

FOOTPRINTS

Golden Jubilee

of

Mawlana Hazar Imam

Shah Karim Al Hussaini

1957-2007

BISMI-LLAHI-R-RAHMANI-R-RAHIM

Allah is the Light
Of the heavens and the earth.
The parable of His Light
Is as if there were a Niche
And within it a Lamp:
The Lamp enclosed in a Glass:
The glass as it were
A brilliant star:
Lit from a blessed Tree
An Olive neither of the East
Nor of the West
Whose Oil is well-nigh
Luminous,
Though fire scarce touched it;
Light upon Light!
Allah doth guide
Whom He will
To His Light.



Holy Quran 24: 35

“As we work towards ... the future we will remember the Sura of Light from the Quran. It tells us that the oil of the blessed olive tree lights the lamp of understanding, a light that belongs neither to the East nor West. We are to give this light to all. In that spirit, all that we learn will belong to the world and that...is part of the vision I share with you.”

**Mawlana Hazar Imam
Address to the Asia Society, New York
September 25, 1979**

MAWLANA HAZAR IMAM

Mawlana Hazar Imam was born on December 13, 1936 in Geneva, Switzerland. He spent his early childhood in Nairobi, Kenya, subsequently attending Le Rosey School in Switzerland and Harvard University in USA. He graduated from Harvard in 1959 with a BA Honors Degree in Islamic History.

Mawlana Hazar Imam became the forty-ninth hereditary Imam of the Shia Imami Ismaili Muslims on July 11, 1957, while still a student at Harvard University. He is a direct descendant of Prophet Muhammad through his cousin and son-in-law, Hazrat Ali, and his wife, Fatima, the Prophet's daughter.

The term Imam is generally used to refer to a leader of prayers or a religious leader. However, the Shia restrict the term to the spiritual leaders descended from Hazrat Ali b. Abi Talib and the Prophet's daughter, Fatima.



THE SHIA

“In accordance with the Shia doctrine, tradition and interpretation of history, the Holy Prophet (*Salla-llahu alayhi wa-sallam*) designated and appointed his cousin and son-in-law Hazrat Mawlana Ali *Amiru-l-Mu'minin* (*Alayhi-s-salam*) to be the first Imam to continue the *Ta'wil* and *Ta'lim* of Allah's final message and to guide the murids, and proclaimed that the Imamatus should continue by heredity through Hazrat Mawlana Ali (A.S.) and his daughter Hazrat Bibi Fatima-az-Zahra, *Khatun-i-Jannat* (*Alayha-s-salam*).”

Preamble - The Constitution of the Shia Imami Ismaili Muslims

After the death of Prophet Muhammad the majority of the community chose Abu Bakr to lead the community and state. A small group affirmed that, based on specific verses of the Holy Quran and *hadiths*, the Prophet had designated his cousin and son-in-law to succeed him as leader of the community. This group came to be known as Shi'at Ali (Party of Ali), or simply Shia.

The first revelation to Prophet Muhammad was a command to read:

“Read! Your Lord is full of generosity, instructing by the Pen, educating humanity about that which they do not know.”

Holy Quran 96: 3-5

The value placed on knowledge in the Holy Qur'an became the foundation for the development of education among Muslims. This spirit was further reinforced by the need to remember and preserve the traditions of the Prophet, who encouraged education. The acquisition of knowledge came to be perceived as a way of improving understanding of the faith and its practices; faith and learning were seen to be interactive and not in conflict with each other.¹

¹ Azim Nanji “Education and Learning,” *The Muslim Almanac* ed. Azim Nanji. Detroit: Gale Research Inc. 1996

SHIA ISLAM

In Shia Islam, the intellect plays a central role. Imam's guidance is necessary for the nurturing and the development of the intellect. According to Shia tradition, intellect properly applied, is another facet of faith. Therefore, the intellect is to be protected and enhanced. Mawlana Hazar Imam has often spoken about the role of the intellect in the realm of faith.

“The relationship between the intellect of man and faith has always been of fundamental importance to Muslims...The Divine intellect Akl-e-kul', both transcends and informs the human intellect. It is this intellect which enables man to strive towards two aims dedicated by the faith: that he should reflect upon the environment Allah has given and that he should know himself. It is the light of intellect which distinguishes the complete human being from the animal and developing that intellect requires free enquiry.

The man of faith who fails to pursue intellectual search is likely to have only a limited comprehension of Allah's creation. Indeed, it is man's intellect that enables him to expand his vision of that creation.....If the frontiers of physics are changing, it is due to scientist discovering more and more about the universe, even though they will never be able to probe its totality, since Allah's creation is limitless and continues.”

**Excerpts from Speech by Mawlana Hazar Imam at the
Inauguration of the Aga Khan University's
Faculty of Health Sciences and
Aga Khan University Hospital
Karachi, Pakistan
November 11, 1985**

ISMAILIS

“The Ismaili community has grown and prospered almost beyond recognition. Thanks to my Grandfather’s guidance and wisdom. Ismaili families are to be found all over the world, living peacefully beneath the flags of many nations, owing allegiance to a wide variety of governments. The Ismailis have always prided themselves on their highly developed social conscience. Our faith teaches us that we have obligations far beyond our own or even our family’s interests.”

**Mawlana Hazar Imam
Takht Nashini
Bombay, India
March 11, 1958**

“Ismailis are Shia Muslims who believe that the successor to the leadership of the Muslim community, after the death of Prophet Muhammad, was the Prophet’s cousin and son-in-law, Ali, and that leadership, in both spiritual and temporal matters was to continue by heredity through Ali in the Prophet’s family. Today, we are one of the few Shia sects led by a hereditary Imam, my grandfather having been the forty-eighth and I myself being the forty-ninth.”

**Mawlana Hazar Imam
Enabling Environment Conference
Nairobi, Kenya
March 2, 1981**

“Historically, Ismailis are united by a common allegiance to the living hereditary Imam of the time in the progeny of Islam’s last and final Prophet Muhammad (may peace be upon him) through his daughter Fatima and her husband, Hazrat Ali, the Prophet’s cousin and the first Shia Imam. In the Muslim ethical tradition, which links spirit and matter, the Imam not only leads in the interpretation of the faith, but also in the effort to improve the quality of life of his community, and of the wider societies within which it lives; for a guiding principle of the Imam’s institutions is to replace walls which divide with bridges that unite.”

