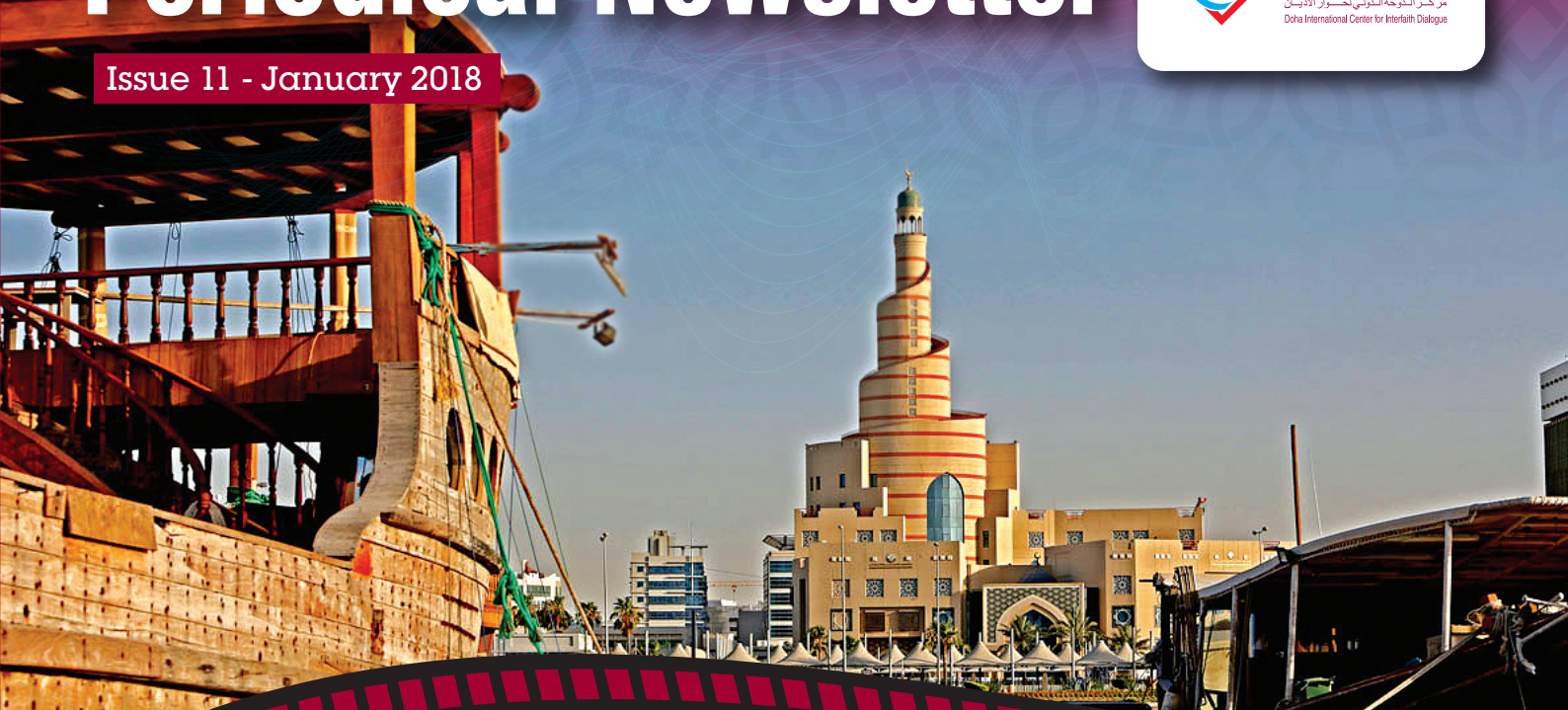


Periodical Newsletter

Issue 11 - January 2018



In this Issue

there is no alternative but dialogue for things to return to normal

- This February the 13th international conference for interfaith dialogue
- Held in Ukraine The DICID organised a conference on the role of religious values in promoting the stability of societies



Prof. Ibrahim Al Naimi
Chairman of the DICID

Redaction

General supervision
Prof. Ibrahim Al Naimi
Chairman of the DICID

Editor in Chief
Masoud Abdulhadi

Translated by
Hisham Al Jundi

Photography
Mohamed Amin

Designed by
Muhammed Shahin

EDITORIAL

This newsletter issue comes in a period that lies between the end of a year and the beginning of a new one. During this year, Qatar has undergone an unprecedented experience in modern history. Some neighboring countries allied to implement an unjust blockade against us that violates not only international conventions but also all human, religious, and Arab values, and attaching no importance to kinship relations and social ties.

As stated by His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of Qatar, in his speech on 21 July “the Qatari community knows how to live, develop, and flourish no matter how long the blockade may last. This is due to the cohesion between Qatari leadership, Qatari people, and the wonderful solidarity between citizens and foreigner residents”.

Thanks be to Almighty Allah, in spite of the blockade, life in Qatar has continued as normal and even better, the Qatari community overcame the effects of the blockade in just a few days after it had happened.

However, as His Highness said, “there is no alternative but dialogue to resolve this crisis”. On more than one occasion, Qatar clearly expressed its acceptance to sit at the table of dialogue, as this is the only alternative.

The Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue (DICID) has sought to promote and defend the concept of dialogue through its different activities and events in support of the local community till this regional crisis is solved.

