

FOOTPRINTS

II

Diamond Jubilee
of
Mawlana Hazar Imam
Shah Karim Al Hussaini
Aga Khan IV

2009

to

2017



Reflection

“My grandfather often reminded you that we are living in the atomic age. But what in fact do we mean when we say this?...The most significant thing about the atomic age is the new and unbounded sources of energy which are released for the use of mankind...I shall devote my life to guiding the community in all the problems which these rapid changes will bring in their wake.

However, 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. Today I believe that education is more important than ever before. But remember that education does not stop at the school room; it continues through the newspapers, the radio, films and particularly television. One teacher can reach hundreds of thousands of children at the same moment through the T.V. set. The Ismaili community must prepare itself for changes of this magnitude.”

Mawlana Hazar Imam

Takht Nashini, Dar-es Salaam, Tanzania

October 19, 1957

Ilm, July 1977

“Never before in the history of man has there been such an age of technological 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...The years of development and change lie ahead are certain to throw up many new problems...You will surely surmount them if you stand by your Faith and meet your difficulties in the spirit of humility and tolerance that your religion demands us. This is especially important for the younger generations who will have to carry the future on their shoulders.”

Mawlana Hazar Imam

Takht Nashini, Nairobi, Kenya,

October 22, 1957

Ilm, July 1977

“In Uganda most of our community is prospering. This is a tribute to its skill and industries – particularly to the wise advice and guidance it received from my beloved grandfather. But wealth is not all that matter. Our religion teaches us that a spirit of humility and devotion is of first importance.”

Mawlana Hazar Imam

Takht Nashini, Kampala Uganda

October 22, 1957

Ilm, July 1977

Reflection

“The huge new atomic power stations, the Sputniks and the vast throbbing machines of modern industrial life are symbols of a fresh chapter in material progress...I do not believe that we should fear material progress, nor should we condemn it. The danger is that it could become an obsession in our lives and that it could dominate our way of thinking. There is no reason why our traditions and our faith should stop us from moving with our times, nor in fact why we should not lead our fellowmen to new spheres of knowledge and learning....our traditions and our religion will always inspire the creations of our hands and minds.”

Mawlana Hazar Imam

Takht Nashini, Karachi, Pakistan

January 23, 1958

Ilm, July 1977

“The Ismailis are scattered all over the world, owing allegiance to many flags and serving beneath many different forms of government...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...No Nation can prosper unless its people are alive to their civic responsibilities... We should not be afraid of material progress. The less advanced nations need its fruits desperately in their fight against poverty and disease. If Muslims will accept this need, and at the same time ensure that the living essence of their Faith infuses every field of human activity, you will rediscover the ancient glories of Islam.”

Mawlana Hazar Imam

Takht Nashini, Dacca, Bangladesh

February 12, 1958

Ilm, July 1977

“Bombay, as you have been reminded, has very close associations with my family. It was here and here alone, that my grandfather was acclaimed as 48th Imam of the Shia Imami Ismailis. That was 73 years ago and at that time he was only eight years old. What tremendous changes have come about since those days!...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

Ilm, July 1977

Reflection

In 2006, prior to the Golden Jubilee year, Mawlana Hazar Imam was interviewed by Peter Mansbridge of CBC News about what Imam's dream was for the world during his Golden Jubilee.



Mawlana Hazar Imam being interviewed by Peter Mansbridge of CBC Television Toronto, Canada

Photo: [CBC](#)

Peter Mansbridge: *Next year is your Golden Jubilee, 50 years, ...what's your dream for the world in that year? ... What's your realistic hope?*

Mawlana Hazar Imam: *"Well clearly I would like to see the areas of the world which are living in horrible poverty, I'd like to see that, replaced by an environment where people can live in more hope than they have had. I would like to see governments that produce enabling environments where society can function and grow rather than live in the dogmatism that we have all lived through and which, I think, have been very constraining. And I would like to see solid institutional building because when all is said and done, society needs institutional capacity."*

Extracts of transcript from: *One on One: Interview with Peter Mansbridge CBC, October 28, 2006, Toronto, Canada*

Mawlana Hazar Imam has founded institutions and focused on many initiatives, collaborative partnerships during his Imamate. All of his efforts have been intended to improve the quality of life of the Jamat and the peoples amongst whom we live.

Living in a world where we are no longer separated by distances, possessing the skills and expertise acquired through our education and life experiences, and inspired by his wisdom and foresight, what part can you and I play in realising Mawlana Hazar Imam's vision for Humanity?

Footprints continued...

Following the extended Golden Jubilee year, Mawlana Hazar Imam...

January 18, 2009

- [met](#) with Singapore's Minister for Foreign Affairs, George Yeo in Paris, France
- [announced](#) his decision to establish an Ismaili Centre and regional representative office of the Aga Khan Development Network in Singapore

April 23, 2009

- [met](#) with the Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton, United States Secretary of State, at the State Department.
- [delivered](#) a keynote speech at the eighth annual Global Philanthropy Forum in Washington, DC.

“Among the areas where we can find common ground is our mutual effort to address the problem of persistent global poverty, especially the endemic poverty of the developing world. Surely this is an area where we can listen and learn and grow together – establishing ever-stronger bonds of understanding. One of the great principles of Islam, in all its interpretations, is the elimination of poverty in society, and philanthropy's centrality in this duty.”

Mawlana Hazar Imam

[Speech](#)

May 8, 2009

- [met](#) with the His Eminence D. Jose Policarpo, the Cardinal Patriarch of Lisbon and Chancellor of the Catholic University of Portugal (UCP), and Portugal's Foreign Minister, Luis Amado, amongst other senior officials, and signed an international agreement between the Portuguese Republic and the Ismaili Imam.



Mawlana Hazar Imam and Portugal's Foreign Minister Luis Amado after the signing of the international agreement.
Photo: AKDN/Ricardo Oliveira and Nuno Saraiva

May 8, 2009

- was [invested](#) as Foreign Member, Class of Humanities, by Lisbon's prestigious Academy of Sciences.

The Academy, founded in 1779 by Queen Mary I of Portugal, is committed to promoting scientific research and stimulating the enhancement of thought, literature, language and other forms of national culture. Other Foreign Correspondent Members include Nelson Mandela, former President of South Africa, Jose Sarney, former President of Brazil, and some 70 other prominent scholars, writers and diplomats from over 20 countries.