**Mawlana Hazar Imam
Foundation Ceremony
Delegation of Ismaili Imam
Ottawa, Canada
June 6, 2005**

TAKHT NASHINI

“It should not be believed that material progress is all that counts. As so many advanced nations are finding to their cost, man's mastery of physical forces has far outstripped his mastery of himself. His mind cannot grapple with the complexities his hands have created. That is why my grandfather attached so much importance to education in our community.”

**Dar-es-salaam, Tanzania
October 19, 1957**

“All of you, and particularly the younger generation, should think of your country as something more than a cradle in which to be born, to grow up, make money, marry, have children and die...The behaviour of each individual, however humble he may be, is reflected ultimately in the progress or otherwise of the country to which he owes allegiance....No nation can prosper unless its people are alive to the civic responsibilities....”

**Dacca, Bangladesh
February 12, 1958**

“Never before in the history of man has there been such an age of technical progress. Only thirty years ago, it was an adventure to fly in an aeroplane. Today, there are machines that travel faster than sound. Before long the oceans will be scattered with atomic powered ships travelling on and beneath the sea. New and undreamt of changes in the means of transport and communication lie in the future.”

**Nairobi, Kenya
October 22, 1957**

Snapshots of 50 years of Imamat

1957-1959

- Takht Nashini Celebrations
- Completed education at Harvard

1960s-1980s

- Opened schools, hospitals, dispensaries, financial institutions in East Africa, India and Pakistan
- Visited Hunza, northern, Pakistan – the first Imam to do so in 1400 years

1964

- Represented Iran as Captain of the downhill ski team in the Ninth Olympic Winter Games held in Innsbruck, Austria

1967

- Established Aga Khan Foundation

“There are those who enter the world in such poverty that they are deprived of both the means and the motivation to improve their lot. Unless they can be touched with the spark which ignites the spirit of individual enterprise and determination, they will only sink into apathy, degradation and despair. It is for us, who are more fortunate to provide that spark.”

**Aiglemont, France
January 24, 1967**

- Honorary Doctor of Law Degree was conferred by Peshawar University, Pakistan

“The day we no longer know how, nor have the time nor the faith, to bow in prayer to Allah because the human soul that He has told us is eternal, is no longer of sufficient importance to us to be worthy of an hour of our daily working, profit seeking time, will be a sunless day of despair. It is eminent seats of learning such as this that can synthesise and transmit to the younger generations the proper balance between the Western search of well-being and the Eastern spiritual, human and cultural traditions. I believe the future does reserve better standards of living for us than what we have at present, but in order to enjoy them fully, we must know today what will be the fundamental principles of our lives tomorrow.”

November 30, 1967

1970

- Honorary Doctor of Law Degree was conferred by Sind University, Pakistan

“The whole approach to education, without becoming archaic, should begin now to re-introduce, as widely as possible, the work and thought of our great Muslim writers and philosophers.”

February 6, 1970

1971

- Laid the foundation of Aga Khan Medical College and Hospital in Karachi, Pakistan

“I hope....that the benefit of this hospital will spread far beyond the patients who enter its doors. It is, after all, to be a training institution, not only for doctors but also for nurses.

The Aga Khan Hospital in Karachi will naturally become the hub and focal point of the Ismaili health institutions. We plan to train not only doctors and nurses but health visitors for our own clinics throughout Pakistan....If, at a later date, we enter the field of medical research, the objectives of that research will be specifically directed to the needs of this country.”

February 3, 1971

1973

- Attended celebrations in Nairobi to mark the tenth anniversary of Kenya's independence



With former President of Kenya, the Late Jomo Kenyatta
Photo: 25 Years in Pictures, Volume 1

1976

- Addressed the Swiss America Chamber of Commerce, Zurich, Switzerland

“Many people have a somewhat enigmatic image of the Aga Khan, and a rather hazy idea of the Ismaili Muslim community. In order for you to understand more clearly the purpose and framework of my involvement in various fields of private initiative, let me outline briefly the background of the community which I lead and the office which I hold.

Islam, like the Protestants and Catholics in Christianity, is divided into two major branches: the Sunni and the Shia. The Sunni Muslims are by far the more numerous. The Shia, of which the Ismailis are a part, tend to be concentrated in the non-Arab countries and, with the exception of Iran, are rarely in the majority. Thus the Ismaili community is a minority of the population in every country, Muslim or otherwise, where it lives and this is no doubt one of the reasons why private initiative has always played such an important role in my community.”

January 14, 1976

- Delivered the keynote address at the Seerat Conference held in Pakistan

“I have observed in the Western world a deeply changing pattern of human relations. The anchors of moral behaviour appear to have dragged to such depths that they no longer hold firm the ship of life. What was once wrong is now simply unconventional, and for the sake of individual freedom must be tolerated. What is tolerated soon becomes accepted. Contrarily, what was once right is now viewed as outdated, old-fashioned and is often the target of ridicule.... As the demands on his time increase, every Muslim will find it more and more difficult to seek for himself the answer to the fundamental question of how he should live his life for it to be truly Muslim....The Holy Prophet's life gives us every fundamental guideline that we require to resolve the problem as successfully as our human minds and intellects can visualize. His example of integrity, loyalty, honesty, generosity both of means and of time, his solicitude for the poor, the weak and the sick, his steadfastness in friendship, his humility in success, his magnanimity in victory, his simplicity, his wisdom in conceiving new solutions for problems which could not be solved by traditional methods, without affecting the fundamental concepts of Islam, surely all these are foundations which, correctly understood and sincerely interpreted, must enable us to conceive what should be a truly modern and dynamic Islamic Society in the years ahead.”

March 12, 1976

1977

- Inaugurated The Institute of Ismaili Studies

1978

- Presided over the first seminar of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture in Aiglemont
- First mulaqat with Canadian Jamat

1979

- Laid the foundation of the Ismaili Centre, London, UK
- Established Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture at Harvard and MIT

1980

- Presented the first awards of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture in Lahore, Pakistan

1981

- Inaugurated the Aga Khan School of Nursing
- Presided over International Seminar of AKAA held in Beijing, China

"...our past, our roots, give us the rights to say that the choices we make are our choices and that the opportunities we have today will do for the next decades what early Muslims did in Spain, Syria or Iran, what the Ottoman Turks, Timurids or Mughals did some five or six hundred years ago in Anatolia, Iran or India to understand sufficiently well what was available and appropriate in non-Muslim lands in order to create something profoundly Muslim."