Time has proven that although everyone loses from the continuation of this crisis, Qatar will be the least loser. So, in order to preserve the meaning of brotherhood and kinship ties, there is no alternative but dialogue for things to return to normal. Dialogue is indeed the only path to take according to reason, logic, and good politics.

In this Issue:

The DICID Launches the Painting of “Tamim Al Majd”	8
Group Iftar in cooperation with Qatar Charity and the Indian Youth Committee	10
Publications: Adyan Journal- (Issue 10)	12
A Masters thesis on DICID	18



DICID Organises a Forum for Intercultural Dialogue

DICID organised the first intercultural forum for youth studying in Universities of the State of Qatar under the theme of “Dialogue of Cultures Forum”. The forum was organised as a leisure and educational trip in the seaside resort of Sealine, choosing fifteen students from different nationalities, religions, languages. They received scholarships to study Arabic at the Centre for Teaching Arabic to Non-Native Speakers at Qatar University.

The forum was a cultural recreational day, where deep intellectual questions were raised, various answers, as well as sections of competitions and social networking between the participants. The forum continued from 7 am to 4 pm.



Receiving a delegation of youth leaders in the West

DICID received a delegation of youth leaders from Europe and America who met HE Prof. Ibrahim bin Saleh Al Naimi, Board Chairman. In addition to youth, the meeting was attended by some researchers and staff of DICID.

This visit comes within the framework of DICID’s interactive activities and programs, which seek to establish communication and interaction with all cultures, religions and communities, especially with the youth. Such activities range from local to international programs. In his speech, Prof. Ibrahim Al Naimi said that DICID is the Qatari concerned foundation in interreligious and intercultural dialogue and boosting capabilities in dialogue and peace. He also stressed the role of DICID in promoting the culture of peace and coexistence among the various segments of the society in cooperation with the religions, including the churches affiliated with the Steering Committee of Churches in Qatar.

He stressed that DICID pays attention to the youth sector and is keen to involve young people in its activities, in its annual and roundtable conferences. The youth sector is considered an influential player in Qatar.

The visiting delegation represents youth leaders in Europe and America. The visit comes within the framework of the events and activities of the Alliance of Civilizations Fellowship program aimed at deepening mutual understanding between Europe, America, Arab and Islamic countries by preparing a group of young leaders in those countries with a good understanding of the fact that differences between cultures and religions are a way of establishing peaceful coexistence and cooperation.



The role of studies' centres in supporting the culture of diversity and dialogue in a seminar at Qatar University

In its events and educational activities, DICID, in cooperation with Qatar University, organised a scientific seminar titled «The role of studies and research centres in building rules and regulatory mechanisms to support the culture of diversity and difference management. DICID as an example», presented by Dr. Mustafa Al-Hakim, Scientific Coordinator at Ibn Ghazi Centre for Research and Strategic Studies in the Kingdom of Morocco.

The lecture consisted of four themes: first, a culture of diversity and difference and related contexts, problems and issues. The researcher talked about the centres of studies and research in terms of concept and message. The lecturer also focused on the rules governing management of diversity. He tackled the experience of DICID and its most important achievements since its inception, as an example of the role of research and studies centres in supporting the culture of diversity.

Speaking about the diversity culture, Dr. Mustafa Al-Hakim stressed the importance of agreeing on the origins that bring together all people, and wondered: Since human beings fall within the same origin, and their origins to one father and one mother, won't it be the way to maintain relationships between them on the rules of mutual respect to evoke this universal origin, despite the different attitudes and beliefs, the varied premises and multiple views and ideas.

He said: We are in need for research institutions concerned with the culture of diversity and difference in this time, in which human beings live in extremism that strives to fight and hate, and cut the bridges of human love and innate communication. He stressed the importance of laying the foundations of effective communication, which encourages respect for others, accept their existence, respect their beliefs, and build relations among people based on cooperation.

He also said: This culture, based on diversity, can protect the will to differ from confiscation, restriction and prevention, and ensure the right of the other to be

independent, unique, distinct from others in thought, behaviour or belief, without oppressing by unjust restrictions on free wills. Also, without killing the spirit of creativity and destroying the power of the mind. The human reality, therefore, will be forgotten, and closed and won't be able to renew and develop the human lives.

He added: The war in the history of the Prophet and Caliphs was not a destination, it was a necessity and essential, as he said: The human brotherhood is a fixed asset, and a well-established feature in the teachings of Islam, considering their belonging to one father and one origin, and their return in creation to one Creator, One Lord and One God.

Speaking about the experience of DICID, the lecturer emphasised the impact and strategic role of research and studies centres, and thinking institutes in guiding policy, providing answers, proposing alternatives and diagnosing problems.

He stressed the importance to take care of such institutions by a legislative and legal framework that preserves their existence, strengthens their effectiveness, ensures their continuity, gives them a room for free practice, and consideration of bureaucratic and political constraints and economic and financial interests.





A Masters thesis on DICID

In a first-of-its-kind academic initiative, a master's thesis on DICID was discussed in the program of Religion Comparative at the College of Islamic Studies at Hamad Bin Khalifa University. (The efforts of the State of Qatar in the field of interfaith dialogue - DICID as an example). The thesis was presented by Hind Mohammed Ahmed Al Hammadi, under the supervision of Dr. Badran Masoud Bin Al Hasan and Dr. Ibrahim Mohamed Zain. The discussion panel was chaired by Dr. Mohamed Khalifa and attended by Dr. Ahmed Mohamed Howeidy, Professor of Comparative Religion at Cairo University, and a visiting professor at Hamad Bin Khalifa University. The thesis was approved with the recommendation to publish.

