

Periodical Newsletter



DICID

مركز الدوحة الدولي لحوار الأديان
Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue

Issue 13 - January 2020

13th issue of Religions

"Religions and Hate Speech"

- Outputs of Roundtable Entitled
"The repercussions of the siege crisis; prevention of citizens and residents from performing Hajj and Umrah"

- Speech
**Executive Director of the
Doha International Center for
Interfaith Dialogue**

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EDITORIAL

This new issue of the periodical Newsletter of the Doha International Center for interfaith Dialogue coincides with the launching of the fourteenth Doha Interfaith Conference on theme of “**Religions and Hate Speech... Scriptures and Practice**”, and the issuance of the thirteenth issue of the DICID interfaith Journal “Religions/” أديان on the same subject (**Religions and Hate Speech**).

In addition to that, it covers news of the DICID’s most important publications, such as the 13th DICID interfaith Conference proceedings held on the theme : “Religions and Human Rights”, and the related interfaith Journal issue.

The Newsletter will also focuses on the most important media activities organized by the DICID , the events and conferences that it has participated in, inside and outside Qatar, in addition to other various news relating to the interfaith activities.

The Newsletter highlights the mission of the Doha International Center for Interfaith dialogue on the promotion and spread of a culture of peace, as a main goal of the DICID that seeks to reach this goal, through dialogue among followers of religions, for better understand religious principles, values and teachings; and address issues and problems of concern to humanity, in a partnership with other similar institutions in basis of mutual respect and recognition of the other. This approach adopted by DICID reflects in fact Qatar’s vision of its relations with other countries and peoples.



Prof. Ibrahim Saleh Al-Naimi
Chairman of the DICID

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Interview with

In this Issue:

Mr .Yousuf Abdullah Al Subai

Executive Manager of Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue



- More than thirteen years have elapsed since the establishment of Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue (DICID).

Does the Center reflect a real will to introduce a culture you hold to the whole of Qatar?

Owing to the fact that the DICID is a national center established by Qatar and supervised by Qataris; there is no doubt that the Center essentially reflects the vision of

Qatar in treating all citizens and residents living within its territory with the utmost respect to them and their religions, granting them freedom to practice their religion peacefully and safely, without prejudice to the teachings of the true Islamic religion and the customs and traditions of the State of Qatar. Moreover, the existence of an interfaith dialogue center supporting dialogue and tolerance demonstrates the true tolerant and loving nature of Islam to the entire world and refutes the allegations of terrorism and extremism and other false accusations. It

furthermore shows the whole world the close attention Islam pays to Dialogue among the followers of different divinely inspired religions, allowing for their coexistence in Qatar as a safe and stable state which calls for dialogue among the followers of different faiths towards peaceful living, providing the opportunity to discuss issues with the followers of other religions, and encouraging tolerance and dialogue.

- To what extent do you think your mission is realistic and what impact will it have on interfaith dialogue?

We believe in what we do, because we are firmly convinced that the spiritual richness and moral superiority of religion make it the ultimate source of all human values, the first line of defense against all the challenges facing the world today, such as radicalization, terrorism, discrimination, wars and conflicts. This was embedded in the state's establishment of the DICID, and thus we choose to take the path of constructive dialogue among the followers of religions.

As to how realistic our mission is, actually we have found an incubator for our mission in the state of Qatar. Qatari society is tolerant and loving by nature and

foreigners do not feel alienated in this country. This is not my personal opinion so much as that those who live with us on the land of Qatar, clearly expressed by everyone. This was translated in the activity of the DICID. Through the local activities of the DICID, citizens and residents came to trust the center. DICID now receives the followers of different religions. They find a platform for dialogue in the center as opposed to the rhetoric of hatred and intolerance. Thus, we need to demonstrate the position of Islam in this regard, especially with the growing hate groups around the world and the unfortunately limited number of dialogue centers. We have a responsibility to highlight the morals of our religion as a religion of peace, promoting kindness, tolerance, respect for different views, and peaceful coexistence. Despite differences, religions have common traits that we need to uphold and cherish.

- Do you see prospects of success for interfaith dialogue under the political tragedies entrenched under the cover of religion in many countries of the world?

Indeed, dialogue has become an essential requirement of this time. It is the best, and often the only means to overcome all the problems caused by differences, which were turned into discord and even into conflicts and clashes. Cultural, economic, and political dialogue is regarded today as an indispensable cultural imperative; hence interfaith dialogue is a more pressing imperative to counter

radicalization and extremism, renounce conflicts and disputes and denounce all those who encourage this, bring about the spirit of peace among peoples of different racial and religious backgrounds, agree on shared human values aiming at co-existence, tolerance, cooperation, peace, and the acceptance of others and the recognition of their rights and religious and civil freedoms.

Moreover, human life is loaded with social problems (concerning family, youth, education and employment as well as numerous other issues, which, if left without informed and insightful consideration and/or resolution would cause turbulence in all components of the society in addition to imbalanced relationships, undermined power and instability in the society, therefore rendering the society at odds with the energy and the spirit of the time. This leaves us with no choice but to have a dialogue based on kindness, respect fruitful cooperation and joint action by the components of the society.

- For quite some time, we have seen an attempt to link terrorism to Islam, especially in Western media. How could Muslims refute such calumnies?