**Mawlana Hazar Imam
first presentation ceremony of the
Aga Khan Award for Architecture
Lahore, Pakistan, October 23, 1980**

1982

- Silver Jubilee of Mawlana Hazar Imam's Imamatus

"On the occasion of my Silver Jubilee, I would be deeply happy if the members of the Jamat, wherever they are and whatever their age, would reaffirm in a visible manner their commitment to the principles of Islam which bind all Muslims together, and which are a unique example to mankind: Belief in Allah, the fulfillment of His message to man, respect and support for His creation, Man himself. In this way, let us establish even sounder foundations for a good and proper life and let us extend our support to those living in the developing areas of the world."

**Mawlana Hazar Imam
25 Years in Pictures
Silver Jubilee Publication, Volume I**

1983

- Accepted the Charter of the Aga Khan University



Mawlana Hazar Imam receives the Charter of The Aga Khan University from President Zia ul-Haq. Photo: Gary Otte / The Ismaili Canada, March 1983

“My prayer is that the university we are now building will enable many generations of the students to acquire both knowledge and the essential spiritual wisdom needed to balance that knowledge and enable their lives to attain the highest fulfillment.”

March 16, 1983

- McGill University, Montreal, Canada, conferred an Honorary Doctor of Law Degree upon Mawlana Hazar Imam



Photo: Gary Otte/
The Ismaili Canada 1983

- Presented the second awards of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture at Topkapi Palace in Istanbul, Turkey

1985

- Opened the Ismaili Centre, London, UK

- Opened Darkhana Jamatkhana, Burnaby, Canada

- Inaugurated Aga Khan University, Karachi, Pakistan



Photo: Crispin Boyle and Ito Josué



Photo: Gary Otte/
The Ismaili Jamatkhana and Centre

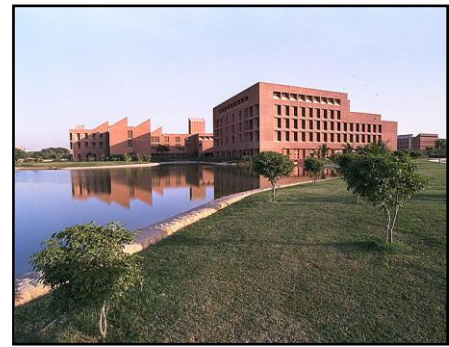


Photo: www.akdn.org/aku.asp

“This building and the prominence of the place it has been given indicate the seriousness and the respect the West is beginning to accord the Muslim civilization, of which the Ismaili community, though relatively small, is fully representative. May this understanding, so important for the future of the world, progress and flourish.”

**Foundation Ceremony
London, UK
September 6, 1979**

“This is the first Jamatkhana to be built in North America—in Canada... This will be a place of congregation, of order, of peace, of prayer, of hope, of humility, and of brotherhood. From it should come forth those thoughts, those sentiments, those attitudes, which bind men together and which unite. It has been conceived and will exist in a mood of friendship, courtesy, and harmony... It is my hope, a very deep hope, that it will become a symbol of a growing understanding in the West of the real meaning of Islam.”

**Foundation Ceremony
Ismaili Jamatkhana and Centre
Burnaby, British Columbia,
Canada
July 26, 1982**

“This day to which I have been looking forward for 21 years of my life... . Whilst open to all, the Aga Khan University is to be an Islamic Institution. It will draw upon the great historical tradition of Muslim learning, the heritage of such philosophers and scientists as al-Razi and al-Biruni, Ibn Sina and Ibn Rushd.”

**Inauguration of the Aga Khan
University’s Faculty of Health
Sciences and Aga Khan
University Hospital
Karachi, Pakistan
November 11, 1985**

1986

- Interviewed by Ray Bonisteel of CBC TV, Toronto, Canada
- Addressed delegates at The Enabling Environment Conference in Nairobi, Kenya

“I devote a great deal of time thinking about ways in which a private development agency can collaborate with government and other international and national agencies to assist the Foundation's most important partners in development - the people themselves....I am seeking to promote productive and profitable business ventures in the Third World. We all assume that the profit-making sector must be highly professional. I strongly believe that the voluntary sector must also adopt standards of quality and principles of good management.”

October 21, 1986

- Established the universal Constitution of the Shia Imami Ismaili Muslims



“This Constitution brings every spiritual child into this frontierless brotherhood of spiritual children who practice the same tariqah throughout the world.”

December 13, 1986

1987

- Attended dinner hosted by Globe and Mail, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

“Islam is not passive. It does not admit that man's spiritual needs should be isolated from his material daily activities. A Muslim must play an active role in helping his family and the brotherhood of believers. The object is not to achieve status, wealth, and power, but to contribute to society's overall development. This implies a moral responsibility to help its weaker, less fortunate members.”

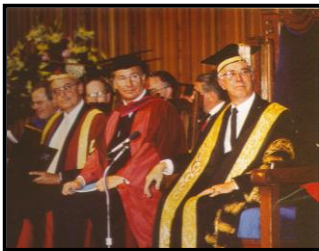
May 14, 1987

- Canadian International Development Agency pledged over US \$4 million to the McMaster Aga Khan University nurse training programme
- Delivered the keynote address at the International Development Conference in Washington, DC

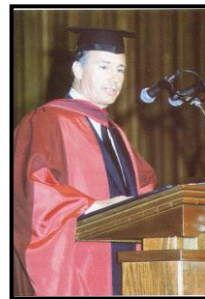
“The voluntary sector represents, and can develop, all that is finest in the human potential.... The opportunity exists to create.... an enabling environment to bring out the very best of the human potential. And this sector has a tendency to follow a "charity" approach rather than directing itself to the major developments and changes needed for the future.”