The thesis was an analytical and critical study to the efforts of Qatar in the field of interfaith dialogue. It focused on DICID by following up the papers presented at the international interfaith conferences held by DICID since its inauguration in 2007. These conferences represent the periodic intellectual and consultative forum between intellectuals and representatives of major religions (Islam, Christianity and Judaism) as well as religious scholars, academics and heads of interfaith centres from around the world.



In a statement to Ibrahim Saleh Al Naimi, Board Chairman of DICID, he said: «We congratulate the researcher on this remarkable achievement by which she earned her Master's Degree in Comparative Religions. Our happiness of this thesis comes not only from being the first undergraduate study on DICID, but also because it is a reflection of the importance of dialogue, its necessity and its main role in resolving all issues and crises.

The researcher Hind Al-Hammadi said: «I became interested in Interfaith Dialogue when I joined the Interfaith Program at the College of Islamic Studies at Hamad Bin Khalifa University, which allows one to learn about the world's religions, beliefs and cultures, and opens up opportunities for communication, dialogue and debate.

During my study of this subject, I was interested in the topic of dialogue among the followers of religions. During the course of a full semester, we focused on the history of interfaith dialogue, its objectives, obstacles, causes, means and types, in addition to considering the views of Islam in such dialogues between, especially among the three religions, Islam, Christianity and Judaism. We were briefed on this area.

The thesis consists of introduction: three chapters, conclusion and recommendations. The thesis studied the term dialogue and its implications and objectives in the researches presented in these conferences to find out the extent of the development of the term along with the conference route.

One of the most prominent results was a semantic evolution of the concept of dialogue in the conferences. The concept of dialogue and its meanings have widened often, and other papers focused on its necessity and importance. The thesis concluded with a set of recommendations that the researcher considers necessary to achieve the objectives of DICID, including the expansion of partnerships in terms of quality not quantity.



As a woman addressing the issues of dialogue and peaceful co-existence, do you see that the women play a real role in the field of dialogue?

The woman's role in the dialogue is that of a human being because the woman, in the end, is a human being of full competence, reason and logic, as mentioned by the Quran: *{O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another.} [Quran 49:13]*

{The believing men and believing women are allies of one another.} [Quran 9:71]

So, to me, woman's role in the dialogue, and participation in decision making, is of the most important and the greatest aspects of civilizational behavior of any nation. Woman is a guardian and educator. If she believes in something, and is convinced of it, it is instilled in the minds and hearts of her children. They have a wide range of acceptance, openness to others, and broadmindedness to accept dialogue.

Where is the solution? Is it with the authorities? Men? Or the women?

In my view, the mission of engaging women in dialogue, and instilling the importance of dialogue should come from the most supreme authorities in any country. It depends on what is called democracy in our contemporary concept which different countries have adopted in their constitutions and laws. The leader must be aware of all institutions and components of the state. This this will give opportunity to the free constructive media and allow the religious scholars the opportunity to show religion in its true form without fear, producing in the end a society whose people, even before politicians, media, and religious scholars, believe in justice, freedom, and equality.

How do you assess the performance and role of the Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue through your personal experience?

The Doha Center for Interfaith Dialogue was established as a result of the recommendation of the first three conferences for interfaith dialogue, and by a decree from His Highness Emir the Father Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani. It was, and still is serving, the state's civilizational trend and Qatar's national vision 2030 in its different tracks especially in the area of social development which is based on developing a just and secure community based on good morals and able to deal and interact with other communities.

Throughout my experience in interfaith dialogue I see that the Center, with its full staff and teamwork, presents the correct vision of Islam's relation with other religions and respect for the other in application of Allah's saying:

{Allah does not forbid you from those who do not fight you because of religion and do not expel you from your homes - from being righteous toward them and acting justly toward them. Indeed, Allah loves those who act justly.} [Quran 60:8]

Moreover, I have found that the Center has been a representative of soft diplomacy in all its activities inside and outside the country through its objectives, vision, belief in combating extremism and terror with all its forms and kinds. It attempts to bring together communities, peoples, religions and cultures through dealing, cooperation, and participation with the different communities of in Qatar, which represent a variety of sects, creeds, ideas and languages. Hence, I believe that the Center in supporting the country in its different cultural activities.

Intolerance of sect and doctrine, narrow-mindedness, and misunderstanding of the concept of dialogue are some of the obstacles to successful dialogue.

THIS ISSUE'S DIALOGUE

Dr. Aisha al Manai:

“Dialogue is the only and best solution for all human issues.”



Dr. Aisha al Manai is the Vice Chair of the Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue, a researcher, an academic, and a woman addressing inter-religious dialogue. We had the following interview with her in which she was frank and clear. She placed a strong emphasis on the necessity of dialogue for people in general. To her, the absence of democracy and freedom of opinion and belief, in addition to intransigence, are among the most important challenges to dialogue. Furthermore, the so called male-centered communities create an additional challenge for a woman because she is not engaged in the dialogue due to mistrust in women’s capabilities. Below is the dialogue in full:

Do you see the need for dialogue in today’s world? In other words, can it really contribute in achieving international peace?

