



PERIODICAL NEWSLETTER **DICID**

Doha International Center For Interfaith Dialogue ISSUE 4, SUMMER 2010

مركز الحوار الأديان

Doha International Center For I



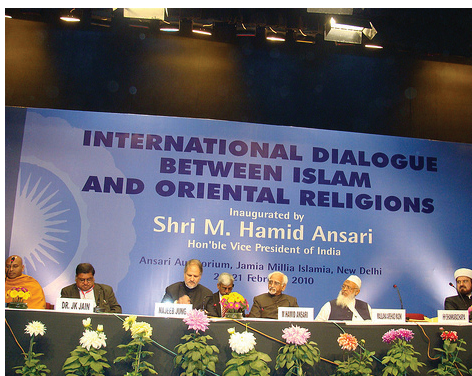
**"SERVING
THE HUMANITY"**

“...serving the humanity...”

Dear reader, welcome to new issue of the DICID newsletter. After two and a half years of ongoing efforts, the center has become a bright spot on the world's map, from which many initiatives are launched, enriching interfaith dialogue. During our numerous visits all over the world, we presented DICID and its activities to those interested in dialogue. In the last few months, the Centre organized roundtables and seminars that were attended by a number of scholars and academics, making our strategy move in three-axes, which include activities, on local level, national and international.

We truly hope that the 8th Doha Conference of Interfaith Dialogue recommendations in October, will be handed over to the competent authorities and relevant international institutions, pointing out that the purpose of these conferences is not just getting together, but serving humanity through the open dialogue with others. Only in that way, we become a pebble in this global mosaic, achieving peace and restoring the rights to all, regardless to their religion.

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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THE EMIRI DECREE APPROVING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DICID



Last July, HH the Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani issued, the Emiri decree No. 20 of 2010 approving the establishment of Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue which aims to become a center for advocating peaceful tolerance and acceptance of others. Also, to activate religious values in finding solutions to problems and issues that concern humanity.

DICID aims to broaden the scope of dialogue including aspects of life that interact with religion, and increase the network of those involved in dialogue to include researchers, academics and those who are concerned with the relationship between religious values and real life issues.

The decree was welcomed by large number of scholars and researchers, who were interested in interfaith dialogue and the cooperation between different civilizations and cultures. Praising the decision, they considered that the establishment of the DICID will contribute to the efforts in building bridges of cooperation and understanding between different nations, religions and cultures, contributing to an atmosphere of peace and justice.

The members of the Board of Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue take this opportunity to thank His Excellency Mr. Mohammed Bin Abdullah Al Rumaihi, Foreign Ministers' Assistant for Follow Up Affairs and Head of the Permanent Committee for Organizing Conferences, for all his efforts and constant support, which resulted in the issuance of the Emiri Decree.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Prof. Dr. Ibrahim Saleh Al-Naimi was born in 1956 in Qatar. He obtained his Bachelor's degree from Qatar University in 1977 and his Masters in 1981. He was awarded his PhD in Chemistry from the University of Southern California in the US in 1983. Prof. Al-Naimi started his academic career as a lecturer (1983) at the department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science in Qatar University. He was appointed associate professor in 1988, and became a full professor at the same university in 1995. Besides his academic career, Prof. Al-Naimi was appointed as Vice Dean of the Faculty of Science (1988), Dean (1992) of the same faculty, and president of the University of Qatar (1994), a position that he held for a number of years. As Qatar occupies a leading world position in natural gas production, Prof. Al-Naimi became involved in basic as well as applied research programs dealing with the conversion of natural gas into liquid hydrocarbon products. The real interest of Prof. Al-Naimi is committed to promote science and technology in Islamic countries by participating in meetings and encouraging initiatives to develop cooperation between Muslim scientists. Prof. Al-Naimi is a member of the Supreme Council of Education, Qatar. He is a Board Member of the Centre for Research on Muslim Contributions to Civilization (1987), and he is Chairman of the Society of Petroleum Engineers. He is also a member of the International Movement for Leisure Activities in Science and Technology. Prof. Al-Naimi became a member of the International Association of University Presidents. He was elected as Fellow of the Islamic Academy of Sciences in 2000. Dr. Ibrahim received medal of the Gulf Cooperation Council on innovation and excellence in the field of science in 1997, Palm Academy Award from the French Prime Minister in 1997, and award for a Volunteer of the Year in scientific excellence from the Youth Supreme Council, Qatar 2000.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Dr. Khalid Nasser Al-Khater received his BA in Accounting from Qatar University in 1990, and MA from St. Louis University - USA in 1996, he received his PhD from the University of Dundee – UK in 1999. He is currently an associate professor at Qatar University and the Dean of Academic Affairs Ahmed bin Mohammed Military College and Chairman of the Scientific Assembly of Accounting. He served as Dean of the Faculty of Management and Economics at Qatar University and director of the Master (MBA). He has many researches and studies in the field of accounting in the State of Qatar.

