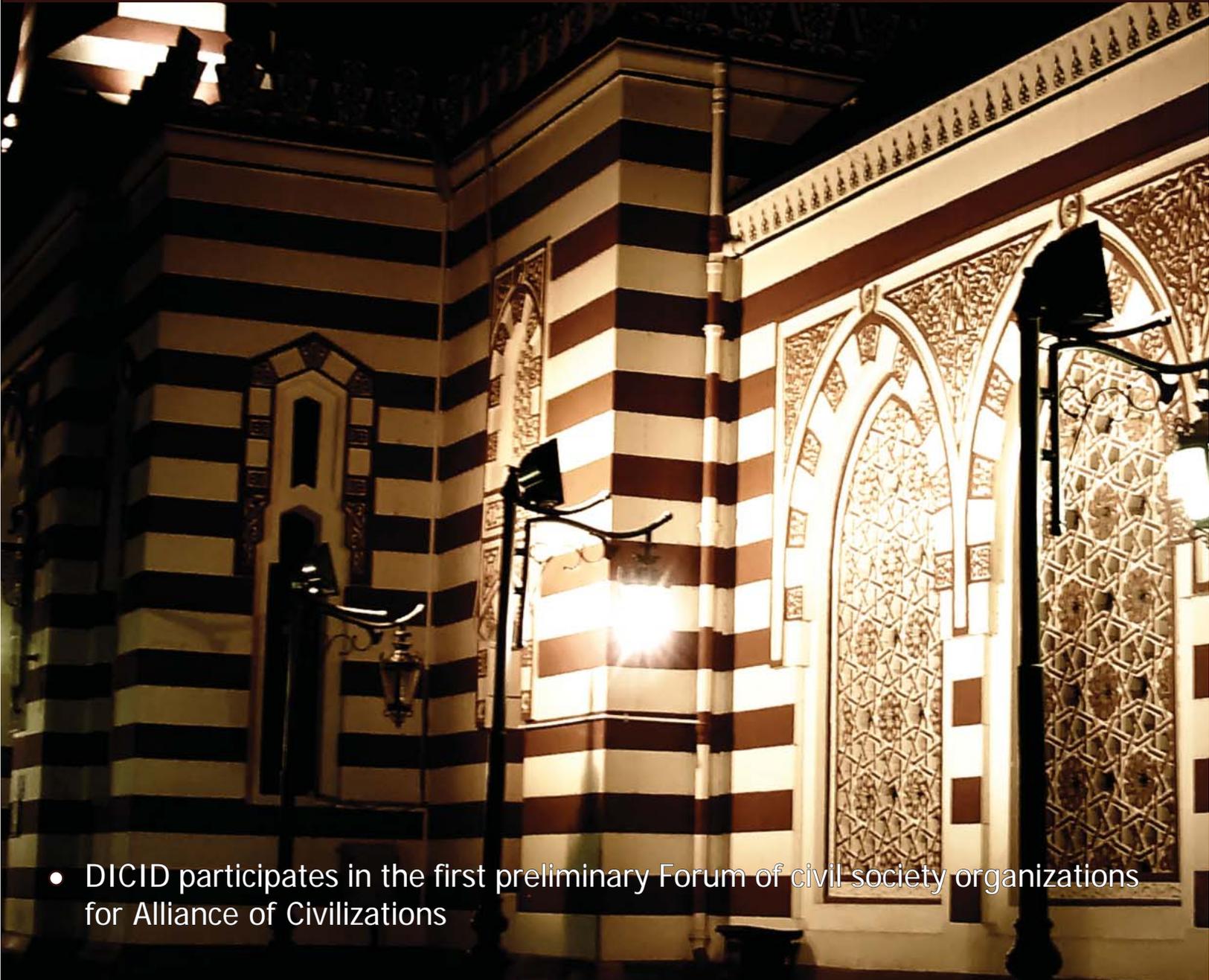




PERIODICAL NEWSLETTER **DICID**

Doha International Center For Interfaith Dialogue ISSUE 6, SUMMER AUTUMN 2011

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- DICID participates in the first preliminary Forum of civil society organizations for Alliance of Civilizations
 - DICID holds an international conference in Morocco on “the role of religions to foster the values of knowledge: reality and expectations”
 - DICID Participates at 10th Annual Building Bridges Seminar organized by Georgetown University