There is no doubt that dialogue is of utmost importance at all times and in all places until the final hour. I have always believed, and still do believe, that dialogue is the only and most optimal solution for all issues of mankind. It is true that Allah, The Almighty, has distinguished man with reason, logic and thinking, but did not save him from error in thought and opinion.

Therefore, mankind is in the direst need of discussion and dialogue which is one of our most distinctive characteristics. Dialogue serves his benefit and the benefit of all people around him. In many cases interests and purposes clash, and the absence of dialogue inevitably leads to conflict; which is detrimental to everything and destroys relations between individuals and countries.

What are the most important challenges to dialogue today around the world?

There are many challenges to dialogue. The most important is the absence of democracy and freedom of opinion and belief. In addition to intransigence, where one thinks that only his opinion is right and only he is on path of truth and all others are in error and falsehood. Other challenges include intolerance of sect and doctrine, narrow-mindedness, and misunderstanding of the concept of dialogue among Muslims and non-Muslims. Also, the refusal of acknowledging the right of difference in opinion, but rather seeing differences as dispute and hostility.

Also, presently, the media contributes significantly and clearly in thwarting the effort of dialogue. It has become a great instrument of affliction and igniting clashes and conflicts. From among the obstacles of dialogue, a mention may also be made of mistrust and doubt between the participants in dialogue and the attempt to vindicate oneself at the expense of facts, peace, and security.

As to the recent political crisis in the Gulf, is it not an indication of the absence of mechanisms of dialogue between the brothers? It is true that the dialogue with the other party is needed, but dialogue with oneself is a real necessity, isn’t it?

The crisis of the Gulf, or more correctly, the crisis of Qatar with its sisterly Gulf states because of their unfair judgment against it was, in principle, the result of the absence of dialogue due to a political or economic benefit they see for themselves. Thus Qatar was accused of terror and put under a political, economic and even social blockade. All this bears the same violence and terror which they claim to fight. This is a fact in which there is no doubt. Were all parties of the crisis to be subject to dialogue, the crisis would have found no place and brotherhood and love would have been maintained between the brothers.

The Center presents the correct view of Islam’s relationship other religions and respect for others.

.. The German Ambassador invites DICID to participate in Berlin Meeting

Prof. Ibrahim Al Naimi, Board Chairman, was handed an official invitation, from the German Foreign Ministry by HE Mr. Hans-Udo Muzel, the German Ambassador to Qatar, to attend the «Berlin Meeting on Religions for Peace» held at the German Foreign Ministry in Berlin on 22 and 23 April 2017.

On the occasion of the visit, Prof. Al Naimi stated that DICID used to cooperate with some German institutions, namely through the participation of German scholars and experts in DICID conferences and DICID's representatives» visits to some German universities that established faculties of Islamic studies; to study Islam in an objective and scientific way.

HE Mr. Hans-Udo Muzel, the German Ambassador to Qatar, commended Qatar leadership that supports peaceful solutions and dialogue and seeks to resolve conflicts around the world.

The Ambassador thanked DICID for its role in



promoting the correct religious values, promoting a culture of interfaith dialogue to achieve co-existence and renouncing intolerance. He also praised the role of DICID in boosting ties between the German community in Qatar and Qataris and other communities. He also praised the DICID's fruitful efforts to promote a culture of dialogue and coexistence through diverse activities, locally, regionally and internationally.

And.. talks to the French Ambassador to enhance cooperation

His Excellency, **Eric CHEVALLIER**, Ambassador of France to the State of Qatar, visited DICID. He was received by **Prof. Ibrahim Saleh Al Naimi**, Board Chairman. They exchanged ideas and visions about dialogue and its importance in this era.

At the beginning, Prof. Al Naimi welcomed the French Ambassador and addressed interfaith conferences, saying: Since 2005, DICID's interfaith dialogue conferences are regularly held, the latest of which was the 12th conference in 2016.

Al Naimi stressed the importance of such conferences as they represent regular annual forums for the interested in dialogue. He pointed out that they address issues of concern to humanity by academic dialogues, analyses and discussions, especially from the perspective of religions. Many groups, including clerics (whether Muslims, Christians or Jews), academics, researchers and all those interested in interfaith issues participate to deal with issues affecting humanity. The most important

issues are selected at the time on which the conference is held.

The French Ambassador praised DICID's role since its establishment and its diverse activities held in favour of the various and different communities residing in Qatar, particularly the French community.

He also praised the DICID's productive contributions at the international level.

At the end of the meeting, the French Ambassador expressed happiness by this visit and hoped that it would be an opportunity to cooperate with DICID in areas of mutual interest.



Came from the East and West for dialogue

DICDC represents Qatar's dialogue initiative with all religions, races and cultures, without discrimination. Over the past months, DICID received many delegations and official and religious figures.



DICID receives the Ambassador of Argentina

Prof. Ibrahim Al Naimi, Board Chairman, received the Ambassador of Argentina in Doha, Ms. Rossana Surball at DICID's headquarter. They addressed DICID, its vision and mission, ways of enhancing cooperation and new means of cooperation between DICID and the institutions and other bodies engaged in interfaith dialogue in Argentina.

