

UNAOC
United Nations Alliance of Civilizations



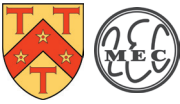
**The Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain Cultural Foundation
with
The Middle East Centre, University of Oxford**

The Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain Center for Dialogue among Civilizations A Brief Summary

In 2002, Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of “The Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain Cultural Foundation” has launched his initiative for inter-civilization dialogue and peaceful coexistence, as a branch of the Foundation, established by Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain in 1989, a private cultural non-profit foundation aimed to enrich the Arabic poetry and dialogue between cultures and religions. Then in 2004, Mr. Al-Babtain announced the establishment of «The Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain Center for Dialogue among Civilizations» at the University of Cordoba, Spain, in order to support the efforts of peaceful dialog between peoples, cultures and religions to consolidate the values of understanding, acceptance, and coexistence of the other.

The center has organized, so far, a series of major intellectual seminars, the first associated the ninth conference of the foundation held in Cordoba, Spain in 2004, under the auspices of His Majesty King Juan Carlos, and in collaboration with the University of Cordoba, the topic was «**The Arab Islamic Civilization and the West: from Dispute to Partnership**». During the tenth session held in Paris, France, in 2006 under the auspices of His Excellency the former French President Jacques Chirac and in coordination with the UNESCO, the center organized a seminar with the topic: «**Multiculturalism in a changing world; dangers and challenges in the Arab and western worlds**». And, along with the eleventh session in Kuwait in 2008, under the patronage of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the topic was «**Today’s world.. Cultures versus Interests**»

In Sarajevo, Bosnia, in 2010, under the patronage of His Excellency President Haris Silajdzic, the center convene his fourth conference, counted the twelfth session of the Foundation, the title was: «**Dialogue of Civilizations in various global systems, Contrast and harmony**». Starting from this session, the «Al-Babtain Center for Dialogue among Civilizations» has decided to grant an honorary award to one of the world prominent figures who have contributed positively to the declared goal of the center; promoting understanding between cultures and religions. The first honoree was the Prince of Wales, Crown Prince of the United Kingdom, His Royal Highness Prince Charles.



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In 2011, in Dubai, UAE, the Center held a forum entitled «**Poetry Towards Peaceful Coexistence**» under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai. The Center granted its commemorative medal to His Excellency Field Marshal Abdel Rahman Suwar Al-Dahab, former President of the Republic of Sudan.

The thirteenth conference was organized in 2013, in cooperation with the European Parliament and in its premises in Brussels, under the auspices of His Excellency its president Mr. Martin Schulz, the topic was: «**Euro-Arab Dialogue in the Twenty-First century .. Towards a common vision.**» In this session, British/Jewish historian Avi Shlaim was granted the honorary award.

Hundreds of world prominent figures, including politicians, diplomats, academics and intellectuals from around the world, have participated in each one of these seminars.

Other achievements in addition to the inter-civilizations dialogue sessions:

- Establishing a number of academic chairs, under the name of «Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain's Chair of Arabic Studies» in some European Universities such as: the University of Cordoba - the University of Granada - the University of Malaga and the University of Seville, all in Spain.

- Organizing training courses in the Arab culture and the Islamic civilization in collaboration with a number of American, European and Asian universities which includes: in the United States, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, University of Florida and University of Missouri. In Italy, University of Rome, University of Palermo and University of Agrigento, Sicily. The University of Nice in France and the University of East Anglia in the United Kingdom. The Euro-Mediterranean University in Portoroz, Slovenia, the Maltese parliament. Tehran, Yazd, and Shahid Charman Universities in Iran, the University of Almaty in Kazakhstan, the University of Hyderabad in India, the University of Kabul in Afghanistan and many others.

- Creating Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain Global Prize for Historical and Cultural studies in Andalusia, an annual award worth of thirty thousand dollars that began in 2009.

- Establishing in 2012 «The Arab European Cultural Dialogue Institute» for Intercultural dialogue, based in the University of Rome, in collaboration with the Altiero Spinelli Centre, Italy and the Foundation of Meseuro, Belgium.