March 18, 1987

- McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada, conferred an Honorary Doctor of Law Degree in recognition of Mawlana Hazar Imam's leadership in the advancement of health and education



Mawlana Hazar Imam with President Alvin Lee and the Chancellor of McMaster University at the Convocation
Photo: Gary Otte/The Prairie Newsletter
July 11, 1987



Mawlana Hazar Imam addressing the Convocation
Photo: Shiraz Bandali/The Prairie Newsletter, July 11, 1987

- Opened the Aga Khan Academy, Karimabad, Northern Pakistan

“Education, it has been said, enables a person to walk with confidence on unfamiliar ground.”

November 19, 1987

1988 ■ Established Aga Khan Trust for Culture

1989 ■ Attended the first Convocation of the Aga Khan University

1990 ■ Donated a park in Cairo on behalf of Aga Khan Trust for Culture

■ University of London conferred Honorary Doctor of Literature Degree

1992 ■ Mulaqat with Jamat in Canada

■ Established Historic Cities Support Programme (HCSP)

■ Presented awards of the AKA in Samarkand, Uzbekistan

■ Commemorated the 25th anniversary of AKF at Aiglemont

1993 ■ First Imam projects begin in Tajikistan. Aga Khan Foundation (USA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) signed a grant agreement through which the USDA would provide food aid to the Gorno-Badakshan province of Tajikistan.

1994 ■ Mulaqat with the Jamat of Afghanistan in Islamabad, Pakistan

■ University of Wales conferred Honorary Doctor of Law Degree

1995

- First ever mulaqat with Jamat of Central Asia in Moscow and Dushanbe

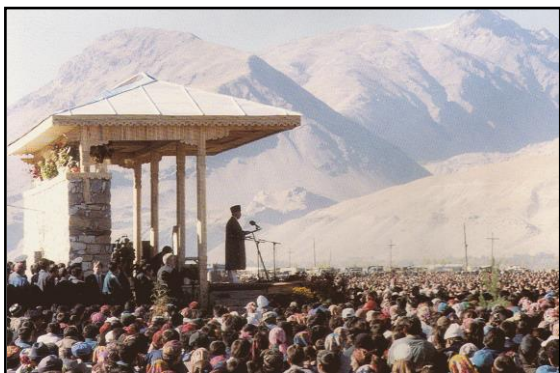


Photo: Gary Otte, Zahur Ramji/The Ismaili 1995

Differences must be resolved within the ethic of our faith: through dialogue, through compassion, through tolerance, through generosity, through forgiveness.”

May 1995

1996

- Delivered the Baccalaureate address at Brown University, Rhode Island, USA, the first Muslim to do so at Brown University in its over 200-year history

“Today in the Occident, the Muslim world is deeply misunderstood by most. The West knows little about its diversity, about the religion or the principles which unite it, about its brilliant past or its recent trajectory through history.”

May 26, 1996

- Opened the restored Baltit Fort in Karimabad, Northern Pakistan

“Values and ideals, and the identities to which they relate and give form, have always been important for humankind. They give direction and points of reference in the face of rapid change. Successful development requires community engagement and mobilisation, but it also needs to occur in a cultural context which preserves individual local values and ideals.”



September 26, 1996

Baltit Fort, Northern Pakistan. Photo:AKDN

1997

- To commemorate forty years of his Imamate, Mawlana Hazar Imam made grants totalling U.S. \$50 million to five institutions founded by him..











1998

- Opened Ismaili Centre, Lisbon. The Centro Ismaili is the first of its kind in Continental Europe.

"Social harmony, coupled with the freedom and respect of religious expression, is a prerequisite for all human progress."

July 11, 1998



- In Maputo, signed an agreement with the Government for development activities



Photo: The Ismaili
Realizing the Social Conscience of Islam
December 1998

"The notion of free enterprise, of creating wealth, these are sound notions, but they should be followed within the ethic of our faith. The question is not only what have I achieved, the question is what have I helped others to achieve."

August 1998

- Opened the first Aga Khan Lycée in Khorog, Tajikistan

"The opening of the Aga Khan Lycée is an important moment for the Network, one of a number of outcomes of more than three and a half years of its work in Tajikistan since my first visit to the country in 1995. I am confident that its programs will make a significant contribution to the efforts of the Government to build on the remarkable achievements in education of the Soviet era and to prepare the generation who will shape Tajikistan well into the next century."

September 24, 1998



Photo: Inter Cultures
Magazine 2005

1999

- Delivered the keynote address to industry leaders, government officials and development executives from around the world at the World Bank InfoDev Conference held in Washington DC, on applying information technology to the problems of human capital and development needs.



Photo: AKDN

“The rapid developments in information and communication technology are of immense importance for those of us engaged in promoting positive economic, social, and cultural change. I believe that they are also critical because development in all those dimensions is a prerequisite for world peace.”

November 10, 1999

- Participated in the World Faiths Development Dialogue in Washington, DC

The objective of the World Faiths Development Dialogue is to discuss poverty and development among people from different religions, as well as between them and the international development institutions. The focus is on the relationship between faith and development, and how this is expressed in policy and in action with impoverished communities around the world.

World Faiths Development Dialogue website
www.wfdd.org.uk/index.html

2000

- The world's first internationally chartered institution of higher learning, the University of Central Asia, was founded. The International Treaty and Charter of this secular and private University was signed by Mawlana Hazar Imam and the Presidents of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and Tajikistan, and registered with the United Nations.



Photo: The Institute of Ismaili Studies

“By creating intellectual space and resources, this University will help turn the mountains that divide the nations and territories of Central Asia into the links that unite its peoples and economies in a shared endeavour to improve their future well-being.”

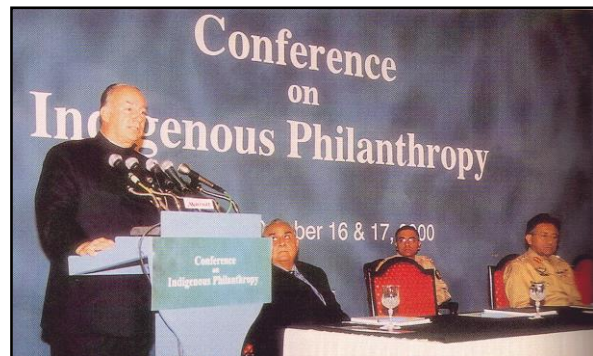
August 31, 2000

- Addressed delegates at the XIII International Meeting of Peoples and Religions in Lisbon, Portugal. The conference, brought together some 350 religious and secular leaders from around the world to promote dialogue between and among, religions as a means of achieving peace.