At the beginning, Prof. Ibrahim Al Naimi welcomed the Ambassador. He referred to the ongoing cooperation with Argentina Interfaith institutions, through regular participation of Argentina representatives of Christianity, Islam and Judaism in DICID's activities and annual conferences since the start of interfaith dialogue in Doha. The Ambassador praised DICID's role in promoting the culture of peace and coexistence among different religions, cultures and civilizations through various activities, locally and internationally. She expressed her desire to boost cooperation by taking advantage of the religious and cultural diversity that characterises Argentina.

Acting Liberian Ambassador visits DICID

Ali Sylla, the Acting Ambassador of Liberia visited DICID and met Prof. **Ibrahim Saleh Al Naimi**, Board Chairman. The visit was aimed at boosting relations between the two sides. They discussed means of cooperation between DICID and the relevant organisations in Liberia.

Prof. **Ibrahim Saleh Al Naimi** welcomed the visitor and confirmed that DICID is interested in cooperation with all authorities in interested in joint activities, exchange experiences, strengthen capacities, discuss ways of communication and open horizons of dialogue among different cultures.

Mr. Ali Sylla explained the activities of interreligious dialogue in Liberia and how they started in 1990; after the civil war. Now there is a national council of religions to represent the different religions. It organised several interfaith meetings to discuss issues of common faith.



DICID represents Qatar in

A Dialogue Conference between the Arab and Chinese Civilizations

In continuation of Qatar's participation in countering terrorism, Qatar delegation, represented by Prof. Ibrahim bin Saleh Al Naimi, Board Chairman of DICID, and Ms. Nadia Al-Shaibi, Assistant Director of the Diplomatic Institute at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, participated in the seventh session of the Dialogue Conference between the Arab and Chinese Civilizations, held for two days in Chengdu, China, on Tuesday, 15 August 2017. Arab delegations from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, experts and specialists from the Ministries of Awqaf and Research Centres also participated.

Prof. Al Naimi participated with a paper titled: **Islamophobia and its impact on international peace**. (He discussed the definition of Islamophobia, its origin and causes (historical and contemporary). He also addressed the impact of Islamophobia on the international peace. He concluded with some proposals, gained from Qatar and DICID's experience in dialogue and in facing extremism and terrorism, to stop Islamophobia.

During the conference, many issues were discussed including the Arab-Chinese partnership in the Silk Road Economic Belt, the Moderation in the Arab and Chinese civilizations, Islamophobia, social harmony, extremism and ways to address its causes and Arab-Chinese cooperation in confronting and uprooting it.

Nadia Al Shaibi, Assistant Director of the Diplomatic

Institute at the Foreign Ministry, praised the distinguished relations between the State of Qatar and the Republic of China. She pointed the volume of trade between the two countries, which doubled in the past few years, whereas Qatar provides 35% of China's natural gas needs.

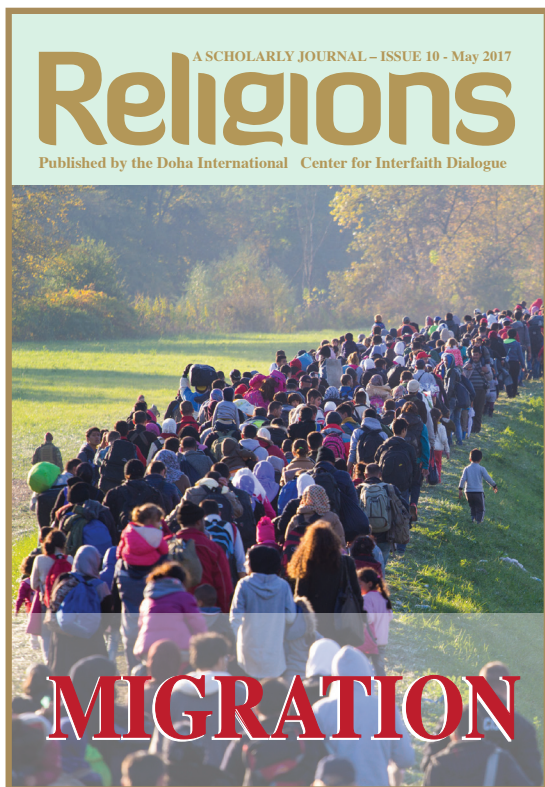
Prof. Ibrahim Al Naimi, also said: "Qatar's continued international cooperation in countering extremism and terrorism is undeniable. Qatar believes that addressing such issues is a global necessity that requires international cooperation to achieve stability. Nations-building begins with human-building by cooperation in order to build societies based on mutual respect and co-existence irrespective of the different religions, cultures and races.

He added: "Nowadays conflicts, seemingly, aim at achieving sovereign or economic interests, but still there is a cultural, civilizational and ideological conflicts that, with no doubts, fuel hostility and conflicts actually raised by misconceptions and prejudices towards each other. The false ideas we face, supported by religious and national hatred, have produced extremists who discourage the idea of dialogue and peaceful coexistence and inflame disputes among civilizations."

The dialogue conference between the Arab and Chinese civilizations is an important part of the Arab-Chinese Cooperation Forum, whereas six sessions were held since establishment in 2005.

Adyan Journal- (Issue 10)

The Issue includes 14 topics in Arabic and 13 in English and French.