*Doha
International
Center for
Interfaith Dialogue*



Dear Readers

Welcome to the sixth issue of our periodical newsletter DICID. In this issue we will address the most important activities carried out by the Centre in the past months. The Center expanded its work now containing many different activities related to the dialogue. In this issue you will find out more about our conference in Morocco, which was entitled: "The role of religions in promoting the values of knowledge .. reality and expectations". You can also read about our participation in the seminar "Building Bridges" that was organized by Georgetown University in Qatar last May.

Do not miss reading the report on the third student educational trip supported by Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue.

Finally you can find out more about the content of the RELIGIONS magazine, and the topics which will be discussed during the 9th Doha vInterfaith Conference.

Hamdi Blekich
Head of Public Relations - DICID

Our Mission

We strive for constructive dialogue between followers of different faiths towards better understanding and harnessing of distinct religious principles and teachings to the benefit of all humanity, on the basis of mutual respect and acknowledgement of differences and through cooperation with related individuals and organizations.

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ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS

DICID participates in the first preliminary Forum of civil society organizations for Alliance of Civilizations (May, 2011)

Dr. Ibrahim Al-Naimi, the DICID's Chairman, took part in the activities of the first preliminary Forum of civil society organizations of Alliance of Civilizations, held last May in Doha.

This Forum is the first major event in the context of preparations for the Fourth Annual Conference of Alliance of Civilizations to be held in Doha in December 2011.

Qatar began to get ready by facilitating all possible ways to make successful the Fourth Conference of Alliance of Civilizations, through harnessing all the potentials in cooperation with all relevant areas of alliance of civilizations, especially the Secretariat of the United Nations for Alliance of Civilizations, to make the fourth Conference a turning point in realization of the objectives of Alliance of Civilizations and promotion of its course, and a new launch to foster what has been achieved, and consolidate the noble goals of the Alliance, especially in the realization of the desired integration and interdependence between the Alliance's objectives and the Millennium's Developmental Goals. Dr. Ibrahim Al-Naimi, DICID'S Chairman, attended the opening of the Forum and met with many of the participants and representatives of the dialogue-supporting institutions of Western countries, where they discussed ways of cooperation between the Centre and the relevant institutions.

DICID will take part in the Fourth Forum of Alliance of Civilizations to be held in December 2011, Allah willing, in the Qatari capital of Doha.





An international conference in Morocco on “the role of religions to foster the values of knowledge: reality and expectations” organized by the Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue (May, 2011)

The city of Kenitra, north of the Moroccan capital of Rabat, has witnessed the conclusion of the events of an international conference on “the role of religions to foster the values of knowledge: reality and expectations”, attended by a selected group of religious scholars and scientists from Morocco and Arab and foreign countries, and organized by DICID, in partnership with the Lab of Linguistics, Creativity and New Media, along with a number of professors and concerned parties, Moroccans and foreigners. During scientific sessions, it engaged in the study of the focal points of “the relationship between religious and scientific knowledge”, “the role of religions in fostering knowledge”, and “Religion and the values of knowledge and civil society” and “exploring the future of knowledge on the light of scientific and religious discourses”. The members of the DICID board, Dr. Yusuf Al-Sidiqqi and Dr. Hassan Al-Sayed actively participated in this event.

The aim of the two-day conference was to activate the role of religions to foster the values of knowledge, integrate it into the programs of education, guidance and civil society, and support the efforts of Arab, Islamic and international countries, organizations and corporations to foster the values of knowledge, contribute to create a dialogue between religions, cultures and civilizations, and exchange visions and experiences on the integrated relationships between religion and science.

The participants discussed the exchange of visions and experiences on the integrated relationships between religion and science, and rooting the knowledge to cover the dimensions of interrelation between humankind and experimental sciences.

Recommendations of the International Conference on the light of the role of religions to foster the values of knowledge: reality and expectations.