[AKDN](#)

- [addressed](#) the Academy of Sciences.

“People are not born valuing pluralism. Therefore pluralism is the sort of subject which needs to be part of education, from the youngest age onwards.”

Mawlana Hazar Imam

[Speech](#)



May 14, 2009

- [arrived](#) in Berlin for a two-day official visit for discussions with Chancellor Angela Merkel and other government officials. The meetings focused on the expansion of activities since the signing of an agreement in 2004 between the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

May 28, 2009

- was [honoured](#) in Paris, by France's Minister for Culture, Christine Albanel, with the titles of Grand Patron (Grand Mécène) and Grand Donor (Grand Donateur) in recognition of his outstanding contribution to cultural development in France through the Foundation for the Preservation and Development of the Chantilly Domain (Fondation pour la sauvegarde et le développement du domaine de Chantilly) as well as the numerous cultural programmes implemented by the agencies of the Aga Khan Development Network throughout the world.

June 4, 2009

- [inaugurated](#) the exhibition titled [The Islamic Worlds in the Aga Khan Museum Collection](#) at CaixaForum in Madrid with His Majesty the King of Spain, the Honorary President of "la Caixa," Ricardo Fornesa. Jaime Lanaspá, Director of "la Caixa" Foundation and Luis Monreal, Director of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture also attended the opening ceremony. The exhibition travelled to Barcelona where it was displayed from October 9, 2009 to January 2010.
- [presided](#) over the signing of an agreement between [AECID](#) (The Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development) and the Aga Khan Development Network by Luis Monreal, General Manager of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, on behalf of AKDN, and Antonio Nicolau, Director General, on behalf of AECID.



Signing of cooperation agreement by Luis Monreal, General Manager of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, on behalf of AKDN, and Antonio Nicolau, Director General, on behalf of AECID, in the presence of His Majesty, Her Majesty and Hazar Imam. Photo: AKDN/Hinrick Schmoock

June 9, 2009

- [presided](#) over the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Alberta and the Aga Khan University at Government House in Edmonton, Canada. The agreement was signed by University of Alberta President Indira Samarasekera and Aga Khan University President Firoz Rasul in the presence of Alberta Premier Ed Stelmachand. The agreement will advance their respective goals to increase global engagement.
- [received](#) an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Alberta in recognition of his efforts to improve the lives of millions of the world's poorest people and build a global culture of tolerance.
- was [informed](#) by former Prime Minister of Canada, Stephen Harper Canada would grant him honorary citizenship.

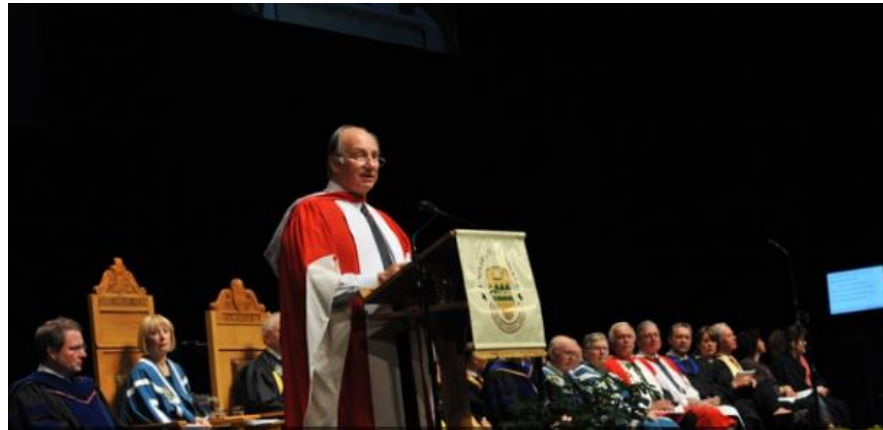
"He is truly a beacon of humanitarianism, of pluralism and of tolerance throughout the entire world and a great partner and long-time friend of Canada, and a great benefactor to humanity."

Right Honourable Stephen Harper

[AKDN](#)

June 9, 2009

- [addressed](#) the graduation ceremony of the University of Alberta.



“Pluralism means reconciling what is unique in our individual traditions with a profound sense of what connects us to all of humankind.

The Holy Quran says: “O mankind! Be careful of your duty to your Lord Who created you from a single soul and from it created its mate and from them twain hath spread abroad a multitude of men and women.” What a unique and profound statement about the Oneness of humanity!

Mawlana Hazar Imam

[Speech](#)

The collaboration between AKU and the University of Alberta builds on an initial agreement signed in June 2006 on academic and scientific cooperation together with Alberta Health Services. As a result of that agreement, faculty and staff from the AKU School of Nursing and the Aga Khan University Hospital in Nairobi, Kenya, have recently completed graduate programs and training at the U of A in areas such as interventional cardiology, breast conservation surgery and physiotherapy.

Over the past 25 years, the Aga Khan University has fostered partnerships with several universities in Canada and across the world including McMaster, the University of Waterloo, University of Toronto, Harvard University and Oxford University. Based on common values and approaches to sustainable development, these partnerships have improved the quality of curriculum development and teaching standards at AKU and raised the profile of professions such as nursing and teaching in the developing world, giving students the impetus to enter these desperately needed careers. Students and faculty from partner institutions have further benefited through professional exchanges, joint research projects and teaching opportunities.

[AKDN](#)

June 12, 2009

- [received](#) an Honorary Doctorate of Divinity from the University of Cambridge, UK. Mawlana Hazar Imam is the first Muslim to receive the distinction in the University's 800 year history.

“Since becoming the fourth Aga Khan, he has worked tirelessly through his Development Network to ensure that those who are oppressed by the worst poverty should enjoy a reasonable standard of healthcare, education and financial security. And this is not humanitarianism, as he says, but the requirement of his faith.”

Dr Rupert Thompson, classicist and Fellow of Selwyn College

- [witnessed](#) the signing of a scholarship agreement between the Cambridge Overseas Trust and the University of Central Asia. The scholarships will enable students from Central Asia to study for higher degrees at Cambridge.

July 29, 2009

- [inaugurated](#) the revitalised Forodhani Park, Stone Town, Zanzibar, restored by Aga Khan Trust for Culture.



The revitalisation included the restoration of the walkways, landscape improvements, infrastructure upgrading of lighting, sewage, drainage and civic amenities and the rehabilitation of the seawall fronting the Park. AKDN

“Even as we sense today the influence of the distant past, so we should also think of generations yet unborn - people who will live here and people who will visit, and who will see these sites as gateways to their own history.”