Dr. Hamid Abdul Aziz Al-Marwani is from Qatar, born 1962. He received his Ph.D. in Islamic Studies, University of Manchester, United Kingdom 1993 and is professor at Qatar University. He is a father of ideas and founder of the network, “Islam On Line”, Deputy Chairman and General Director of Al-Balagh Cultural Association from 1994-1999. He is a member of the Qatar University, member of the World Islamic Call Society, Tripoli, Libya, and a founding member of the International Union for Muslim Scholars, Dublin, Ireland. He is also member of the Qatar Charitable Society, member of the Board of Trustees of the Science, Technology and Civilization Foundation in Manchester.



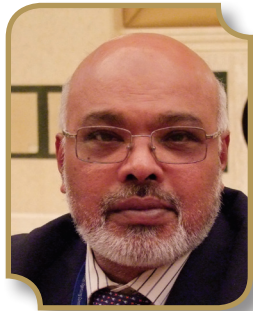
Dr. Hassan Abdulrahim Yousef Al-Sayed was born in Doha 1969. He obtained his Ph.D. in Law from East Anglia University, Norwich, United Kingdom in 2003, MA of Law, Faculty of Graduate Studies, and University of Jordan in 1997. He has been Dean of the Faculty of Law 2007-2010 and has been a member on many committees, such as: the Committee of Student Affairs at Qatar University 2005-2006, Barristers Acceptance Committee, Ministerial Council No 46 in 2006, the Qatari Barristers Association, 2006, the Board of Directors of the DICID, and the Board of Directors on the Channel (Poet of the Prophet).

Prof. Dr. Yusuf Mahmoud Mohammed Al-Siddiqui was born in Doha in 1956, holds a Bachelor of philosophy and doctrine of the Faculty of Theology - Al-Azhar University 1981. He received his MA in Islamic philosophy in Cairo University 1988, and PhD in Islamic philosophy Cairo in 1991. He is an expert in Philosophy of Islamic logic and research methodology. He was appointed as a Lecturer at Department of Religions, Faculty of Sharia law and Islamic Studies in 1981, and was appointed as an assistant lecturer in the same section in 1989. In 2001, he was appointed as an assistant professor. In 2007 dr. Yusuf was appointed as a Dean assistant in Department of Theology, the Faculty of Sharia and Islamic. He was honored by the ‘Arabic Language Assembly’ from Egypt - in 2005 under the auspices and supervision of the League of the Arab States. Dr. Yusuf is a member of the Board of Directors of Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue.



INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD

Prof. Dr. Aisha Yusuf Omar Al-Mannai was born in Qatar and is Dean of the College of Sharia and Islamic Studies at Qatar University. She obtained a BA in Sharia in 1981, Qatar University, and an MA and Ph.D. in Creed & Islamic Philosophy from Al-Azhar University in 1990. She was an Associate Professor in 1996 and became Professor in 2005. She is a member of the Transitional Arab Parliament - The Arab League, from 2004 to current, member of the Trustees Committee for both the State Incentive Award and the Discretionary Award at The National Council for Culture, Arts and Heritage from 2004 to the present. She is an advisory and Executive Committee member of the College of Islamic Studies at Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development from 2003, member of Board of Directors of the Qatari Red Crescent from 1999, and a member of the Board of Directors in the Qatar Society for Special Needs from 2001.



Dr. Dheen Mohamed was born 1956 in Sri Lanka. He is Associate Dean for Academic Affairs - College of Sharia and Islamic Studies in Qatar. Holds a doctorate in Comparative Mysticism from Al-Azhar University. Got his MA and BA in Sufism, also from Al-Azhar University. Dr. Dheen speaks Arabic, English, Tamil and Sanskrit. He was Head of Dept. of Dawa and Islamic culture, College of Sharia and Islamic Studies, Dean of Faculty of Islamic Studies at International Islamic University in Islamabad. Also he was Head of Dept. of Comparative religion, International Islamic University, Islamabad and many other positions at International Islamic University. He was lecturer at East Ceylon Arabic College. Addalaichenai, Government Secondary School, Anuradapura, Department of Cultural studies, Eastern University of Srilanka. He was a Research Associate at Islamic Research Academy, Al-Azhar, Egypt, Associate Prof. and Professor at Department of Dawa & Islamic Culture. Qatar University, Qatar.



