



A Meeting in the Vatican

Working for dialogue and mutual respect

On 28th June the Director travelled to Rome for an audience with His Holiness Pope Francis. They discussed the importance of working for dialogue and mutual respect between all people of faith. The Director presented His Holiness with a framed copy of a verse from the Qur'an (Surat al-Maidah, 5:82), highlighting the mutual respect which Muslims are called upon to share with Christians.

The visit was facilitated by Ambassador Rogelio Pflirter and the British Ambassador, Mrs Sally Axworthy, and included an academic visit to the Pontifical Institute for a roundtable discussion with representatives of the Vatican with interests in interfaith relations, development and European integration and officials from the Office of the Secretary of State.

The Centre is keen to develop its relationship with academic institutions, including those founded in other faiths, and invites senior representatives to a range of its



Pope Francis welcomes the Director to the Vatican

academic activities in Oxford and elsewhere, as part of its commitment to improve understanding between different cultural and intellectual traditions.

Waqf Jurisprudence Forum focusses on Cash Trusts and Funding Endowments

The 8th Waqf Jurisprudence Issues Forum was held at the Centre on 27-29 April 2017. Participants were addressed



Participants at the 8th Waqf Jurisprudence Issues Forum

in the opening session by the General Secretary of the Awqaf Public Foundation HE Mohamed Abdullah al-Jalahmeh, the President of the Forum's Scientific Committee Dr Khaled Al Mathkour, the representative of IRTI Dr Abdullahi Mohamed, and by the Centre's Director Dr Farhan Nizami. The keynote speech was given by The Right Revd Lord Carey of Clifton. The three-day conference for over 30 participants comprised lectures, roundtable discussions, panel presentations and a formal lunch. Two themes considered in the Forum were Cash Trusts in the Public Sector (defined as publicly owned funds or assets used for public benefit) and Funding Endowments through Initial Public Offerings (Charitable Companies), defined as legally established companies set up for charitable purposes in accordance with the Shari'a. The Forum was accompanied by a book exhibition on the theme of Waqf.

The Trinity Term Seminar Series focused on the theme of the Contemporary Islamic World with speakers from the Centre and universities and academic institutions from Oxford, Florida, London (SOAS), Paris (CNRS) and Hamburg.

Dr Michael Feener (OCIS) opened the series speaking on 'Engineering an Islamic Society: Religion, Law and Education in Aceh'. He was followed by Dr Matthew S. Erie (Oxford) who spoke on 'Sharia as Taboo of Modern Law: Halal Food, Islamophobia, and China'. Professor Benjamin Soares (Florida) and Professor Michel Boivin (CNRS, Paris) spoke on, respectively, 'The Study of Islam after the Ethical Turn' and 'Darbar Culture and Muslim-Hindu Encounter in South Asia: Sindh as a Case Study'.

Dr Morgan Clarke (Oxford) lectured on 'The Impossible Court? Lebanon's Ja'fari Tribunals and the Intimacy of Authority'. The series concluded with Dr Carool Kersten (London) speaking on 'From Islam in Indonesia to Indonesian Islam' and Mr Ahmad Khan (Hamburg) on 'Islam in an Age of Print: Antiquarianism, Editors, and a Republic of Letters'.

In a special seminar, the journalist Mr Saeed Naqvi spoke on 'Being the Other: The Muslim in India'.

Vice President of Indonesia lectures on Middle Path Islam: Indonesia's Experience

On 18 May 2017, HE Mr Jusuf Kalla, the Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia, visited the Centre and lectured on 'Middle Path Islam: Indonesia's Experience'. Mr Kalla emphasised the challenges faced internationally, including in Indonesia, in facing down misguided radical and extremist tendencies and remaining true to the values of tolerance and co-existence, as enshrined both in traditional Indonesian culture and the doctrines of Islam. His Excellency called for cooperation,

internationally and between ethnic and faith communities, to help promote the common values of dialogue and mutual respect. He also stressed the importance of applying the law fairly to all citizens and the values intrinsic to citizenship.



HE Mr Jusuf Kalla

International Contacts

Canada



HE Mrs Janice Charette

on the Centre's programmes, and explore ways to strengthen academic cooperation with Canadian institutions with interests in common with the Centre.

Pakistan



Mr Syed Babar Ali

opportunity to discuss prospects for academic cooperation with LUMS, a university from which a number of scholars have spent time in Oxford as Visiting Fellows.

India

His Excellency Mr. Y. K. Sinha, the High Commissioner of India, was welcomed to the Centre in May. His Excellency had recently been appointed to the post of High Commissioner, and this was an opportunity to introduce him to the Centre's work and discuss future plans, in particular, how to develop further academic cooperation with institutions in India.



HE Mr Y.K. Sinha

Malaysia

In May, the Centre was honoured by a visit from Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor who discussed the possible links between the Centre and Malaysia's Permata Programme. Since its founding in 2007, the objective of the Programme has been to provide a platform to realise the potential and sharpen the talents of gifted young Malaysians in their school and university studies.