Mawlana Hazar Imam

[Speech](#)

The revitalisation of Forodhani Park in Zanzibar's Historic Stone Town transformed the heavily used park – one of the last open spaces in the densely populated World Heritage Site – and upgraded social and recreational amenities in the historic Park.

The Trust has been active in Zanzibar since 1989, successfully completing the restoration of the Old Dispensary, renamed the Stone Town Cultural Centre, and the old Customs House, as well as the rehabilitation of Kelele Square.

[AKDN](#)

October 10, 2009

- [presided](#) over the inauguration of Khorog City Park, Tajikistan which was officially opened by Tajikistan's Deputy Prime Minister Asadullo Gulomov.

"...this will be a wonderful setting for individual reflection and contemplation - inspired by the beauty of this place - including the sounds and the sight of running water - in itself a mysterious, ever-changing and always-inspiring natural force."

Mawlana Hazar Imam

[Speech](#)



Mawlana Hazar Imam, the First Deputy Prime Minister Asadullo Gulomov, and the Governor of Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast, Qodiri Qosim, tour the newly revitalised Khorog Park.
Photo: AKDN/Gary Otte

October 30, 2009

- [signed](#) an historic agreement with Governor Rick Perry of Texas between the State of Texas and the Ismaili Imamat in Austin, Texas. The agreement expanded collaboration in the areas of education, health sciences, natural disaster preparedness and recovery, culture and the environment, and especially between the University of Texas and the Aga Khan University.



Mawlana Hazar Imam and Governor Rick Perry sign the Agreement. Photo: AKDN / Zahur Ramji

November 2, 2009

- [signed](#) an agreement of cooperation in Sacramento, California, with Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. The agreement reaffirmed their shared commitment to dedicate human and material resources to confront poverty — one of the greatest challenges facing the global economy.



Haile T Debas, MD, Executive Director of Global Health Sciences at UCSF, and AKU President Firoz Rasul sign a memorandum in the presence of California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and Mawlana Hazar Imam.



Mawlana Hazar Imam and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger exchange agreements following the signing ceremony. Photo: AKDN

The objective of the agreement is to collaboration in health sciences education and research, including developing centres of excellence in the study and prevention of cancer and cardiovascular diseases, emergency medicine, diagnostics and maternal and child health. The scope of collaboration will include the development of healthcare human resources for Eastern Africa and South and Central Asia, conducting joint research on diseases in these regions, and educating and training resources to develop their capacity to deliver effective healthcare.

[AKDN](#)

December 17, 2009

- [received](#) “Prix de l’Entrepreneur philanthropique de l’année 2009” - the “Philanthropic Entrepreneur of the Year 2009 Award” presented to him by Le Nouvel Economiste, at a ceremony held at the Cour des Comptes in Paris, France.



Mawlana Hazar Imam is presented the award by Philippe Seguin, Premier President of the Cour des Comptes, as Henri Nijdam, publisher and editorial managing director of Le Nouvel Economiste looks on. Photo: AKDN

“The AKDN Foundation is an umbrella organization which coordinates the activities of over 200 agencies and institutions that make up the network, employing a total of 70,000 paid staff and 100,000 volunteers; The network operates in 35 of the poorest countries in the world and is statutorily secular.

This tableau is of course merely a momentary snapshot of a constantly evolving process, but its contours are clearly defined enough today for us to speak about goals, strategy and method.

The goal is clear: the aim is to create or strengthen civil society in developing countries. This single goal, when it is achieved, is in fact necessary and sufficient to ensure peaceful and stable development over the long term, even when governance is problematic.”

Mawlana Hazar Imam

[Speech](#)

January 28, 2010

- [delivered](#) a statement at the London Conference on Afghanistan.

“Overall we would emphasise four fundamental building blocks necessary to achieve a minimum critical mass of interventions that would improve Afghans’ quality of life and opportunities: security; participation; ownership (both of assets and the development process); and institution building of the state and civil society. If resources allocated to each of these elements were better balanced, much more would be achieved by development efforts across the country.”

Mawlana Hazar Imam

[Statement](#)

March 4, 2010

- [delivered](#) introductory remarks at a conference titled *Marketplace on Innovative Financial Solutions for Development*, held in Paris co-hosted by the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the World Bank.

“We have learned how to address particular symptoms of poverty, but unforeseen variables have diluted our impact. Perhaps most importantly, we have often failed to predict and to pre-empt tragic developments, such as famines and civil conflicts, even when they have been brewing over decades of despair....

*First, I would cite the **rising importance of civil society**; by which I mean those not-for-profit organizations which are driven by a public service agenda...*

*Secondly, I would underscore the **growing potential of what some call PPPs - public-private partnerships**. Such collaborations can tap the unique strengths of both sectors, overcoming outmoded dogmas which depreciate the role of the market-driven enterprises on the one hand, or which denigrate the capacities of publicly supported agencies on the other...*

*A third guiding concept for our Network, as for others, is what we call **Multi-Input Area Development**...Singular inputs alone will not do the job - not in the time available, not across the wide spectrum of needs. But if we can work simultaneously and synergistically on several fronts, then progress in one area will spur progress in other areas. The whole can be greater than the sum of its parts.*

*The fourth touchstone is the recognition that **social diversity, the pluralism of peoples, is an asset, not a liability for the development process**...Some 70 percent of the world’s poor live in rural environments, where diversity - ethnic, religious, social, economic, linguistic, political - is like a kaleidoscope that history shakes every day. Often these local distinctions can provide valuable levers for long-term progress.*

*Fifth and finally, I would mention what many call “**Quality of Life Assessments**”, a more adequate way to measure the results of our work. Quite simply, we need to embrace a wider array of evaluative criteria, both quantitative and qualitative, elements which the poor themselves take into account when assessing their own well-being.”*

Mawlana Hazar Imam

[Speech](#)

March 18, 2010

- [addressed](#) the Pan Africa Media Conference to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Nation Media Group.

“Journalistic shortcomings cannot be disguised behind political or partisan agendas. So the idea of “best practice” became a second NMG goal: to try to identify, educate, and harness the best media talent we could find....

Freedom, in any area of human activity, does not mean the moral license to abuse that freedom. It would be a sad thing if the people of Africa in the name of freedom, were expected to welcome the worst of media practices, whether they are home-grown or imported....

