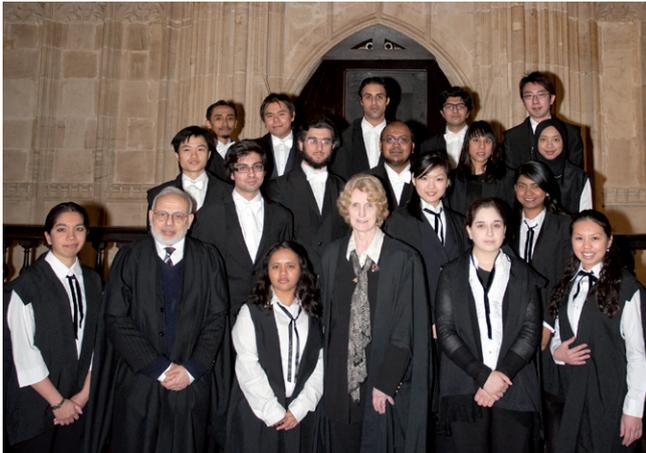




# OCIS NEWS

OXFORD CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC STUDIES

## Celebrating our Scholarship Programme A new generation of students at the University of Oxford



Centre scholars with the Dean of Scholars (third from right) and Dr Muhammad Talib (second from left)

In March the Centre hosted a Reception at the Divinity School, Oxford, to celebrate the Scholarship Programme and to introduce the Centre Scholars to colleagues in the Collegiate University.

Speaking at the Reception were Oxford's Vice-Chancellor,

Professor Andrew Hamilton; the Dean of Christ Church, The Very Reverend Christopher Lewis; and the Director. Heads of House and senior College members were in attendance, as were University figures involved in scholarship-related matters.

The Vice-Chancellor described the variety of backgrounds and academic pursuits represented among the Scholars as being emblematic of the diversity which Oxford actively encouraged. He described the graduate scholarships in particular as helping to provide the 'life-blood' of the University, driving and stimulating the scholarship central to Oxford's sustained prominence as a world-class university.

The Centre's Dean of Scholars, Lady English, presented the Scholars of the Centre, who had an opportunity to introduce themselves to the guests and describe their research. The Scholars are admitted through three schemes: the OCIS Graduate Scholarship scheme, the OCIS Undergraduate Scholarship scheme, and the Khazanah-OCIS 'Merdeka' Scholarships.

## Governor of SAMA speaks on 'Macroeconomic Management in Saudi Arabia'

In mid-February, HE Dr Muhammad bin Sulaiman Al-Jasser, Governor of the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA), delivered a lecture on 'Macroeconomic Management in an Oil Economy: The Case of Saudi Arabia' in the Examination Schools at Oxford University.

The lecture focused on the challenges of managing the Saudi economy, particularly the unpredictability of oil revenues, economic diversification and employment, food-price inflation, and the response of Saudi Arabia's financial system to the global economic crisis. Following the lecture Dr Al-Jasser took questions from the audience.

Saudi Arabia has about a quarter of the world's proven reserves, sales of which constitute about 80 per cent of its government revenue. While estimates suggest these reserves will last for another seventy years, management of oil revenue is highly volatile, with the result that managing the budget 'risks channelling this volatility to

the non-oil sectors of the economy'. Dr Al-Jasser described the 'counter-cyclical' fiscal policy Saudi Arabia used to minimize this risk. When oil revenues are low, the government runs budget and external deficits, and can issue debt to supplement revenues; when revenues are high, however, the government runs budget and external surpluses, and pays back its debt.



HE Dr Muhammad bin Sulaiman Al-Jasser

## Centre seminars for Trinity term

In Trinity Term the Centre held a series of seminars on the theme of 'History, Politics, and Economies in the Muslim World'.

Speakers and topics are as follows:

Dr Nelida Fuccaro (SOAS), 'The History of Oil and Urban Violence in the Modern Middle East';

Dr Adeel Malik (OCIS and Queen Elizabeth House, Oxford) 'The "Contagion" from Tunisia: On the Faultline between Demography, Development, and Welfare Distribution';

Professor Devin DeWeese (Indiana University), 'Islamization and the Sanctification of the Land in Central Asia: Exploring a Shrine-Guide from Twelfth-Century Bukhara';

Dr Johan Rasanayagam (University of Aberdeen), 'Becoming Muslim in Uzbekistan: The Moral Quality of Experience';

Dr Andrew Petersen (University of Wales), 'Islamic Archaeology in Arabia';

Dr Jan-Peter Hartung (SOAS), 'Approaching the Indian *'alim* between the Individual and Group Identities: Some Methodological Thoughts';

Alice Albinia (freelance journalist and author), 'Empires of the Indus: The Story of a River'.

