these questions.



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In the closing session, Dean Prof. Murteza Bedir, Prof. Ismet Busatlic from the University of Sarajevo and Mr. Vedat Sahiti from Kosovo Islamic Union, outlined the issues and observations in hand. All stressed the importance of cooperation between the divinity schools of the Balkan and Islamic countries.

Participation in the Sixth International Bolgar Forum, Tatarstan (Russian Federation) and cooperation with Kazan cultural institutions

14-15 August 2014

The Sixth International Bolgar Forum was held in Bolgar, Spassky District and in Kazan, Republic of Tatarstan, on 14-15 August 2014. In this sixth round the Forum was scheduled concomitantly with the Kazan 2014 Turkish World Cultural Capital program and given the theme “Historical and Cultural Heritage of the Turkic World”. Bolgar is a historical and archeological complex representing cultural and faith diversity. It was the land of the Volga Bulgars (7th-15th centuries) where Islam was officially adopted as state religion in the early tenth century. The complex, including its White Mosque, was re-opened for visits on the 1125th anniversary of the adoption of Islam by the Volga Bolgar State, on 12 June 2012.

The Sixth International Bolgar Forum was opened by H.E. Mr. Mintimer Shaimiev, State Advisor and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the National Fund “Revival”, Tatarstan. Mr. Shacimiev informed the audience of the cultural activities and archeological works carried out in Bolgar in order to highlight the significance of the site as a symbol of inter-cultural and inter-faith interactions. He mentioned in this respect the museum that was opened in Bolgar. Mr. Shaimiev expressed his pleasure that Bolgar was included in UNESCO’s World Heritage List.

Then, IRCICA Director General, who was invited to address the opening, said that having reached the sixth round with increased participation of scholars from different countries, the Bolgar Forum is one of the most eminent platforms for Turkic studies. He expressed his congratulations to all concerned, on Bolgar’s inclusion in UNESCO’s World Heritage List. Dr. Eren spoke of IRCICA’s activities in the area of history research and heritage preservation. He said that IRCICA’s activities realized in cooperation with governmental authorities and academic institutions of Tatarstan and of the Russian Federation including five congresses and several publications have highlighted the importance of the region in general and Kazan and Bolgar in particular with respect to international cultural history.



Presentation of IRCICA’s publication to Kul Sharif Mosque Museum facsimile edition and technical study of the copy of the Quran preserved at Topkapı Palace Museum and attributed to the time of Caliph Othman bin Affan

The opening was then addressed by Minister of Culture of Tatarstan Mr. Sibagatullin Airat Minnemullovich; the Head of Spassky municipal region Mr. Kamil Nutaev; the President of the Tatarstan Academy of Sciences Prof. Myakzum Salakhov, and other dignitaries.

The Forum’s second day sessions continued in Kazan. During the period of his participation in the Forum, IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren attended a function at the Reserve Museum of Kul Sharif Mosque in Kazan Kremlin which was organized on the occasion of his offering a copy of one of IRCICA’s most valuable publications: the reproduction (facsimile edition) and analytical technical study of the copy of the Holy Quran which is attributed to the time of Caliph Othman bin Affan and kept at Topkapı Palace Museum in Istanbul. An official function was held where Dr. Eren presented the book to Ms. Zilya Valeeva, Director of Kazan Kremlin, as a gift to the Museum.



Meetings, Cooperation

Director General's official visit to Tajikistan

IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren visited the capital Dushanbe at the invitation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan, from 4-7 May 2014. Dr. Eren gave two lectures at the Diplomacy Institute newly established at the Ministry. The first lecture highlighted the role that IRCICA, an international organization representing the Muslim world in cultural platforms, plays in global community. The second lecture focused on the preservation of cultural heritage and the role of international organizations, in particular IRCICA, in this area.



The extensive meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Aslov Sirodjin Muhridinovich focused on those activities of IRCICA that cover the history and cultures of the OIC's Central Asian Member States and in particular, the activities relating to or organized jointly with Tajikistan. Preparations for the congress on "Islamic Civilization in Central Asia" to be held in Dushanbe in May 2015 were discussed at length. The congress will be organized jointly by the Ministry of Education and Science of Tajikistan, the Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan affiliated with the Ministry, and IRCICA.