Information flows more quickly, over longer distances at lower cost than ever before. But sometimes more information – in and of itself - can also mean more misinformation, more confusion, more manipulation, more superficial snapshots of events, lacking nuance, lacking context, or hiding agendas.”

Mawlana Hazar Imam
[Speech](#)

- [announced](#), at the conference, the establishment of the Aga Khan University Graduate School of Media and Communications in Nairobi, Kenya. The School will aim to foster a critical mass of diverse, media leaders, enterprises and institutions distinguished by the highest standards of competence, ethics, professionalism and social responsibility.

“I am pleased to tell you that the Aga Khan University is planning to establish a new Graduate School of Media and Communications, based in East Africa and dedicated to advancing the excellence of media performance and the strengthening of ethical media practices throughout the developing world. The School will be driven, above all, by an absolute commitment to quality....

In a world of growing complexity, journalists must increasingly understand the substantive, sophisticated dimensions of the fields on which they report - from medical and environmental sciences, to economic and financial disciplines, to legal and constitutional matters. And a new generation of African media entrepreneurs could well be born from programs which blend economic and media disciplines.”

Mawlana Hazar Imam
[Speech](#)

May 28, 2010

- [presided](#) over the foundation ceremony, with Prime Minister Stephen Harper, of the Ismaili Centre, the Aga Khan Museum, and their Park in Toronto, Canada.

“Together, these three projects will symbolise the harmonious integration of the spiritual, the artistic and the natural worlds — in keeping with the holistic ideal which is an intimate part of Islamic tradition. At the same time they will also express a profound commitment to inter-cultural engagement, and international cooperation.

Mawlana Hazar Imam

[Speech](#)

- was [bestowed](#) honorary Canadian citizenship.

“It is therefore my great honour and pleasure, on behalf of the Government and people of Canada, to formally present you today with Honorary Canadian Citizenship. Welcome to our home and native land, your Highness. It is, now and forever your home, your Highness, your home as well.”

Right Honourable Stephen Harper

[Speech](#)



September 22, 2010

- [inaugurated](#) the new National Park of Mali in Bamako with President Amadou Toumani Toure. The 103-hectare park was created under a public-private partnership between the Government of Mali and the Aga Khan Trust for Culture.

“...this Park has the mission of upholding the country’s tradition of encounters and dialogue, while preserving the natural heritage and ecosystems of which man has stewardship, as the Holy Qur’an instructs us.

Creating the park was in itself a means of injecting resources into the local economy. It generated thousands of days of work and 130 permanent professional posts. Moreover, most of the construction materials were of local origin, as were the skilled workers. A stone-carving workshop and a nursery have been set up to train specialists in these fields. The Park therefore represents not just an economic and technical investment, but also a commitment to training and employment.”

Mawlana Hazar Imam

[Speech](#)

October 15, 2010

- [delivered](#) the tenth annual LaFontaine-Baldwin Lecture in Toronto, Canada.

“...More information has also meant more mis-information – more superficial snapshots, more shards of stray information taken out of context. And it has also meant more willful dis-information – not only differences of opinion, but distortions of fact. A wide-open internet allows divisive information to travel as far and as fast as reliable information...New digital technologies mean more access, but they also mean less accountability. Technologies, after all, are merely instruments – they can be used for good or ill. How we use them will depend – in every age and in every culture – not on what sits on our desktops, but on what is in our heads – and in our hearts”

Mawlana Hazar Imam

[Speech](#)

October 28, 2010

- [presided](#) over the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between AKDN Foundation and the International Baccalaureate (IB) in Gouvieux, France. Princess Zahra, head of AKDN’s Social Welfare Department, and Jeff Beard, Director General of IB signed the Memorandum.



Princess Zahra and Jeff Beard signing the Memorandum of Understanding as Mawlana Hazar Imam and Carol Bellamy look on.
Photo: AKDN / Bruno Cohen

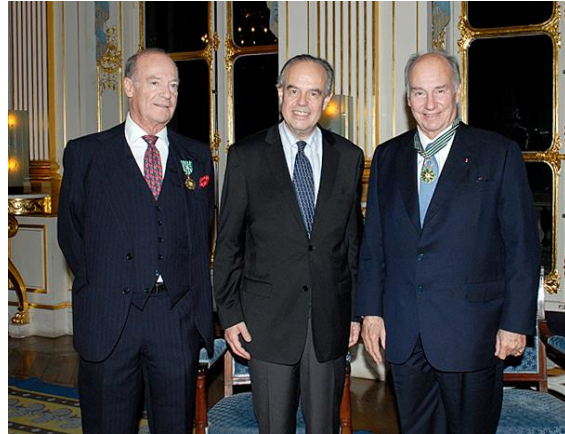
The Aga Khan Development Network Foundation and the IB agreed to intensify joint efforts to broaden access to quality education for students across the developing world and provide richer and more global perspectives to those in the industrialised world.

November 9, 2010

- was [bestowed](#) honours (Commander of the Order of Arts and Letters) by the French Minister for Culture and Communication, Frédéric Mitterrand, on behalf of the French government.

Prince Aynn was also bestowed with honours (Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters).

Mawlana Hazar Imam and Prince Aynn were recognized for their contributions to culture, personally and through the various activities of the Aga Khan Development Network.



Prince Aynn, Minister for Culture and Communication, Frédéric Mitterrand and Mawlana Hazar Imam at the ceremony in Paris . Photo: Farida Bréchemier / MCC

“Your Highness,

Dear Prince Aynn,

I have the very great honour of welcoming you here today as individuals who are cosmopolitan in essence, pluralist by religion, and outward-looking through education, and who have magnificently perpetuated a long family tradition of advocating pluralism and social and cultural engagement throughout the world. Of Italian and British parentage, your culture is Indian, you grew up in Nairobi and were educated in Switzerland and America: the planet is truly your home; openness, tolerance and inter-faith dialogue are your heritage. You have each made your mark on the contemporary world.

In paying tribute to you this evening, we are reminded that the Ismaili faith, through its message of peace and bridge-building, is more than ever at the forefront of dialogue between the great monotheist religions. Wherever Ismailis live, we find the particular combination of meditation, tolerance and solidarity that characterises your community. Since the nineteenth century the Ismaili faith has masterfully demonstrated, through its international network of charitable organisations, that its spiritual beliefs are anchored in the secular world. These values have been upheld and embodied by your family to the highest degree. “

Minister of Culture and Communication, M. Frédéric Mitterrand

[Speech](#)

November 24, 2010

- [presented](#) awards of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture at the Museum of Islamic Art in Doha, Qatar.



Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani the Emir of Qatar and Mawlana Hazar Imam with the recipients of the 2010 Aga Khan Awards for Architecture at the ceremony at the Museum of Islamic Art, Doha, Qatar. Photo: AKDN / Gary Otte

“We are increasingly aware that the quality of our buildings can transform the quality of our lives, both spiritual and material...”

Diversity, in fact, is part of the essence of Islam. The unity of the Ummah does not imply sameness. Working in an Islamic context need not confine us to constraining models. Nor does respecting the past mean copying the past. Indeed, if we hold too fast to what is past, we run the risk of crushing that inheritance. The best way to honour the past is to seize the future.”

Mawlana Hazar Imam

[Speech](#)

December 16, 2010

- [inaugurated](#) the restored Polana Serena Hotel in Maputo, Mozambique with President Guebuza

“The purpose of the Agreement President Chissano and I signed twelve years ago was to lay a framework for the fullest presence of all our Network’s capacities, economic but also social and cultural in Mozambique - and we have been building on that framework ever since. ...”

Mawlana Hazar Imam

[Speech](#)

“What is needed now, going forward, is a continuation of the spirit in which this work has been accomplished: an uncompromising commitment to quality and the determination of Government and ourselves, the private sector, to work together, in harmony and understanding, to realize, in further careful, appropriate developments, the full touristic potential which is represented by this country's unique combination of exceptional natural assets and cultural points of international quality and interest...”

Prince Aryn

[Speech](#)

April 26, 2011

- [received](#) the 2011 University of California, San Francisco Medal. The Medal, established in 1975, recognises outstanding personal contributions in areas associated with the University's fourfold health science mission, such as attracting and educating the nation's most promising students for future careers in the health sciences and health care professions, providing top-quality patient care, improving the understanding of the factors that affect human health and serving the community.



Chancellor Susan Desmond-Hellman presents His Highness the Aga Khan with the 2011 University of California San Francisco Medal, the University's highest honour. Photo: UCSF / Noah Berge

- AKDN's collaboration with UCSF's Global Health Institute extends back to 2006 when programmes were established to strengthen the Aga Khan University's training and research programme in family medicine based in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The Global Health Institute is the University's key international interdisciplinary programme bringing expertise in the health, social and biological sciences to address global health.
- In November 2009, the Ismaili Imamat entered into an Agreement of Cooperation with the State of California to enable partnerships between the AKDN and Californian institutions in areas such as healthcare, education, environment, seismic risk management, and culture.
- In 2009, AKU and UCSF signed a Memorandum of Understanding to develop a strong long-term partnership with the objective of improving the quality, access, and integration of health care for promoting equitable human advancement and social justice in the less privileged parts of the world.

[AKDN](#)

July 25, 2011

- [presided](#) over the inauguration of the Heart and Cancer Centre at the Aga Khan University Hospital, Nairobi, Kenya.



His Excellency President Mwai Kibaki and Mawlana Hazar Imam unveil the plaque marking the opening of the Heart and Cancer Centre at the Aga Khan University Hospital, Nairobi. Photo: AKDN / Aziz Islamshah

“We can trace that pathway back a thousand years - to the great hospitals that were founded in Cairo by my ancestors, the Fatimid Imam-Caliphs of Egypt. More recently, we remember the founding - some 53 years ago - of the Aga Khan Hospital here in Nairobi. That event was part of the Platinum Jubilee of my late grandfather, Sir Sultan Muhammad Shah.

From its very first day of operations in 1958, this has been a distinctive hospital. From the start, we were determined to go beyond the traditional concept that such a hospital should serve a separate, individual community - and instead to build an institution for the whole of the Kenyan nation.

In that same spirit, at the time of my own Golden Jubilee four years ago, we extended, within this hospital, the role of the Aga Khan University’s Faculty of Health Sciences.

Today’s inauguration of the Heart and Cancer Centre follows in this long tradition - and points the way to broader, future horizons.”

Mawlana Hazar Imam

[Speech](#)

The Centre is part of the Aga Khan University’s long term development plans for its Faculty of Health Sciences, which includes the expansion of the Nairobi University Hospital to a 600-bed tertiary care facility and the establishment of an Undergraduate Medical Education Programme, an Undergraduate Nursing Programme and a School of Allied Health Professionals.

[AKDN](#)

July 27, 2011

- [presided](#) over the Foundation Ceremony of the Aga Khan University's Graduate School of Media and Communications in Nairobi, Kenya.

“Our core concern must always be the ability of our students to think critically and creatively, to pursue the truth ethically and responsibly, and to articulate ideas clearly and vividly. Even as communicators learn new ways to “get a story out - and get it heard” we must also remember that our first obligation is to present the story correctly.

Above all else, when people think in years to come about the Aga Khan University's Graduate School of Media and Communications, I would like them to think of its dedication to uncompromising quality.”

Mawlana Hazar Imam

[Speech](#)

July 28, 2011

- [met](#) with His Excellency Ambassador Dr Richard Sezibera, the Secretary General of the East African Community in the Arusha International Conference Centre to discuss how the AKDN could continue to contribute to the regionalisation of East Africa and the forthcoming campus being developed by the Aga Khan University in Arusha.

In 2007, Mawlana Hazar Imam had announced that the Aga Khan University would be building its main East African campus in Arusha. With programmes already operating in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, the new campus will strengthen the University's position as a regional university.

[AKDN](#)

August 14, 2011

- was [interviewed](#) in Nairobi, by Peter Mwaura a senior lecturer in the Department of Communication & Journalism, Kenya Methodist University, and a member of the Complaints Commission of the Media Council of Kenya.

“We have seen in the past decades that populations that do not have access to good education are the populations that don't develop as quickly as they might. Africa in particular has suffered from some of the dogmatism that used to prevail in education...All these errors in education planning need to be put right. And this can't be done only by governments. It has to be done in a joint planning process between the private sector and the public sector.”

Mawlana Hazar Imam

Transcript of interview at [The East African](#)

October 27, 2011

- [received](#) the 2011 Urban Land Institute's (ULI) J.C. Nichols Prize for Visionaries in Urban Development at the ULI's Annual Fall Meeting and Urban Land Expo in Los Angeles, CA.

