



CONCLUSION REPORT OF THE CONGRESS

(13 MAY 2017, Elit World Hotel, Van)

Hosted by and organized under the initiative of Yüzüncü Yıl University, the "**International Congress of 21st Century Islamic World: A Strategic Perspective (Opportunities, Possibilities, Developments, Challenges, Solution Proposals, 11-13 May 2017)**", which turned out to be an event of quintessential significance, was finally concluded.

As a matter of fact, such a congress has been organized not only for the first time in this city of Van, but also in our region, in terms of the wide array of topics discussed within the scope of such an event, the variety of the participating scientists and the diversity of the participating countries.

The congress has been accompanied by a delegation of 108 participants who contributed to the event with their papers, 59 of them from Turkey and 49 of them from 24 different foreign countries like Iraq, Egypt, Morocco, Ukraine, Tunisia, Libya, Algeria, Syria, Spain, Oman, Jordan, Yemen, Kazakhstan, China, Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, Palestine, Iran, Russian Federation, Kyrgyzstan, Afghanistan, Bulgaria and Uzbekistan.

Topics, which constituted the main framework of the congress and which have been the focus of concern throughout the proceedings were discussed under headings such as Geopolitics, Society and Politics; Culture, Education, Economy, Science and Technology,

100 papers were presented in 26 sessions and scientific discussions were carried out. Presentations and discussions were conducted in four languages: Turkish, English, Russian and Arabic.





The presentations made throughout the proceedings of the Congress will be published in the Journal of Yüzüncü Yıl University Social Sciences Institute.

Within the scope of the congress proceedings, these activities were also carried out: Islamic art was reflected throughout the activities in such artistic exhibitions as *Women in Limbo* and *Photographs of Aleppo Today* (Aleppo), related with the tragedies happening in Syria and reflecting a humanitarian catastrophe and a ransack of civilization in the Islamic world.

We are obliged to express our gratitudes and thanks to our revered guests coming both from Turkey and abroad, who supported the congress with the greatest interest and the utmost perspiration and effort. These guests put forth quintessentially valuable opinions and made appropriate evaluations to be utilized prospectively.

We hope that our guests will leave our city more appropriately informed about what is happening in our region, and with beautiful memories as well as with new friendships to be instrumental in tackling the issues highlighted in the congress.

We have also made preparations to make our city discernible and look different through its historical, cultural and natural beauties together with the uniquely elegant Van Lake surroundings. We welcomed our guests in the best possible way and gave info about the city of Van, its culture, history and its natural richnesses. During the visits to Van Castle, Akdamar Island, Edremit, Muradiye Waterfall, Fisheries and Ahlat, our specialist academicians provided guidance and information to our guests in Turkish, English, Russian and Arabic.

In the realization of the congress, Van Governor, Van Metropolitan Municipality, Turkish Airlines, Yüzüncü Yıl University, Yüzüncü Yıl University Scientific Research Support Unit, Van Organized Industry, İpekyolu, Saray, Edremit, Gevaş, Tushba, Ahlat, Ercis district municipalities, from whom we have seen a close interest and strong





support, deserve our gratitudes; our special thanks go to TİKA, YTY Construction and Oil Company, the Sürerler Group, the Elit World Hotel executives by the additional contributions of whom the congress has been realized. We would also like to thank the Congress Organizing Committee for the greatest interest they have shown in this event.

The strong support of the University Rector also deserves to be mentioned here together with 19 people in the Congress organizing committee who have carried out an arduous effort, intrepid and self-sacrificing work for more than 7 months. We thank each and every one of our friends in the organizing committee. These friends have proved their sensitivity toward their universities, Van city and our country, and paid utmost respect and tribute to both this event and our guests coming from both our country and abroad,

The conclusions to be derived from the presentations made throughout the proceedings of the Congress can be summarized as follows:

- Destructive activities and lurid conditions such as occupations, mass migrations, poverty, ethnic conflicts, sectarian conflicts, health problems, exploitation of resources, terrorism, women and child deaths, hunger, mass civilian massacres, destruction of cities and cultural heritage perpetrated by the malevolent global elements and powers in Islamic world destroy our common humanity and civilizational values.
- These pathetic predicaments and lurid conditions have not been brought about with the preference of the Islamic world or Muslims.
- If no initiatives are implemented and measures taken for stopping the aforementioned humanitarian catastrophes, it is inevitable that these events which destroy the cultural heritage of Islamic civilization will usher an era of collapse in global civilizations and unpredictable consequences too as well as trigger a global crisis of various sorts in the future.