The Conference affirmed that:

1. humankind need to consider religion as a motive for learning, and a power for cultural activation of human phases and society systems
2. The call to recognize the other through objective unprejudiced educational and scientific methods
3. The call to activate the culture of shared positive coexistence with the other rather than the tendency of exclusion, confrontation and conflict
4. the need to correct the distorted stereotypes about religions, and include, in the new media, the priorities of future work in the field of religious, cultural and civilizational mutual recognition
5. to work, through future events in the area of interfaith dialogue, on the value system of religions as the basis for their dialogue properties
6. the need to unify Muslims' efforts through the activation of their institutions in service of cultural advancement of our societies
7. to support such strategic projects as to develop religious education, integrate the values of knowledge in the curricula, and adopt the theory of integration of knowledge sources and the integration of revelation and reason
8. to give care to Arabic because it is the primary medium of communication and fostering the values of knowledge
9. The call to found laboratories and university research units interested in comparative religion, Oriental Studies and intercultural dialogue as a vital area for future studies in Islamic thought
10. To think about coordination between the various national and international research centers in order to monitor trends of ideas and religious values in our world. In this context, the Study and Research Center of Human and Social Sciences announced its willingness to participate in this project: to discuss the idea of establishing a Research Centre and Observatory for intercultural dialogue and future studies, in partnership with the Universities of Ibn Tufail in Kenitra and Fateh in Istanbul, Turkey.



DICID Participates at 10th Annual Building Bridges Seminar organized by Georgetown University (May, 2011)

The Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Doha (SFS-Qatar), launched the activities of the tenth (building bridges) annual Seminar, which brought together a range of Muslim and Christian scholars inter-

nationally recognized, to discuss issues at the heart of the two traditions. The discussion centered on the importance of prayer in the religions and the need of the believers to maintain its performance. The Forum, convened by Rowan Williams, the Archbishop of Canterbury, in partnership with SFS-Qatar, was attended by a number of dignitaries. The opening session was attended also by His Excellency the British Ambassador to Qatar.

Dr. Mehran Kamrava, interim dean of SFS-Qatar, emphasized that this seminar is an efficient initiative in support of relationships between Muslims and Christians, Georgetown is eager to support as a part of our efforts to promote dialogue and understanding between religions. He said that Georgetown University, as one of the most important academic institutions in the Qatari energetic multi-national society, recognize the importance of continuous cooperation and dialogue, and welcome the building bridges Forum, and its attending scholars.

To purify the believer's heart

On the other hand, Dr. A'isha Al-Mana'i, Dean of the Faculty of Sharia, Qatar University, welcomed the distinguished scholars from both communities, and stressed that prayer is an essential support and pillar in the religions, which strengthens the relationship between Allah Almighty and the slave, noting that during the prayer, supplication is favorable, where the believer becomes more humble and submissive to Allah. Dr. Al-Mana'i added that prayer needs ablution, purification and body movements, each accompanied by supplication; and the prayer may be performed by the believer individually, or congregationally in the mosque.

Dr. Al-Mana'i assured that the supreme goal of prayer lies in the believer's submissiveness and humbleness to Allah Almighty, as it always reminds the Muslims of the fact that they are creatures of Allah Almighty, and will, inevitably, return to the Creator, pointing in the same context that the prayer is a spiritual connection with Allah, and provides the believer with tranquility, peace and calmness, since it is a spiritual as well as a psychological power. She said that all Messengers and prophets called to prayer and without it the Islamic religion will not be complete. She placed a stress on the importance of spiritual link between Allah Almighty and the believer through prayer, and affirmed that Allah hears the believer's private talk with Him in prayer to which He responds. It gives the believer the sense that everything coming from Allah Almighty is good regardless of how it may otherwise seem. She stressed the importance of supplication in prayer, showing that it is always ready to be answered.

Cross-fertilization of religions

During the opening session of the seminar, Bishop Michael Lewis, of Diocese of Cyprus and Gulf, spoke, affirming the importance of this forum as it brings together religious leaders from both communities, and laid stress on the importance of prayer in the life of the believer, and said, "We are pleased with this meeting between religious leaders of Christians and Muslims to discuss the main issues relating to faith." The bishop also acknowledged the great hospitality he received from His Highness the Emir, may Allah protect him. He also talked about tolerance among all Christian sects, and said, "We have surpassed all differences. We also strive for convergence between Muslims and Christians."

