

**CONGRESS OF EDUCATION IN THE
ISLAMIC COUNTRIES**

**DU CONGRES SUR L'EDUCATION
DANS LES PAYS ISLAMIQUES**

مؤتمـر الـدراسـة فـي بلـاد الـاسـلام

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Congress of Education in the Islamic Countries

Du Congres sur L'education dans les pays Islamiques

مؤتمـر الـدراسـة فـي بلـاد الـاسـلام

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PRESENTATION

Islam spreads in Arabic Peninsula during the life of Prophet Mohammad and it continues to spread in many territories of Asia, Africa and European continents with the conquests, continuing approximately one century after his decease and a new period starts in the world history. Works, having important tracks in the religious, political, managerial, social, economical, architectural and musical knowledge, are produced in such geographies, where are governed by Muslims in the following centuries.

People are provided to enter in such religion by satisfying the local societies in the conquered countries immediately after military conquests for flashing Islamic Civilization unbelievably. Cultures and civilizations, which are available in the different geographies as of the previous centuries, are not excluded and it is benefited from them. Having a level over the current era in the educational area, especially constituting the base of all these positive developments provides existence of these civilizations for a long time. However, it is difficult to state that such educational level, obtained in the past, are maintained in the countries in which current Muslim societies are living and it is real that many of them could not benefit from contemporary education and instruction possibilities in these days. For example, it is sufficient to look for literacy rate in Muslim societies.

Each Islamic activity, which is positive or negative, performed in 57 countries, member of Organization of The Islamic Conference in the last era, 21st Century, are not only restricted with such member countries but also they interest the whole world closely. Everybody benefits from the positive developments. In case of any mistake, it does not only interest the venue but also it echoes in all parts of the world in the short period. There are the ones, which can compete with the most developed countries of the world in many fields as well as ones, which can not display any development mark among 57 countries. It is known that the difference among these countries is based on not giving required importance to the education. It should not be forgotten that the most important and humanitarian feature is the education and instruction. Difference of uneducated person from other living creatures is only being human.

Turkey is not only in its own geography but also it is much more active in the international organizations, in which it is member, with the passing each day. Especially Organization of The Islamic Conference interests many matters of Eastern countries from economy to education, from health to trade, from international relations to art, from history to culture closely and fulfills a great duty. Activities of such organization should be enriched much more with the supports of private organizations such as TASAM (TACSS - Turkish Asian Center for Strategic Studies) and İSAV (The Foundation for Research in Islamic Sciences) and it should be supported with the studies, opening horizons for new generations. Many Eastern and African countries are exploited by European countries in the first half of 20th Century. Education is one of the first fields, taken hand by exploiter countries and many historical and traditional education institutions are closed in this period, open ones lose their importance. Especially traditional education institutions, providing religious education, do not endure the press on them and they are disappeared or they adopt Western educational systems considerably and they depart from their original and historical identities.

All the countries, in which Muslims are living, become independent in the process, beginning as of 1950's years and continuing until 1970's years. Today we have to know the educational institutions in these countries from preschool education to post-university education closely. We consider that it is the good time that studies performed in any country or among territorial countries, should be handled in much more comprehensive meeting and they should be gained into the whole Islamic world and Turkey model about this subject should be explained.

International Argumentative Scientific Meeting, with subject of "Education in Islamic Countries", organized by TASAM and İSAV, is a subject, which is not emphasized more comprehensively up to now. Historical education experiences of member countries of Organization of The Islamic Conference was assessed in this international meeting and current available situations was stated by the experts personally and the most important one is that it was provided to determine a common vision for the future.

Süleyman ŞENSOY

President of TASAM

Prof. Dr. Ali ÖZEK

President of İSAV

OPENING SPEECHES

Prof. Dr. Ali ÖZEK

Chairman of the Foundation for Research in Islamic Sciences

Esteemed ministers, deputies, district officials, attendees coming from Turkey and abroad, members of press and honorable guests...

Welcome to this important congress organized jointly by ISAV (Foundation for Research in Islamic Sciences) and TASAM (Turkish Asian Center for Strategic Studies).

We kindly introduce you our high regards, love and respects on behalf of our institutions.

I plead Allah for our meeting to be successful and beneficial for Muslims and whole humanity and I wish health and beneficial success for all of your life.

Dear audience!

Present regulation of Allah in universe and especially on living things is bound to unchangeable rules. The number of skillful and intelligent individuals is limited among people living together as a matter of being a social self. It is necessary to educate all individuals of the society, both women and men, in order to reveal people having superior intelligence and skill in every nation. Otherwise, it is not possible to find out individuals having superior intelligence and skill and present them upon service of society. As a result, the society cannot benefit from those people having superior intelligence, thus, remains behind at science, art, technology and trade, as it is the case in the Islamic countries. Therefore we have to educate both girls and boys. Societies that could not achieve this cannot succeed in the world matters. In fact, we see it clearly when we look at the undeveloped countries. We see the conditions of nations that could not educate all of their individuals. Especially in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, it is a reality that

education activities retrogressed in the Islamic countries and on the contrary rate of schooling and literacy progressed in western countries.

We, Muslims, have to research how to make all of our children, both boys and girls, literate as from today. It is said as "*it is a profit to stop the loss wherever you can*" in one of our proverbs. We have to address ourselves to this task immediately and do whatever required in order developing education in our countries. We have to think the things we shall achieve in future, not the things we lost in past.

I would like to attract your attention to one more issue. Being rich would not solve the problems. In fact, there are many rich Islamic countries today. They also could not have reached the desired target in terms of education. As I remember, it was fifteen years ago. I have read a research article published in an almanac. As written there, total investment of oil rich Middle East countries was 400 billion dollars. Whole of this investment was given to foreign (western) companies. Even the employees worked in those investments were foreigners too. Furthermore, no engineer and technician from the investing countries worked on those projects. Why?