## International Contacts

### Indonesia



HE Mr Jusuf Kalla signs the distinguished visitors' book in the presence of HE Mr Rully Chairul Azwar and HE Mr Tantowi Yahya.

In Hilary Term the Centre received a delegation from Indonesia, headed by HE Mr Jusuf Kalla, former Vice-President of Indonesia.

His Excellency and his party met with Centre members, to discuss a range of topics of mutual interest. The delegation were given a tour of the Centre's new building,

after which a dinner in honour of HE Mr Kalla was held at the Centre. HE Mr Yuri Thamrin, the Indonesian Ambassador to the UK, accompanied the group.

### Japan

Professor Akiko Yamanaka, Professional By-Fellow of Churchill College, Cambridge, visited the Centre in Michaelmas Term. She is a Member of the House of Representatives in the National Diet of Japan, and Director of the Women's Bureau of Japan's Liberal Democratic Party. After touring the new building, Professor Yamanaka said she hoped that it could be 'a symbol of peace and stability in the world community'.

## A New Partnership: Oxford Literary Festival

The Centre was one of the Patrons of the annual Sunday Times Oxford Literary Festival, which took place from 2 to 10 April at Christ Church.

Two of the Festival's speakers were sponsored by the Centre: First, Jim Al-Khalili, Professor of Theoretical Physics and Chair in the Public Engagement in Science (University of Surrey),

spoke on 'Pathfinders: The Golden Age of Arabic Science.' Then, in conversation with David Gelber, author and historian Philip Mansel discussed his book *Levant: Splendor and Catastrophe on the Mediterranean*, which traces the histories and roles of Smyrna, Alexandria, and Beirut from the sixteenth century to the modern day.

## US Foundations support the Atlas Project

The Centre is pleased to announce that both the Carnegie Corporation of New York and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation have provided grants for the final phase of the Centre's Atlas Project on the social and intellectual history of Muslims in South Asia. Funds are forthcoming over a two-year period, and are aimed at

bringing the project to its completion.

Dr David Damrel (University of South Carolina) and Professor Bruce Lawrence (Duke University) visited the Centre in Hilary term to work on the project. Upon completion the Atlas will be published by Oxford University Press (New York).

## Young Muslim Leadership Programme 2011

The Centre's sixth Young Muslim Leadership Programme (YMLP) Summer School is scheduled to take place at Christ Church, Oxford, between 4th and 17th September 2011. The YMLP is run in cooperation with the Prince's Charities, and with the support of the Amnah Foundation.

Each year the Centre organizes the two-week programme in order to encourage greater participation by Muslims in public life. It is

attended by young British Muslims from across the UK who have demonstrated leadership qualities in their chosen careers. These men and women are drawn from a variety of backgrounds and interests, including national and local government, academia, the legal profession, media, and the voluntary sector.

This year we are again attracting excellent applications and a wide range of high-level speakers to the programme.

## OCIS–SC Round table on Islamic finance

In March the Centre held its second joint round table forum in collaboration with the Securities Commission Malaysia. The inaugural joint round table was held last year in Kuala Lumpur. This year's round table, held at Ditchley Park, Oxfordshire, was on the subject of 'Islamic Finance and the Public Good.'

The three-day event was hosted by the Director of the Centre and Tan Sri Zarinah Anwar, Chairman of the Securities Commission Malaysia. It began with a reception and dinner at the Banqueting House, Whitehall, which was attended by more than 140 guests. Following dinner His Royal Highness Raja Dr Nazrin Shah, Crown Prince of the State of Perak, offered a special address.

At Ditchley the participants included a



HRH Raja Dr Nazrin Shah with the Ditchley participants

range of scholars, industry practitioners, regulators, and investors from around the world. Sessions focused on three main areas: Shariah, finance, and the public good; Shariah, recourse to law, and the enforceability of financial contracts; and creating an enabling corporate structure for Islamic and ethical finance.