To strengthen the links

On the other hand, Dr. Ibrahim Al-Naimi, DICID's chairman, clarified that this Forum confirms the good relationship between the bishops and Muslim scholars. He said: "however, Qatar, through DICID, was able to be a center of convergence between religions, and enhance the links between all communities to live in peace and love." He said, "That center was the fruit of Qatar's support for interfaith dialogue as well as the international community." He added, "We look forward to further strengthening ties between religions."

Dr. Al-Naimi, in his talk, also stressed the importance of prayer in the life of the believer. He said, "It takes the believer out of his own place and time to another time, full of spirituality and faith." He added: "The prayer deprives the believer of his worldly identity and restores him to his spiritual identity, where he transcends all requirements of daily life and learns wisdom and patience."

Cohesion between religions

The opening session of the Forum was concluded with a speech by Rowan Williams, the Archbishop of Canterbury, in which he stressed the importance of interrelation and cohesion between Divine religions. He said that prayer is the key of the believer which strengthens his relationship with his Lord. He stressed that Doha exerts much efforts to promote interfaith dialogue, and praised the kind invitation offered by His Highness the Emir, may Allah protect him, to the men of religion to hold this forum, turning to the Building Bridges Project and the prominent role played by Qatar for the success of the project.

It is worth mentioning that Georgetown University in Qatar hosts this event for the second time in Doha, whereas the Building Bridges Forum was previously held for the first time at a kind invitation of His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of Qatar in 2003.

The 35 participants for this year included: Dr. Dean Mohammed, a professor at the Faculty of Sharia and Islamic Studies at Qatar University; Dr. Hamid Al-Marwani, a DICID board member; and Dr. Mohamed Khalifa Hassan, a professor at the Faculty of Islamic Studies at Qatar Foundation and the Faculty of Sharia and Islamic Studies at Qatar University.

As in previous editions of the Bridge-Building Forum, the participating scholars in the tenth edition used a number of texts of the Islamic and Christian heritage as a basis for discussion and dialogue within a program including public lectures and private sessions. The topics of the public lectures to be held in the Georgetown University's auditorium in the Education City, included: "the theology of prayer", "the prayer in practice", and "reciprocal perceptions. Every discussion included a pair of scholars, a Muslim and a Christian.



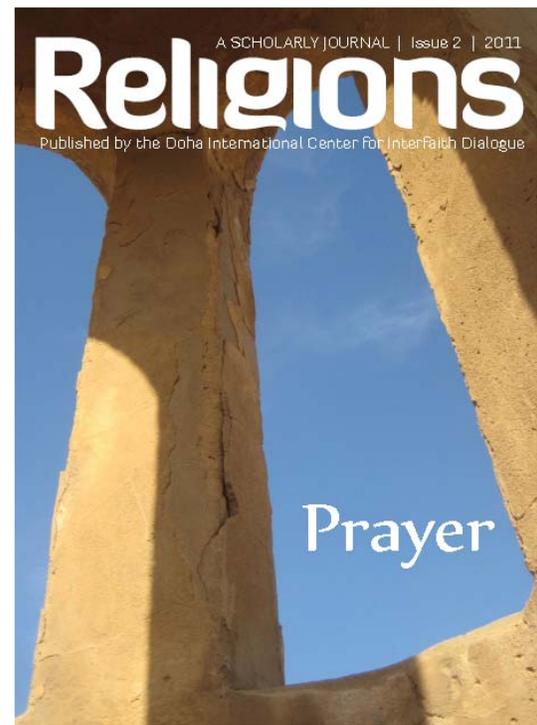
Welcome to Our new Issue of Religions

It is widely recognized in religious worlds that nothing can be deemed as spiritually necessary as prayer in all its forms, from the most outward to the innermost, since among all possible actions none engages as direct a communication with the Divine. Furthermore, no aspect of life distinguishes religion more clearly from any other human endeavor or ways of being as prayer, simply because it is, among all human acts, the only one that uncompromisingly presupposes and affirms transcendence, while works of charity, service, learning, and others do not necessarily do so.