Dr. Eren also met with Mr. Saidov Nuriddin Saidovich, Minister of Education and Science whereby cultural and educational subjects intersecting with IRCICA's scope of activities were underlined. The objectives and themes of the forthcoming congress on "Islamic Civilization in Central Asia" to be held in 2015 were discussed and finalized.

During the meeting with Prof. Farhad Rahimov, President of the Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan, the themes and modalities of the forthcoming symposium were reviewed. The meeting was also an occasion to discuss possible ways of further expanding the academic cooperation in order to strengthen cultural affinities between Tajikistan and the other OIC Member States.

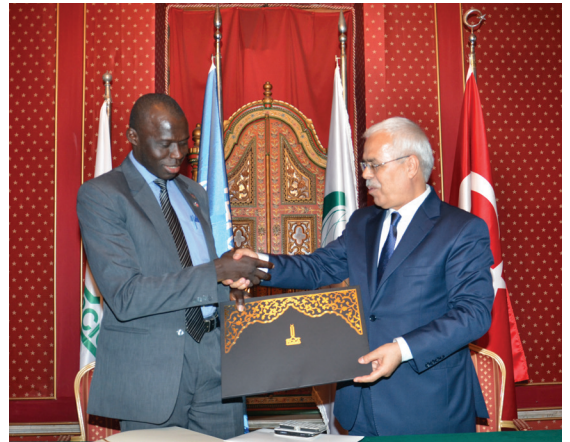
During the three-day visit Dr. Halit Eren also met with Mr. Abdurahim Kholiqov, Head of the State Committee for Religious Affairs of Tajikistan, and with Mufti Said Mukerrem Abdulkadirzade, Head of the Islamic Centre in the Republic of Tajikistan.



Meeting with Mr. Abdurahim Kholiqov, Head of the State Committee for Religious Affairs

Visit of H.E. Mr. Abdou Colley, Minister of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment of the Republic of The Gambia

H.E. Mr. Abdou Colley, Minister of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment of The Republic of Gambia visited IRCICA on 3 June 2014. IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren briefed the Minister on the cooperation ongoing between the Government of The Gambia and IRCICA in different areas. Joint activities in preparation include a congress on the history of Islamic civilization in West Africa and the “Banjul International Festival for Arts, Crafts and Creativity”. At the end of his visit, Minister Colley recorded his impressions in the Centre’s Visitors’ Book: “Many thanks to IRCICA for the good work in propagating Islam and preserving its heritage for posterity.”



Visit of Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs of Qatar H.E. Mr. Mohammed bin Abdullah Al-Rumaihi and a ministerial delegation to IRCICA

H.E. Mr. Mohammed bin Abdullah Al-Rumaihi, Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, accompanied by a delegation from the Ministry including Ambassador Dr. Hassan Ibrahim Khamees Al-Muhannadi, Vice-President of the Committee for the Alliance of Civilizations, and other high officials from the Qatari Ministry of Foreign Affairs visited the Centre on 29 May 2014. The meeting with Director General Dr. Halit Eren revolved around themes related to IRCICA’s areas of activities as well as cultural cooperation and dialogue issues. Dr. Eren guided the guests to different sections of the Centre’s premises and briefed them on the activities of IRCICA.



Visit of H.E. Mr. Saif Al-Shamsi, the Consul General of the State of United Arab Emirates in Istanbul

H.E. Mr. Saif Al-Shamsi, the Consul General of the State of United Arab Emirates in Istanbul, visited IRCICA on 25 August 2014. The Consul General was welcomed by Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, in his office. The meeting touched upon various topics related to the Muslim world’s cultural issues in general, and outcomes of recent activities of IRCICA in particular.



The mayor of Pendik, Istanbul, Dr. Salih Kenan Şahin visited IRCICA

Dr. Salih Kenan Şahin, Mayor of Pendik district of Istanbul, visited Dr. Halit Eren on 15 May 2014. The meeting aimed at furthering the preparations towards the “10th International Traditional Artists Gathering”, a joint event organized by IRCICA and the Municipality of Pendik in September. On this occasion Dr. Eren gave information to the mayor on the activities of IRCICA. Mayor Şahin wrote his impressions in the Visitors’ Book: “I thank God for having had the chance to witness the Centre’s important activities aimed at reviving and reconstructing the great Islamic civilization and the enthusiasm here. ...”