"...my interest in Urban Planning has something of an historical precedent—going back 1000 years — to the founding of the City of Cairo by my ancestors, the Fatimid Imam-Caliphs.

The Fatimids are remembered for drawing, pluralistically, on the widest array of talent, from all cultures, in developing a great civilization. One of the ways I have tried to reflect this history has been to encourage the development of world class planning and design resources, including programmes such as the Aga Khan Award for Architecture and the Aga Khan Programme for Islamic Architecture at Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology."

Mawlana Hazar Imam

[Speech](#)

The jury for the 2011 ULI Nichols Prize for Visionaries in Urban Development chose the Aga Khan as the 2011 laureate because of his strong leadership, over more than 40 years, of a stunning variety of development and philanthropic endeavors largely benefiting poor and marginalized communities in Asia and Africa struggling to improve their living conditions. He leads a variety of entities comprising the Aga Khan Development Network, a nondenominational organization with an annual budget of \$625 million for nonprofit development activity.

In a time of both unrest and great hope in the Arab and Muslim worlds, the jury was moved to honor a leader who has raised the quality of life in these regions without regard to nationality, creed, or gender. In particular, the Nichols jury took note of the Aga Khan's decades of planning, building, and restoring communities and cultural sites, along with his sponsorship of the prestigious Aga Khan Award for Architecture. The award is given every three years to projects that set new standards of excellence in architecture, planning practices, historic preservation, and landscape architecture. The selection process emphasizes architecture that not only provides for people's physical, social, and economic needs, but also stimulates and responds to their cultural expectations.

[Urban Land Institute](#)

October 31, 2011

- [performed](#) the foundation-stone ceremony for the Shurobod Bridge in Showun, together with Tajikistan President Emomali Rahmon and Afghanistan Minister of Public Works Abdulkudus Hamidi.

“What you are doing today is setting a remarkable example of people coming together for a common purpose across frontiers – and that common purpose is to improve the quality of life of every individual in those societies, These bridges enable people to come together to share best practice in developing human society. Across frontiers, you can build best practice in education, in healthcare, in economic development, in financial institutions, in rural activity, and it is this capacity to bring the best of society together for the benefit of all the people that I think is the most important lesson that we have today.”

Mawlana Hazar Imam

[AKDN Press Release](#)



Mawlana Hazar Imam, Tajikistan President Emomali Rahmon and Afghanistan Minister of Public Works Abdulkudus Hamidi pour the foundation of the new cross-border bridge. Photo: AKDN/Courtesy of Tajikistan Presidential Photographer

The bridge, the fifth to be built in partnership with the AKDN, connects the Shurobod District of Khatlon Region in Tajikistan with the Khohon Province of Afghanistan.

- Since 2002, AKDN has constructed four bridges - at Darwaz, Tem, Ishkashim, and Vanj. Today they serve as the primary transport links between Tajikistan’s Gorno-Badakhshan Oblast and northern Afghanistan. As integral parts of AKDN’s multi-sector cross-border strategy, they are key conduits for humanitarian assistance, commerce and socio-cultural exchange opportunities in these remote and isolated areas.
- In recent years, AKDN Tajikistan has extended its programmatic presence to include cross-border initiatives that aim to bring the neighboring Badakhshan-Badakhshan regions of Tajikistan and Afghanistan closer after decades of separation and isolation.

[AKDN](#)

November 1, 2011

- [inaugurated](#) the Dushanbe Serena Hotel, Tajikistan, together with His Excellency Emomali Rahmon, President of the Republic of Tajikistan. The ceremony, which was held in the hotel's Millat banquet room, was attended by Prince Aryn, Executive Director of AKFED, Prince Rahim, and dignitaries from the government, development, and tourism sectors.

“The spirit of our project, after all, reaches all the way back to the days of the ancient Silk Route - when this region was a key connecting point between people from many different cultures, languages and ethnicities - coming from opposite ends of the world as it was known at that time. And these travellers lived in some of the most magnificent caravanserais ever built and they constructed some of the world's most beautiful monuments: Samarkand, Khiva, Bokhara are iconic names...As that process develops, we hope that the new beautiful Serena Hotel will reflect both the spirit of this country's ancient past and be a welcoming haven with professional staff for the global players of the coming century - as they flow in increasing numbers to this lovely and exciting part of the world.”

Mawlana Hazar Imam

[Speech](#)

“Like all Serenas, this hotel observes strict standards of environmental friendliness, both in terms of the product but also in terms of energy conservation, recycling of effluents and hard and soft landscaping. We pride ourselves that all Serenas (and we now have 34 in operation internationally and three more in progress) go beyond existing environmental laws, regulations and minimum requirements and in fact, through new techniques and approaches, set new benchmarks.”

Prince Aryn

[Speech](#)

“Permit me to express, on behalf of the government, my wholehearted thanks to the institutions of the network and His Highness in particular for this valuable contribution that was also made possible by builders, engineers and architects and all those who took active part in erecting this modern edifice.

“During the 20 years of independence we always felt that the humanitarian aid and tangible contributions of constructive cooperation with the Aga Khan Foundation and we will always feel grateful for this.”

President Emomali Rahmon

[Speech](#)

November 4, 2011

- [signed](#) an historic agreement with Governor Pat Quinn of Illinois in Chicago, to expand collaboration in the areas of education, environmental stewardship and management, health sciences, library and information sciences, infrastructure development, agricultural sustainability and culture.



December 1, 2011

- [arrived](#) in Bishkek to attend the inauguration of the President-elect of the Kyrgyz Republic, Almazbek Atambaev. Photo: AKDN / Farhez Rayani
- discussed with President Almazbek Atambaev and former President Roza Otunbaeva about AKDN's current and future partnerships with the Kyrgyz Republic. The meetings also focused on AKDN's expanding presence in the Kyrgyz Republic, including education and critical infrastructure development.

- Since 2000, AKDN has supported social, economic and cultural programmes in the Kyrgyz Republic.
- The Network's social activities range from early childhood development to university and adult education, support for the creation of civil society institutions and rural development and health projects in Alai and Chon Alai districts of the Osh Oblast, which are implemented through the Mountain Societies Development Support Programme.
- Its economic development initiatives range from microfinance to corporate finance.
- Microfinance activities are largely focused on rural loans for agriculture and animal husbandry. T
- The Kyrgyz Investment and Credit Bank (KICB) was set up to provide a wide range of products and services that had not existed in the planned economy of the Soviet era. The Aga Khan Fund For Economic Development is the principal shareholder.