In monotheistic traditions, prayer defines the essence of the human condition because man was created to worship God. Christian teachings tell us that mankind was created "to know, love, and serve God," and how could this be achieved better than through prayer, which is both a gift of oneself to God in service and love, and a knowledge of his Reality through and in this gift? That prayer may be considered as a mode of knowledge may come as a surprise to many of us today who have been conditioned to limit knowledge to matters of the mind, thereby ignoring the deep connection of prayer with knowledge by assimilation and identification. We may also tend to forget that prayer is ultimately service—a point that is often overlooked by a world engrossed with outer actions—because the best way to serve God is to give oneself to Him through prayer, and to discover, as a result of this gift, the specific modes in which we may best become of service to Him and to our fellow humans.

It should therefore be evident that there is no spiritual tradition that does not place a strong emphasis on prayer as a central connection between the human and the Divine. This holds true whether the forms of this connection may derive from revelation and tradition or be the spontaneous expressions of our personal needs, whether they be individual or congregational, silent or celebratory. The essays included in this issue explore the various dimensions and facets of this most central aspect of religions that is prayer.

Dr. Patrick Laude
Editor-in-Chief



In this issue, you can read:

"Ora et labora: seeking a reason for dialogue", **Dr. Jane Dammen McAuliffe**

"The Metaphoric Ascent of Prayer: Prayer as Ritual and Intimacy with God", **Dr. John Herlihy**

"The Yoga of Hesychasm", **Dr. James S. Cutsinger**

"Prayer made the Difference': Reflections on the Power of Prayer in African Christianity", **Dr. Akintunde E. Akinade**

"The Rule of God", **Dr. Philip Zaleski**

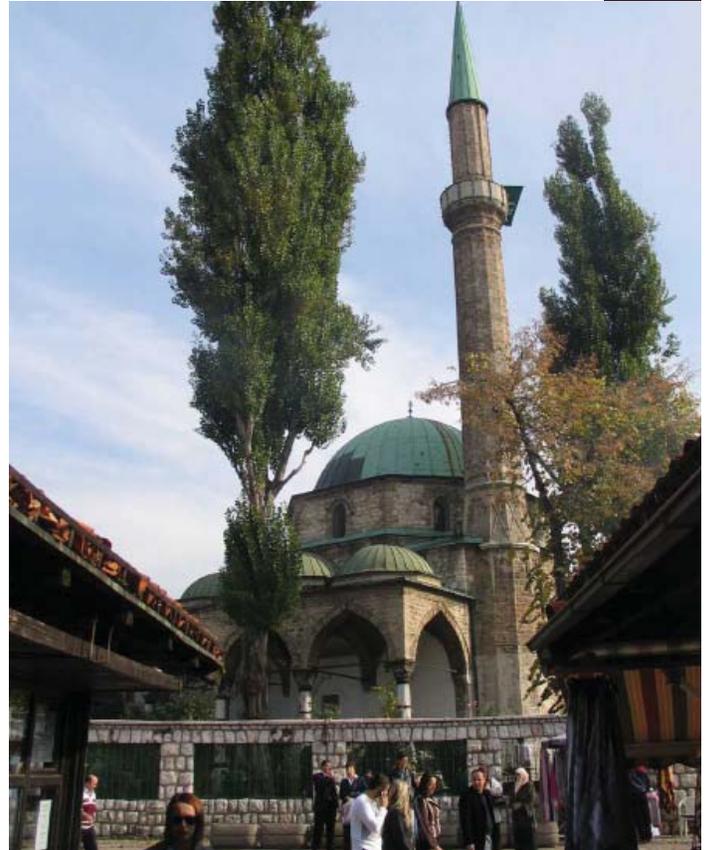
"Morning Prayer as Another Way of Knowing the World", **Dr. Peter Ochs**

"Language and Prayer within Judaism, Christianity and Islam", **Dr. Ori Z Soltes**

In cooperation with the University of Sarajevo, DICID to organize the first conference of interfaith dialogue in eastern Europe next April

Dr. Ibrahim Al-Naimi, the DICID Chairman, disclosed in an exclusive interview with Al-Sharq, that the center will organize the first conference of interfaith dialogue in Eastern Europe in April of 2012 in Bosnia, in collaboration with the University of Sarajevo. Professor Al-Naimi noted that all the countries of Eastern Europe will be invited to the conference, which will be accompanied with shared student programs to train students in dialogue, pointing out that the conference and programs to be implemented aim to build bridges of communication between DICID and the Balkan and Eastern Europe countries.