Because professional manpower is not enough in these countries. And the reason is the lack of education. Thus, we decided to hold such a meeting by inspiring from these thoughts.

Here, I would like to remind Muslims that it is said in Qur'an as: "*Are those equal, those who know and those who do not know?*" (Az Zumar / 9). "*Learning is obligatory for both men and women*" (Ibn Maca – Mukaddima/17) said in a hadith. We shall try to obey these orders. I especially address to the scholars and sheikhs who hesitate education and employment of girls because both men and women are obliged.

Dear audience!

What has passed is called past, we shall look at future. We shall look for the ways to increase education levels of Muslims in 21st century. Our goal should be to give free, fair, beneficial education to both women and men individuals of the society. Otherwise, we cannot reveal the superior intelligence and skills given by Allah to societies in specific numbers. In that case, we shall regress in the race of science, technology, art and trade worldwide. In my opinion, the most important reason of regress of Muslim societies today is ignorance. Because there is so little difference between

people who are not educated and animals in terms of science, knowledge, skill and morality. We see this reality in the primitive human communities which lack of education. However, education is the only thing that exalts human and reveals intelligent, skillful people and geniuses in the communities. The first teachers of people are the prophets. Education can also be oral as it was in some of old tribes. Man needs education in any way in order to be a human in real meaning.

As it is needed to purify the sand in order to obtain mines, especially gold, in the same way, it is needed to educate all children at least at high school level in order to reveal intelligent and skillful geniuses among individuals of the society. The intelligences shall be revealed among the individuals educated up to this level and they shall find their ways in science, art, technology and trade. However, some of the children cannot go even to primary school in the countries where Muslims live. It is obligatory to solve this problem. We do not know, maybe those superior intelligences were among the ones who could not go to school and who were not educated. Well, you know the saying: "*The best investment is the one invested in human*". To invest in human is to educate him/her.

We should not forget that the first order of our holy book Qur'an is "*read!*", then how did we descend to this state. We have to be more careful from now on. This fortune shall not go the same way. As you see today, the world is separating into blocks. Here you see, the United States of America, European Union, Russian Federation are on one side and China, India and Japan are on the other side. Muslims, who got jammed among these great powers and alliances, have to look for the ways of unity by leaving the thoughts of separation. Let us think our situation in future. In my opinion, the remedy is the education and real democracy. We exist today but shall not tomorrow. We shall prepare our descendants to future in a good way. Here I repeat. The remedy is to educate all individuals of the society. Because educated person shall find a way out by himself. Success in life is not in the discrimination between males and females; it is in the education of females and providing business opportunities for them as it was in the age of Rasulullah because our prophet did so and ordered so. Dear guests! Life is a race. This race passes first among individuals then among nations. Only educated individuals and nations can win this race in the fields of science, technology and trade.

In this meeting, esteemed attendees shall put forth their opinions, thoughts and solutions on this subject by their communiqués and debates.

I plead our Lord for our meeting to be successful and I present my thanks.

Süleyman SENSOY

Chairman of TASAM

Islamic Civilization to Be Reconstructed Through Education

Excellencies of ministers, distinguished guests, dear media members;

First of all, I would like to thank you for your honoring. I will keep my speech succinct because there are significant addresses in line and the person who will render the most important message on behalf of our country, His Excellency, our National Education Minister, is in our hall. To allow more time, I will try to make a brief speech.

Before my speech, I esteem in a duty to blame all terrorist activities in the world and especially the terror activities committed against our citizens and security forces, and I proffer this to you.

I consider it as a primary duty to mention the names of the institutions that support our congress to be realized, backing up financially or institutionally. I offer my thanks in behalf of both TASAM and ISAV for the financial and institutional support provided by such foundations as Prime Ministry Publicity Fund, our Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of National Education, Presidency of Religious Affairs, Islamic Development Bank; Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) of OIC -we signed with them a protocol regarding this issue in Morocco-HalkBank of Turkey, The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK).

I also thank to all ISAV and TASAM staffs, all administrators who supported us alongside the state steps and especially to Prof. Ahmed KAVAS and Fatma Gunce KANLI who have spend considerable effort, regarding to mention their names as a duty.

As mentioned in the Congress Invitation Letters, this assembly has three main goals. First, to share, discuss and assess acquisitions of the Islamic world as Turkey is at the outset; second, to try to specify a vision for the future, and third, this will be a congress during which the policies about the trends named as radicalism – this may be a misnaming- which is harmful for the global peace and for the image of Islam in the world will be discussed. There will be about seventy presentations. We have delegation attendance from forty member countries of Islamic Conference. I thank them again for their attendance.

Of course, it is very important to make academic presentations here and to share them with the public opinion. However, what we are aiming here; where is our place in the world and what we are aiming for the future as the Islamic world and as members of Organization of Islamic Countries – as it is a diplomatic roof- is also very important. As you know, before the last two centuries, Islamic civilization was a civilization that set light for the world and guide the world to have a way of life reconciled with wisdom, science, art and with the nature. At this juncture we came, however, Islamic world have troubles by reason of missing some of the improvements at specific points. Actually, struggling with troubles is not peculiar only to the Islamic world; much developed countries are also experiencing state of depression and trouble in a demographic decay. In this context, the duty of the Islamic countries is and their vision must be to reconstruct Islamic civilization through driving benefit of the world civilizations, without excluding the legacy of any, including western civilization. We must aim an Islamic world that have its own way of life and live in this way so that it becomes a peace element not only in its own environment and in its own society but also all over the world and contributes to directing the balances in the world towards the basis of justice and power. And, the only way to achieve this is education. I underline the words “power” and “justice” every time. When the balance is distorted in favor of one side, the events we are experiencing today in the world appear, the events that have existed in Africa during the last two centuries arise. In regard with our republican history, Turkey’s know-how, experience and accumulation, its experiences about western world and its advance in the way to European Union is a great chance for Islamic world because it is not possible to have and use the experiences about one thing and to transmit them to the others, without being familiar and without taking part in it. In that sense, I believe that this congress will be an important political message to share acquisitions of Turkey and the other Islamic countries. Of course, the most important point here is to bring up individuals and generations and to create institutions that