[AKDN](#)

January 13, 2012

- was [bestowed](#) an honorary doctorate from the University of Ottawa, Canada, for his service to humanity.

[Video](#)

“We see Your Highness’ presence today as a call to action for all in our university community who seek to serve humanity.”

Allan Rock, President of the University of Ottawa

[AKDN](#)

“One of the privileges of being Chancellor is the opportunity to recognize individuals who have shown outstanding leadership and an exemplary commitment to service to others. [His Highness the Aga Khan’s] work has bettered the lives of people and communities around the world.”

Huguette Labelle, Chancellor of the University of Ottawa

[AKDN](#)

“We must not naively assume that what has worked in some parts of the western world, for example, will also work the same way in less developed contexts. Different places, different histories require quite different approaches....In my experience, a country’s standing in our contemporary world is no longer recognised by what it can achieve for itself, but by what it can do for others.

Mawlana Hazar Imam

[Speech](#)

January 31, 2012

- [addressed](#) the Urban Land Institute's Annual Conference Leadership Dinner in Paris, France.

“As you may know, my interest in Urban Planning has something of an historical precedent – going back 1000 years – to the founding of the City of Cairo by my ancestors, the Fatimid Imam-Caliphs.

The Fatimids are remembered for drawing, pluralistically, on the widest array of talent, from all cultures, in developing a great civilization. One of the ways I have tried to reflect this history has been to encourage the development of world class planning and design resources, including programmes such as the Aga Khan Award for Architecture and the Aga Khan Programme for Islamic Architecture at Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.”

Mawlana Hazar Imam

[Speech](#)

March 13, 2012

- [announced](#), in Geneva, Switzerland, the doubling of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture's prize to US\$1 million.

"One of the important aspects of the Award is that winners should be able to reposition their future with the support they get from the Award, both professionally and institutionally."

Mawlana Hazar Imam

March 29-31, 2012

- [visited](#) to Kuala Lumpur in connection with ongoing collaboration between agencies of the Aga Khan Development Network and institutions in Malaysia.

March 30, 2012

- [inaugurated](#) the exhibition of masterpieces of the Aga Khan Museum in Kuala Lumpur, together with Malaysia's Culture Minister Dato Seri Utama Dr Rais Yatim. The exhibition, titled *Treasures of the Aga Khan Museum: Architecture in Islamic Arts*, marked the first time the collection was shown in Southeast Asia.

March 31 - 2 April 2, 2012

- [visited](#) Singapore, where he held discussions with various government officials, and with the Singapore Economic Development Board, the Asian Civilisations Museum, and the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore. The Aga Khan Development Network and Singaporean institutions were collaborating on a number of initiatives, notably in the domains of culture and education, and on a proposed AKDN Regional Office and Ismaili Centre to be established in Singapore.
- [met](#) with members of the Ismaili community from across the Far East.

April 2-4, 2012

- [visited](#) Urumxi, China, at the invitation of the Governor of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, Mr Nur Bekri, to discuss collaboration between the Aga Khan Development Network and the Government of Xinjiang.



Photo: AKDN/Xinjiang Foreign Affairs Office

April 4, 2012

- made a [brief visit](#) to Dushanbe, Tajikistan, to discuss a range of national and regional development issues with the country's top officials.

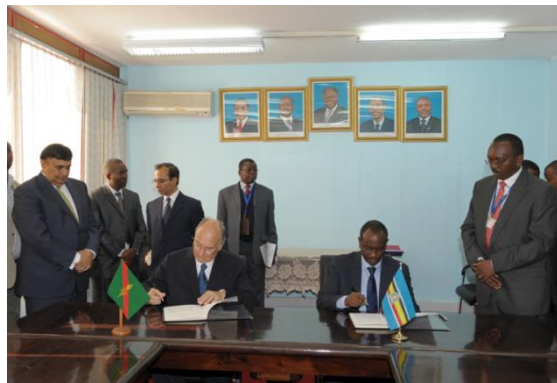
AKDN has been operating in Tajikistan since 1992. It now works in all regions of the country. Major projects include

- the construction of the University of Central Asia (campuses are being built in Tajikistan, and Kazakhstan. The Naryn campus in the Kyrgyz Republic was [inaugurated](#) on October 19, 2016)
- health and nutrition projects
- country-wide microfinance programmes
- the Pamir One hydroelectric plant (which also exports electricity to northern Afghanistan), and a number of micro-hydroelectric plants.
- investments in the telecommunications and the tourism industry
- support for food security
- rural development and local governance
- the construction of five cross-border bridges to stimulate regional trade and spur economic development
- vocational education and training

[AKDN](#)

July 18, 2012

- [signed](#) an agreement on behalf of AKDN with Ambassador Richard Sezibera, Secretary General of the East African Community in Arusha, Tanzania, to strengthen and broaden cooperation in the areas of economic, social and cultural development throughout East Africa. The agreement facilitated development in order to bring long-term sustainable benefits for the populations of the EAC partner states. Recognising the ethnic and religious diversity of the region, the agreement places emphasis on the importance of pluralism in building healthy, sustainable and prosperous societies and seeks to build on the multiple traditions of East Africa's cultures, faiths and natural habitats.



“Our partnership will aim to provide equitable development through equal opportunity to the people of the East African region. Our joint programmes will aim to develop human potential and build cohesive societies that will ensure the improvement of the quality of lives of all regardless of faith or origin.”

Mawlana Hazar Imam

[AKDN Press Release](#)

October 8, 2012

- [presided](#) over the inauguration of the 250MW Bujagali Hydropower Plant in Uganda by His Excellency President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni.

“At its heart, the Bujagali project is a Ugandan project. It is a Ugandan success story and I would like to thank the President for having led this initiative in a way where this unique public private partnership was able to move forward... This project has not stopped at the delivery of energy. It is investing in education, healthcare and social development, and all those aspects which improve the quality of life of people who live within the ambit of the project. I think this is an important lesson to be learnt, because ultimately the goal is to improve the quality of life of people in the most complete manner possible.”