DICID published the new Issue of Adyan Journal, peer-reviewed and research Journal that included in its tenth Issue, recently published, researches in Arabic, English and French discussing migration, refugees and human rights. It focuses on the values of dialogue, tolerance and intercultural coexistence among cultures and races in different countries. The new Issue consists of 228 pages, includes 14 topics in Arabic and 13 in English and French. The Issue, written by the researcher Akinada Akintundi, Chief Editor of the Journal, stresses the importance of the issue of migration and its relationship to dialogue and human coexistence. She said that this Issue focuses on the study of different types of migration methods and the new patterns imposed by this phenomenon on the intellectual style of different religious

traditions, which spread across the world by migration, which added new scopes to religions through the geographical expansion. This resulted in unique frameworks in the 21st century by which religious traditions interact. It can be emphasized that religion traditions are not static, but in continuous transformation by changing dynamics. These are confined to some regions and intensified in others.

We must believe that religion traditions can end the crises around us; through the spiritual force that drives hope and faith to face the challenges impeding our path. This is followed by the development of a strategy of dialogue through which people

The new Issue of Adyan Journal focuses on studying different types of migration methods and the new patterns imposed by this phenomenon on the intellectual style of different religious traditions.

can transcend what Gandhi described as «Madness of violence». In addition, the thinking of new programs and policies to establish a good developmental framework capable of developing a peaceful society full of compassion and integration.

It concluded by emphasizing the role of DICID, which embraces such humanitarian theory. This is why the tenth Issue of Adyan focuses on the means of governing the current relationship among religion, migration and identity. The aim, here, is enlightening policymakers and thinkers to provide studies on different ways and means of dealing with and benefiting from religion and cultural diversity.



Agreements

DICID has expanded its partnership with parties and organisations that agree with DICID in certain visions and objectives, locally and internationally, to exchange experiences and promote joint activities.

A Cooperation Agreement between DICID and Qatar Youth Hostels

To enhance cooperation between both sides, DICID and Qatar Youth Hostels signed a cooperation agreement in the presence of Prof. Ibrahim Saleh Al Naimi, Board Chairman, Mr. Mohammed bin Mahdi Al Yami, Board Chairman and Executive Director of Qatar Youth Hostels. A number of officials from both sides, media professionals and those appreciating intercultural dialogue were also present.

The purpose of the agreement is to cooperate, coordinate and jointly support to hold conferences, seminars and training courses between the two sides, as well as improving youth interfaith dialogue and convergence of civilizations.

On this occasion, Prof. Ibrahim Saleh Al Naimi, Board Chairman of DICID, said: We are pleased to sign this agreement with a unique youth organisation that serves youth and is dedicated to improve humanity.

Mr. Mohammed bin Mahdi Al Yami, Board Chairman and Executive Director of Qatar Youth Hostels, said: “There are many common objectives between Qatari Youth Hostels, affiliated to a long-standing international organisation, and DICID, which serves the dialogue of cultures and acceptance of the other. Accordingly, it is necessary to conclude a cooperation agreement between both institutions to achieve both sides’ common objectives by implementing joint programs targeting youth and different communities.”

An Agreement with the Serbian Faculty of Islamic Studies

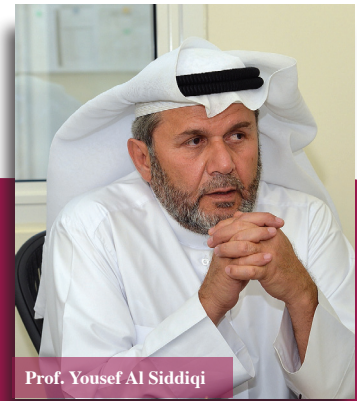
In the context of enhancing cultural communication with religions and nations, DICID signed a cooperation agreement with the Serbian Faculty of Islamic Studies to boost cooperation between the two sides in order to enhance the value of dialogue, take advantage of each other's relationships, support dialogue researches and exchange experiences and cooperation to hold conferences and scientific and cultural seminars in the region of Sanjak, the Balkans and Eastern Europe.

The agreement was signed on the sidelines of the 17th Doha Forum. Prof. Ibrahim bin Saleh Al Naimi, Board Chairman, signed on behalf of DICID, and Dr. Anwar Getich, Dean of the Faculty of Islamic Studies, Novi Pazar, Serbia signed for the Serbian side.



Special outcomes

The DICID announced its executive plan for the next season after Eid al-Adha holiday. During the last period, DICID organised a seminar on the regional conditions experienced by the Gulf, specifically the Siege crisis, on September 25. The seminar was titled: **(The role of dialogue in crises-solving: Siege of Qatar as an example)**



Prof. Yousef Al Siddiqi

Muslims and the World: breaking the Impasse

Over the past year, DICID has participated in many external conferences and events, including the International Conference “Muslims and the World: Breaking the Impasse), which was held in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in March 2017, organised by the World Forum of Mediation.

During the two-day conference, DICID was honoured for its role in promoting dialogue and enriching the principles and concepts of mediation and inter-ethnic, inter-religious and intercultural understanding.

DICID was represented by a delegation headed by Prof. Yousef Al Siddiqi, Board Member and Dean of the College of Sharia and Islamic Studies at Qatar University.