have strategic vision. Yesterday, I searched Internet for this speech. I saw that some of Islamic countries that have billion dollar–budgets have allocated big shares for education, of late years. To allocate more many, does not mean an exact solution for the problem. Who directs this money, who uses it, where he or she uses, through which accumulation of knowledge and equipment is also important. Today, any subject can be concluded with 20% money and 80% human resources. The more money, the more mistakes are made. At this point, our duty is to bring up generations who have strategic vision and who use existing resources in a most practical way, through education. In this context, Turkey is fulfilling one more duty with the mediation of NGOs and under the lead of two institutions; making contributions to progress of Islamic countries and to discussing new policies. As you will see in the final statement, establishment of an institution will, God willing, will be realized. At that point, TASAM has fulfilled, is fulfilling now and will fulfill in the future its own duty with this sector-specific subject, after the openings to Asia and Africa.

I thank time and again to all institutions and individuals that contributes to this congress to be organized. Thank you for listening to me.

PROTOCOL SPEECHES

Dr. Hadi AZİZ ZADEH

Assistant Director-General of ISESCO

Excellencies distinguished ministers of education, Excellency Chairman of The Foundation for Research in Islamic Sciences (ISAV) and the Chairman of the Turkish Asian Center for Strategic Studies (TASAM)...

It is a great pleasure for me to speak here on behalf of His Excellency Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwajri at the opening of Congress of education in the Islamic Countries, which is held in Istanbul, the centuries of old city in culture and history. I will take this opportunity to stress my welcome and gratitude to the government of Turkey and to the Chairman of the Turkish Asian Center for Strategic Studies for having invited us to take part in this important event and for their welcome and hospitality.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen;

The issue at the heart of our meeting, education, is one of extreme importance to the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, ISESCO. I am sure that you agree with me that education is an important component of human resources, training for development and for the fight against poverty. Its necessities mostly found in the Islamic countries, whose educational systems, formal and non-formal, together benefit half of the population. These countries are still suffering from inadequate program, lack of training and trainers with technical supervision etc. Being fully aware of this challenges, ISESCO seeks among other things to reinforce, to deepen and encourage cooperation between his member states in the fields of education, science, culture and communication; gives the priority to a generalization of education inside the Muslim Ummah and considers it as a way of its development.

In order share with you our efforts, I would like to give you a short presentation on ISESCO's achievements, actions and prospects in the field of education. Under the 2007 – 2009 action plan, education programs and

projects accepted by ISESCO, focuses on five fields of action. These consist the back bone of our activities. These fields of our action as follows:

1. Original education, which seeks to energize and modernize institutions for Islamic education and the Arabic language.
2. Literacy within the framework of education for all. It aims at supporting the efforts led by the member states at the level of normal training in literacy centers as well as at the level of entities oriented to recover illiteracy.
3. Teaching system. It aims at developing the sector of education according to a comprehensive approach taking in the account the mechanisms for strategic planning as well as a generalization of entities.
4. Education for sustainable development. This field of action concerns activities which allow three subjects of sustainable development. Environment education, health education, education for the categories in the special needs, international education for an Islamic perspective and link to values of dialogue, human rights, culture of justice and peace.
5. Higher education, which seeks to strengthen the capacities of education and administrative structure of higher education, complementarity between quantitative extension and qualitative improvement processes, through refinement objectives and strategies, modernization of programs and school curricula, improvement of education of management techniques, strengthening of teaching and learning methods.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen;

I should like to end my address by stressing keen interest of ISESCO in cooperation and partnership for efficient strategy and management of education. In this respect, beside the contribution of the member states and governmental organizations, this partnership will materialize in the mobilization and conservative management of community resources,

including the populations' contributions, the zakat, which is one of the potentials of the Islamic world, institutional donations, as well as contributions of NGO's, etc.

Within the framework of the partnership for generalizing good quality education in the Islamic world, ISESCO is open to dynamic cooperation with other organizations.

I wish our congress would be ever successful and thank you for your kind attention.

Dr. Halit EREN

Director General of the Research

Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA)

Excellencies of ministers, Chairman of ISAV, Chairman of TASAM, distinguished participants, distinguished scholars and dear guests;

It is a great honor for me that I convey the greetings of Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Secretary General of OIC, and his wishes of good performance, about the congress. His Excellency could participate in that congress because of an unchangeable program held in Jeddah. I want to present to you his message that he sent for this congress:

As one of the main elements of development of the nations, education has a particular place within the activities approved and pursued by the member countries of the Organization of Islamic Conference that extended on the four continents, from Southeast Asia to South America, and from Central Asia to South Africa. Education topic is one of the main activity fields of ISESCO, an expert establishment of our organization. Moreover, education topic receives weight in our centers in Istanbul and Ankara, IRCICA and SESRTCIC, both of which work on the issues of cultural and economic development, in our center in Bangladesh, which works on the fields of vocational education, and in several departments of our secretariat, in relation with their expertise fields. Today, when the technology is improving in a geometrical speed and when instant communication facilities are creating transformations in all faces of life, not only the topics of education, but also its tools are exposed to alteration. However, societies in the world do not equally receive their shares from modern developments. Member countries of OIC are struggling with the same problems, despite their economic and social structures and welfare degrees vary significantly. One of these problems is to extend education, to provide equality of education, and to improve education standards. To this end, education policies and goals has been determined in the development schemes of Islamic countries. However, when education is at the issue, there are a lot of