Dr. John Taylor, 1959-73: Studied/Taught Islamics (Universities of Cambridge, UK (M.A.), Punjab, Pakistan; McGill, Canada (Ph.D); Birmingham, UK; & Harvard, USA), 1973-83: responsible for Christian-Muslim relations and Director of the Inter-religious Dialogue Programme of World Council of Churches (WCC), 1983-92: Secretary General of the World Conference on Religion and Peace/International (WCRP), 1993-2000: Special Consultant to the Conference of European Churches (CEC), 2001, Representative of the International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF) at the United Nations (Geneva).



Rabbi José Rolando Matalon is a rabbi at New York's Congregation B'nai Jeshurun, a large and internationally renowned synagogue committed to an inclusive approach of liturgy and community and dedicated to the work of education, social justice, and interfaith cooperation. After completing his rabbinical studies in Argentina, Jerusalem, and the USA, he has served on religious boards including American Friends of Parents Circle, Rabbis for Human Rights-North America, and Union Theological Seminary. As a result of his dedicated work, he has been the recipient of numerous awards from the New York Board of Rabbis, the Jewish Peace Fellowship, and the New Israel Fund.



Fr. Vittorio Ianari was born in Rome, 1958. Father Vittorio graduated in Law at the university of Rome, with a thesis on the (Multireligious Situation in Contemporary Albania) and became Doctor in Social and religious history with a work on Catholic missions in Libya in the twentieth century. Since 1993 he has been teaching Islamic Sciences at the Pontifical Universities "Lateranense" and "Urbaniana" in Rome. He is the person responsible for the Community of Sant'Egidio of the Department for Muslim-Christian dialogue, and, since 1996, for the Italian bishops' Conference (CEI) he is in charge of the Department for Ecumenism and Interreligious dialogue, with a special assignment for the relations with Muslims in Italy. He wrote several essays and book about the history of contemporary Islam, with particular care for the relationship between the Muslim world and the West.



Bishop George Saleeba is founder of the Middle East Council of Churches, Founder of St. Patriarch Ephrem Press of Al-Athshana in Bikfiya, Secretary General of the Syrian Council for Orthodox Syrians in Antioch, former Director of the seminary, St. Syriac Ephrem - Zahle and Athshana, Chairman of the Department of Public Information in the Middle East Council of Churches, and former Director of Sunday Schools and teacher of Syriac Church Hymn courses in Qamishli. He is also visited the faculties of theology and institutes in Oxford, England and the University of Chicago in the United States. In addition, he works with numerous cultural, religious and social organisations and foundations.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

DICID Organizes Roundtable Discussion “Expatriates and Religious Diversity in Qatar” March, 2010

Participants in a roundtable on “expatriates and religious diversity in Qatar” held in Doha last March 2010 called for efforts to familiarize the expatriate population with the Qatari values and traditions to foster better relations between the two segments.

The meeting that hailed the peaceful co-existence among the diverse communities residing in the country underscored the need for a mechanism to bring them together on a common platform to work for common causes. This was the first time these communities were brought together in a joint forum by a high-profile body — the Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue (DICID).

The Christian Churches Steering Committee in Qatar was the co-organiser of the event. Asked if there was any proposal to create a permanent mechanism to pursue the dialogue, DICID chairman Dr Ibrahim Al-Naimi said, “We have provided these communities

an opportunity to meet and discuss issues concerning them. It is up to the participants to decide how to go ahead with the dialogue.” Several proposals were put forward by speakers during the interactive sessions.

One of the issues raised by the Qatari participants and many of the expatriate speakers was the problems created by the ignorance of some sections of the expatriates about the Qatari culture and traditions. “Expatriate groups can do a lot in raising awareness among their respective communities in this regard and some are already doing it,” said Al-Naimi. “Doha is a leading model for peaceful co-existence of diverse religious and ethnic communities.

They live and work in harmony and in full co-operation. While living together, we should learn how to respect other peoples’ religious beliefs and symbols,” said Dr Anwar Musaid, a Jordanian professor.



Several expatriate speakers cited their experiences of how they could build excellent relations with the Qatari community as well as other foreign communities here. Some of them drew attention to the duties and responsibilities of the expatriates while living in a foreign country.

“Expatriates have the right to preserve their culture and identity as long they don’t collide with the native values and traditions. Being guests in a foreign country, they must abide by the regulations of the host country and respect its values and traditions,” said a speaker. The need for special workshops and orientation programmes to familiarise expatriates with the Qatari values and traditions was highlighted during the discussions.