Visit of groups from Muslims’ associations in Australia

A 15-member group of Australian Muslims coordinated by the Islamic Council of Victoria (ICV), Australia, visited IRCICA on 15 May. The group included 5 community representatives and 10 imams – prayer leaders. They were visiting Turkey under the auspices of the Presidency of Religious Affairs of Turkey, within the framework of the Imams Study Tour, a pilot project initiative of the ICV. The ICV represents the more than 150 thousand-strong Muslim community of metropolitan Melbourne and rural Victoria. Later, on 23 May, a group of ten Australian



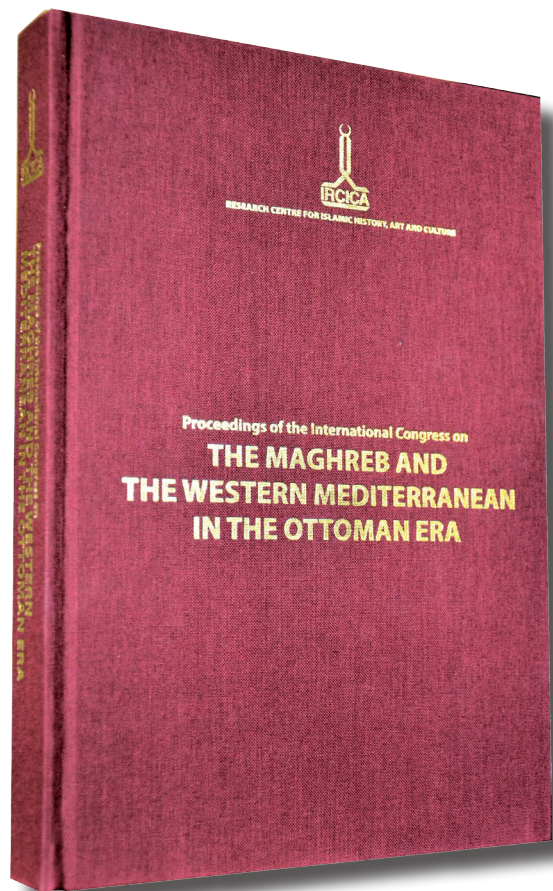
New Muslims visited IRCICA. This study visit was coordinated by the Presidency of Religious Affairs of Turkey in the context of a regular program. The groups visited the capital Ankara and major cities of Turkey; the members got information on social life, traditions, arts and culture, and educational establishments for higher Islamic studies. At IRCICA they were informed on the various research projects and the library’s collections.

IRCICA Publications

Proceedings of the International Congress on **The Maghreb and the Western Mediterranean in the Ottoman Era**

Rabat, Morocco, 12-14 November 2009, Sources and Studies on the History of Islamic Civilization
Series 27, IRCICA, Istanbul, 2013; 186, 227 p.; ill. 25 cm.

This book resulted from the congress which was organized jointly by the Royal Institute for the History of Morocco (IRRHM, Rabat) and IRCICA with the collaboration of the Faculty of Letters and Humanities, Mohammed V University, in Rabat. Its theme, with geographical focus on “The Maghreb and Western Mediterranean” and historical reference to the Ottoman period, brought into scope a multitude of issues of the sea and the land, travels and trade, political rivalries, economic competition, dynasties and legal systems. Relations between the states and societies around the Mediterranean, development of technology, arts and culture, and the external and the internal factors always at play in this zone of crossings, all came into the analysis. Thus the congress covered a wide range of subjects. The session theme “Discovering The Other” was addressed with studies on geographers and travelers with regard to how peoples of the Maghreb and the Ottoman world came to know each other through these sources. Among the texts studied were the works of illustrious Ottoman scientists-geographers such as Piri Reis and Katip Çelebi about Morocco and the writings emanating from Moroccan ambassadorial missions and Moroccan travelers about Ottoman lands. Two sessions were devoted to the theme “Maghrebians and Ottomans”, dealing with a wide gamut of cases of unity and conflict, cooperation and competition, perception and treatment. Another session was devoted to the theme of economy and architecture, with references to European trade in the region, Ottoman legislation on trade, infrastructural developments and mutual influences between Ottoman and Maghrebian architectural styles and elements. The session on “Western Mediterranean between Confrontation and Communication” addressed several specific subjects, including navies, slavery, and pilgrimage routes, while the session titled “Between Localism and Centralism” discussed challenging topics in the context of relations between the Ottoman State and the regions then falling within and outside its realm. As to



the theme “Maghreb in World History”, it highlighted diverse cases and channels of diplomatic relations within the region placing them in the context of the surrounding world historical situations. The papers are presented in this volume in their original languages – in Arabic, English, French or Turkish.