From my knowledge, experience and interactions, I believe that there are attempts and may be even massive media pressure to connect terrorism to Islam as a religion. This media pressure is the work of rightest groups and interest groups. The word Islam originates from the same root as

the word Salaam, meaning peace, Salaam is the standard Islamic salutation, and Al-Salaam, meaning the ultimate provider of peace is one of the names of Allah in Islam; Islam is the religion of kindness, brotherhood and mercy. We should deliver these values through all media and cultural platforms. And this is what we do here at DICID. We work with clergymen and dialogue centres in the West together with the educated elite in order to extend bridges of mutual understanding, tolerance and coexistence between the parties.

Besides, it is worth mentioning that all divinely inspired religions promote kindness, peace and co-existence and divergence from these values is the fault of the followers, hence, terrorism shall never be attributed to any religion. This is the message we deliver at each dialogue conference.

Hence, this is a call for everyone in all parts of the world to collaborate towards achieving world peace and relinquish the term Islamophobia which carries with it racist bias against Muslims. We shall highlight the value of mercy in Islam and religions in general.

- The theme of the next Doha Interfaith Dialogue Conference focuses on religions and hate speech. Do you think that a close connection exists between hate speech and the proliferation of terrorism? If yes, how close is the connection? How has Qatar handled this speech, especially as it is one of the signatories to the international treaties against terrorism?

First of all, I wish to say that the next interfaith dialogue conference is the fourteenth held by DICID. It will be held under the title "Religions and Hate Speech... Practice and Scriptures".

As to your question, terrorism is indeed promoted by hate speech, which has begun to spread in a significant and unprecedented manner, pausing an existential threat to safety and stability. As we have seen, hate groups are spreading in the world in a similar fashion, and dialogue centers are unfortunately limited in number. Therefore, we have a responsibility to highlight our religious morals, promoting kindness, tolerance, respect for different views, and peaceful coexistence. Despite differences, religions have common traits that we need to uphold and cherish.

As to how Qatar has dealt with the issue of hate speech; actually, we have not encountered any form of such speech in Qatar. Even though our society is a conservative one, taking pride in its Arab and Islamic identity and culture, it is open to different religions, races, and cultures as well as dozens of nationalities and religious sects co-existing peacefully in our country in full convenience. Everyone is free to practice his/her faith, mosques for Muslims and churches for Christians are both present.

Beyond that, successive meetings have been held by the DICID. The Center has contributed to the establishment of the United Nations Alliance of Civilization (UNAOC) initiative in 2007. In collaboration with the founding

states of the alliance, Turkey and Spain, Qatar had worked to lay the groundwork for the UNAVOC. The Fourth Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations was hosted by Doha, as well as the Symposium on China-Arab Civilization Dialogue. Furthermore, the 8th Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations held in New York was sponsored by Qatar. Qatar had identified the causes of terrorism and developed a comprehensive strategy to eradicate them.

- How does DICID approach the phenomenon of hate speech? What are the efforts made by the Center in this regard?

First, we have to stress on the fact that hate speech and its implications are only adopted by extremists, whether in the West or the East. It shall be confronted by a counter speech based on kindness, peace and coexistence which are original and inherent not only to all religions, but also to all mankind, so that everyone who belongs to mankind shall believe in and advocate.

The main purpose of DICID is to spread peace and kindness on earth throughout the fulfillment of the followers of divinely inspired religions of their roles as directed by Allah for the good of humanity at large.

To this end, DICID is working in two directions: with internal and external plans.

The external plan: is based on preserving the role of the Center as one of the global centers

concerned with dialogue, and participating in most activities to contribute in spreading peace, building relationships, and promoting proper co-existence among the followers of religions. Moreover, we organize an annual conference (Doha International Interfaith Dialogue Conference) bringing together scholars and representatives of religions to discuss all issues and challenges inhibiting communal coexistence and peaceful cohabitation.

Internally, we aim at giving attention to and care for children so that coexistence and peace become part of their personal traits, in addition to encouraging the respect for other religions and different views, listening, discussion and dialogue.

In my opinion, the most important accomplishment of the DICID is the contribution to building bridges of cooperation and understanding among the followers of religions and people of different civilizations and cultures around the world, and to the reduction of the tension caused by the ignorance of each party of the nature of the other.

I would like to seize this opportunity to urge for the adaptation of an international educational curriculum that starts with young people and bears its fruit with the community builders.

- Mr. Ambassador, knowing that you have served as an ambassador for Qatar in several countries mostly Western, such as France, Britain and Italy; through living in the western society,

how does the West regard and address hate speech; whether among them or concerning religious minorities?

In my view, I think it is not correct to call all Western countries the «West», and deal with them as such. The West is not one whole, rather it is a patchwork of cultures, ideas, ideologies and races, each with its own opinion, ideology and view towards hate speech. Exactly as the case with Muslims and Arabs; while there are tolerant peoples and elites, there is also an intolerant minority.

The West, in general believes in plurality, and individual liberty, but evidently, there is currently a notable extreme rightist rise and danger is always generated by extremism.

As we conclude this interview, we would like to highlight the major accomplishments achieved in the past years since the inception of the Center, and we hope that you tell us about future projects of the DICID?

Certainly, it will not be easy to give a detailed account of the work of the DICID, but I can give the following outline:

Annual Conferences: The Center had held thirteen international interfaith dialogue conferences. Such conferences are intellectual and consultative forums bringing together scholars and representatives of the three major religions (Islam, Christianity and Judaism). Through these

conferences, the DICID endeavors to the convergence of views of the different parties towards a common ground of views, based on religious values, with a view to come out with some solutions in the form of recommendations to contribute to resolving some problems facing the world around us.