Datin Seri Rosmah

Tun Mahathir speaks on The Muslim World Today

In June, a lunch was held in honour of Tun Dr Mahathir bin Mohamad who visited with his wife Tun Dr. Siti Hasmah binti Haji Mohamad Ali. After lunch he spoke on the theme 'The Muslim World Today'. Drawing on his considerable and varied experience of modern-day challenges, Dr Mahathir emphasised the importance of promoting peaceful values. Guests from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the University of Oxford and the Centre attended the lunch and Dr Mahathir took the time to answer

a range of questions from them about an unsettled world going through rapid and profound changes. The Director closed proceedings by thanking Dr Mahathir for his support of the Centre over many years.



Tun Siti Hasmah binti Haji Mohamad Ali and Tun Mahathir

Tun Abdullah leads discussion on Islam and Human Capital Development



Tun Abdullah receives a gift during the roundtable

During Trinity Term the Centre was pleased to welcome again Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, the fifth Prime Minister of

Malaysia, and his wife, Tun Jeanne Abdullah. The visit coincided with a roundtable

discussion on 'Islam and Human Capital Development' with scholars from the Centre, Kyoto University and Malaysia (including The Institute of Islamic Understanding Malaysia and the International Institute of Advanced Islamic Studies). Chaired by the Director and moderated by Dr Suhaili Alma'amun, the discussion covered topics such as the role of Islamic think tanks, the potential of madaris, human capital for Islamic Finance in Japan, 'spiritual capital' and the art of values-based leadership.

Annual Summer Programme Leadership Training for Young Muslims

The twelfth Young Muslim Leadership Programme (YMLP) two-week residential summer school took place in July. The annual programme is attended by young British Muslims, men and women between the ages of 20 and 29, who have demonstrated leadership potential in their chosen career-paths. Workshops, seminars and presentations were given by Members of Parliament, senior civil servants and those working in the arts, business, journalism and academia. A YMLP alumni



Anneliese Dodds MP with YMLP participants day welcomed many past participants who shared their post YMLP experiences.

Journal of Islamic Studies

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The latest issue of the JIS contains articles by Aileen R. Das, on 'The Hippocratism of 'Alī ibn Riḍwān: Autodidacticism and the Creation of a Medical Isnād', Janne Matilla, on 'The Ikhwān al-Ṣafā' on Religious Diversity', and Sohaira Siddiqui, on 'Power vs. Authority: al-Juwaynī's Intervention in Pragmatic Political Thought'. The issue also contains 20 book reviews of some of the most recent publications about Islam and the Muslim World.

Cultural Heritage of the Maldives

Dr Michael Feener has recently been awarded a major grant from ARCADIA for work on a project to document endangered tangible cultural heritage in the Maldives. This will include mosques, Muslim grave markers, and many other historical structures through the use of photography, 3D terrestrial scanning, and GIS technology to create an open-access online heritage database. Work on this project will begin in 2018.

ISESCO-OCIS Prize 2017

In recognition of its contribution to the promotion of peace and co-existence, the ISESCO-OCIS Prize 2017 will be awarded to UNESCO at a ceremony in Paris in September 2017.

Seminar Series on Islam and Biomedicine

The theme of the upcoming Michaelmas Term 2017 seminar series, organised in collaboration with the John Templeton Foundation, will be Islam and Biomedicine. The Centre is pleased to welcome back a former visiting fellow, Dr Aasim Padela (University of Chicago), as a speaker on the topic of 'Maqasid and Biomedicine'. Dr Padela will be joined by speakers from the universities of Harvard, Georgetown, Manchester, Berkeley, Cardiff, the Huron University College (London, Ontario) and the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

Twenty Years of Visiting Fellowship Programmes A Growing Academic Community

During academic year 2017/18, the Centre will welcome 15 Visiting Fellows, Visiting Research Fellows and Academic Visitors through its various programmes. Since 1987 the programmes have brought to Oxford scholars from more than 40 countries. Dr Joo-Yup Lee, PhD (Toronto) will hold the Mohammad Bin-Ladin Visiting Fellowship. Dr James D. Frankel, PhD (Columbia) will hold the Abdul Aziz al-Mutawa Visiting Fellowship. Four fully funded Chevening-OCIS Visiting Fellowships (run with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and available to scholars from 30 countries) were awarded to Dr Mohammad Zafar Iqbal, MSc (Gomal), Mr Nodar Karimov, MA (Kazakhstan), Miss Nilay Akcay, LLM (Texas) and Mr Zafar Najmiddinov, PhD (Uzbekistan). The Visiting Fellowship in Islamic Finance (run with the Securities Commission Malaysia) was awarded to

Dr Siti Raihana Hamzah, PhD (INCEIF). Dr Fahd Kasumovic, PhD (Sarajevo) and Dr Khaydarali Yunusov, PhD (Uzbekistan) were

awarded the Imam Tirmizi and the Imam Bukhari Visiting Research Fellowships respectively.

Keen to nurture relationships with former visiting fellows, the Centre is pleased to see alumni return to Oxford. This year Dr Aasim Padela, PhD (Michigan) returns to research the topic of Islam and Medicine. Other visitors will include: Dr Nora Eggen, PhD (Oslo), Dr Lena Rethel, PhD (Warwick), Dr Irwan Shah Zainal Abidin, Dr Syamsuddin Arif, PhD (IILUM) and Dr Emilia Powell, PhD (Florida).