“One of the principal forces for the creation of peace is hope, and faith communities working together on immediate realistic and realistic priorities, can revive that hope.”

September 26, 2000

- Addressed delegates at the Conference on Indigenous Philanthropy in Islamabad, Pakistan. The Conference discussed ways in which to strengthen ‘giving’ by all sectors.



“Philanthropy and charitable giving hold a very central place in the teachings of the Holy Quran, the writings of Islamic teachers, and the history of Muslims in all parts and all cultures of the Islamic World...Religion and generosity – the gifts of time, of funds and of material – have been closely linked throughout human history...Charitable support for the poor and for the victims of disasters has an equally long and widespread history.”

October 17, 2000

2001

- Aga Khan University launched its nursing programme in Uganda
- Addressed University Presidents at the International Convocation of Association of American Universities in Washington, DC. Leaders from major research universities around the world met to explore how universities are responding to the economic and cultural challenges of globalization.

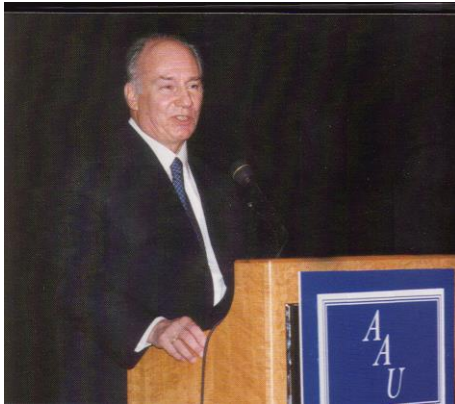


Photo: AAU/ Ismaili Canada July 2001

“Quality education at all levels is, and has been, critically important for all societies at all times. In the developing world, education offers the poor – opportunities for new futures, women – higher status and new roles in their families and communities, migrants – an asset that is portable, and refugees – an asset that is both portable and secure.”

April 22, 2001

- Presented the eighth awards of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture in Aleppo, Syria

“Damascus and Aleppo are among the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world. They functioned as major seats of commerce and learning for over 1000 years and as a central stage in the critical first century of Islam. Since that time, Syria has demonstrated the power of Islam as a crucible for the spirit and the intellect, transcending boundaries of geography and culture. It has demonstrated the Muslim eagerness to learn and adapt, and to share and bequeath an enhanced understanding of man and the universe.”

November 6, 2001

- Received the prestigious Archon Award from the international nursing honour society, Sigma Theta Tau International, in Copenhagen, Denmark

“The Archon Awards - from the Greek word meaning "first to lead" - are granted biennially to individuals who, regardless of their profession, have made health advocacy a major aspect of their lives and whose efforts have created significant change that is far reaching in scope.”

AKDN Press Release

- Met with the President of Syria in Damascus, to discuss AKDN activities in the region

2002

- Inaugurated The First MicroFinanceBank Ltd. in Islamabad, Pakistan
- Met with Russian President to discuss the potential for expanding activities of the Aga Khan Development Network within the Russian Federation
- Announced Aga Khan Museum to be established in Toronto, Canada

‘The museum, which will be the first of its kind in the English speaking world, is expected to include artefacts from renowned private collections including those of His Highness the Aga Khan and of the Institute of Ismaili Studies in London. Prince Sadruddin and Princess Catherine Aga Khan have also expressed a desire for their collection to be part of the museum.....Artefacts will include ceramics, metalwork and paintings covering all periods of Islamic history.’

AKDN Press Release

- Aga Khan University established Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations in London, UK
- Inaugurated the Ismaili Jamatkhana and Centre, Houston, USA

“Islam does not deal in dichotomies but in all-encompassing unity. Spirit and body are one, man and nature are one. What is more, man is answerable to God for what man has created. Since all that we see and do resonates on the faith, the aesthetics of the environment we build and the quality of the interactions that take place within them reverberate on our spiritual lives.”

June 23, 2002



Photo: Ismailimail

- Inaugurated the Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington, DC

For the first time in its 36-year history, the Festival was dedicated to a single theme: "The Silk Road: Connecting Cultures, Creating Trust." The Festival featured the various traditions involved in the cultural interchange between the "East" and the "West." There were about 350 traditional artists - musicians, dancers, craftsmen, storytellers, artists, and cooks from 20 nations



Secretary of State Colin Powell, Mawlana Hazar Imam, and Senator Edward Kennedy at the opening ceremony of the Smithsonian Folklife Festival Photo: Zahur Ramji/AKDN

2003

- Inaugurated the restored gardens that surround the tomb of the Mughal Emperor Humayun

“Tolerance, openness and understanding towards other peoples' cultures, social structures, values and faiths are now essential to the very survival of an interdependent world. Pluralism is no longer simply an asset or a prerequisite for progress and development, it is vital to our existence... Investing in cultural initiatives represents an opportunity to improve the quality of life for the people who live around these remarkable inheritances of past great civilisations.” **April 15, 2003**

- Laid the foundation of the first Ismaili Centre in Dushanbe, Tajikistan

“For me personally, as the 49th hereditary Imam of the Ismailis, this is a day of great happiness. Bequeathing a legacy, that to this day enlightens the region's intellectual traditions, Nasir Khusraw was among the premier thinkers whose contributions will be celebrated in the space that we initiate today.” **August 30, 2003**

- Made an official visit to Mali, West Africa, at the invitation of the Government

“Today, we face a delicate situation in which all Muslims of peace need to unite to present to the world a face of an Islam of peace, unity, intelligence and conviction.” **October 10, 2003**



Mawlana Hazar Imam and the Prime Minister Ahmed Mohamed Ag Hamani (right) at the 14th century Djingereiber Mosque, Timbuktu, with Mr. Abdramane ben Essayouti, the Imam of the Mosque and local dignitaries. Photo: Gary Otte/AKDN

2003

- Opened the international conference organised to commemorate the 25th anniversary of The Institute of Ismaili Studies in London, UK.