Ashraf Abdul Jalal, an expert from the Social Development Center focused on the problems being faced by the expatriate workers, especially the low-income groups due to the misuse of the sponsorship system in the country.

He proposed to create opportunities for regular meetings between expatriate communities and the Qatari officials to discuss the issues and problems. He noted that participation of Qataris in celebrations organized by expatriate communities will help foster mutual relations.

Several participants urged the authorities to prepare brochures, CDs and booklets providing quick information about the Qatari traditions as well as laws and make them available to foreign workers on or before their arrival to the country. One of the speakers called for creating venues where expatriate communities can come together to work for common causes and issues.

Al-Naimi, in his opening address deplored the new illegal settlements announced by Israel in the occupied Palestinian territories.



ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

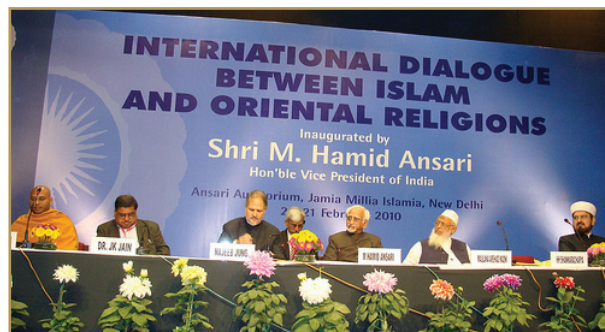
DICID Participates in Conference ‘Dialogue between Islam and Eastern Religions’ — Feb. 2010

An international conference of dialogue between Islam and Eastern religions was inaugurated in February 2010 by Shri M. Hamid Ansari, Vice President of India. The conference was held by major Indian Muslim organisations with the cooperation of Jamia Millia Islamia’s Zakir Husain Institute of Islamic Studies and the Qatar-based World Union of Muslim Scholars.

The inaugural session of the conference, was held at the Ansari Auditorium of the Jamia Millia, presided over by the President of Jamiat Ulama-e Hind, Maulana Arshad Madni. Special invitees include Dr. Ibrahim Al-Naimi, chairman of the Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue and World Union of Muslim Scholars’s vice president Prof. Ali Al-Quradaghi.

Important Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Jain and Sikh religious leaders and scholars took part in the conference from across India as well as neighbouring countries. Participants include Shankaracharya Onkaranand Saraswati of Prayag, Jain TV’s Dr. JK Jain, Sikh member of Pakistani parliament Dr Araish Kumar, Art of Livings’ Swami Sadyojathah, Swami Shantatmananda of Ramakrishna Mission, Dr. K.J. Yesudas and members of Parliament Sardar Tarlochan Singh, Santosh Bagrodia and M. Rama Jois.

The conference aimed at building better social relations between believers of various faiths in South Asia and open ways of communication and understanding between the people of the region. Delegates of all eastern religions from across the country as well as Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and some Arab countries are taking part in the conference.



Roundtable Calls for Interfaith Action on Global Crises March, 2010

The World Congress of Muslim Philanthropists announced last March an inter-faith “call to action” for increased co-operation to address poverty, hunger, disease and other pressing global issues at its third annual World Congress in Doha.

The Congress, widely recognised as the premier worldwide forum on Muslim Philanthropy, held a special inter-religious roundtable to review best practices for faith-based programmes and to exchange views on the pathways to securing new resources.

Leaders at the Congress called for increased monitoring of existing faith-based approaches in an effort to further engage governments, the private sector and other philanthropic organisations.

“This call to action turns inter-faith dialogue into action in order to make a real and positive impact on key global issues,” said Dr Tariq H Cheema, founder and CEO of the World Congress of Muslim Philanthropists.

Professor Ibrahim Saleh al-Naimi, chairman of the Doha International Center for Inter-faith Dialogue, who led the discussion, said: “If we can unify our work among inter-faith organisations, this will lead to more understanding between each other and it will benefit the people in a more impactful way.”

The Rev. Charles P Gibbs, Executive Director, United Religions Initiative, said: “Around the world, we are seeing groundbreaking examples of co-operation among faith traditions, government and civil society to address urgent human needs and the cessation of violence.”

Omnia Nour, executive director of Reach Out To Asia, said: “A call for a more systematic action for faith-based organisations will enable these organisations to attract much more resources and reach out to many more people that remain excluded.”

Ruth Turner, chief executive of the Tony Blair Foundation said: “Globalisation in general and new technology in particular, changes who we are talking about when we refer to our ‘neighbour.’ Connected as we are across the world in so many ways, people of different religions can take their various traditions of compassion and work together, taking practical steps to make a real difference to problems of malaria, global poverty and conflict.”