sectors requiring attention and resource allocation, such as improving schooling rates, vocational and technical education and education of the majors. When improvement in the literacy rate is still stand as main goal in much of the developing countries and in Islamic countries, the aim of industrialized countries now is to extend the computer literacy. Within the action program ratified by the Islamic Summit conference held in the framework OIC in December 2005 in Mecca, which was put in force in 2006, the topics about education of the youth, education of women and improvement of education in less developed countries were given a special place. It is aimed that at least twenty university from Islamic countries will enter the list of the top 500 world universities, as one of the adopted programs intending reconstruction in the field of science. 34th Session of Islamic Conference for Foreign Ministers, which was held in Pakistan in last May, ratified a decision inviting the member countries to take steps intending for this goal within the framework of national policies, to revise all education programs and institutions according to this goal, to pursue postgraduate education in connection with development programs, to improve quality of the education systems, creativity and innovation in a way that encourages research and refinement. Of course, to improve education is a goal that requires not only the pioneering role of states and related institutions but also participation of the society and socialization of education. To accommodate consciousness of education is also important to close the great distances between regions and between men and women. Regarding the uninterrupted flow of information, the efforts must also be constant. Islamic Countries that developed cooperation in a lot of fields also have many things to do in the education field. I believe that participants of the assembly will contribute a lot in this context. I thank to Chairman of ISAV Ali OZEK and to Chairman of TASAM, and to the other individuals and institutions that have arranged this congress. I wish to present my greetings and to pay homage to all.

Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Secretary General of Organization Islamic Conference.

Lastly, I, on my behalf and on behalf of IRCICA, present my greetings and I wish our congress will be successful.

Ashraf JAWEED

Minister of Education, Pakistan

Dr. Huseyin Çelik, Minister of Education of Turkey, chairmen of ISAV and TASAM, distinguished guests, delegates, ladies and gentlemen;

I would like to start by thanking our hosts for having us here for this excellent topic of the Congress of Education in Islamic countries. The topics are very well structured and the speakers are very distinguished scholars, who are going to talk about various subjects. I do have one mission however. Instead of having all presentation, I wish it was more interactive, that there were some discussions, a few presentations and there were round table to discuss each topic so that some meaningful conclusion can be run out as a result of interaction. One sided presentations are useful but I think we would have added more.

Having said that, I would like to share with you a few talks regarding the Islamic world and education in the Islamic world. So that education is concerned, ladies and gentlemen, Islamic world is in crises both in lower and higher education. As far as the literacy is concerned, out of the nine countries, the nine guessed worst scenarios in the world, five are the Muslim countries. Pakistan is low as it has more than fifteen million illiterates, which is a very sully state when we think of literacy in the world. In higher education we are listened anywhere. Out five hundred of the top universities of the world, maybe two or three may qualified to be included in that list. So we have no access to higher learning, to technology and to high technology which actually enables you today to dominate the world. And the admission to the western universities by and large is denied to Muslim students, particularly in these sensitive high technology subjects. So, if we don't develop our universities, we will stand nowhere. At the same time, the development has to be balanced. We need to develop lower education so that we become knowledgeable and people became aware of the benefits of higher education. We need higher education, because without it we would not be able to compete in the world, which is moving very fast.

We have two types of states by and large in the Muslim world. We have some states with very rich natural resources. They have small populations. But do they have any centers of excellence in terms of education. Where are they spending their money? They should have, because they can afford, they can have the top universities set up, and they can have centers which can compete in the world. They could have afforded it so that education in the Islamic countries, which are unable to deal with the western world, get better. But, are we moving in that direction?

Then we have poor Islamic countries with very large populations and very few natural resources to be able to afford education, the technical requirement of education so that we do not get masses of illiterates. If we go on strengthening the higher education, it would be like strengthening a roof. Without strengthening the lower education, the roof falls. And at the same time, if we go on putting our money only in the lower education, we could not be able to compete in this world, for we need our higher education to be competitive. And I am sorry to say that lead organizations of the Islamic world -I am talking of OIC, ISESCO, COMSTEC, etc. - are poorly funded. Our rich brothers do not give them enough money. There is lack of political will to take these organizations' favor. Out of all organizations in the world, these are most ineffective organizations when it comes to development of education. They are playing a role but it is very limited. Because they do not have the resources, do not have the expertise, and they are not being taken seriously. So, without that every country seems to be on its own. There are very poor countries particularly on the African continent, our Muslim brothers, need our help. And I must compliment our host country, Turkey, because the businessmen of Turkey are voluntarily setting up schools in many countries with their own resources. I think it is a wonderful initiative, which needs to be applauded and which needs to be expanded and I wish our brother in the much richer Gulf countries would also listen.

I would also like to touch on one subject. And that is Islamic world has been pushed against the wall by the developed western countries. Theories of clash of civilizations are being propounded; Muslims are branded as terrorists and extremists. If you want to root out terrorism and extremism, which basically is product of lack education, two things are essential:

1. The western world has to put sincere efforts to remove the causes, the causes for hatred, the causes for discontent, these causes lay in the political field. The rights of the people of Palestine, the occupation of Iraq, occupation of Afghanistan, these can all to

nothing but further exasperating this problem. You will have discontented Muslim youth because justice is denied, which guide them to the desperate acts. So, western world has to wake up and seriously address this issue. And the second is;

2. If they do not want our youth to be illiterate and unoccupied, they need to also come up with expedience. But, at the same time I think, the responsibility is upon our richer brothers. For illiteracy leads to ignorance and joblessness, and this is a very explosive mix. Because these youth who are illiterate and who are jobless become readily to root any extremist organization in any country. So, we have to remove the causes, only then these problems will be removed from the world. Otherwise, I am afraid the Muslims will remain at bottom of the heap, and the world will not see peace.