“The discourse of the Qur’an-e-Sharif, rich in parable and allegory, metaphor and symbol, has been an inexhaustible well-spring of inspiration, lending itself to a wide spectrum of interpretations. This freedom of interpretation is a generosity which the Qur’an confers upon all believers, uniting them in the conviction that All-Merciful Allah will forgive them if they err in their sincere attempts to understand His word. Happily, as a result, the Holy Book continues to guide and illuminate the thought and conduct of Muslims belonging to different communities of interpretation and spiritual affiliation, from century to century, in diverse cultural environments.”

October 19, 2003

- Laid the foundation of the first Ismaili Centre in the Middle East. The centre will be located in Dubai, UAE

“It is my humble prayer that, when built, the Ismaili Centre in Dubai will be a place for contemplation and search for enlightenment, where people come together to share knowledge and wisdom.”

December 13, 2003



Photo: Zahur Ramji/ The Ismaili Canada, March 2004

- Inaugurated the Aga Khan Academy, Mombasa, Kenya. This was the first of an international network of Aga Khan Academies that will offer an IB curriculum.

“Education that prepares children for life must go beyond fundamental skills to stimulate creativity, intellectual curiosity and honest inquiry. Innovation and progress arise from the ability to approach a challenge in a new way and offer a solution.”

December 20, 2003

2004

- Made a 3-day official visit to Syria to discuss with the Government the expansion of AKDN activities in the country

“Our very fruitful discussions will now enable us to concentrate resources where the AKDN’s experience can address priority needs identified in co-operation with the Syrian Government. These include specific areas of cultural and economic concern, education policy and institutional support in the healthcare sector and the challenges faced by rural populations.”

February 16, 2004

- Addressed delegates at the Leadership and Diversity Conference, Gatineau, Canada

‘The Governor General’s Canadian Leadership Conference was created to broaden the perspectives of future leaders in business, unions and public administration so that their decisions are based on a practical understanding of the influence of their organizations on the general welfare of the community.’

Website of the Governor General of Canada

“We inhabit an overcrowded planet with shrinking resources, yet we share a common destiny. A weakness or pain in one corner has the tendency, rather rapidly, to transmit itself across the globe. Instability is infectious! But so is hope! It is for you – the leaders of today and tomorrow – to carry the torch of that hope and help to share the gift of pluralism.”

May 19, 2004

- Addressed the Convocation of the University of Toronto’s Institute for Studies in Education upon being conferred with an Honorary Doctor of Law Degree

“In an era of rising expectations and unmet needs, both in the developed, but much more in the developing world, civil society institutions play an essential role in the provision of social services, the protection of the marginalised and the delivery of development programmes. Whatever definition is used, a quality civil society is independent of government, pluralist and led by merit-based educated leadership.”

June 18, 2004

2004

- Laid the foundation stone of the Aga Khan Academy, Maputo, Mozambique

"...it is my hope that these schools will stimulate creativity, intellectual curiosity and honest inquiry so that their students can adapt and thrive in a world of rapid change; can make informed judgements on life's daily challenges, and place those judgements in an ethical framework."

June 25, 2004



Mawlana Hazar Imam and Mozambique's President Joaquim Chissano laying the foundation stone of the Aga Khan Academy.
Photo: AKDN

- Laid the foundation stone of the Khorog campus in Tajikistan - the first of three campuses of the University of Central Asia

"There are two measures of success of any university; the careers of its graduates, and the quality of research, which is carried out in the universities and then is used for the benefit of the communities that the university serves."

July 6, 2004

- Addressed delegates of the fifth annual Conference of German Ambassadors in Berlin

"Sometimes I read that Islam is in conflict with democracy. Yet I must tell you that as a Muslim, I am a democrat not because of Greek or French thought, but primarily because of principles that go back 1400 years, directly after the death of Prophet Mohammad (peace be upon him)... These principles, cemented 14 centuries ago, are consistent with democratic models that exist around the world today."

September 6, 2004

- Presented awards for the Aga Khan Award for Architecture at the Humayun's Tomb in New Delhi, India

"In Islam, the Holy Koran says that man is God's noblest creation to whom He has entrusted the stewardship of all that is on earth. Each generation must leave for its successors an enhanced and sustainable social and physical environment. I am sure every responsible citizen in every part of the world would share this aspiration."

November 27, 2004

2005

- Received the National Building Museum's Vincent Scully Prize in recognition of his contributions to architecture, revitalization, and historic preservation in countries where Muslims have a significant presence.
- Inaugurated Al-Azhar Park in Cairo, Egypt

The 500-year old landfill was transformed into a recreational and "green lung" for Cairo – a city with a population of 17 million and one of the lowest ratios of green space to urban population in the world.

The Ismaili Canada, July 2005



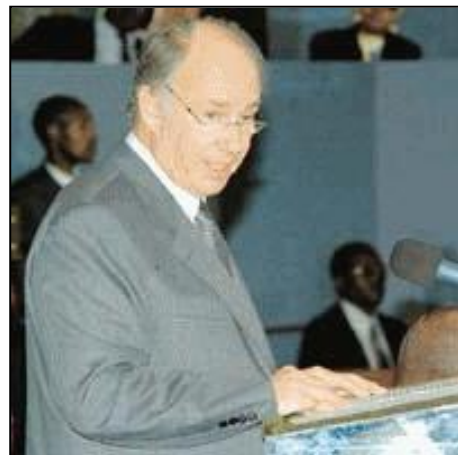
"In our excavations and our historical investigations, I constantly have been reminded that we were touching the very foundations of my ancestors, the Fatimids, and the pluralistic history and intellectual profile of this city and this country to which they contributed so profoundly. I am very humbled by the opportunity to return to Cairo, founded over a thousand years ago by the Fatimid Caliph Al-Muiz, to build on that history."

March 25, 2005

- Addressed delegates at the opening ceremony of the International Press Institute (IPI) World Congress and 54th General Assembly held in Nairobi, Kenya

"Respect for press freedom, it seems to me, grows out of a respect for pluralism as a cornerstone of peace and progress. Pluralism implies a readiness to listen to many voices—whether we agree with them or not—and a readiness to embrace a rich diversity of cultures....when we welcome diversity—and the debate and dissent that goes with it—we sow the seeds of stability and progress."