Dr William Vendley, Secretary General of Religions for Peace, said: “We are pleased to see an increased interest in the strength and reach of multi-religious partnerships on the part of foundations and governments around the world.”

Jean Duff, executive director of the Center for Inter-faith Action, said: “Our work focuses on mobilising the rich assets of faith leaders and congregational infrastructures to increase their impact on social development. (Source : Religions for Peace)



DICID Participates at UN Alliance of Civilizations Forum in Brazil May, 2010

In Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, between 27-29 May, a network of over 3,000 political and corporate leaders and civil society activists gathered for the third UN Alliance of Civilizations Forum and agreed on joint actions to improve relations across cultures.

Professor Ibrahim Saleh al-Naimi, chairman of the Doha International Center for Inter-faith Dialogue, attended a three-day Forum.

Brazilian President Lula opened the session. The main aim is to support projects building bridges between cultures and communities, to improve understanding and cooperation among nations peoples and religions, helping to combat polarization and extremism.

Delegates from all over the world analyzed the problems of bridging the gap between different cultures, and reinforcing human rights. Issues discussed included the roles of media and new media, democracy and good governance and empowering women through education.

The President of Argentina, Cristina Fernandez De Kirchner was also at the Forum, believing that respect for human rights is key: "Human rights are a fundamental policy for us; I mean that the physical and psychological integrity of people is sacred in all religions, in the Koran, the Talmud, and the Bible. It is a set of common, universal values which cross all religions: respect for the person. If we take that as a base, we should have fewer problems with living together."

Young people from all over the world presented projects to build associations, schools for children, websites, and media platforms, sometimes running serious risks.



The Arab and Muslim World: Alternative Visions, May 22 — 24 2010

Mr. Hamdi Blekich, Head of Public Relations, represented the DICID at the Fifth Al-Jazeera Forum, which was held on May 22-24 in Doha. Building on the success of past Forums, the Fifth Annual Al-Jazeera Forum took an in-depth look at alternative visions for the Arab and Muslim world from the perspective of socio-political, cultural, and strategic changes as seen through the eyes of emerging movements, non-state actors, governments and civil societies that are changing the power matrix of the region.

The Forum provided a platform to explore this multi-faceted mix of dynamics through debate and discussion by engaging many of the players directly involved in reshaping the region. The forum hosted a range of political analysts, journalists, activists, media experts, and intellectuals to explore these critical issues in the form of keynotes, roundtables and interactive sessions.



visit us at www.dicid.org



**In collaboration with QU,
Doha International Center
for Interfaith Dialogue
organized student trip to Canada
July, 2010**

Recently, the DICID in cooperation with QU organized one month student trip to Canada. The trip was also partially supported by Barwa Company, involving 58 female students, two administrative supervisors, supervised by Prof. Dr. Hamed Al-Marwani a member of the DICID board of directors and professor at the Faculty of Shariah at QU.

According to the DICID officials, the aim of the trip was based on interfaith awareness and preparation of a future Qatar generations with a message of tolerance to others, combined with Islamic tradition through positive interaction with different cultures and religions, recognizing cultural and religious diversity, and learning from others. Other goals of the trip were to present the real and positive image of the Arab and Islamic world, particularly Qatari culture and its' tradition which can help to improve mutual understanding and respect.

During the trip, students had opportunity to achieve the religious and cultural coexistence interaction, strengthening their English conversation skills and opening themselves between other female students from Canada.

The one month trip ,which was organized in July, included a number of open talks, debates about the mechanisms and methodology of cultural interaction, which benefited the moral and cultural values of others. The trip also included many scientific and educational visits.

The journey was marked by many educational, cultural and recreational programs full of entertainment, beside the intensive English coursework. It consisted of a set of activities such as a visit to Ottawa mosque, several churches and cathedrals, the Upper Canada Village, the Niagara Falls, University of Ottawa, the Canadian Parliament, the Thousand Island in Ontario, Canadian Museum of Nature, University of Ottawa Library. All these activities were crowned with intercultural dialogue meetings with Canadian women of various religious backgrounds.

The students also paid a visit to the Cathedral of Notre Dame, oldest and largest church in Ottawa the headquarters of the Roman Catholic Archbishop in Canada.

The students organized wonderful presentation “Qatari Night”, which main goal was to present some features of the Qatari heritage, culture and overall incredible development of the state of Qatar. The show began with a number of cultural and art activities, covering the history of Qatar, manifested in modernization and cultural renaissance, social and political developments under the leadership of His Highness the Emir Shaikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani and HH Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani. The students also presented a pavilion of an ancient and modern Qatar, the future vision, in addition to all they also presented traditional henna, a photo gallery, and a special pavilion for traditional Qatari food.