A major achievement was the launch of Doha International Award for Interfaith Dialogue in 2013, which is a unique initiative in this respect in my view, at least on the Arabic level. The aim of this award was to support and encourage the efforts and initiatives by individuals and institutions, which have played a prominent and sustained role in promoting dialogue and fostering the culture of peace. The theme of the award is always the same as the title of the annual conference. The Award winners are tribute during the opening ceremony of the conference. The award was given at three past sessions in conjunction with the conference. Similarly, the award will be given during the next conference in its fourth session.

Academically, the DICID had encouraged research through releasing specialized books, researches and studies in the area of scientific research on religions and their view towards others, the universe and life in general towards a better understanding of the different religious values and utilizing them for the good of humankind.

Additionally, the DICID issues a biannual refereed journal in Arabic and English languages. It is specialized in religious studies,

and focused on interfaith dialogue and relationships between Islam and other religions. To date, nine issues have been issued in addition to the pioneer issue.

Furthermore, the Center issues a periodic newsletter of the DICID activities, events, courses, books and researches, etc. in addition to our presence on radio and television and social media networks.

As for the next activities of the DICID, the most prominent amongst them would be the Fourteenth Doha Interfaith Dialogue Conference, with the theme (Religions and Hate Speech...Practice and Scriptures), and releasing the thirteenth issue of the Adyan (Religions) Journal under the same title of the Conference, as well as giving the Fourth Doha International Award for Interfaith Dialogue.

The latest development we have been preparing for a while is the inauguration of the new DICID headquarters in (Katara) Cultural Village. The new headquarters is larger and better equipped than the current one; and more convenient for holding seminars and training courses. Besides, having its premises at the Cultural Village, the Center will be capable of a more enhanced communication with all the components of the rich and diverse cultural reality in Qatar. At the same time, the Center could continue its support for students and learners; by granting them access to the Center's specialized interfaith dialogue library, which comprises a large number of books and encyclopedias; exceeding 2000 books.

13th issue of Religions

“Religions and Hate Speech”



Two dangers are facing our world today; the first is the obvious threat of terrorism, which all people have agreed to confront, and the second, which is no less serious is the risk of the escalating of hatred speech, based on the exclusion and discrimination behaviors, that classifies people according to their religion, gender or color.

We have to admit that the religious fanaticism is the main cause of the conflicts facing humanity. Among other factors is the erroneous understanding of the religious purposes. The adoption of the erroneous conceptualization has produced an authoritarian outlook and extreme models.

We believe that the only way to combat the hatred discourse is to eradicate its roots, by adopting a critic thinking that detects the inherent mistakes of the appeals for sectarianism and racism and the rejection of the others.

From this point of view, we have chosen the 13th Religions/ أديان interfaith Journal issue to discuss the theme of “Religions and Hate Speech”.

With the participation of foreign students from universities in the State of Qatar

Doha Forum for Interfaith Dialogue organizes the second forum for dialogue among young people



The Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue organized the second Youth Dialogue forum for University students in Qatar. The event aimed to promote culture of dialogue and coexistence between diverse cultures and religions and to highlight Qatar’s cultural role as an open society where various cultures live in a positive interaction.

The meeting was attended by, HE Dr. Ibrahim bin Saleh Al Naimi, Chairman and Mr. Yousuf Abdallah Al-Subaie Executive Director and a number officials of Doha International Centre for Interfaith Dialogue.

The event provided an appropriate environment for participants to learn about the culture of the State of Qatar on the one hand, as well as the cultures of the

countries they belong to. Twenty-seven young men and women from Europe, Africa and Asia participated in this gathering , representing Qatar University

and Georgetown University in Qatar .

In its opening speech, Ibrahim Al-Naimi, pointed out that these students representing the elite of societies, are the ambassadors of Arab and Islamic culture to their countries. It is therefore important to hold such meetings to familiarize them with the local culture and tolerant nature of the Qatari society.

Al-Naimi added: “This is our first mission of the DICID which we are constantly striving to achieve. The Center is a bridge between citizens and residents.



We continuously are organizing activities to implements that aim through achieving interaction between different communities, as well as amongst universities students and school students to promote culture of dialogue and coexistence.

As for our second mission at the international level, Dr. Al-Naimi added: “We are working to promote global dialogue between different religions and cultures around the world through our participation to the international Conferences, for instance, we have engaged an international dialogue between different religions and cultures around the world through our foreign contributions. We have organized interfaith activities in Ukraine during the problems with Russia. We have also carried out similar activities in Russia, where we have continued with the religious leaders and educated elite of the

two communities. We believe that even in times of war, the connection between communities should not be interrupted, as was the case for the State of Qatar. We have a similar activity in post-war Bosnia and Herzegovina, where we visited the region and organized activities that promote interaction between communities.

Dr. Al-Naimi concluded by pointing out : This is the second forum, and I am happy to hold it. This event is considered an influential activity that builds a culture of love and peace to bear fruit in the future, God willing, and we ask God to contribute to the promotion of international peace. The recent emergence of terrorist acts such as what we have all seen in the New Zealand mosques shooting .

The participating student share their views on the matter, in particular pointing out their own

experiences, a student, Yusuf Ali commented on India his home country : “India is home to many religions and has hosted a number of interfaith dialogues meetings . It is from this background that I have come to this great country to participate in dialogue. I have met many cultures and benefited greatly under the umbrella of the Doha International Dialogue Center Religions.”

In her intervention, Ukrainian student Elena, who learns Arabic at Qatar University, added : “ today’s participation is important because it contributes to the promotion of tolerance and interfaith dialogue ,and ultimately we are all human beings. There is no difference between religion, race or culture.”