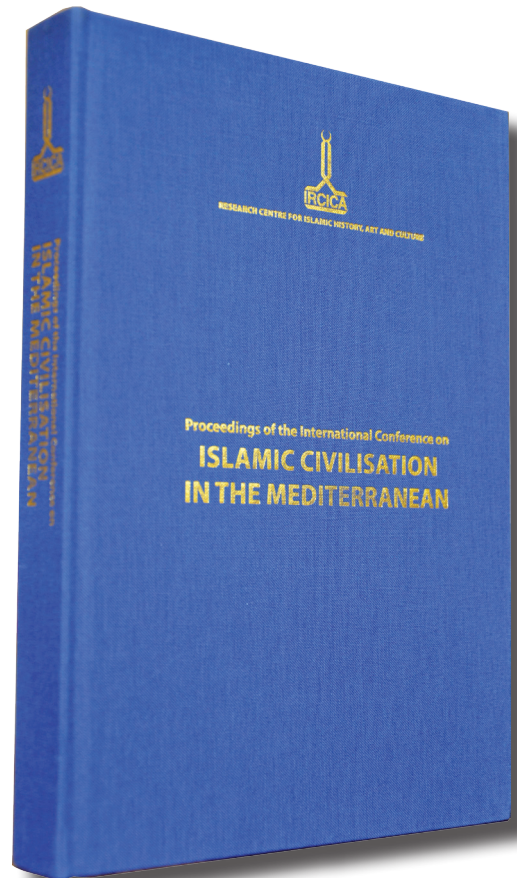
IRCICA Publications

Proceedings of the International Congress on Islamic Civilization in the Mediterranean

Nicosia, 1-4 December 2010, Preface: Halit Eren, Sources and Studies on the History of Islamic Civilization Series 28, IRCICA, Istanbul, 2013, 262+194 p.; ill., 25 cm.

A congress was organized jointly by IRCICA and Near East University, Nicosia (Northern Cyprus), on the theme “Islamic Civilization around the Mediterranean”, in December 2010. Papers contributed by scholars and researchers from all continents around the Mediterranean glimpsed at life in the region at different time periods with focuses on Muslims’ presence and participation in the various processes including the development of cities, art and architecture, science and education, governance and administrative practices.

Islam, unlike Christianity and Judaism, was not born in the vicinity of the Mediterranean but reached it by mid-7th century. Then within its first century Islam spread in the southern, eastern and western shores of the Mediterranean Sea. In later centuries, commercial and cultural exchanges between Muslims on one hand and Europeans on the other grew uninterruptedly, at times of conflict (such as the Crusades) as well as of peace. This contributed to enriching the cultural diversities of the civilizations that evolved around the Mediterranean. The bouquet of good quality studies contained in the book reflects the scope and depth of this multicultural legacy and its Islamic component that is diffused throughout the region.



Haremeyn. Makka al-Mukarrama and al-Madina al-Munawwara in photographs from the Ottoman period selected from the albums of Sultan Abdulhamid II and the collection of Fahreddin Pasha (Türkkan)

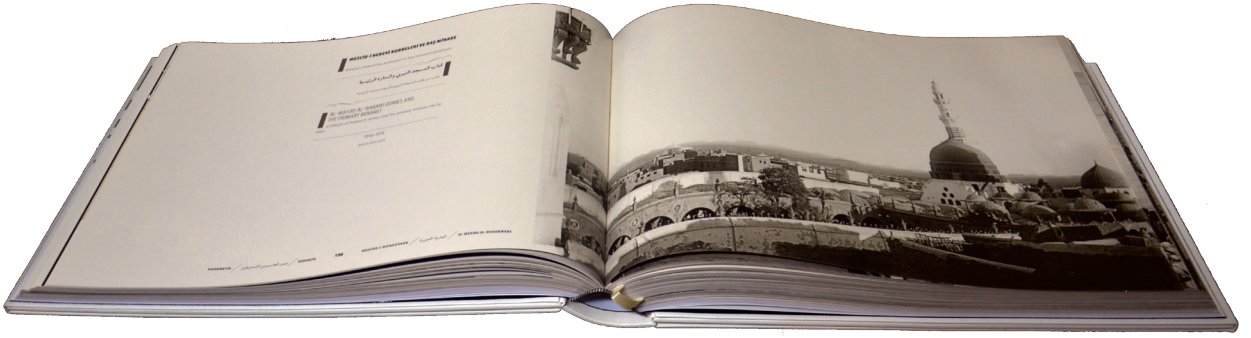
prepared by Halit Eren and Salih Sadawi, Foreword by Abdullah Gül, prologue by Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu,
Series of historical photograph albums 8, IRCICA; Istanbul, 592 p., 37x46 cm., illustrations, maps, plans
(Turkish, English, Arabic)