According to students; “one of the main goals of the trip was striving for constructive dialogue between the followers of different faiths towards a 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 the cooperation with related individuals and organizations and for sure we accomplish that during this unforgettable trip.”





DICID Organizes Interfaith Symposium at Qatar University May, 2010

Qatar University's College of Shari'a and Islamic Studies held a symposium on 'Interfaith Dialogue Issues in Culture and Media' recently.

The symposium was organised in conjunction with the Doha International Centre for Interfaith Dialogue (DICID) and Al Qaradawi Centre for Islamic Moderation and Renewal.

Shari'a College Dean Dr Aisha al Mannai, DICID Director Dr Ibrahim al Naimi, Dr. Hamed Al Marwani and Al Qaradawi Centre Director Dr Mohammed Khalifa Hassan, headed the symposium which was attended by a large number of QU staff, faculty and students.

In his presentation on 'Manners and Skills of Dialogue', Dr Hassan said: "Islam included the ethics of dialogue in the Holy Quran and Sunnah, giving dialogue a special place in the understanding of religion.

Muslims employed dialogue in achieving the goals of getting to know others, and in the delivery of their scientific efforts, drawing on the Prophet who was a role model for Muslims in dialogue and who gave a unique model to communicate with non-Muslims". QU Head of the Department of Dawa and Islamic Culture Dr Yousef Siddiqui made a presentation on 'Reality Reading of Interfaith Dialogue'.

He was followed by Al Jazeera TV anchor Khadija bin Gena who spoke on 'The Role of Media in Supporting and Guiding Interfaith Dialogues'. "One of the reasons for the hindrance of dialogue between religions today is the confusion between dialogue and politics. Politics has had sometimes a destructive role that poisoned relations between Muslims and others", bin Gena said. "While it should take place in forums and websites to benefit all, the subject of interfaith dialogue remains in locked rooms. Some media coverage of interfaith issues does not take into consideration a commitment to professional codes of ethics that impose impartiality on affiliations and partisanship", she added.

QU Mass Communication Department faculty Dr Alaa Elshamy presented a critical and analytical view of interfaith issues in the media.

Symposium participants discussed the efforts to address the "thorny issue" of interfaith dialogue.

They pointed to recommendations coming out of numerous meetings and conferences held at different levels and different countries which sought to bridge the gap in views between religions and sects with respect to religious freedom, acceptance of others, and openness to heterogeneous cultures which carries the values of coexistence and cooperation as part of the teachings of divine religions.

DICID to Organise Lecture on Golden Age of Religious Harmony June, 2010

The Doha International Centre for Interfaith Dialogue (DICID) organised a public lecture titled 'Cordoba in the Muslim Era' in July at Sheraton Doha Hotel.

Noted historian Dr. Farhat Hussain described how life was for many who existed during the Islamic Spain Era, commonly known as the 'golden age' of religious and ethnic tolerance and interfaith harmony between Muslims, Christians, and Jews.

The illustrated lecture presentation included a photo exhibition and a film viewing on the ancient city of Cordoba, which once was Europe's cultural capital, 1,000 years ago.

"We live in a world today where prejudice, suspicion, and ignorance on different cultures and different religions exist. When people discuss history between Europe and the Islamic world, they usually focus on the crusades and the war. But our work focuses on the positive relationships between the civilisations. So, we're not talking about what went on in ancient Cordoba every day. We make it clear, that there were Muslims, Christians, and Jews living in Cordoba, who were working together, studying together, as well as training together very peacefully. This is helping us to frame our mind and help us to understand more how we can achieve success today in regard to respecting one another. Cordoba is a good historical model for respect for different cultures and faiths today," he said.

"Doha is now the capital of Arab culture, and this is something that we congratulate Doha on. The whole world looks to Doha and we're proud of the activities going on. Similarly, Cordoba was the capital of Europe 1,000 years ago. When London and Paris had 20,000 people a thousand years ago, the population of Cordoba was one million. While we're celebrating Doha as capital of Arab culture, we should do so in such a way that we celebrate the achievements of another capital of culture a thousand years ago, which has had a massive influence on the world, and which we can benefit from," he also said.

Prof Ibrahim Saleh al Naimi, chairman of the board of directors of DICID, said, "This lecture shows our commitment as a centre to establish a wider understanding between the followers of the different faiths. It reflects our vision towards greater understanding between Muslims, Christians, Jews, and other religions".