Dr. Al-Naimi emphasized that he signed a Memorandum of Understanding between DICID and the University of Sarajevo during the visit of the center's delegation to Bosnia, pointing out that the memo aims to implement such activities in the field of interfaith dialogue, as holding conferences, seminars, workshops and shared research and exchange of visits and experiences in the field of interfaith dialogue between the center and the university. Dr. Al-Naimi told that the DICID's delegation was able to visit most of the institutions and authorities which support interfaith dialogue in Bosnia. The interview mentioned a visit to Mustafa Ceric, Mufti of Bosnia, and a meeting with the Council of Religions, which includes representatives of Islamic, Christian and Jewish religions. At the same time, he noted that the visit included meetings with the faculties of Islamic studies and theology at the University of Sarajevo.



Positive echoes

Dr. Al-Naimi highlighted the positive echoes of the visit of the center's delegation to Bosnia, and the willingness of Bosnian side for cooperation with the Centre, pointing, meanwhile, that the center has made a thorough explanation of the activities supported by manuals and publications of the center, and has also listened to the Bosnian view about interfaith dialogue, putting in consideration that the region has just come out of a devastating war which destroyed the bridges of connection and trust between the followers of all religions. The center has felt it is of great importance to establish relationships with the Balkans in order to build bridges of connection between followers of religions, and help Bosnians come out of the dark tunnel because of the war that broke out there many years ago.

Dr. Al-Naimi also stressed that everyone agrees on the necessity to overcome obstacles and rather engage in the dialogue that will ultimately lead to peaceful coexistence between the followers of religions, revealing the sense of everyone there that the war which broke up has affected the relationships between the followers of different religions, pointing out the firm desire of Bosnians for the existence of external institutions, provided that they be sincere and impartial, and have no hidden agendas.

Qatar's supportive stand

Dr. Al-Naimi said that during their visit to Bosnia, he has touched upon the situation of Qatar which support the Islamic peoples, pointing out the great satisfaction they all had with the center's visit to Bosnia, noting that the visit revealed the great comfort with the impartial situations of Qatar towards friends, highlighting, at the same time, the enthusiasm of Bosnia to visit the Center and build bridges of connection with the people of Qatar.

Dr. Al-Naimi assured that the visit to Bosnia is a part of plans for the center to open up to the centers of dialogue in the world, noting that DICID has organized a number of visits to several centers of interfaith dialogue in the world, including visits to the U.S., Europe, the Indian sub-continent and many Arab countries, in addition to a number of seminars and conferences at home and abroad, including a conference with the Union of Muslim Scholars in India, suggesting that the visit to Bosnia comes in the context of the center's ambitious plans to cover other areas in the world, seeing that the area of the Balkans is in a dire need for dialogue, and the dialogue in the region is necessary, because of its multi-ethnic and religious nature, and the devastating war it has witnessed, with its effects still visible.

Further cooperation

Dr. Al-Naimi said that the cooperation between the Center and the University of Sarajevo in Bosnia will open the way for further cooperation and enrich the inter- religious dialogue in Bosnia, noting that the University is one of the most ancient universities in the region and has diverse communities from all religions and ethnicities. Besides, the university includes the Faculty of Islamic and Christian Studies, noting that the activities of the Centre will extend from Bosnia to include all the Balkans.

Dr. Al-Naimi also called on charities and individuals to support the Bosnian people in all fields in general, and the areas of education and health in particular, and said: "Bosnian people adhere to the Islamic teachings and always look forward to the visits of the Arab brothers", pointing out that the support can be done by means of visits, stressing that the visit of the DICID'S delegation to Bosnia has opened broad prospects for close cooperation between Bosnia and Qatar.



Language trip to Canada for 73 students organized by the Centre (June-July, 2011)

Seventy-three female students from Qatar University took part in a trip to Canada in order to strengthen their English and French skills, in collaboration with the Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue (DICID), under the supervision of Dr. Hamid Al-Marwani, a DICID board member, and a member of the Faculty of Sharia at Qatar University.