Associate Prof. Dr. Hüseyin ÇELİK

National Education Minister of Turkish Republic

Esteemed friends, ladies and gentlemen;

Esteemed Pakistani Minister of Education General Ashraf, esteemed representatives from various Islamic countries who assembled in Turkey, in Istanbul, the cradle of civilizations, dear pressmen;

First of all, I thank, at your presence, to ISAV (Islamic Research Foundation) and TASAM for arranging such an important and meaningful congress. On behalf of our country and our government, I thank a lot to the public establishments, NGOs and the others that made tangible or moral contributions to this congress, at every level.

Dear friends; as you know, the year 2007 was announced as "Mawlana Year" by UNESCO. I want to commence my speech with an expression of Mawlana: "Who have a good friend does not need mirror." We, Islamic countries, have to be friends of each other and friends of humanity. We have to be friends of each other as individuals, as societies and as states. As we make calculations at and the individual level, we also have to make calculations at the society level, at the state level and finally, at the level of Islamic countries, as Islam is our common belief. Of course, we are not here to groan and bemoan, to lament or to beat our chests because of the problems we face. The aim of this assembly is not that. The aim of this assembly is that to know advantages and disadvantages in each Islamic country, to learn what 57 Islamic countries have in terms of education, scientific researches, evolution and change and to share the events and projects in each Islamic country, that can be examples for the others. Meanwhile, we need to ask each other questions about the distances that we get ahead and about what we should do. Otherwise, this assembly would be a mere due diligence. If it would be the case, I personally think that this assembly will not be meaningful, because the educational statistics of all Islamic countries are available at our hand and at the hand of all international institutions. What are

the schooling rates in the Islamic world? What are the literacy rates in the Islamic world? What are the contributions of the Islamic countries to the world science and scholarship? How many scientific articles are published in the Islamic world? What is the number patents produced in the Islamic countries? Have many quotations has been made from the articles produced in any Islamic country, according to citation indexes? We can provide any one of these statistics from international institutions or from Internet. Certainly, we have not assembled to learn and share these. Here, we must specify a manner. What have been made until now, at which point mistakes has been made... It is a gain to stop false steps and to turn back. Esteemed master of ours Ali [OZEK] has remarked this in his opening speech. We have to calculate this. Otherwise, our assembly may have a ceremonial meaning but will not be an abundant assembly, assembly of a society who bear fruits.

Dear friends; first of all, Islamic world must get out of the mood of this kind: Whenever a scientific development take place in Europe, whenever a technological wonder is set forth, whenever an innovation takes place, we instantly go ahead to speak: Come along! Why are looking at the Europeans that have made these? There was splendid of these in our history. Keep an eye; however, it is “there was”. It is not “there is” but it just “there was”. What is that supposed to be? Now, let me state this first: Europeans themselves agreed that they have received the seeds of scientific developments from the Islamic world; they come clean about what they have learned from Turks and what they have learned from the Arabs. They stand in a white sheet about that the Umayyad State of Andalusia was a resource of inspiration for them in scientific developments and researches, and in wisdom. This is an issue that the world savvy.

Dear friends of ours, really esteemed scholar Professor Dr. Fuat SEZGIN is continuing his studies in Germany. He has allocated his whole life span to scientific researches about the contributions of Islamic world to the world science in history. He has set forth valuable inquires. This is known. However, as I said shortly before, when a technological innovation is set forth we began to say: Come along! Why are looking at them? Behold, Avicenna is the first in this, al-Farabi made that, Harezmî invented this, al-Jabiri is the father of algebra, al-Qazwini made that, Ali Kuscu made this, too... So to speak, we take an attitude to comfort ourselves. This attitude is not fair enough, dear friends. What is that supposed to be? Until what time had this continued? Indeed it has continued until 13th Century. After 13th Century, Islamic world has lied down for a deep winter sleep. Europeans has transformed the seeds that they have taken from us to a garden. And now,

they have a fractiferous garden and we are receiving their fruits. This resembles that I give our scholar Prof. Yalçıntaş some seeds, and the scholar plants these seeds and they become seedlings. I am talking about Prof. Nevzat Yalçıntaş, he is sitting just in front of me, these seeds become seedlings, these seedlings become saplings, the saplings grow as trees and Prof. Nevzat Yalçıntaş has a wonderful fruit garden and I have nothing. Then, I say: Why are you looking at the garden of Prof. Yalçıntaş? I had given the seeds. Friends, no body has anything to do to your seeds. Being distracted with this is meaningless. At the end, Prof. Yalçıntaş has a garden and I have nothing; this is the reality. “There was” is a simple past. What is the situation now? You say to such a shabby, rugged, penniless and hirsute man: What a sight you are? He replies: Forget about my sight, my father is the governor of Baghdad! This is a meaningless statement. What important is what you are. Vide, Ottoman Empire was a universal state. We were also aware of this preponderance. Then, a time has come when we taught natural and physical sciences under the topic of “*juz’iyyat*”, that means this kind of knowledge has little or no use. And one day, when we faced ascendancy of Europeans, the gong has fallen upon our head. Alas!, we said, we missed the train. And, the Ottoman State supposed to solve the problem of backwardness through modernizing the army. We began to modernization process with the army but this was not enough. Eventually, Europe has materialized the Reformation and Renaissance movements and realized the first and second industrial revolutions. Europe has transformed from agricultural society to industrial society and from industrial society to information society. A significant part of the Islamic world, on the other hand, is experiencing agricultural society now.