Interfaith Gathering in Honor of Guests from DICID April, 2010

On Monday, April 26, 2010, the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) organized a high level interfaith round table discussion and luncheon to honor and welcome the Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue (DICID).

This well attended event by the most prominent inter-religious leaders from across the nation was held at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, DC.

The title of the event was "To Each a Key: Unlocking the Door to Interfaith Harmony" and the morning program was opened by Imam Mohamed Magid, ISNA's Vice President. A round table discussion of 30 national interfaith leaders moderated by Dr. Sayyid Syeed, National Director, then took place, with brief presentations by some of our interfaith partners. Dr. Khalid Bin Nasser Al-Khater and Dr. Hamed Abdulaziz Al-Marwani, both board members of the Doha Center, made presentations about the DICID and appreciated the reports about the interfaith projects and activities going on in the United States.

After the morning round table, ISNA facilitated the presence of many more leaders and partners for a luncheon with discussions on the same theme. ISNA Secretary General Safaa Zarzour opened the program, and Cardinal Theodore McCarrick of the Archdiocese of Washington gave his remarks about the genuine efforts made by various organizations and individuals in promoting the dialogue. During the luncheon, Dr. Al-Marwani gave a presentation on the mission of the DICID and its achievement to an audience of 60 interfaith leaders. Ms. Mara Vanderslice, Deputy Director of the White House Office of Faith Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, addressed the crowd and expressed the administration's positive outlook and goals regarding interfaith work. Mr. Rashad Hussain, U.S. Special Envoy to the Organization of the Islamic Conference, reaffirmed the commitment of the Obama administration to the primacy of dialogue and trust building between the United States and the Muslim communities around the world.



Promoting the DICID in Italy & Vatican May 2010

Last May, a delegation of four representatives from the DICID visited Italy, the Holy Sea and the Community of Sant'Egidio with the intention of promoting the DICID.

The delegation led by Prof. Yusuf Al-Siddiqi, spent two days in Italy where they met representatives of The Holy Sea, Italian Parliament and the Community of Sant'Egidio. The group included Prof. Yusuf Al-Siddiqi, Prof. Aysha Al-Mannai, Dr. Hassan Abdulrahman Al-Sayed and Dr. Fatma Al-Suwaidi.

During their meetings and roundtable discussions, Prof. Aysha Al-Mannai spoke with Vatican representatives about the purpose of their visit to Italy and how it enhanced their understanding of its critical support to interfaith dialogue. The delegation discussed the cooperation between the DICID and Vatican department for Interfaith regarding the intercultural and interreligious issues, and also exploring the exchange programs. The Holy Sea representatives were impressed by the DICID activities in the last three years because they saw greater co-operation between followers of different faiths.



HONORED GUESTS OF THE DICID



His Beatitude Theofilos III the Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem Visits DICID April 2010



His Beatitude Theofilos III the Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem accompanied with Archbishop Dorotheos, Member of the Ecclesiastical Court of Appeal in Jerusalem, Archbishop Aristarchos, Secretary General of the Patriarchate, Archimandrite Galaktion, Superior in Ramallah, Archimandrite Jeronimos, Superior in Al Fuhais – Jordan and Archimandrite Makarios Patriarchal Representative in Qatar paid an official visit to the DICID. The guests were received and welcomed by Dr. Ibrahim Al-Naimi, the chairman of the DICID. During the visit His Beatitude Theofilos III briefly presented the mission and goals of the Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem.

The visitors called upon the principles of dialogue and tolerance between the followers of the two religions, a body of culture and information of its members is joint action and common goal is to defend the city of Jerusalem in particular and all the holy places in all parts of Palestine.



Dr. Ibrahim emphasized that the issue of Jerusalem and Palestine holds special place in the hearts of Muslims and Christians, and that was mentioned many times during our last interfaith conferences in Doha.

Dr. Ibrahim saw importance of cooperation between the DICID and the Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem, providing several suggestions to His Beatitude Theofilos III in this regard.



Doha International Institute for Family Studies and Development Visits DICID June, 2010

Dr. Ibrahim Al-Naimi, chairman of Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue received Dr. Richard G. Wilkins, Managing Director from The Doha International Institute for Family Studies and Development. During the visit two sides enthusiastically exchanged number of common issues related to family issues and society development. Dr. Al-Naimi invited also Dr. Wilkins to attend the 8th Doha Conference of Interfaith Dialogue, hoping that his participation as an expert in family studies will be excellent addition to the conference program. The Doha International Institute for Family Studies and Development (DIFSD) conducts research and promotes scholarship on the legal, sociological, and scientific basis of the natural family as the fundamental unit of society.