The aim of the trip was to develop the students' skills and methods of dialogue through positive interaction with different cultures, get benefit from experiences of others and convergence of cultures and interfaith dialogue, identify different cultures, obtain the spirit of dialogue through meeting with representatives from Canadian society; as well as to contribute in giving the Western society a true and correct image about Islam and Arabs in general, and Gulf women in particular, and also to get trained to achieve the religious coexistence, cultural interaction and intellectual communication, and acquire scientific knowledge in various fields.

The program included a number of dialogue meetings on the mechanisms of cultural communication, and presentation of Arab and Islamic civilization. The daily program was as long as 11 hours, being divided into three main sections: educational, recreational and cultural. In this way, it included intensive workshops in English and French, to support the foreign language of students.

The trip included a number of different workshops and lectures, which the students enjoyed to participate in. They also organized the Cultural Qatari Night. The aim was to introduce features of the heritage and civilization, and overall progress in the State of Qatar. It began with a number of cultural and artistic events on the history of Qatar. The students prepared a number of examples on old and new Qatar, and Qatar in the future, in addition to henna, painting, and popular dishes.

The trip has gained considerable media attention in the Canadian media, where Qatar's Ambassador to Canada HE Mr. Salem Mubarak Al Shafi, held a grand reception in honor of the female students attended by President of Canadian Senate, former deputy Prime Minister of Canada and a number of members of the Canadian Senate and House of Representatives, officials and professors from Canadian universities in Ottawa, and officials in education in Canada, in addition to a number of Arab ambassadors to Canada.





“Social Media and Inter-Religious Dialogue: A New Relationship”; Topic of the 9th Doha Interfaith Conference

No one was expecting a young fruit seller, to spark a political revolution in Tunisia and many Arab countries. But when a policewoman, in a forgotten province (Sidi Bouzid), prevented Mohammed Bouazizi from the exercise of his work, this action prompted him to set fire to his body, which led to a flood of twittering, blogging, and Facebook messages spreading the details of that incident in various parts of the world.

In addition to the popular revolution that took place in Tunisia, Egypt and elsewhere in North Africa and the Middle East, there is a revolution of another kind emerging in the modern electronic media used by young demonstrators and activists of social media networks who disseminated information at an unprecedented speed. The citizens and reporters using these tools transmitted the events moment by moment causing a radical change in the electronic media.

This is one aspect of the effects of this new technology, but its role is not limited to this alone.

There are many questions that can be raised. With the spread of the Internet at the level of personal use in various parts of the world, has the time come for a new kind of globalization? And is this generation, who grew up in front of television channels, that show the whole world, and in front of computers connected to the Internet, able to bypass the physical and psychological barriers between cultures and peoples? The challenge today is: How can we harness this communication technology to enhance dialogue?

What is clear from the success stories is that there is great potential to use the Internet to foster dialogue if goals are well-defined and if the tools are chosen carefully. Flexibility and the willingness to experiment are also key factors.

Observers noted that racism among this “Electronic” generation compared to previous generations, is growing steadily. We can foresee the causes of political and economic upsurge of racism and the return of narrow senses of conflicts of belonging. But, it has been assumed that the “communications revolution” is enough to eliminate all these barriers? Did not the Revolution become an ally of some economic and political factors, which cause the growth of exclusionary belonging and racist tendencies in many cases?

The central question is supposed to answer to those who trusted in the “communications revolution” to solve the problems of communication between civilizations, cultures, and peoples: Is an open channel of communication between two parties alone enough to establish a constructive dialogue and to demolish the differences and disputes? why are there civil wars, and neighbor killing neighbor, if they have the most important and informed channel of communication, that is face-to-face communication?

Experts agree that online tools have no inherent positive or negative power, and that dialogue

depends less on the particular online medium than the quality of the conversation and the goodwill of participants.

We realize that this technology has its positives & negatives, and all societies are requested to capitalize on these positives and minimize as much as possible the negatives. He is wrong who believes that this new technology alone will establish a practice to a new philosophy based on communication and knowledge and it would contribute in ending the ignorance of others and thus reduce (if not eliminate) packaged and prefabricated hostilities.