During the conference, Prof. Yousef Al Siddiqi, Dean of the College of Sharia and Islamic Studies, Qatar University, presented a paper titled “Problems of Civilizational Advancement”.

A paper titled “Critical Reading of the Phenomenon of Intellectual Lesions, Intellectual Deviation, Terrorism and Sectarian Intolerance” was presented by Dr. Ali Mohiuddin al-Qaradaghi.

Group Iftar in cooperation with Qatar Charity and the Indian Youth Committee

The Ramadan Forum, organised by DICID in collaboration with Qatar Charity and the Indian Youth Committee, requested all communities to take up responsibility and play a role in promoting the culture of dialogue and peaceful coexistence.

Prof. Ibrahim Saleh Al Naimi, Board Chairman, opened the Ramadan Forum organised by the Indian Community at the Qatar Sports Club on the sidelines of a group Iftar. It was attended by 2500 individuals. In his speech, Prof. Ibrahim Al Naimi said: «Such a forum contributes to highlight the value of tolerance and empathy which are fundamental in religions, and thus provides a positive image of the common values that religions share.»

On his part, Dr. Mohammed Al Ghamdi, Board Member and Qatar Charity's Executive Director of International Development said: «Qatar Charity seeks to support the needy groups in accordance with the principles of human dignity and social justice in cooperation with the development and humanitarian partners, and considers humanity as the general framework for all people.»

Mr. Ferzu Abdul Qader, Chairman of the Indian Youth Committee, praised the role of DICID and Qatar Charity through dialogue and humanitarian services among communities and societies inside and outside Qatar.»





DICID Honours Supporting Institutions and Figures

DICID organised a ceremony to honour the institutions and individuals supporting it, in the presence of Prof. Ibrahim Saleh Al Naimi, Board Chairman, the Board members, honourees and a number of public figures who represented various sectors of the local society, as well as representatives of religions and communities.

The number of honourees was about 40, who participated by activities and efforts to support DICID's activities at the local, regional and international levels. Last year was full of activities and included conferences, seminars and training workshops.

On the occasion, Prof. Ibrahim bin Saleh Al Naimi, the Board Chairman, said: I would like to welcome you to this ceremony held by DICID to celebrate the good people.

He pointed that DICID seeks to improve people and make the culture of dialogue prevail, saying: DICID is a significant institution in the State of Qatar that believes that with nation-building begins human-building through cooperation and helps build societies based on mutual respect and co-existence irrespective of different religions, cultures and races.

The Honourees

Commenting on honouring, Mr. Hassan bin Abdullah Al Thawadi, Secretary General of the Higher Committee for Projects and Heritage, said: I am honoured to represent the Higher Committee for Projects and Heritage in this ceremony. I would like to thank DICID for playing a vital role, especially at this time. DICID represents what Qatar does, as it enhances the country's role in the dialogue of cultures. I would like to thank Dr. Ibrahim Al Naimi and his team for their effort and time to support these initiatives.

Archbishop Makarios told the Orthodox Romans in Qatar: "I am very happy and it is my duty to be here with my fellow Muslims and Christians. It is wonderful to be involved in public activities beside the academic dialogue." Regarding dialogue, Makarios pointed to the need for a dialogue at all times, especially today, where extremism and violence prevail. "We all believe in one God, the God of love and peace."

During the ceremony, Dr. Khalid Al Khater, Vice President of Qatar University for Administrative and Financial Affairs, was also honoured. He said: DICID is one of the centres that I contributed to their establishment, and I saw the effort it exerts in the field of interfaith dialogue. We focus on cooperation and rapprochement between religions and people and the promotion of peace culture. We avoid ideologies, but work to serve our nation and humanity as a whole.



The DICID Launches the Painting of “Tamim Al Majd”

The DICID launched «Tamim Al Majd» painting in the form of a large mural to emphasize support and loyalty to the State of Qatar and His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar.

The painting also says «we all are Qatar.. We all are Tamim». It also includes: «Qatar rises by the spirit of the faithful.» Such statements confirm the history and policy of the State of Qatar, which is based on truth and justice and the value of loyalty, emphasize that Qatar, since the founder’s time, is a shelter for the oppressed. Furthermore, it carries words written by the staff of DICID to show support and love.

The mural was launched by Prof. Ibrahim bin Saleh Al Naimi, Board Chairman of DICID, who wrote in his own handwriting: «The Board of Directors of DICID and its staff support His Highness the Emir Sheikh Tamim

bin Hamad Al Thani, all Qataris and residents of all nationalities, religions, cultures and faiths.»

Prof. Aisha Al Mannai, Vice Chair of DICID, wrote: «Qatar is the land of peace, and its Emir, Tamim bin Hamad, is the prince of peace, we all are Tamim, we are with you, and God be with us.»

The staff of DICID wrote different spontaneous expressions, emanating from the heart, including: «Go ahead Emir, we are behind you as you are right» and also: “We do not fear for Qatar and its people, God preserves them for their good deeds.»

In his speech, commenting on the current political situation, Prof. Ibrahim Al Naimi said: «The solidarity shown by Qataris and residents and their support to Qatar leadership confirms that Qatar stands with truth, justice and reason. DICID encourages dialogue and renounces all forms of aggression and siege. DICID therefore made a slogan for that period: «Yes to dialogue, No to Siege.»