## Visiting Fellows

From a wide field of applicants, the Centre has chosen the following Visiting Fellows for the 2011–2012 academic year:

Dr Mehrdad Fallahzadeh (*Uppsala University, Sweden*); Dr Mohamed Azhar Abdul Karim (*Universiti Putra Malaysia*); Professor Ahmat Bin Adam (*University of Malaya*); Dr Scott Jason Flower (*Monash University, Australia*); Ms Sarah Tobin (*Boston University*); Professor Khaliq Ahmad (*International Islamic University Malaysia*); and Dr Waleed Al-Shaijj (*College of Sharia and Islamic Studies, Kuwait University*).

## Centre welcomes new Registrar



Mr Richard Makepeace

In February Mr Richard Makepeace joined the Centre as Registrar, following the retirement of Dr David Browning.

Mr Makepeace was an undergraduate at Oxford before joining the diplomatic service in 1976 and studying Arabic in Lebanon. His first posting was to the Sultanate of Oman.

Although he also worked outside the region, the majority of his career was spent in the Middle East, including posts successively as Counsellor and Deputy Head of Mission in Egypt, Ambassador to the Sudan and then to the UAE, and finally as Consul General in Jerusalem.

Mr Makepeace has been made a Fellow by Special Election at St Cross College, thus helping to maintain the long-standing link between the Centre and St Cross. He and his wife live in Oxford; their younger son is an undergraduate at Christ Church.

## Centre hosts Foreign Service seminar

In March the Centre hosted its annual seminar for the Oxford Foreign Service Programme. This programme brings young and middle-ranking diplomats from a wide range of countries to Oxford to spend several months in academic study. The OCIS session was led by the Director of the Centre, Dr Farhan Nizami, and the Centre's economics fellow, Dr Adeel Malik.

This session was designed to develop the participating students' understanding of the Islamic world—essential material for any diplomat. The presentations sparked a lively discussion that covered a number of topics, but focused particularly on recent developments in the Middle East, and their economic and historical dimensions.

## Our Graduates and their Research

The Graduate Colloquium took place on Friday 18 February, with Oxford post-graduate students presenting short papers on their research. It was introduced by Dr Mohammad Talib, the Centre's Academic Coordinator, and was chaired by Lady Judith English, the Centre's Dean of Scholars.

The following presentations were made: Layli Uddin (*Balliol*), 'Pirs, Peasants, and Revolution: The Making of Maulana Bashani, 1930–1947'; Hussein Omar (*Merton*), 'Between Political Diary and Autobiography in Early Twentieth-Century Egypt'; Saba Ahmed (*St Antony's*), "'Self-Segregation':

Comparing Integration in the UK and US'; Shireen Walton (*Hertford*), 'The Politics of "Connection": Muslim Youth, New Media, and Secular Political Mobilization in the UK, France, and Iran'; Mary Montgomery (*Magdalen*), 'Women Domestic Workers in Morocco'; Nathan Harper (*St Antony's*), 'Development, Diplomacy, State-Building, and Resistance in the Republic of Yemen'; Megan Robb (*Wolfson*), 'Muslim Religious Authority and Media in Twentieth-Century South Asia'; and Christopher Lilyblad (*Exeter*), 'Illicit Authority and Spatial Organization: The Case of Pakistan.'

The latest issue of the *Journal of Islamic Studies* contains articles by Devin DeWeese on succession protocols and the early Khwajagani schism in the *Maslak al ārifīn*; Fachruddin Mangunjaya on developing environmental awareness and conservation through Islamic teaching; and Zaenuddin Prasojo on indigenous community identity within Muslim societies in Indonesia.

The issue also contains thirty-two book reviews of some of the most recent publications about Islam and the Muslim world.

## Oman's 'Education Renaissance' Celebrating 40 years of achievement



*HE Dr Rawya Al Busaidi*

In February HE Dr Rawya Saud Al Busaidi, Minister of Higher Education of the Sultanate of Oman, chaired a round-table discussion at Rhodes House in Oxford. Taking as her theme 'Oman's Education Renaissance, 1770–2010', Her Excellency spoke on a wide number of topics relating to the country's educational initiatives in primary and higher education. These included increasing access to higher-education programmes, benchmarking accreditation according to

international norms, and the importance of gender equality and vocational training in support of Oman's long-term future.

The round table was attended by invited scholars who represented a broad spectrum of academic fields, and provided scope for the wide-ranging discussion that followed. This included observations from members of Dr Al Busaidi's party: HH Sayyid Taimur Al Said, Assistant Secretary General for International Relations at the Oman Research Centre; HE Habib Al Riyami, Secretary General of the Sultan Qaboos Centre for Islamic Studies; and HE Dr Ali Al Bimani, Vice-Chancellor of Sultan Qaboos University. The Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University, Dr Sally Mapstone, offered the vote of thanks.