May 22, 2005



2005

- Laid the foundation of the Delegation of the Ismaili Imamate in Ottawa, Canada

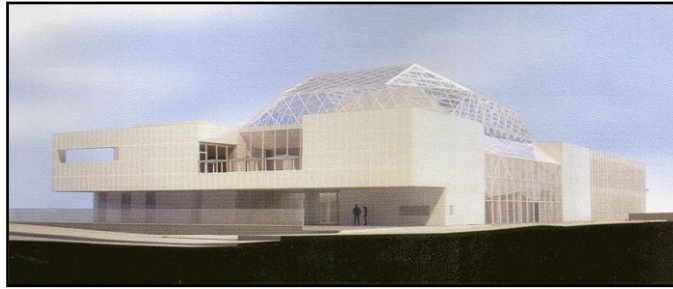


Photo: Ismaili Canada Issue 2, 2007. Renderings: Maki and Associates

“It is my sincere hope that, by its presence and the functions it fulfills, the delegation of Ismaili Imamate will be an illuminating landmark on “the Mile of History.” An epitome of friendship to one and all, it will radiate Islam’s precepts of one humanity, the dignity of man, and the nobility of joint striving in deeds of goodness.”

June 6, 2005

- Laid the foundation of the Aga Khan Academy in Dar-es-salaam, Tanzania, coinciding with the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the first Aga Khan School, which opened in Zanzibar in 1905.
- Received the Die Quadriga Prize, in Berlin, Germany, in recognition of his life’s work in helping people in the poorest regions of the world.

“I am fortunate to lead an international community with a strong sense of social conscience. Wherever they live, they faithfully abide by the Quranic ethic of a common humanity and the dignity of man.”

October 3, 2005

- Received the 2005 Andrew Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy in Edinburgh, Scotland. The Medal is named after Scots-American philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, and is awarded to inspiring philanthropists.

“Individual philanthropy is an important duty in all major religions of the world. In Islam, the Holy Qur’an offers explicit direction to share resources beyond one’s requirements, to care for the poor and those in need. The injunction to service is the ethical underpinning of the work of the Aga Khan development Network.”



October 4, 2005

Photo: Gary Otte/AKDN

2005

- Conferred with Companion of the Order of Canada in recognition for his work in social development (June 6, 2005)

The Order of Canada recognizes people in all sectors of Canadian society whose contributions have enriched the lives of others. The Companions of the Order of Canada have demonstrated the highest degree of merit to Canada and to humanity.

Personifying cherished Canadian values, His Highness the Aga Khan has devoted his life to protecting the environment and alleviating human suffering due to poverty. Imam of the Shia Imami Ismaili Muslims since 1957, he has guided the spiritual growth of his followers, teaching compassion and tolerance by example.

Website of Governor General of Canada

www.gg.ca

- Presided over the Convocation Ceremony of the Aga Khan University. Karachi, Pakistan



President of AKU, Shamsh Kassim-Lakha, Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz, His Highness, and Ambassador Saeedullah Khan Dehlavi, Chairman of AKU Board of Trustees, enter the procession at the Convocation Ceremony. Photo: Gary Otte/AKDN

“A great risk to the modernization of the Islamic world is identity loss – the blind assumption that we should give up all our essential values and cultural expressions to those of other civilizations. In order to contain this risk, for it cannot be totally eliminated, we must re-invigorate our own value systems and cultural expressions. This includes the sciences and the ethical structures that go with them, but also architecture and the design of landscape and towns, literature, music, philosophical thought, and the free space they require, which are unfailing signs of a nation’s vitality and confidence.”

December 3, 2005

2006

- Addressed participants at the Conference on Afghanistan in London, UK

“Because of the extensive presence of AKDN agencies in Afghanistan – engaged in humanitarian assistance, education, health, rural and urban development, tourism, cultural revitalization, telecommunications and banking – we have a wide understanding of the redevelopment processes in Afghanistan. We are thus proposing to work with the Government of Afghanistan, in concert with a wide variety of stakeholders, to support the development and maintenance of an enabling environment.”

January 31, 2006

- Addressed delegates at the international symposium at the University of Évora, Portugal, titled: “Cosmopolitan Society, Human Safety and Rights in Plural and Peaceful Societies”

“An important goal of quality education is to equip each generation to participate effectively in what has been called “the great conversation” of our times. This means, on one hand, being unafraid of controversy. But it also means being sensitive to the values and outlooks of others.”

February 12, 2006

- An Honorary Doctorate Degree was conferred upon Mawlana Hazar Imam by the University of Evora, Portugal



Mawlana Hazar Imam is bestowed with the "Honoris Causa" doctorate degree in honour of "the extraordinary work of economic, social and cultural and educational assistance" through the Aga Khan Development Network. Photo: Gary Otte/AKDN

2006

- Received an award from the Royal Toledo Foundation (Real Fundación de Toledo) for work in the preservation and revitalization of historic cities in the Islamic world



Mawlana Hazar Imam receiving the Royal Foundation of Toledo Award from His Majesty Juan Carlos I in Toledo. Photo: AKDN

“Whatever their faiths or value systems, the primary, daily concern of peoples everywhere is their quality of life. Indeed, the revelation of Islam - my faith - looks upon freedom from hunger, provision of appropriate shelter and clothing, security against fear for one's safety, good health, learning and wisdom, and generation of wealth as a blessing to strive for, and to share in the creation of an equitable order of peace and harmony.

This explains my own role, as the hereditary Imam - the spiritual leader - of the Shia Ismaili Muslims, in development activities through the agencies of the Aga Khan Development Network, or the AKDN.”

March 2, 2006

- Inaugurated, with president Karzai and French First Lady Mme. Bernadette Chirac, the French Medical Institute for Children in Kabul, Afghanistan

“We therefore are highly desirous that this hospital develops into a high level university hospital tertiary care centre which will offer new specialisations - essential for Afghanistan - such as neuroscience, cardiology, oncology and many other fields of medicine, which best meet the needs of the country.”

April 8, 2006



Mawlana Hazar Imam with Mme Bernadette Chirac, Alain Deloche, the founder of La Chaîne de l'Espoir (left), and Phillippe Douste-Blazy, the French Foreign Minister (right) at the inauguration ceremony for the French Medical Institute for Children in Kabul. Photo: Gary Otte/AKDN

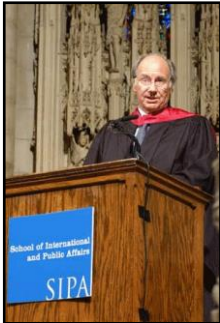
2006

- Signed an agreement with the Government of Canada for funding for the Global Centre for Pluralism to be located in Ottawa

“Pluralism is no longer simply an asset or a prerequisite for progress and development, it is vital to our existence.”