The two hour dialogue sessions, moderated by Dr. Ibrahim al-Naimi, has provided a rare opportunity of positive and constructive interaction between participating students to exchange views on various issues relating to cultural diversity and interfaith dialogue.

The session was followed by outdoor recreational activities that vehicle values promoting culture of dialogue in an inspiring and entertaining way.



Outputs of Roundtable Entitled

“The repercussions of the siege crisis; prevention of citizens and residents from performing Hajj and Umrah”

(July 16, 2019)

Coinciding with

The second Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom in Washington on July 16-18

Doha International Center for Interfaith (DICID) held, on Tuesday, July 16, 2019, a roundtable discussion entitled: “The repercussions of the siege crisis; prevention of citizens and residents of Hajj and Umrah.” Representatives of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Human Rights Committee in Qatar, the Qatar Hajj Committee and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



This Roundtable is important for two reasons:

The first is that it is coinciding with an important meeting taking place in Washington DC ,the Second Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom, July, 16-18. A broad range of decision makers and dignitaries, including senior government leaders, international organization representatives, religious leaders, and civil society activists are convene to discuss challenges facing religious freedom in the world, identify concrete ways to combat religious persecution and discrimination, and ensure greater respect for freedom of religion or belief.

The second reason for convening this roundtable discussion is to discuss the prevention of Qatari citizens and expats living in Qatar to perform Hajj since 2017 due to the blockade enforced over the country from Saudi Arabia since the Hajj season is approaching soon (first week of August) and nothing on sight that the Saudi authorities will allow the Qataris the expats living in Qatar to perform Hajj this year. It is urgent to remind the world community the importance of this religious rite for

Muslims and call for the immediate lift of obstacles imposed by the Saudi authorities, so that Qatari citizens and residents can perform Hajj rites .

The discussions have focused on three main topics:

- First topic: the sanctity of the pilgrimage and the place of holy places for all Muslims.
- Second topic: Hajj in the light of religious law and politics.
- Third topic: obstacles imposed by Saudi Arabia to hinder the pilgrimage of citizens and residents.

All attendees were deeply worried about the exploitation of Saudi authorities, the religion factor for political purposes, in particular regarding Hajj and Umrah, which clearly shows that the Saudis continue to put obstacles to prevent Qatari citizens and residents from performing Hajj and Umrah.

At the end of the discussion, the participants concluded the roundtable discussion with a number of messages to the international community gathered in Washington, as follow :

First, it is necessary to explain the suffering of Qataris and expatriate pilgrims from Saudi actions that prevented and still preventing the Qataris from performing Hajj for the third year in a row, and this picture should be clearly presented to the ministerial meeting at the ministerial conference in Washington.

Second: send an urgent message to the participants at the ministerial conference in Washington, who represent the political and religious leaders and civil society organizations from around the world, calling them to respect and defend our religious freedom rights and beliefs to perform the Hajj this year. this message represents the local community in Qatar (mainly Muslims and Christians) who call upon the attendees at the Ministerial conference to put more pressure on the Saudi authorities to open air space and land border for the Qataris and expats to travel freely to perform Hajj, remove Hajj obstacles placed by Saudi authorities, and give the Qatari Hajj Mission the needed authorizations to enable Qatari side to carry out their duties in the management of Hajj this year similar to all other Hajj missions of other countries.

The Doha Center for Interfaith Dialogue organized a course for the blind



The Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue has organized, in collaboration with Al Noor Center for the Blind, a course in the Art of Dialogue on 5 March 2019.

The course included the students of the integration of boys for the preparatory and secondary levels, 22 students have been trained under the supervision of the director of the integration program, Mr. Mohamed Saad al-Kuwari and a number of teachers and specialists in Al Noor Center which has also translated the training booklet into Braille, in addition to providing special equipment that help the blind to print and read during training.

Khalifa School for Boys hosted this one-day course including various theoretical and practical exercises with which students interacted positively.

For his part, Mr. Yousif Abdullah Al-Subaie, Executive Director of the Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue, said that this session is part of the Center's mission to spread the culture of

dialogue in society, especially among young people, stressing the importance of instilling the value of dialogue in the minds of children from an early age.

Al-Subaie added that cooperation between the Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue and the Al-Noor Institute for the Blind is a new fruit of the dialogue. Today, we are strengthening the capabilities of a distinguished group of our people. We encourage them to dialogue and interaction with society and to integrate with various academic and social activities, and deeper and more sophisticated programs.

Mr. Mohammed Al-Kuwari highly praised the workshop which met the students' need for dialogue skills, and has contributed in enhancing their social communication skills with others.

Ms. Nadia Al Ashqar, Director of Conferences at the Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue, pointed out that the cooperation with Al Noor Institute has opened new horizons

for dialogue and expressed her satisfaction regarding the interaction of the participating students.

The workshop was conducted by Qatari trainer Fatma Abdul Aziz Al-Harami, who stressed during the workshop that the individual is the building block of the family and the family building the community and society building the nation, and that the nations do not promote only the arms of youth, hence the importance of building an effective individual in society to benefit It benefits and contributes to its advancement. She added that we should respect and appreciate these students, which are not different from others.

The course included a number of main themes, namely, the active individual's active salary in the community. The trainer then stopped with the topic of building relationships. She trained students to build and maintain relationships with others, focusing on the underlying wisdom and the urgent question: Why are we different from one another?