- It is unacceptable to develop politics and discourse through the illicitly fabricated and unfounded neologisms such as "Islamic Terror" or "Islamic Terrorism" since it would be unjust and irreconcilable to bring together Islam and terrorism, and because Islam rejects violence and is grounded in peace and salvation.
- The terrorist elements and activities that are called "Islamic Terror" or "Islamic Terrorism" and which have nothing to do with Islam are constructions that are produced and perpetrated by the forces and elements which invented them, nurture them, protect and use them for the sole purposes of annihilating the Islamic World.
- In the Islamic world, communities of people and states are suppressed by outsourced military coup attempts and terrorist activities; Societies and states are being redesigned on the basis of bureaucratic and political positions that can be manipulated, managed and directed.
- The forms of government and powers determined by the will and determination outside of the nation will serve for the demands of the colonial powers, not for the goodness and prosperity of the nation, creating a chaotic environment.
- Power structures that are not based on national will and justice should never be considered legitimate.
- The occupation and intervention activities carried out by the foreign powers in the Islamic world threaten not only the Islamic world but also the global peace and stability. Furthermore, establishing partnerships with elements of occupation and affiliation with the terrorist elements encourages and strengthens terrorism.
- Sects in the Islamic world are representative of Islamic interpretations that emerge according to cultural, geographical, regional, economic conditions with reference to original Islamic sources. It is unacceptable to use the sects as a means of politicization,



dissociation, dehumanization and conflict. On the contrary, instead of sectarian competition and conflicts for the fulfillment of basic human demands and needs such as peace, and economic prosperity in the Islamic world, establishment of cooperation and solidarity is necessary. since sectarian cooperation and coexistence in Islam is deemed as a humanitarian and civilizational obligation and responsibility.

- Today, the events perpetrated in the Islamic World strongly support the illicit aims and plans of malevolent global powers and elements vowing to destroy our civilization.
- The cultural and civilizational heritage and values of the Islamic world are to be viewed as the common values and heritage of mankind, as are other cultural and civilizational values and heritage. Destruction must be considered as a massacre of culture and civilization of mankind as a whole.
- Any destruction or redesigning of the long established territorial integrity of the Islamic countries will further deteriorate the situation, giving way to the formation of new divisions in the Islamic world, which will also lead to the emergence of chaotic environments that can not be fixed or amended in the future.
- Islamic countries should develop a reassuring cooperation network in the fight against terrorism in order to establish peace, stability and happiness of the society and to ensure welfare and prosperity through the administrations based on national will and sovereignty grounded in equity and justice.
- Potential reserves and resources in the Islamic world are unfortunately exploited lavishly and offered to the global markets through the implementation and allocation of the capital and labor found in Islamic world, which would otherwise be more utilizable and profitable for the development and welfare of the people in the Islamic World.

- There is a need for initiatives by countries, institutions and organizations to be taken in order to remove obstacles in the equitable movement of capital, proportionate distribution of income, labor, information, technology, goods and services in the Islamic world.
- Freedom to live the values of culture and belief is the most fundamental and inalienable right of the individual and the societies. Uighurs, the people of East Turkestan, should be able to live their beliefs and cultures freely.
- The rights of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and the Turkish Cypriot community should not be denied and the principle of "equality" should be carefully protected.
- In many regions of the Islamic world, it would not be unfair to point fingers to the malevolent domestic elements who are accomplices in some of these atrocities and and destructions perpetrated in the Islamic world together with the attacks of imperialist powers propounded by ambivalent and irresponsible attitudes of some groups of people in this process.
- The civilizational ties between Muslims have weakened and the political and cultural communication between them has broken down. These ties must be reestablished and cooperation and solidarities must be achieved again. Instead of solving the problem by collaborating with one or more of the attackers and occupiers, developing alliance projects to strengthen ties among people in Islamic world in political, scientific and intellectual fields would be of paramount importance.
- Issues such as mass migrations emerging as a result of occupations in the Islamic world, internal conflicts, terrorist activities, deaths of the oppressed and the innocent children elderly, young people, women during these migrations; women and child abuse, the use of women



and children by terrorist organizations, which are unacceptable, the indifference and ambivalence of international community and media to these tragic situations that are incompatible with our values of common humanity, such as depriving people of even the most basic health care, must be tackled with utmost care and concern and resolved as soon as possible.

- We hope that this congress and its conclusions will provide new contributions to the scientific world and we hope that our conclusions will be instrumental in solving the aforementioned problems in Islamic World.

Prof. Dr. Huseyin KARADAG
Chairman of the Congress Organizing Committee