April 18, 2006

- Addressed the School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University, USA



“A central element in any religious outlook, it seems to me, is a sense of human limitation, a recognition of our own creature-hood – a posture of profound humility before the Divine. In that sensibility lies our best protection against divisive dogmatism and our best hope for creative pluralism.”

May 15, 2006

- Received the “Tolerance Award” from the Tutzing Evangelical Academy, Germany in recognition of his dedication towards social, cultural, and economic development.



“Instead of shouting at one another, we must listen to one another and learn from one another. ...The replacement of fear by hope is probably the single most powerful trampoline of progress. When hope takes root, then a new level of tolerance is possible, though it may have been unknown for years, and years, and years.”

May 20, 2006

2006

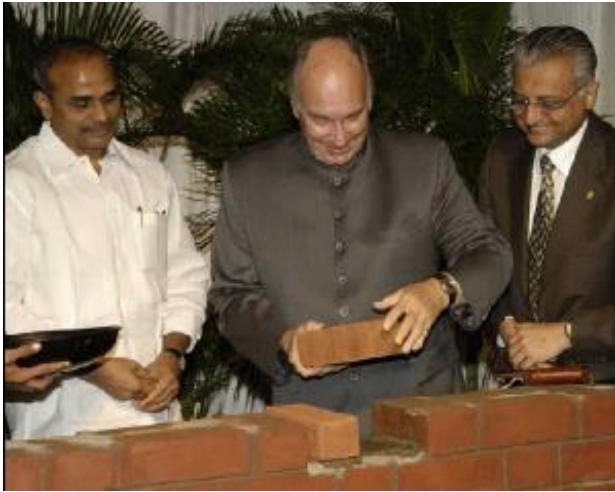
- Delivered the Commencement Address at the American University in Cairo, Egypt

“From the very beginnings of Islam, the search for knowledge has been central to our cultures. I think of the words of Hazrat Ali ibn Abi Talib, the first hereditary Imam of the Shia Muslims, and the last of the four rightly-guided Caliphs after the passing away of the Prophet (may peace be upon Him). In his teachings, Hazrat Ali emphasized that “No honour is like knowledge.” And then he added that “No belief is like modesty and patience, no attainment is like humility, no power is like forbearance, and no support is more reliable than consultation.”

Notice that the virtues endorsed by Hazrat Ali are qualities which subordinate the self and emphasize others—modesty, patience, humility, forbearance and consultation. What he thus is telling us, is that we find knowledge best by admitting first what it is we do not know, and by opening our minds to what others can teach us.”

June 15, 2006

- Laid the foundation of Aga Khan Academy, Hyderabad India



“The key to future progress in the developing world will be its ability to identify, to develop, and to retain expert and effective home-grown leadership... ..the most important thing a student can learn is the ability to keep on learning... The well-led society of the future, in my view, will be a meritocracy – where leadership roles are based on personal and intellectual excellence.”

September 22, 2006

Mawlana Hazar Imam and Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Dr. Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy lay the Foundation Stone for the Aga Khan Academy, Hyderabad. Photo: Gary Otte/AKDN

- Inaugurated Ishkashim Bridge, Tajikistan
- Opened Kampala Serena Hotel, Uganda

2007

- Inaugurated *Splendori a Corte* at the Palazzo della Pilotta in Parma, Italy.

“The need for better understanding across cultures has never been greater - nor more pressing. We must do our utmost to value and protect what is greatest in our common heritage. It is important that the diversity of cultures, the pluralism that characterises many societies today, is recognised as a vital asset and prerequisite for progress and development.”

June 3, 2007



Mawlana Hazar Imam and guests arriving at the *Splendori a Corte* exhibition at the Palazzo della Pilotta in Parma, Italy. Photo: Robert Ricci/AKDN

- Addressed delegates at the Enabling Environment Conference in Kabul, Afghanistan

“An Ayat in the Holy Quran says: “Verily, God does not change a people’s condition unless they change that which is in themselves.” In the end, it is the will and the resourcefulness of the individual human being that, with Allah’s blessings and guidance, will determine our future. It is to that end that this conference has been organized - and it is to that end that each of us must continually be rededicated.”

June 4, 2007



- Addressed graduates of the Masters of Public Affairs Programme at the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po), France

“In my view, it is a clash of ignorance which we are facing. And the answer to ignorance is Education... One of the great stumbling blocks to the advance of pluralism, in my view, is simple human arrogance. All of the world's great religions warn against self righteousness - yet too many are still tempted to play God themselves - rather than recognising their humility before the Divine.”

June 15, 2007

July 11, 2007

- Golden Jubilee of the Imamate of Mawlana Hazar Imam Shah Karim Al Hussaini

“O mankind! Truly there has come to you a proof from your Lord, and We have sent down to you a clear Light.”

Holy Quran 4:174

“O Apostle, deliver (to the people), what has been revealed to thee from thy Lord: and if thou did not do so, then thou hast not delivered His Message, and Allah will protect thee from the people.’

Holy Quran: 5:67

“And We have vested (the knowledge and authority of) everything in the manifest Imam.”

Holy Quran 36: 12

“I am leaving behind me two important things: the Quran and the Ahl al-Bayt. If you follow them both, you will never go astray.”

Prophet Muhammad

“The Shia school of thought maintains that while direct Divine inspiration ceased at the Prophet’s death, the need for Divine guidance continued and this could not be left merely to millions of mortal men, subject to whims and gusts of passion and material necessity, capable of being momentarily but tragically misled by greed, by oratory, or by the sudden desire for material advantage. These dangers were manifest in the period immediately following our Holy Prophet’s death.”

Imam Sultan Muhammad Shah in *Memoirs of Aga Khan*

“My Grandfather dedicated his life to the Imamate and Islam, both of which for him always came first and above all considerations. My aim in the future will be to continue the vast work of my Grandfather, to do all in my power for your spiritual welfare and material betterment.”

July 11, 1957

25 Years in Pictures

Silver Jubilee Publication Volume 1