These new technologies do not establish a philosophy of its own but is engaged in contextual logic. educational curricula in various parts of the world include Information Technology subjects and focus on the education of pupils using the computer & internet connection and “navigating” in the vast World Wide Web. But how many educational approaches around the world, teach means and methods to communicate with each other or to build a new concept of knowledge commensurate with the power of acquiring new tools? The figure is close to zero.

This is the philosophy advocated by the Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue, which is needed for the rehabilitation of societies to deal with these techniques, not in its purely technical side but also from the point of view of “acceptance of others” and “engage in dialogue with them”, in addition to the importance of the values of freedom, justice & equality.

We therefore call upon the principle that dialogue should be a priority in dealing with civilizations, cultures and peoples.

Globalization today is not merely an economic & technological process. The globalized world means also greater interaction between people and the free flow of information and the interrelationship between cultures.

The real challenge is the ability to communicate regardless of cultural differences. This is an enormous burden on the media and research centers, like the DICID, to undertake the task as the mediator to stimulate global awareness.

If we want an objective assessment of this modern means of communications and of what change it has caused, it can be said: that the social media help the young people to communicate with each other but does not give them the internal courage to stand up against injustice.

We feel that this media will not function as a driving force for the good change in the societies unless it is accompanied by faith in dialogue and acceptance of the others, otherwise it will become a tool for racial discrimination.

This calls for the importance of having a Global Code of Conduct for non-abuse of holy places, religions & beliefs, so as not to turn this social media as a tool encouraging conflicts and hatred.

TOPICS of the 9th Doha Interfaith Conference

- The Emergence of Communication Technology, History and Development
- Overview of the means, sites, services and uses of social communication
- Use of the means of social communication in sophisticated dialogue tool
- How to serve the means of communication in dialogue between individuals and groups using new technologies.
- Optimal Use of the Social Communication:
 - Time and effort provided and freedom of opinion and expression guaranteed for all users with the need to respect this freedom.
 - The importance of the means of social communication in the creation of communication and cooperation between the centers of interfaith dialogue and those interested and working in this domain.
- Interfaith dialogue centers benefit from these means in creating a suitable environment for co-existence among followers of religions.
- The Pros and Cons of the Social Communication tools and Reflection on the Activities of Interfaith Dialogue:
 - How have the means of social communication participated in the weakening of traditions and customs and reducing social relations?
 - The misuse of social networking sites among the religious communities.
 - The ethics of the use of the new technology.
- Making active of the Use of social communication in serving interfaith dialogue issues
 - The effect of the use of modern communication technology and links to developments in the arenas of liberalization and change in Arab countries.
 - How can we move the dialogue closer to the young people through this technology?
 - The emergence of social networking sites have led to a quantum leap in the free expression of the views of young people. Example of successful experiences (the Egyptian and Tunisian ones).
- Develop religious frameworks and ethical regulations to protect society from the misuse of social networking tools
- The challenges of harnessing information and communication technology for the purpose of constructive dialogue.
- How to prepare and qualify individuals religiously for the use of social networking sites in the renaissance of community development.
- The need for a Global Code of Conduct for not insulting the sanctities and religions: Religious perspective.



"I look forward to joining you for a conference that will be of great value in helping us understand how to better use technology and social media to achieve our mutual goals of interfaith dialogue and global harmony." - Rev. Dr. Jerry D. Campbell, President and Professor of Theological Bibliography at the Claremont School of Theology, California U.S.A

"Thank you very much for the invitation to the interesting and distinguished conference in Doha which I am pleased to accept. I would like to be one of the speakers there and would submit in time a paper / abstract for one of the suggested topics. Thanking you for the kind invitation and looking forward to contribute to the success of the conference." - Dr. Thomas Bauer, Professor for communication at the University of Vienna, Austria



"Thank you so much for your kind invitation. I believe the conference will serve the noble goals and make a good contribution into inter-religious dialogue issues. I will attend the conference with all my pleasure" - Dr. Nariman Gasimzada, Chairman of Azerbaijan Center for Religion and Democracy, Azerbaijan