A reception and dinner were held in Her Excellency's honour. This event forms part of a series of events hosted by the Centre to mark the 40th anniversary of the accession of HM Sultan Qaboos bin Said to the throne of Oman.



## Prime Minister of Malaysia calls for a 'Coalition of Moderates and Inter-Civilizational Understanding'

On 16 May HE Dato' Seri Najib Tun Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia, was the Centre's Distinguished Visiting Lecturer, and spoke on the subject of 'The Coalition of Moderates and Inter-Civilizational Understanding' in the Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford. The Prime Minister called for 'a vanguard of moderates' from all faiths to 'stop being a silent majority and start reflecting the courage of our convictions', in order to address the underlying causes of global violence. Targeting specific individuals and dismantling their ideologies is, he said, 'far from enough': 'We must be able to differentiate between the symptoms and the root causes' if we wish to achieve a lasting solution.

This followed in the wake of His Excellency's call for a 'Global Movement of the Moderates' at the United Nations last September. 'Terrorism and extremism are serious challenges,' he continued. 'Overcoming them requires clear thinking based on an objective assessment of the situation.' The perpetrators of hate and terror had, the Prime Minister stated, managed to 'hijack the religion of peace and compassion' to the extent that their extremism has come to be seen as a reflection of Islam and its followers: 'Such vile misrepresentations are a source of great anguish to me and to the vast majority of Muslims. . . . I would like emphatically to state that those who strap explosives on their bodies and blow



HE Dato' Seri Najib Tun Razak speaking in the Sheldonian Theatre

*"Stop being a silent majority  
and start reflecting the courage of  
our convictions"*

themselves up are not martyrs. They do not represent Islam.'

One of the foremost concerns of Islamic law is the protection and preservation of life, and that moderation advocated in the Quran is present in other world religions as well. The real division, His Excellency observed, is not that between East and West, developed and developing worlds, or Muslims and non-Muslims; 'It is between moderates and extremists of all religions.' Those for whom terrorism is 'the pursuit of political goals through other means' hide behind what His Excellency termed a 'mask of religion' in pursuit of those goals: 'For them, the world is a zero-sum game where one side can win only at the expense of the other.' In order to 'dissipate the pull' of terrorism and 'deny those at the margins a foothold in the middle ground,' we must, he said, accumulate a collective will that both voices and heeds concern for moderation, dignity, and justice: 'Quite simply, we cannot allow this moment to be overtaken by extremists, with those who shout loudest gaining the most.' His Excellency stated



HE Dato' Seri Najib Tun Razak arriving in the Sheldonian Theatre



*HE Dato' Seri Najib Tun Razak at the New Building with the Director of the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies and Dato' Sri Nazir Razak*

that 'A world free from terrorism is possible. It is not beyond our reach. It needs men and women of good will among the faithful of all creeds.'

The Prime Minister then turned to the Malaysian experience. While some sixty per cent of the population is Muslim, the balance comprises a variety of faiths: Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, Christianity, Hinduism, and others. In the light of Malaysia's cultural, linguistic, and religious diversity, national unity 'continues to be the overriding objective' of his government. In quoting Samuel Johnson's observation that society cannot subsist without 'reciprocal concessions', the Prime Minister stated that Malaysia



*The Malaysia Auditorium at the New Building*

had managed its plurality by capitalizing on it through a policy of integration rather than assimilation: 'By leveraging the robustness and dynamism of our diversity, we have created a foundation for our national resilience.'

Moderation can not only solve the problem of extremism, the Prime Minister observed, but can also be applied 'in more unexpected ways', as was exemplified in the global economic crisis. Malaysia is the world leader in Islamic finance, an industry with more than four hundred banks in over fifty countries. His Excellency noted that the structures and constraints inherent in Islamic finance allowed these institutions to weather the worst of the recent economic crises, and could act as a model for a 'new global economic architecture'.

At the conclusion of his lecture the Prime Minister took questions from the audience, after which the Rt. Hon. Jack Straw MP offered the vote of thanks. A reception and dinner at Exeter College, Oxford, followed the lecture; this was attended by members of the diplomatic corps, senior members of the University, members of Parliament and leading figures from the world of business and finance.