Speech

Executive Director of the Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue Mr. Yousef Abdullah Al-Subaie

In the opening of the meeting gathering Representatives of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs, Churches and the US Embassy

Doha, 17 June 2019



Distinguished guests, Representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs, Churches Steering Committee and US Embassy

Peace, mercy and blessings of God be upon you all,,

Allow me at the outset to welcome you warmly to the Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue and express - on my behalf and on behalf of the Center, my pleasure for hosting this meeting, within this fraternal atmosphere, so we can know each other and learn from each other.

In this regard, we have to emphasize the importance of dialogue between followers of religions; because what we have in common is more than what we are different in, as we have learned from the religious and moral values that people -, despite their differences in beliefs, share many commonalities, such as common origin, the right coexistence, and share the rights and duties, as stated by the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him:

(“O people, your Lord is one and your father Adam is one. There is no favor of an Arab over a foreigner, nor a foreigner over an Arab, and neither white skin over black skin, nor black skin over white skin, except by righteousness)."

The State of Qatar believes that nation-building begins with the building of human beings, and this construction is done through cooperation between society members, so we can build a society based on mutual respect and co-existence in harmony regardless of religions, cultures and ethnicities.

In this sense, the Doha International Center for Interreligious Dialogue was established to promote a sustainable interfaith dialogue, culture of dialogue, with the aim of creating understanding and positive interaction between all parties; because we believe that there is no way for coexistence and cooperation between individuals, groups or countries, only through constructive dialogue based on mutual recognition and respect.

Thank you for your attention.

Lecture on :

Interfaith Dialogue, Commonalities and Differences

Co-organized by

**Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue
And Qatar Scouts and Guides Association**

The Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue took part in a lecture on the topic : Interfaith Dialogue, Commonalities and Differences

Organized with the Qatar Scouts and Guides Association, the lecture was presented by Dr. Ahmed Abdul Rahim, Researcher at DICID .

The event was attended by :

- Mr. Jassim Al-Hardan, Commissioner-General of the Qatar Scouts and Girl Guides Association
- Mr. Nasser Al-Hammadi, consultant to the association
- Dr. Mahamade Ali Mahamade from the Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue
- Mr. Abdullah Al-Buainain, from the Holy Quran Radio.

In his presentation Dr. Ahmed Abd al-Rahim, initially addressed the definition of the concept of

«religion», then he discussed issues raised on the matter, from Islamic perspective, such as : does the word «religion» can be referred to an other faith than Islam?, What was the “ Religion” of different prophets? He also addressed ways to deal with shared values and differences between different faiths, supporting his talk with references to examples from the Holy Quran and the Prophetic Traditions (Sunnah) of the Prophet to dialogue.

The lecture was followed by the attendance interaction through a fruitful debate, where difference interfaith experiences were presented by the different sides.

Then the Qatar Scouts and Guides Association representatives presented their activities, in Qatar and abroad, highlighting their contribution to enrich the intercultural dialogue and inter youth cooperation.

For his part, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Buainain presented his own

experience from the media expert view , pointing out in on how to deal with different cultures and religion, being inspired by the Islamic values.

It is worth noting to mention that the Doha International Center for Dialogue of Religions signed an agreement of cooperation and partnership with the National Scouts and Guides Association, which will enable the two institutions to cooperate in many areas to contribute to spread values of tolerance, dialogue and openness of with different cultures, in the growing generations, inspired by Islamic values.

It is worth noting that the Doha International Center for Dialogue of Religions in the State of Qatar is an international center concerned with a culture of dialogue between religions, building bridges of cooperation and understanding between followers of religions, cultures and civilizations around the world.



Fourth Doha International Award for Interfaith Dialogue

(Outstanding contributions to spreading the culture of moderate discourse)

To be Presented at the Fourteenth Doha Conference on Interfaith Dialogue

(3-4 March 2020)

The Interfaith Doha international award will be presented during the opening of the 14th Doha Interfaith Dialogue Conference to be held 3 - 4 March 2020, under the title: (outstanding contributions to spreading a culture of moderate discourse); to support endeavors of Individuals Institutions/organizations that play a major role in spreading a culture of moderate discourse and refuting hate speech and incitement And discrimination, racism, extremism, terrorism, bringing people together and following different religions.



The Doha International Award for Interfaith Dialogue

The Doha International Award for Interfaith Dialogue was launched in 2013, which is the unique initiative of its kind worldwide. The Award is allocated to the activists. Individuals and institutions in the field of interfaith dialogue, tolerance and coexistence the first of its kind worldwide.

Purpose of the Award:

The Award aims to support and encourage the efforts and initiatives of individuals and institutions/organizations that have had a prominent impact in promoting dialogue and



consolidating a culture of peace and coexistence.

Award Trustees and Jury:

The award is supervised by the Award Trustees Committee, composed of religious scholars (Muslims, Christians, and Jews), in addition to officials from the center. The Award Trustees Committee selects the judges from the best specialists in the topics of the award for this year from all over the world.

Award topics:

The award is keen for its topic to be consistent with the themes of the international conference held



by the Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue, and it is awarded to three institutions and three personalities who have had effective contributions

or outstanding projects in the field of interfaith dialogue, and the award winners are honored during the opening ceremony of the conference.

Themes of the 14th Doha Interfaith Dialogue Conference

Religions and Hate Speech... Practice and Scriptures

3 – 4 March 2020

Preface

Two dangers are facing our world today: the first is the obvious threat of terrorism; which all people have agreed on to confront, and the second, which is no less serious; that is the risk of the escalating hatred discourse, based on the exclusion and discrimination behaviors, that classifies people according to their religion, gender or color.