Dear friends of mine; in agricultural society, fist power is the base and fist power is combined with animal power. In industrial society, fist power began to combine with the power of the machines invented by man as a result of scientific developments, Mechanical power began to step in and, eventually, this was also overtaken. In the information society, now, microchip technology began to be the source of information, production and wealth, all over the world. With the microchip technology, the humanity is introduced with the informatics and computers. Einstein said: “Computers are incredibly fast, accurate, and stupid. Human beings are incredibly slow, inaccurate, and brilliant.” The computer about which Einstein talked is primitive computer. And, he added: “Together they are powerful beyond imagination.” This happened. Today, the source of wealth is not the potential of lentil and chickpea, not the mines, ore beds underground, not the forests on the earth but, the source wealth today is information. Who has information,

has power. The wealth of the richest person of the world, Bill Gates, is twice as the wealth of the African continent, because he has information power. Bill Gates has no heavy industrial factories. He has no huge real estates, either. However, Bill Gates is the richest person of the world. Owing to information, he is the wealthiest of the world.

Dear Friends; unfortunately, we are not living in world where the rightful is the powerful, but in a world where the powerful is accepted as rightful. Five permanent representative of the UN Security Council are the most powerful states of the world. What crime they commit, to veto the decisions taken against them is enough. In addition, there are small protectorates of these powerful states. What kind of crime these small states commit, it also suffices when their powerful protectors veto on behalf of them. If you want to have a say in the world, if you want to have power and strength in the world, you have to be economically powerful. Being economically powerful necessitate being powerful in the education field. Vide, today you can be accepted as wealthy from cyclical point of view because of the natural resources. You can be wealthy through selling your wealth. This wealth can be oil, gold etc. but this is not lasting. It cannot be prevailing through centuries. Everything has an eventual life span. All the ore beds, all the abundances have their limits. We need to ask ourselves this question: is there a positive correlation between the level of development and the importance that attached to education by any country? Yes, there is. The higher the education levels of the people in any country, the higher its development level and vice versa. This means, dear friends, education equals development. There is no name for this. Vide, training has three goals. First, it is for individual development. Prof. Ali ÖZEK said in his opening speech that there is so little difference between people who are not educated and animals because, considering our biological formation, we have common characteristics with animals in terms of eating, drinking, reproduction, sheltering, defense and abstention from harms. What develops, forms and improves the quality of man –according to the Islamic belief, every children is born upon a pure disposition- is education.

High rate of literacy in a country is not a sufficient reason for its development. If there are no first class scientists, no first class artists, even if at the ratio of 5% or 10%, if there is no an engine power, if this country does not discover and set forth this, it is meaningless to be proud of high literacy rates; it does not provide so much benefit. Now, is this necessary? Of course, this is necessary and is the first step. Today, illiteracy rates in some of the Islamic countries are high as 90%. And I was in Paris for the General

Assembly of UNESCO. 193 countries participated, mostly at the level of education ministers. I had the chance to meet a good many of education ministers. I listened to the speeches there. Distress is the same and common, dear friends. I have signed a protocol with education minister of Afghanistan. I, of course, know that the situation in Afghanistan is not clean cut. However, one thing that the Esteemed Minister has said to me made my flesh creep: 94% of the Afghan people can not use electricity; that is, only 6% is benefiting from electricity. This is an exact middle ages. Therefore, the Islamic world has to come of this whirlpool altogether. Vide, shortly before General Ashraf said that the organizations that established by the Islamic countries is less effective and these are not taken seriously.

Dear friends, the more powerful we are, the more powerful the organizations that we established. Today, if Sulaymaniyyah Mosque stands out against all earthquakes as a whole for 4 or 5 centuries, this is because of the fact that every part of the building structure is strong and firm. We said that the first goal of the education is the individual. If the individual is safe, the whole society is safe. If 57 member of OIC is powerful, at least, if majority of them is powerful, OIC will be powerful, ISESCO will be powerful. ISESCO can work in proportion with its sources. Of course, money is not everything. It is necessary to collaborate and to establish ties of love. These establishments should not be made up of simply names and should not only be simply ceremonial bodies. They must be the establishments that perform really. And, we must provide for them necessary contributions.

There is a second goal of education: job creation and cultivation of qualified manpower and intermediate workforce. If you are talking about development in a country, you must implement normal education, implement primary education. As a transition level to higher education, you must implement general high school education. Vocational and technical education must be a priority of the countries aiming development, aiming improvement and aiming production. Therefore, another goal of education is to create employment based on this kind of principal education, to cultivate qualified employee, to bring up the manpower that will produce. You can have the most fabulous machines of the world, you can have money, but if you don't have qualified manpower, you cannot come through.

Still, another goal of education is to contribute to research and improvement. This can be possible through university education, through higher education. In this context, the Islamic world needs to a development move.

Dear friends, since I am the Minister of National Education, I want summarize what is going on in Turkey, together with the other colleagues of mine. Vide, in the last five years, when the AK Party was in power, education became the number first in Turkey. The budget of education gets the largest share from the general budget. It was the case yesterday, it was the case in the years 2006, 2005 and 2004, and it will be so in 2008.

Tony Blair was asked when he came to power: What are your first three priorities? In a country like Britain, everybody expects that Blair can say: the first is education; the second is health and then other things. But Tony Blair said: The first is education, the second is education and the third is education. If the prime minister of a country as Britain said this we need to say “education” 25 times. Our government acted through this mentality. In this vein, I thank to our Prime Minister again. Without doubt, he is the chief of the orchestra. Distinguished Prime Minister of ours is a volunteer and passionate of education. I never talk with Prime Minister more than ten minutes because it is not necessary. We speak the same language because our Esteemed Prime Minister is a person who comprehends the importance of education. Thanks to this, we have covered long distances. In the last 2.5 – 3 years, he set down in every school an ADSL class, a technology class and he sent 500.000 computers to the schools. Now, 90% of our students are taking the advantages of ADSL Internet service. Literacy is not enough; we endeavor to make our students literates of computer. And finally, in addition to existing state universities, 32 new state universities have been established. In the year 2000, dear friends, research and improvements budget of Turkey was \$100 million. In the 2007, however, the research and improvement budget of Turkey is \$2 billion. Unless we don’t make these sacrifices, what we said would have no base. We say and we listen to our selves. There is a proverb that our Arab friends repeat: “Say time and again, it has no use”. On the one hand, we should set forth our problems and, on the other hand, we should fulfill its requirements.