*HE Dato' Seri Najib Tun Razak at the dinner hosted at Exeter College*

Before delivering his lecture, the Prime Minister and his delegation toured the Centre's new building, taking particular note of the Malaysia Auditorium. They were briefed on the expanding programme of co-operation which the Centre is pursuing with Malaysian partners which will include additional fellowships at the Centre and more Scholarships to allow graduate students to come to Oxford.

The Prime Minister also met with Malaysian students in the United Kingdom, including those graduates and under-graduates at the University of Oxford under programs run in partnership with the Centre.



## Prime Minister of Qatar speaks on 'The Current Arab Situation and Future Prospects'

On 23 May HE Shaikh Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jabr Al-Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, State of Qatar, was the Centre's Distinguished Visiting Lecturer. Speaking in the Sheldonian Theatre, His Excellency chose as his topic an examination of 'The Current Arab Situation and Future Prospects'.

His Excellency began by recalling the momentous events that had taken place since he last spoke at Oxford a decade before, as a guest of the Centre. On that occasion, speaking as Minister for Foreign Affairs, he had outlined some of the hopes and aspirations for the region, and had expressed optimism in developing the area's societies and democratic institutions, and in enhancing those regional frameworks that promoted the public good. Then he had concluded, he said, by stating that 'we have the chance to divert the course of history towards a future where common good and best interests prevail for the benefit of all.'

Yet the political, social, and economic upheavals that ensued during the following years proved impossible to reconcile, despite initiatives to generate dialogue and a



*The Prime Minister of Qatar, HE Shaikh Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jabr Al-Thani, delivering his lecture.*



*HE Shaikh Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jabr Al-Thani with the Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University and the Director of the Centre.*

'convergence between rivals'. The Prime Minister noted that earlier efforts on the part of governments in the region to pursue internal reforms had also failed to live up to public expectations. All this served, His Excellency observed, to encourage grass-roots participation in political action. The result was a 'stormy transformation' that drove popular demands for reforms to guarantee good governance and the supremacy of law, respect for human rights and freedoms, removal of corruption, and support for economic and social development. The Prime Minister stated his conviction that current Arab aspirations for change represented 'an expression of genuine national and patriotic trends', and demonstrated the necessity 'to heed the voice of the man in the street'. In such an environment, His Excellency continued, attempts by governments to quell popular calls for democratization and reform through security and military means were 'futile' against a population staunchly



*The Prime Minister with the Director at the new building for the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies*

prepared to defend ‘their inalienable rights to freedom, reform, and democracy.’

His Excellency then turned to Qatar’s role in mediating peaceful solutions within the region. He examined its efforts to enhance existing frameworks in order to advocate the values of tolerance, justice, and openness, and the right of all citizens to live in freedom and dignity.

However, he added, ‘Democratic construction is not enough by itself unless it is coupled with genuine comprehensive development projects in economic and social areas.’ This policy, which Qatar itself pursues, was prompted by a desire to ‘widen the aspiration for success’ among Arabs and Muslims, the lack of which, the Prime Minister believed, created an environment that allowed terrorist tendencies to thrive.

In order to further this aim, the Prime Minister announced the creation of a Middle East Development Bank, which would support Arab states in their transition towards democracy, and aid economic diversity and youth employment. This was in the wake of his call last year for a rapid-deployment global humanitarian operation force (HOPEFOR), which would not only bring emergency relief to victims in the wake of natural disasters, but would remain working beyond the so-called ‘humanitarian gap’ in order to ensure continued success thereafter.

His Excellency noted that since 1995, when HH Sheikh

*“Democratic construction is not enough by itself unless it is coupled with genuine comprehensive development projects in economic and social areas”*

Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani came to power, the modern State of Qatar had fashioned the foundation on which it now operated, including its governance, administration, and laws for all citizens, male and female. The country was, he added, preparing to hold its first general parliamentary elections, as a result of the enormous popular support for Qatar’s new constitution in 2004.

The Prime Minister took questions from the audience on a wide range of topics. Afterwards the Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University, Professor Andrew Hamilton, offered the vote of thanks. Before his lecture the Prime Minister and his delegation toured the Centre’s new building, and discussed the Centre’s work programme and objectives with the Director.

A reception was held in the Divinity School, followed by dinner at Exeter College. Members of Parliament, the diplomatic corps, and senior members of the University were in attendance.



*HE Shaikh Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jabr Al-Thani addressing his audience in the Sheldonian Theatre.*