This major publication by IRCICA contains reproductions of historical photographs of Makka and Madina selected from the archives of IRCICA accompanied by a history of the Muslims' devotion and services rendered to these holy lands of Islam. Within the Islamic understanding, the locations that are considered to be more virtuous and sacred spiritually than any other in the world and are landmarks in humanity's sphere of faith and worship, are the Ka'ba (Masjid al-Haram) in Makka al-Mukarrama, al-Masjid al-Nabawi in al-Madina al-Munawwara and al-Masjid al-Aqsa in al-Quds. For this reason, Makka, Madina and al-Quds have a special place in the hearts of the Muslims. Makka and Madina among them are specifically safeguarded by the Islamic jurisprudence and considered to be "harem" (sacred territory) and are called "Haramayn" or "haremân" meaning two sacred territories. These sacred places where the Holy Qur'an was revealed are the originating points of the Islamic faith, its history and civilization and the locations that Prophet Muhammed (pbuh) spent his worldly days; they have maintained and will continue to maintain their importance as sources of knowledge and inspiration, places of worship and visit as well as valuable heritage assets of Islamic civilization.



The book's album section containing the photographs is divided into four parts, devoted, respectively, to photographs of Makka, Madina, the Surra (the caravan carrying gifts and





The book prepared by the IRCICA team has been published under the patronage of H.E. Abdullah Gül, President of the Republic of Turkey who also wrote the Foreword. It has a prologue by Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the OIC. The Introduction by Dr. Halit Eren reviews the services rendered to the holy places by rulers of the Muslim states succeeding each other, with an emphasis on the Ottoman period. These services include: repairs, restorations, constructions conducted in the Holy Ka'ba and other sacred places in Makka, the Prophet's Mosque and other sacred locations in Madina, land development, services and arrangements relating to the Hajj – Muslims' pilgrimage, the Surra welfare assistance provided and endowments dedicated to the holy cities and their peoples, among many others.

The introductory parts and the photographs' annotations are in Turkish, English and Arabic. The photographs contained in the album date from the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century. Altogether the book documents all salient aspects of the history of Makka and Madina, with special reference to the delicate period of this history corresponding to about the last forty decades of the Ottoman State.

money to Makka from the Ottoman Sultans annually), and miscellaneous photographs (adjacent cities, economic and social activities, personalities, etc.)



٩ مجلدینہ شمارہ ہوا

٨ قسمنہ شمارہ ہوا

٧ کاتبینہ شمارہ ہوا

مَنَائِمُ مَنَوْرَاتِ مَدِينَةِ مَكَّةَ

٦ خالد بن برمك عنون

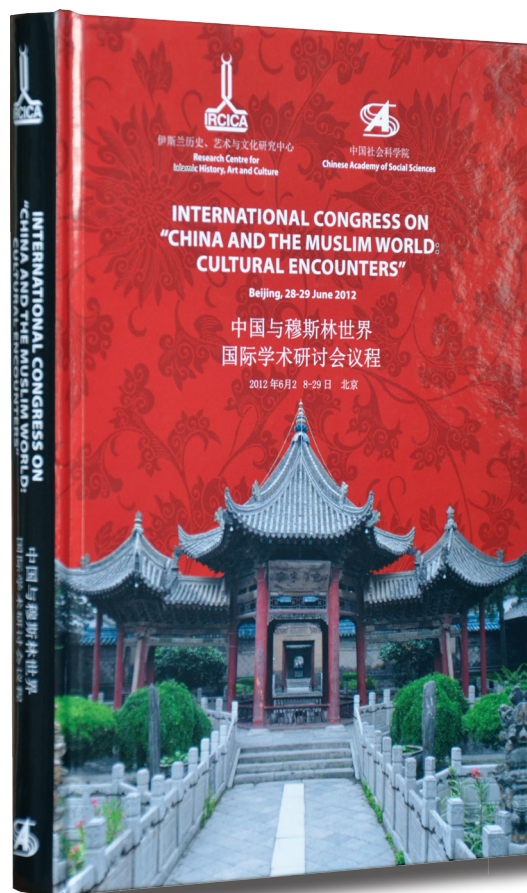
٥ قسطنطنیہ شاکرنا ہوا

International Congress on “China and the Muslim World: Cultural Encounters” Beijing, 28-29 June 2012