We need to admit that the Religious Fanaticism is the main cause of the conflicts facing our world today, among other factors, to erroneous understanding of the religious

purposes and God’s supreme objectives of creation, and use this mis-conceptualization to support an authoritarian outlook supported by nationalism and religious hatred practices, which have generated those extremist models that fuel hatred speech and reject the dialogue’s culture and peaceful coexistence.

The Doha international Center for Interfaith Dialogue has so often called on for, through its conferences, to adopt an effective strategy to counter this phenomenon through religious and moral values and legal means, as the desired stability depends on the extent efforts at

the individual and institutional level to consolidate the beliefs of peace and tolerance.

We believe that the only way to combat the hatred discourse is by eradicating its roots, and adopting the intellectual debate to detect the inherent mistake of the appeals for sectarianism and racism and the rejection of the others.

Hence, the 14th Doha International Conference for Interfaith Dialogue will discuss the theme “*Religions and Hate Speech... Practice and Scriptures*”.

• **Causes:**

Theme 1: Hate Speech: Causes, Drivers, and Risks

1. Radical Religious Discourse and the Spreading of Hate-Speech

- The concept of hate speech.
- Misunderstandings of religion and the promotion of hate speech.
- Impact of the rise and proliferation of hate speech on achieving world peace.
- Extremist discourse of some clerics and political leaders.

2. Controls and Abuse of Freedom of Expression

- Abusing minorities and contempt for religions and religious figures.
- Misuse of freedom of expression.
- Freedom of expression in the light of repression and irresponsibility.

3. Targeted Media and Promoting Hate Speech and Inciting Violence

- Increasing media campaigns targeting a religion, a sect or a group.
- The danger of employing media for political and ideological causes.
- Media mechanisms for monitoring and controlling hate speech.
- The double standards in media discourse both internally and externally.

• **Practices:**

Theme 2: Types and Forms of Hate Speech

1. Dangers of spreading hate speech images

- Hate speech on inciting violence and terrorism.
- Political exploitation of hate speech.
- The implications of the proliferation of hate speech on peaceful coexistence.

2. Hate Speech Practices and Effects

- Growing racism due to hate speech.
- The rise of hate speech against refugees and religious minorities.
- Hate speech against women.

3. Effect of Social Media on Hate Speech

- Lack of controls and monitoring on social media.
- The contribution of social media to the rapid spread and circulation of extremism.
- Role of Social media in igniting religious and sectarian strife.

• **Ways of Addressing and Confronting the Issue**

Theme 3: Desired Actions for Combating Hate Speech

1. Combating hate speech through religious, and media leaders, and institutions

- The responsibility of religious scholars in raising awareness among the public for respecting the others.
- The impact of media in reducing hate speech.
- Religious and moral values against hate speech.
- Create a culture of peace, coexistence and respect for cultural and religious diversity.

2. Constitute International Laws and Conventions to Criminalize Hate Speech

- Exercising freedom of expression under international humanitarian law.
- International conventions to confront hate speech.
- Legislative frameworks (religious and legal) against hate speech.

3. Educational Institutions in facing Hate Speech

- Empowering future generations through education to encounter hate speech.
- Confronting hate speech through culture and arts.
- Respecting diversity, accepting pluralism, and understanding of the others.

DICID Holds Ramadan Meet for Indian Community



Doha: The Ramadan Youth Meet hosted by Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue - DICID for the Indian community in cooperation with Youth Forum Qatar urged expatriates to play a role in positively transforming society. "Qatar has always been a land of peace and harmony for the nationals and residents alike and DICID as an initiative of the visionary leadership of Qatar is aimed to support and promote a culture of dialogue and peaceful coexistence among believers of different religions

and to motivate religious values as a solution to the issues of concerns and problems to the humanity" said Dr. Ibrahim Al Nuaimi, Chairman of the Doha International Centre of Interfaith Dialogue while inaugurating the Doha Ramadan Meet hosted by the DICID in cooperation with Youth Forum Qatar in his speech to a packed audience of around 2500 Indian expatriates at the Qatar Sports Club, Doha.

Dr, Al Naimi reiterated the importance of active participation

of the expatriate community in Qatar and highlighted the vital role they have to play in positively transforming the society. Further he praised the expatriate community in Qatar for promoting a very friendly living atmosphere kindled with mutual respect, fraternity and cooperation. "For this reason, the inter-relation and cooperation within expatriate organizations, associations, and societies have been one of the main priorities of DICID" added Dr. Al Naimi. He encouraged the audience to

foster these values of solidarity and brotherhood developing the environment of positive dialogue culture among religious and cultural communities in Doha.

Mr. Shihab Pookkottur, young scholar and Secretary of Majlis Education board, India and Fr. Dr. Paul Poovathingal (Principal Chetana Music College, India) delivered keynote address. Both stressed the importance of culture of dialogue and peaceful coexistence among believers of different religions in their speeches.

Mr. Jamsheed Ibrahim, President of Youth Forum Qatar chaired the session. In his speech he appreciated Qatar and admired its stand on spreading the word of peace and fraternity through initiatives like establishing

prominent institutions like DICID and Qatar charity in building constructive dialogue culture among the various communities in Qatar and abroad and conducting diverse welfare activities among the working expatriates for their wellness and peaceful coexistence.

During the felicitation speech, Dr. Mohammed Bin Ali Al Ghamidi, Executive Director of International Development at Qatar Charity stated that Qatar Charity is committed to continue their humanitarian and development programs to support the various communities in Qatar and globally for their welfare and social fraternity. Also he expressed gratification in these types of gatherings in the month of Ramadan regardless of religious boundaries.

