

IRCICA's Activities in Dealing with Covid-19 Pandemic

IRCICA's Webinar on "Turning Points in History and Effects of Pandemics": The Research Center for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) Webinar Series started with a forum discussing the theme titled "Turning Points in History and Effects of Pandemics", which was held on 20 May 2020. The webinar was opened with a speech by IRCICA Director General, Prof. Dr. Halit Eren, and was moderated by Prof. Aboubacar Abdullah Senghore, Assistant Director General of IRCICA. The theme of the forum was discussed from two different perspectives: an overview of humanity's experience in pandemics, which was discussed by Prof. Dr. Azmi Özcan; and an evaluation-estimation of economic outcomes of the pandemic that was elaborated by Prof. Dr. Sadk Ünay. Participation from Chad, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, and Tatarstan (Russia) enriched the discussion. The forum depicted the trends and consequences of the Coronavirus pandemic with regard to various sectors of activity and international relations. It also cited some major epidemics that played roles in changing the course of history from the viewpoint of political and religious history; and addressed the economic and governance impacts of the pandemic.

Videoconference on the "Role and Contribution of Bukhara to Islamic Civilization": A scholarly videoconference in commemoration of "Bukhara Islamic Cultural Capital for 2020" was jointly organized by the Centre of Islamic Civilization of Uzbekistan, the International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan, the Ministry of Culture of Uzbekistan, IRCICA and ICESCO on 28 May 2020. The conference was themed "Role and Contribution of Bukhara to Islamic Civilization". 100 academics and experts from universities and research centres from 20 countries participated in the event. The videoconference stressed the diversity of fields of science and knowledge by examples of world-renown scientists, Islamic scholars, monuments and artworks from Bukhara. It also discussed other issues, including the spiritual heritage of Bukhara in Islamic civilization and its study by foreign and Uzbek scientists; and Islamic culture and art in Central Asia.

IRCICA's Webinar on "Urban History of the Islamic World and Prospects for the Post-Pandemic Era": The Research Center for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) organized a Webinar on "Urban History of the Islamic World and Prospects for the Post-Pandemic Era" on 16 June 2020. Leading experts of urban history and architectural planning, who participated in the event via videoconference, contributed immensely to the discussion and offered some recommendations. IRCICA Director General Prof. Dr. Halit Eren noted that IRCICA has undertaken scholarly consultations and research on the effects of the pandemic and possible needs and transformations of post-pandemic times in Islamic cities with special focus on heritage sites and monuments. Many speakers participated in the Webinar, including Professor Gulzar Haider from Pakistan, who gave remarks on educational aspects in architectural studies and beyond it; and Professor Attilio Petruccioli from Italy who discussed the concept of "organic" philosophy and the "oasis" approach.