IRCICA and Chinese Academy of Sciences, Istanbul, 2014, 462 pp.
(in English and Chinese)

The congress on “China and the Muslim World: Cultural Encounters” was organized jointly by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS, Beijing) and IRCICA. It was the first congress on the subject, aiming to launch an exploration of the long and rich history of cultural contacts and exchanges between two great civilizations, the Chinese and the Islamic. It was understood that in addition to its scholarly importance, exploration of the theme would help to further strengthen the existing relations between China and the Muslim world in trade, investment, tourism and cultural sectors. The opening session was addressed by the Chinese Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Zhai Jun. It had high-quality scholarly sessions. Valuable research papers dealt with diverse and often multidisciplinary topics. Thus an important set of studies carrying new information and new analyses were contributed to the existing scholarly literature. The congress also generated research findings concerning the ways and channels of exchanges and their trends in different contexts. These include interactions in philosophy and science through translations of works, reciprocally; mutual influences in arts and architecture; travels and missions for diplomatic, trade, educational and other motives, among many others. In addition to the treatment of historical topics, another important contribution of the congress was a discussion on present cultural relations and future perspectives. The inaugural and the closing sessions recorded observations and recommendations of academic and practical relevance. It was recommended among others that the congress be given a periodical character.

The book begins with the texts of the opening speeches. Then 25 articles, either in English or in Chinese with English abstracts, are grouped under headings corresponding to the congress’ session themes: “Historical Processes of Relations between China and the Muslim World”, “Communication and



Interactions on Art”, “Cultural Interactions through Literature and Language”, “Cultural Encounters in Science, Religion and Thought”, “Relations between Modern China and the Muslim World”, “China and the Muslim World in Global Context”.

IRCICA Publications

IRCICA Journal. A Journal on Islamic History and Civilization *Volume I, Issue 2, Fall 2013*

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

The journal touches all fields of Islamic studies including history of culture, art, science, philosophy, literature, traditional handicrafts and archaeology. It welcomes previously unpublished manuscripts on topics relating to different regions within and outside the Muslim world including the Balkans, Caucasus, Central Asia, the Middle East, North and Sub-Saharan Africa, South and Southeast Asia. It is expected to serve the needs of researchers in the fields of history, cultural studies, sociology, architecture, international relations and anthropology, among others.

A list of the contents of Volume I in its Spring and Fall issues is given below.

Vol. I, Spring 2013

Articles in English:

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

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

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

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

Articles in Arabic:

The Issue of Orthography in the Manuscripts of the Qur'an, by Tayyar Altikulaç (former President of Directorate of Religious Affairs and former Member of Parliament, Turkey)

Higher Education Institutions in the Eastern Arab Provinces of the Ottoman Empire in the Light of Ottoman Documents, by Fazil Bayat (IRCICA)



Vol. I, Fall 2013

Articles in English:

Incorporating the Maghrib as an Axis in World History, by Gavin D. Brockett (Wilfrid Laurier University, Department of History and Coordinator of Muslim Studies, Ontario, Canada)

“Al-Andalus” and Recovering the Cultural Legacy of the Moorish Presence in the Iberian Peninsula, by José Tomaz Castello Branco (Department of Political Studies, Catholic University of Portugal, Lisbon)

East Encounters West: French Merchants and Islamic Law in the Ottoman Mediterranean (Late-Sixteenth and Early-Seventeenth Centuries), by Viorel Panaite (Department of Islamic and Ottoman History, The University of Bucharest, Romania)

Articles in Arabic:

Contributions of Women to Charitable Waqfs during the Rasulid State in Yemen (616-858 AH/1228-1454), by Muhammed Arnaoud (World Islamic Science and Education University, WISE, Amman, Jordan)

The Abuse of the Idea of Islamic Caliphate by Britain in India in the 19th Century, by Asma Muhaibil (Algiers University-II, Algeria)