Welcoming the Audience, Vice President of the Youth Forum Mr. Absal Abdhutti, expressed his sincere gratitude to the various governmental and non-governmental institutions in Qatar for their invaluable supports and expressed the forum's continued commitment for peaceful social engagements, services to the society and creating a space for all to come together irrespective of all differences towards their vision of One World One Love.

Felicitations were conveyed by KC Abdul Latheef, President - Center for Indian Community. Mr. Haris Puthukool, General Secretary Youth Forum Qatar also attended the Ramadan Meet. The event was remarkably attended by around 2000 Indian Expatriates from various Indian communities in Qatar and concluded by Iftar.



Doha International Interfaith Dialogue received the i Ambassador to Qatar Omar Al-Barzanji



Prof. Ibrahim bin Saleh Al-Naimi, Chairman of the Doha International Centre for Dialogue, received at his office HE the Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq in Qatar, Omar Al-Barzanji on Sunday evening, 29/9/2019, this visit aimed to review the activities of the Centre, exchange ideas, and discuss means for cooperation between DICID and diplomatic representation in Doha in interfaith dialogue field. The guest was received by a number of researchers and officials at the Centre.

At the beginning, Dr. Al-Naimi, welcomed the guest and praised his experience on interfaith and cultural dialogue. He stressed that such meetings with politicians and experts in the field in which he contributed to the opening of new horizons of knowledge, the exchange of ideas, between follower of various faith and

ideologies leads to maturity, for the benefit of the future generations.

From his part, the Ambassador thanked the DICID for the warm welcome. He presented his own experience, in Europe, as an expert, where he was leading field number of civil society organizations in Europe, operating in the field of interreligious and cultural dialogue and peace building. He was also represented in official position of the Iraqi government abroad, and also appointed as the undersecretary of state for legal affairs and multilateral relations and interest in dialogue at all these stations, especially in the Vatican.

Ambassador Barzanji stressed the keenness of the Iraqi Embassy to invite Iraqi academic, interfaith specialists and clerics to

participate in the dialogue and dialogue around the world, and that it was designed to address issues of concern to humanity, through dialogues, academic analysis and scientific debates, especially from the perspective of religions to the 14th Doha Interfaith conference, that will be held on (3-4 March 2020) entitled: "Religions and hate speechPractice and Scriptures "

He proposed, in cooperation with the Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue, the organization of a joint symposium discussing on the confusion between Islam and terrorism.

Dr. Al-Naimi welcomed the idea and this subject, pointing out that the seminar should be enriched by other speakers from other religions. He also presented the activities of the Doha International Centre for Interfaith Dialogue, most notably the Doha International Conference on Interfaith Dialogue, which has been held periodically. Thirteen conferences have been organized since the inception of the Centre in 2007.

The Doha International Center for Interreligious Dialogue is the leading institution in Qatar for interreligious and intercultural dialogue and capacity building. To strengthen this trend, it communicates with similar centers around the world, as well as exchanges visits of academics and religious leaders from various faith communities, cultures and races.

Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue received a delegation from the Supreme Council of Muslims in Germany

On Wednesday 28 August 2019, Prof. Ibrahim Saleh Al Naimi, Chairman of the Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue a delegation from the Supreme Council of Muslim, composed Mr. Ayman Mazyek, Chairman, and Mr. Abdul Samad Al-Yazidi, Secretary General.

At the outset of the meeting, Dr. Al-Naimi welcomed the guests and expressed his delight for the visit, stressing the distinguished relations of DICID with the various German interfaith organizations.

For his part, Mr. Ayman Mezzek affirmed his keenness to visit the Doha Center for Interfaith Dialogue during his stay in Qatar, and praised the DICID for its role in spreading the religious values and promoting a culture of interfaith dialogue to achieve peaceful coexistence among its adherents. International level.

From his side Mr. Abdul Samad Al-Yazidi, presented a comprehensive of the Supreme Council of Muslims which supervises 300 mosques from its headquarters in Cologne and through a its numerous branches throughout country .Mr Al-Yazidi is also a founding member of the Abrahamic Forum In Germany, founded 20 years ago, by the leaders of the three Abrahamic religions, and has so far organized more than 500 events in a number of main German cities, to promote a culture of peace and activate the role of interfaith dialogue, as well as to address issues arising



from religious diversity in a multicultural society; such as Muslim minorities living in non-Muslim countries.

Dr. Al-Naimi, Chairman of DICID gave a brief and comprehensive picture of the Center's activities, as well as in the national and abroad. He stated that the Center regularly organized, at the local level, training courses for students and teachers in independent and private schools, with the aim of training in the skills of dialogue and communication, educational lectures and round tables for the communities living in Qatar, in addition of the publication of bilingual interfaith magazine " Religions ", the Newsletter, translated books, selected letters and various publications related to the activities of the DICID .He mentioned the specialized library in the comparative studies.

At the international level, the Center has organized numerous symposia and international conferences outside Qatar;

these meeting were focused on promoting a culture of dialogue and peaceful coexistence.

The Center also has planning to organize a conference in Germany to discuss Muslim issues in Europe; Mr. Ayman Yazbeck welcomed the idea and stated that the Supreme Council of Muslims in Germany was ready to collaborate in such events .

It is worth mentioning that the Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue is one of the leading Arab centers in the field of interfaith dialogue and is active in its field of specialization, in cooperation with all relevant institutions, at the local, regional and international levels.

At the end of the meeting, Mr. Mzek thanks Dr. Al-Naimi for this meeting and expressed his happiness for this visit that was a good opportunity to establish cooperation with the Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue in.