Dear friends; the Islamic world has three principal problems: Illiteracy, poverty and disputes. The last one arises as a result of the formers. If there is illiteracy in a country, poverty automatically arises there. If there is poverty, if the cake is not enough for everybody, a struggle commence around this cake. There are more than three hundred races and ethnic groups in the USA but there is no struggle between these groups. Had Yugoslavia been a country that the cake had sufficed for every one, it would not been disbanded in this way. Therefore, economical power and wealth is one of the elements that keep society together. Ignorance is our nuisance. Its outcome is

poverty. There are clashes and controversies caused by poverty. At the meantime, because of the fact that the Islamic religion is learned and taught wrongly, there are false trends and radicalism, unfortunately.

To say that regrettably, Islamo-phobia has developed in the west today. There are westerners that terror comes to their minds when Islam is mentioned, when it is said “Muslims”, Well, is this right? Are the westerners just in this context? On no account they are just. The word “Islam” per se comes from the origin “salaam”, which means peace. The word “Insan” (man, human), which we use in Turkish is comes from Arabic and is derived from the infinitive “unsiyyah”. Unsiyyah means being accustomed to each other, being reconciled with each other. The opposite infinitive of unsiyyah is, as you know, “vahşet” (wilderness). Islam, per se, ordains to be human, to live peacefully together with his/her fellow beings. That is why the great prophet of Islam had been named “al-Ameen” (Trustworthy). If the people are not sure from your hand or tongue, that you talk about Islam and so on renders nothing. Well, the westerners are not just in this context. However, does the Islamic world make any contribution to this image? To say regrettably, at least some of the Muslims have contributed to this.

We say that a Muslim may not be a terrorist. Friends; if a Muslim kill a man, he/she become murderer. It does not mean that Islam allows this. If a Muslim fornicates, he/she become an adulterer/fornicatress but it does not mean that Islam allows adultery. If a Muslim fabricates, he/she become a liar. It does not mean that Islam allows fabrication. You can multiply the examples. Likewise, if a Muslim takes a gun and shot dead a man, he/she become a terrorist. All in all, these radical elements have no real connection with the true Islam. Personally, I think so. I think that those who bog down in the terror mire are those who do not get their share from the universal message of the Holy Koran and from the principles of the Prophet Muhammad, in the literal sense. Vide, “Unto you, your moral law, and unto me, mine!” This is word of Allah. Despite the differences, everybody has the right to live in the earth with his/her religion, in peace and tranquility.

Now, I am asking you: Are Christians or Jews or Muslims have the right and power to take Christians, Jews or Muslims out of this world or exterminate them? No. Then, we are not only compelled but also convicted to live together with the people who are companion of the different religions. Since we have to live together, then, dear friends, the incantation is this: We will not be “*or’ists*” (to say “we or them). If you are *or’ists*, this brings in conflicts. Democracies don’t accept *or’ism*. Democracies are “*and’ists*” (to

say we and them). Do you know what this is? When you say “you or me”, this is duelist logic. Either I or you will survive. Vide, there is the word “*ve*”(*and*) that has two letters; when you say “you and me”, you settle the matter. Different hues are all in one in the rainbow. They harmonically are together. There is no obligation for blue to converse to yellow, for yellow to red, for red to green. But they are harmonically together. Hundreds of different herbs –some are poison and some are antidote- live in just a square meter soil. Their roots touch each other. But without exterminating each other, without harming each other, they live together. The only beings that sustain through eating their fellow beings are animals. Man can't do that. Therefore, an understanding to tolerate the differences, to see the differences as substantiality, to develop the culture of living together must have dominance in the Islamic world. You may not adopt a western-style democracy but the “*mashwarah*” (consultation) system in Islam is also suggests this. When the New Ottomans want to develop a parliamentarian system in Turkey, they issued a newspaper in London, named “*Hurriyet*”(freedom). The first sentence of the first article of this paper begins with a verse from Holy Koran: “And take counsel with them in all matters of public concern”.

Vide, if democracy has dominance in the Islamic world, the rulers of the Islamic world would give account of the sources they spend. In the majority of the Islamic world, people even don't have the right to ask this question: in my country, where did you spend my sources on behalf of me? Therefore, dear friends, Islamic world has to make multilateral calculations. Islamic world need to shake itself. As a result, these radical elements have a side that harms the image of Islam in the world. Against these negative elements, Islamic world as a whole is under an obligation to set forth who is the real Muslim and what is the real Islam. We must underline the fact that in the first quarter of the 20th Century, when the Turkish Republic was established, Ottoman Empire disbanded and was occupied. There were only two [Islamic] states: Turkey and Iran. The whole Islamic world was under the occupation of the western colonialism. Aceh was occupied by Netherlands. Can you think about it? The most important islands of Indonesia were occupied by Portugal. Britain, Spain, France... The Islamic world as a whole was under colonialism. This imperialist colonialism, these imperialist understandings created disaffection in the Muslim societies. I see this. However, dear friends, if we convey every negative experiences of history to this day, we can not live in the earth. We fight against Britain in the Dardanelles and we gave tens of thousands of martyrs there, in 1915. However, we say to the Britain now: these are the matters of the history. At

this time, we want to be a member of the EU; we want to be not only an economic but also a political ally with you. During history, no body did what Germany did to France and at the last German occupation France did shed tears of blood. Today, however, Germany and France are one within the other. As you see, this understanding does exist within the Islamic countries, unfortunately. Some of our friends from Turkey still use about our Arab brothers the expression “They shot us down from behind”. Unfortunately, again, some of our Arab friends that bear racist sentiments can look us with cross-eyes, remembering that Ottoman term. Dear friends, these are the matters of history.

