
European Islamic Endowment Foundation

The European Islamic Endowment Foundation (EIEF) was established in the French capital Paris in 1994 by the Union of Islamic Organizations in Europe with the aim of performing missionary activities in the region and meeting the needs of the Muslim community. There are 30 million Muslims in Western and Eastern Europe. EIEF contributes in funding Islamic private schools that play an important role in preserving the Muslim children's faith and creed, thus consolidating the roots of Islam and the Islamic identity in Europe. Furthermore, the foundation presents

the community's brilliant students with scholarships to enable them to assume good positions in the western society. EIEF also establishes institutes that teach religious studies and the Arabic language to make it possible for Muslim children in Europe to learn Islamic and Arabic studies.

The Endowment foundation, moreover, provides the newly-guided Muslims with the social and educational institutions they need. It also sponsors Islamic television and radio programs that are aired via European media.

Islam First Religion in Amsterdam

A census conducted in the Netherlands has unveiled that Islam had become the first religion in the capital Amsterdam, thus advancing over Catholicism, Protestantism, Reformism, Judaism and the other faiths registered in the city's civil record. The census which was published by the daily "Metro" on July 29, 2002 said 13% of Amsterdam's residents were Muslims, whereas Catholics were only 10%. Protestants made 5% of the population and the

followers of all other faiths were 12%; the Jews' percentage was 1%. Islam has become the town's first religion because 59% of its residents consider themselves as "irreligious". Besides, there has been a serious fallback in the influence churches (of different sects) have had on the Dutch people in general, and the residents of Amsterdam in particular. This fallback has forced many churches and religious institutions to close their doors or sell their properties.

New Zealand: Election of First Muslim Deputy

A Muslim, of Pakistani origin, has been elected as a parliament deputy for the first time in New Zealand. There are 23631 Muslims in New

Zealand; the figure was just 6096 a decade ago. The population in the country which is near Australia is round 3.9 million people.



Islamic Arts and Handicrafts was held in the Iranian city of Isfahan on October 6, 2002, with the participation of 120 artists, experts and researchers in artistic and handicraft affairs from 40 countries.

During the 5-day conference, lectures were delivered and symposiums were held to discuss the different types of Islamic arts and the role of handicraftsmanship in introducing the industries and traditions of the Islamic peoples.

Iranian Islamic Culture and Guidance Minister Ahmad Masjid Jamei called for abolishing the tariff that is imposed on handicrafts in Islamic countries, issuing an Islamic art encyclopedia, establishing a fund for supporting Islamic arts, creating specialists' unions for Muslim artists, and initiating the Asfahan International Award for Muslim Artists. On the other

hand, the International Forum for Islamic Calligraphy has been held in Tehran. Three thousand pieces by 2000 Islamic calligraphers from 27 countries were exhibited at the forum.

Paris' President of Chamber of Commerce Declares Embracing Islam

Mr. Pierre Bonard, president of Paris' Chamber of Commerce, has declared his conversion to Islam in front of the Secretary General of the Islamic World League, Dr Abdullah at-Turki.

At-Turki presented Mr. Bonard with a French translation of the Holy Quran along with some French books and tapes about the rulings of Islam and the ways to perform Islamic duties.

Furthermore, Mrs. Brenne, the great granddaughter of the French royal family that ruled before the French revolution, converted to Islam and changed her name to Khadija Mahjoub.

Isfahan Holds International Conference of Islamic Arts

South American Muslims' Conference

Discuss Dialogue of Civilizations

South American Muslims' 16th Conference was inaugurated in the Municipal Council HQ of the Brazilian city of San Bernardo on September 27, 2002 with the issue of Islam and the dialogue of civilizations topping its agenda. Participants delivered speeches about the importance of the

Islamic-Christian dialogue, the task of international media in the dialogue between civilizations, the tolerance of Islam, and the duties of the Islamic minorities in promoting dialogue. Scholars and preachers from several countries took part in the conference.

CAIR Publishes Guide to Muslims in North America

The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), a prominent national Islamic civil rights and advocacy group, has held a news conference in Washington, D.C. to announce the publication of a first-of-its-kind guide to the North American Muslim community. The 350-page book, called “The North American Muslim Resource Guide: Muslim Community Life in the United States and Canada [Routledge],” is the first comprehensive analysis of the structural make-up of Muslim communities in both countries. It provides an in-depth look at the history of Islam on this continent, an introduction to Islamic institutions and an assessment of North American Muslims' perception of themselves.

Along with an outline of the response of Muslim media outlets, charities and community support structures to the attacks of 9/11/01, the book also offers an analysis of population statistics, immigration, participation in the political process, and a 127-page directory listing contact information for Muslim organizations in North America.

“The North American Muslim Resource Guide is an indispensable road-map for any reader who hopes to move past the boundary of ethnic and religious stereotypes to view the human face behind one of the fastest-growing and most vital populations in North America,” said Research Director Dr. Mohamed Nimer, the book's author.

Islam and Britain

The British daily “The Guardian” said on Monday, September 2, 2002, that the shops that sold Islamic books and the universities that taught courses on Comparative Religion were crowded by non-Muslims who were racing to know more about the principles of Islam and the biography of Prophet Mohammed (pbuh). A noticeable rise in the sales of English copies of the Holy Quran was also recorded in the three months that followed September 11, 2001.

The newspaper said the British Foreign Ministry has noted the unprecedented awareness about Islam and decided to present its diplomats who work in Islamic countries and the Arab Affairs' Bureau officials, who deal with Muslims in Britain, with programs about Islam.

The programs include lectures about religious creeds, a discussion about the Islamic contemporary affairs and a visit to a mosque.



Five Thousand Indonesians Declare Conversion to Islam

Five thousand people in the Moluccas Islands in Indonesia have declared that they had embraced Islam. The declaration came during a missionary activity by the World's Islamic Relief Agency (WIRA). Mr. Ali Abdullah al-Juraiss, WIRA's regional manager, said

the conversion was the result of Allah's, be He exalted, favor that was manifested in the efforts made by one of WIRA's activists in Indonesia who had recently visited the islands as part of a missionary activity.

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Islam Attracts US Students

American universities have been witnessing a change in the academic subjects chosen by students to major in. There has been a growing interest in many US universities in courses such as Islam, the Arabic language, and political history.

For instance, the University of Ohio has created a new academic course on

Politics and Culture in Central Asia, while the University of Georgia has responded to the overwhelming demand on Islamic and Arabic language courses and hired an Arabic language teacher and a tutor of Arabic literature, besides the addition of courses on the biography of Muhammad (pbuh), the Prophet of Islam, and the concepts of Islam.

Islamic Conference in Canada

An Islamic conference was held on October 20, 2002 in Ottawa with the objective of discussing the future of Muslims in Canada. The conference that went one for one day was held in the

University of Ottawa in the presence of Muslim and Christian experts and the new leader of the Democratic Party. Christian professors participated in the conference as well.