Visit of the Georgian Ambassador to the DICID

Dr. Ibrahim Al Naimi, Chairman of the International Center for Interfaith Dialogue received the Georgian Ambassador to Doha, H.E. Mr. Nikoloz Revazishvili in his office, at the Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue (DICID) on 16 October 2019.

Dr. Ibrahim Al-Naimi, welcomed the Georgian Ambassador and briefed him on the forthcoming 14th Doha Interfaith Conference, stressing that invitation were sent to all foreign diplomatic representation in Qatar and Qatari Embassies abroad.

The Georgian Ambassador, praised the DICID's Chairman and staff for the for the 14th Doha Interfaith Conference preparations, dealing with the important topic Religion and Hate Speech ...Practice and Scriptures" and informed that a delegation from his country will participate in that event.

Dr. Ibrahim Al-Naimi for his part, presented a short overview about the DICID's activities covering, local as well international event. At the local level, the DICID has been regularly organizing training courses for students and teachers for independent and private schools to empower their students on dialogue and communication skills, in addition to lectures and Roundtables targeting communities residing in Qatar. The Center also produces



a number of publication such as the interfaith specialized journal "Adyan", and Newsletters.

The Georgian Ambassador gave, for his part, an brief view of the interreligious dialogue experience, from his country, where coexists a diversity of ethnics and religious beliefs, including Christians and Muslims Jews. The Georgian Constitution has guaranteed religious freedom and tolerance for all communities. The ambassador hoped to collaborate with the DICID, and embody Georgia and Qatar common interfaith experience through joint initiatives.

For his part, Dr. Ibrahim stressed the commitment of the Center to enhance cooperation with

the various parties in Georgia to achieve larger representation of the cultural and religious diversity in the country and thanked the Ambassador for his collaboration, and particularly support to the forthcoming Doha Conference. He also hoped that the cooperation will extend to a partnership through which the institutions of both sides can benefit from the exchange of experiences and support joint initiatives and projects aimed at empowering and developing local and civic communities.

At the end of the meeting, the two sides agreed on coordination and follow-up to reach the implementation of the points dealt with during the meeting.

A young leader's delegation from Europe and America Visited Doha Center for Interfaith Dialogue

On July 7, 2019, the Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue received a 12 young leader's delegation from Europe and America, who are currently visiting Qatar. The visit comes within the framework of the UN Alliance of Civilization Fellowship program that aims at deepening mutual understanding among young people in Europe,


and Arab and Islamic countries, by exchanging visits of young leaders between those countries for a good mutual understanding of commonalities and differences between cultures and religions to establish peaceful coexistence and cooperation among peoples.

The meeting was attended by HE Dr. Ibrahim bin Saleh Al

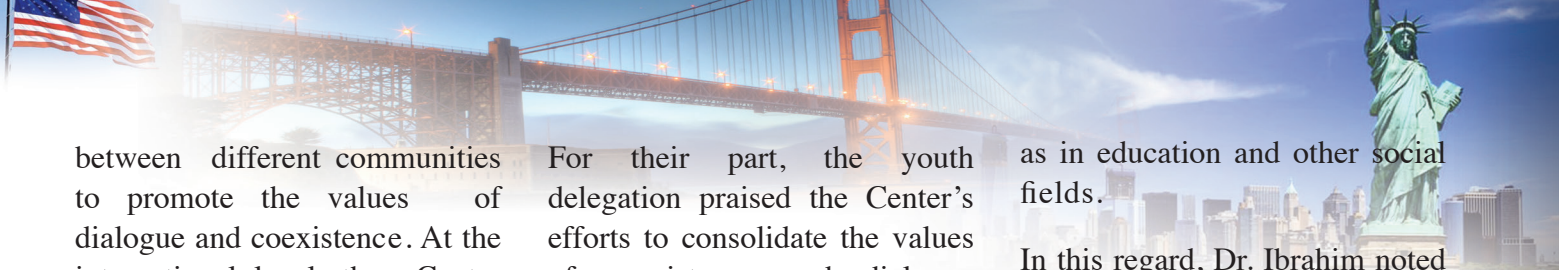
Naimi, Chairman of the Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue (DICID), number of officials and media professionals.

In his opening speech, Al Naimi explained that the Center seeks at the local level to form a bridge between citizens and residents, by conducting various activities that create interaction





between different communities to promote the values of dialogue and coexistence. At the international level, the Center promotes international dialogue between different religions and cultures around the world through participation, to that end it has organized conferences in cooperation with universities and organizations working in the field of interfaith dialogue in different countries around the world. These forums address issues of interest to communities in these regions in strengthening the role of Religions in peace building and spreading value of tolerance between different religions and cultures.



For their part, the youth delegation praised the Center's efforts to consolidate the values of coexistence and dialogue between religions and cultures, and then asked questions about the Center activities, specifically the place given to youth, and activities targeting communities residing in Qatar.

The discussion focused on "Women's Role in Peace building Around the World", which was chosen to be the theme of 2019 Young Leaders program. Dr. Ibrahim Al Naimi highlighted on different measures that that state of Qatar has taken to empower women in Qatari society, as well



as in education and other social fields.

In this regard, Dr. Ibrahim noted that the center pays great attention to the Youth by involving young people in various activities, both in its annual conferences and Roundtable Discussions.

Dr. Ibrahim Al Naimi also noted the forthcoming 14th International Conference on Interfaith Dialogue, he invites young leaders to take part in this event .

During the visit, members of the delegation visited the library of the Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue, as the first Qatar specialized in interfaith.