History is our memoirs and all memoirs of us are respectable. Our today is our reality, our tomorrows are our dreams. An intellectual says: “If you could not forge your dreams ahead of your memoirs, you could not bring off any real development and real improvement”. We have to forge our dreams ahead of our memoirs. The entire Islamic world has to live with a dream. Islamic world must be in a dream of a prosperous society, of an educated society, of a society that can tolerate each other, of an Islamic world that understands and internalizes the real Islam, and that contribute to global peace, global science, and global production.

Dear friends, Islamic states produce 5% of the added value produced in the world. Now, how does it can be possible? In the mean time, major part of this production is derived from natural resources. To the world exportation, Islamic countries contribute about \$400 billion. About \$200 billion of this is from oil. Vide, in 2007, Turkey’s export reached \$100 billion but the majority of Turkey’s export is formed not of hazelnut, peanut, pistachio, grape or fig but of industrial goods. Different brands produce about one billion cars in Turkey per year. What is considerable is this in our eyes. What you produce, what you contribute to the world is extremely important.

I will try to sum up before your patience go beyond its limit. Dear friends, vide, EU countries are much wealthier than the Islamic countries. EU countries came together and said: We cannot keep thriving with this budget that we are allocated for research and improvement. What did they? They established European Research Area (ERA). Until 2006, its budget was \$17.5 billion; an ocean-like source. They thought that, as the only way to compete with the US and Japan, and they realized it. Turkey became a party to this. Now, Turkey is a partner of ERA. She contributes to ERA, on the one hand, and she tries to benefit from these contributions, on the other. Now, if European wealthy countries think that they can compete with the Americans

and Japan only by combining their resources, the Islamic world must do this all the more.

In this context, as Turkey, while we are trying to develop our primary and secondary educations and to strengthen it in regard with human resources, we identifying the students that have the potential to be scientists and we are putting them through an extra education at the same time. Prior to our government, the number of the students sent abroad every year is about fifty, or one hundred. We have decided in 2006 that every year one thousand students are dispatched to the nineteen most developed countries of the world, to get master's and doctor's decrees. Fully developed human resource is the engine of this business. I personally believe that all the Islamic countries are aware of this fact.

I must clarify that illiteracy is not peculiar to the Islamic countries exclusively. In the USA, millions of -mind out, not thousands of- the young don't know how to read and write properly, even when they are in the high school level. There are millions of young people who have nihilist philosophy, in Britain. Looking at these sights, you can not say that these countries are going down. They are not who carry these countries. What is essential is the carrying engine sector that constitute 5%, 10% of the population, which was stated by Mumtaz Turhan, which I have mentioned shortly before. Islamic countries have to set forth this. When the estimable representatives of OIC and ISESCO are in our midst, I want to call them: There is a grave need for an intense collaboration among Islamic countries, for more information and more relations. Of course, all these have financial dimension but we must know that everything is not money. From time to time, assemblies are kept among Islamic countries and decisions are taken but these must be put in practice.

Hereby, dear friends, I thank to ISAV and TASAM and their esteemed chairmen and to everybody that sponsored this congress and made tangible or moral contributions. I welcome, first of all, esteemed Pakistani Minister of Education and other distinguished friends coming from Islamic countries representing their ministries or countries. Welcome to our country. I want to express our feelings of happiness for your coming to this city of dreams – except traffic jam- to this city of dreams, Istanbul, for hosting you here, for sharing this exchange of information and ideas.

I want to state that we have to love each other, to be oblivious of the negative aspects of history, to embrace each other with our positive makings.

Nowadays, Turkey is struggling with a serious problem. We have to trample terror, whoever it comes from and whatever aim it adopts. Terrorist attacks, unfortunately, targeted our security forces in eastern, southeastern Turkey –I am in the Grand National Assembly as one of the representatives of a province in this region. It targeted our innocent people. Especially for our martyrs, I plead grace from Allah. I wish for our war veterans healings. I plead mercy for our people, for our civilian martyrs. I give my condolences to their relatives and wish endurance for them. I state, in your presence, that we anathematize terror and the terrorists.

I pay my respects and give my loves to all.

Assistant Prof. Ahmet KAVAS

Director of TASAM African Institute

Excellencies of ministers, distinguished participants, dear guests; Our program has passed over its time limit; therefore, we beg your pardon. Actually, His Excellency our National Education Minister is not only a minister of education but also an education expert. His Excellency has made opening speech of this congress. On behalf him, I thank to TASAM and ISAV, which have arranged this program. In short, I kindly mention the staffs of TASAM and ISAV, especially my assistant Fatma Gunce KANLI. We will, God willing, put signature to better works in the future. I consider this collaboration as a great contribution on behalf of our country and Islamic world. I want to give information about our assembly, in one or two short sentences. The following section of our assembly will continue as nine sessions and will end at the decline of Friday. The lecturers will generally speak about education in their countries twenty minutes each, in conformity with the framework that His Excellency our minister has pointed shortly before, which we have given information about the assembly with congruent expressions.

Another point that I want to specify is that collaborative actions within Islamic world is gradually decreasing. To compare, The Catholics have two hundred thousand schools all over the world and their projects and programs are being formed and managed by the Catholic Education Office in Brussels. These projects and programs are instantly announced through Internet and one hundred and sixty million custodians can reach the person related with these schools. Another example is that two hundred and fifty universities chosen out of nine hundred and fifty universities from all over the world have established a federation in Paris and they are carrying out the education activities of these nine hundred and fifty universities. Under cover this congress, we must specify once again that we need to exchange students and lecturers as it is the case through Erasmus programs. We apologize for the deficiencies that we are aware of or not, on behalf of both TASAM and ISAV. I want to end my speech here. Thank you, respectfully yours.