Its initiatives seek to implement the Doha Declaration, an internationally recognized reaffirmation of Article 16 (3) of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which reads: "The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State."

The Institute contributes to Qatar Foundation's community development mission through its policies and programs that build on the concept that a framework of strong, stable families facilitates dialogue and harmony at all social levels.

HONORED GUESTS OF THE DICID

DICID Receives Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf August, 2010

The DICID received Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf and met with the DICID chairman, Dr. Ibrahim Al-Naimi. During his visit they discussed the present situation of interreligious dialogue in the USA. Dr. Al-Naimi thanked Imam Feisal and his wife, Mrs. Daisy Khan for their active participation during an official visit of DICID to the States last April. Feisal Abdul Rauf is an Egyptian-American imam, author, and activist whose stated goal is to improve relations between the Muslim world and the West. Imam Feisal received national attention for his plans to build Park51, an Islamic cultural community center, two blocks away from Ground Zero in Lower Manhattan. He has written three books on Islam and its place in contemporary Western society, including *What's Right with Islam Is What's Right with America*, and founded two non-profit organizations whose stated missions are to enhance the discourse on Islam in society. He has condemned the 9/11 attacks as un-Islamic and called on the U.S. government to reduce the threat of terrorism by altering its Middle Eastern foreign policy. Author Karen Armstrong, among others, has praised him for his attempts to build bridges between the West and the Muslim world.



Alliance of Civilizations Delegates Visit DICID March, 2010

A delegation from the Alliance of Civilizations Forum, visited Doha Centre for Interfaith Dialogue, led by Dr. Jean Christian-Bas. The group was composed by visitors from different religions and cultures where they were greeted by Mr. Hamdi Blekich, Public Relations Manager and Mrs. Nadia Al-Ashqar Conference Affairs Coordinating Officer. Many topics related to the dialogue were discussed during the visit. Dr. Jean Christian - Bas invited the DICID team to the 3th Forum of UN Alliance of Civilizations in Brazil in May 2010.

Indian Bishop Mathew Arackal Visits DICID May, 2010



A delegation from the Indian Church in Qatar visited the Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue. During the visit, the Bishop Mathew Arackal was impressed with the Center's activities in Qatar and abroad. He thanked Professor Ibrahim Al-Naimi, chairman of DICID and gave Dr. Al-Naimi a symbolic gift. The Bishop Arackal also stressed a continuation of the relationship and mutual cooperation between DICID and the Christian community from India. The Bishop was accompanied with Mr. Siby Joseph, coordinator of Inter Denominational Christian Church, Mr. V. C. Sebastian, secretary of a Catholic Commission in India) and Mr. Clarence Joseph, a member of Catholic Community in Qatar.



DICID Receives Rev. Fr. Besenty Al-Anba Bishoy from Egypt September, 2010

Dr. Ibrahim Al-Naimi, chairman of Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue received Rev. Fr. Besenty Al-Anba Bishoy from Egypt. During his visit to Coptic Community in Qatar, Al-Anba Bishoy accompanied with Mr. George Shahid, a member of the Coptic Church in Qatar, visited the DICID, where two sides exchanged views and number of common issues related to interfaith dialogue. Dr. Al-Naimi invited the guests to attend the 8th Doha Conference of Interfaith Dialogue, which will be held 19-21 October this year under topic "Raising the New Generation with a foundation of values and tradition: Religious Perspectives."



Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue

Welcomes you...

8th Annual Doha Conference on Interfaith Dialogue

October 19 – 21, 2010 • Doha Sheraton Hotel

“Raising the new generation with a foundation of values and tradition: Religious Perspectives”

TOPICS:

“THE FAMILY” The heart of raising and sustaining the new generation

“The function of the family in raising the next generation”

“The breakdown of family values”

“Raising the next generation with tolerance, acceptance and respect of others”

“The role of educational, social and media institutions in raising the next generation”

“The roles and responsibilities of educational institutions “

“Role of schools in raising children and promoting tolerance.”

“The significance of curriculum in teaching religious values”

“Enhancing the education system to build a religiously balanced international society.”

How do the media and modern technologies influence the next generation?

“Children’s media”

“Religious contents in Information Technology”

“Media’s role in helping to raise children with religious, cultural, and social awareness”

Places of worship: supporting and influencing the new generation

“Religious upbringing and contemporary challenges in globalized era”

“How to restore the active role of worship for the next generation”

“Role of worships in implanting religious principles”

“A Youth Perspective on Interfaith Dialogue and the Role of Religion in Raising Generations”