Prof. Aisha Al Mannai said: «Qatar is great, everything about it makes it great. Qatar is distinguished by its Emir and Sheikh (Tamim bin Hamad) and by its people who show love and support their Emir and leader. Qatar is the land of peace that adopts peaceful coexistence of residents of different communities, sects and religions.



Ali Al Qaradaghi

The third speaker, Dr. Ali Mohiuddin al-Qaradaghi, the Secretary General of the International Union of Muslim Scholars, said that the crisis can only be solved by dialogue: Dialogue is the sole solution to all disputes, for example: God Almighty spoke to Lucifer and the angels, and the prophets spoke to their people. Moreover, Islam set ten humanitarian and religious principles of dialogue, most notably the common origin. All human beings are relatives, returning to one origin, our father Adam.



Abdulla Al Sulaiti

Abdulla H. Al-Sulaiti, a Qatari journalist and writer, addressed the lessons learned from the crisis. He said: In my opinion, a committee should be formed to learn from this Siege. He added that His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, the Emir of the country, has said “every cloud has a silver lining”. It is necessary to re-formulate strategies and development plans to achieve economic independence.

Jaber Al Harmi

In his speech, Jaber al-Harmi, a Qatari journalist, addressed the way media deals with the crisis, saying: The Siege countries banned the websites of Qatar and issued a law to prevent sympathy, unlike Qatar that did not ban any channel or website of such countries, because we are not afraid and we are right. Regarding the solution, he confirmed that there is no solution away from dialogue.





Discussing the role of dialogue in crisis resolution:

The Siege of Qatar as an example At a seminar organised by the DICID

The Role of Dialogue in Crisis Resolution

DICID organised an intellectual seminar titled «The Role of Dialogue in Crisis Resolution: The Siege of Qatar as an example».

The seminar was attended by a number of academics and researchers. It included 4 main themes. The first was the need for dialogue and the reason for its absence from the Siege crisis. The second theme addressed: The Siege crisis and the methods of solving it from the perspective of its legitimacy. The third theme addressed the assessment



of the media discourse in dealing with the Siege crisis. Finally, the fourth theme addressed the lessons learned from the Siege crisis.

Ibrahim Al Naimi

In his speech at the seminar, Prof. Ibrahim Al Naimi, Board Chairman of DICID, stressed on the importance of not letting the dispute being raised among populations, although the opposite happened. He said: It is necessary that this dispute does not include societies and people, but rather remains at the level of political decision makers. Unfortunately, it is not the case when it comes to the Siege of Qatar as it included citizens and residents from the first day.

Aisha Al Mannai

Prof. Aisha Al Mannai, Director of Muhammad bin Hamad Al Thani Centre for Muslim Contribution to Civilization, said: The world is witnessing this unfair generalisation against the State of Qatar... Claiming it supports terrorism, without providing evidences. The State of Qatar is, in fact, abused. A group of Qataris were kidnapped and the news agency's website was hacked.



participants expressed the need to promote religious values in societies, especially among young people

In his presentation before the conference, Al Naimi referred to the State of Qatar’s belief that nation-building begins with human-building by cooperation in order to build societies based on mutual respect and co-existence irrespective of the different religions, cultures and races.

Paper of Mohammed Al Ghamdi

During the conference, Mr. Mohammed Al Ghamdi, Board Member of DICID, presented a paper titled «The role of religious institutions in promoting a culture of coexistence and rejection of hatred». It included: **Religious institutions** should play a major role in all the issues that beset our world today. We do not deny that this role has been experiencing fluctuations between positive responses and reservations or even rejection.





Held in Ukraine in partnership with the Ukrainian Centre for Dialogue and Communications
The DICID organised a conference on the role of religious values in promoting the stability of societies

The International Conference on «Role of Religious Values in Promoting the Stability of Society, Spreading the Culture of Coexistence and Countering the Phenomenon of Hatred» was held in Kiev, Ukraine. It was organised by the DICID and the Ukrainian Centre for Dialogue and Communications, and saw the participation of a group of thinkers and researchers from the three monotheistic religions scholars (Islam, Christianity and Judaism).

The conference was launched by His Excellency Mr. Yevhen NYSCHUK, Minister of Culture and Religious Affairs of Ukraine, and His Excellency Prof. Ibrahim Saleh Al Naimi, Board Chairman of DICID, and a number of officials in addition to Muslim, Christian and Jewish scholars.

Final act

In the final act of the Conference, held in the Ukrainian capital Kiev, participants expressed the need to promote religious values in societies, especially among young people, through the proper understanding of religious issues.

Further, they stressed the importance of continuous hard

work to find out the reasons behind hatred among populations and how to overcome that. The participants also condemned all kinds of hate speech and intolerance that lead to violence.

The final act also stressed the significant role of religious leaders in promoting a culture of dialogue and peaceful coexistence. It also emphasised the need for solidarity with individuals and communities who are exposed to hate speech. In addition, participants stressed the importance of Kiev Initiative to protect religious freedom and promote human rights.

Paper of Prof. Ibrahim Al Naimi

Prof. Ibrahim bin Saleh Al Naimi, Board Chairman of DICID, presented a paper titled «The contributions of the State of Qatar and DICID to the promotion of peace culture and the rejection of hatred.»

Conference participants condemned all kinds of hate speech and intolerance that lead to violence