Mawlana Hazar Imam

[Speech](#)

Bujagali Power Plant

Bujagali has been jointly developed by Industrial Promotion Services (IPS), the infrastructure and industrial development arm of the Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development, Sithe Global Power LLC (USA), a company majority-owned by a fund, Blackstone Capital Partners IV, L.P., managed by Blackstone on behalf of its investors, and the Government of Uganda.

Bujagali represents one of the largest privately-funded power sector investments ever made in Sub-Saharan Africa and sets a unique precedent for public-private partnerships. The plant will be operated by Bujagali Energy Limited (BEL), a company established by the project sponsors and the government of Uganda for the sole purpose of developing and subsequently operating the plant for a 30-year period, following which it will be transferred to the government of Uganda for a nominal price of US one dollar.

With the commissioning of Bujagali hydropower, the proportion of Uganda's electricity supply being generated from renewable sources rose to 90%, making the country's electricity supply one of the cleanest in the world. Bujagali is expected to generate an estimated 900,000 Certified Emissions Reductions (CERs) per year (each CER offsets one tonne of carbon emissions) making it the largest Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) project in Africa and in any Least Developed Country. On 29 December 2011, the project was formally registered at the UNFCCC under the Kyoto Protocol.

[AKDN](#)

October 19, 2012

- [opened](#) the restored mausoleum of Timur Shah in Kabul, together with His Excellency Hamid Karzai, President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.



Timur Shah Mausoleum before restoration work Photo: AKDN



Timur Shah Mausoleum after restoration work by Aga Khan Trust for Culture. Photo: AKDN

Timur Shah Mausoleum

The historic monument, which had fallen into disrepair during decades of civil war, was restored by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture to preserve the cultural heritage of Afghanistan. The work, which began in 2003, encompassed the mausoleum and the rehabilitation of the one hectare park surrounding the building. Timur Shah was the Durrani King who made Kabul the capital of the modern Afghan State.

The sixteenth-century Baghe Babur, where the first Mughal emperor, Babur, is buried, was once severely damaged by war. It now provides the population of Kabul with a space for recreation and cultural events. Various facilities – including a swimming-pool, garden pavilion, caravanserai and Queen’s Palace complex – have been in public use since their completion in 2007. In addition to the conservation work in Baghe Babur, basic drainage, water and sanitation infrastructure have been undertaken in the surrounding neighbourhood.

The Aga Khan Development Network began working in Afghanistan in the late 1990s, providing food aid and a range of livelihood and support services to Afghan refugees who had fled their homes as a result of the on-going conflict.

[AKDN](#)

October 20, 2012

- [attended](#) the foundation ceremony of the new Women's Wing at the French Medical Institute for Children (FMIC) in Kabul, Afghanistan. This marked the start of construction for a new obstetrics and gynaecology wing to provide high quality care for mothers and newborns in Afghanistan.



Mawlana Hazar Imam speaking at the foundation ceremony for the new Women's Wing at FMIC as Afghanistan's Vice President, Mohammad Karim Khalili, and Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius of France look on. Photo: Gary Otte/AKDN

“As you know, the FMIC has been treating the children of Afghanistan for more than six years – offering care at the highest international standards – and transforming the lives of so many families in this country.

In a relatively short time, the hospital has developed a truly impressive facility and capability. And the impact of this facility has been felt across the region, as it also connects with other leading hospitals: the Aga Khan University Hospital in Karachi, in addition to many hospitals in France...

...FMIC is the first hospital in Afghanistan to achieve ISO 9001: 2008 certification. And it is currently preparing to meet the most demanding standard in hospital quality - accreditation from the American Joint Commission International.

In addition, I am pleased to note, and I think that this is particularly important, is that the Bamyan Provincial Hospital managed by the Aga Khan Health Services, the Community Midwifery Education and our Basic Health Centres in Shiber District also achieved ISO 8001-2009 certification last month - the first provincial hospital and health programmes in the country to do so.

What all of this means for Afghanistan, quite simply, is that people here no longer need to feel they must venture outside the country in order to get quality health care.”

Mawlana Hazar Imam

[Speech](#)

October 22, 2012

- was [awarded](#) the David Rockefeller Bridging Leadership Award at a ceremony in London, UK, as part of the Synergos Institute's University for a Night series.

In a letter addressed to Mawlana Hazar Imam, which was read to the audience, David Rockefeller described the reasons for awarding this honour:



Synergos Founder and Chairperson Peggy Dulany presenting the Award to Hazar Imam. Photo: AKDN

“Through the Aga Khan Development Network, you have leveraged the social conscience of Islam in ways that benefit people of all faiths, promoting tolerance, pluralism and broad-based development.”

David Rockefeller

“As I have done my work over the past decades, I have concluded that one of the most important forces in development is civil society. If you think about the countries around the world which have had fragile governments but which have still made progress, there are umpteen examples of countries which have made progress because they have had strong civil society.”

Mawlana Hazar Imam

[AKDN Press Release](#)

[Synergos](#) is a global nonprofit organization that helps solve complex problems of poverty and inequality by creating and promoting collaborative partnerships among business, government, civil society, and marginalized communities.

October 24, 2012

- [signed](#) an Agreement of Cooperation with the Premier of Alberta, Alison Redford in Edmonton, Canada, to expand collaboration in the areas of health sciences, education, the environment, forestry and natural resources management, culture, and private sector and economic development.

In 2009, the Aga Khan University had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Alberta that resulted in a project to develop an Islamic Garden at the Devonian Botanical Gardens. Further joint initiatives were underway in the area of healthcare and education. The University of Central Asia has equally benefitted from strong partnerships with the University of Calgary and the University of Alberta.

[AKDN](#)

November 29, 2012

- [signed](#) an agreement with Kenya's Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Raila Odinga, to begin rehabilitation of Nairobi City Park.



From left to right, Prince Hussain, Prime Minister of Kenya Raila Odinga, Mawlana Hazar Imam, and Luis Monreal, General Manager of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, view a scale model of Nairobi City Park
Photo: AKDN/Samwell Nyakondo

Earlier, on April 16, 2012 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Government of Kenya, the Ministry of State for National Heritage and Culture, the City Council of Nairobi and the Aga Khan Trust for Culture to collaborate in the rehabilitation and restoration of the Nairobi City Park to international standards in terms of architecture, landscape and horticulture. Prince Hussain signed the MoU on behalf of AKTC.

The 60-hectare park will be rehabilitated over a period of several years. It will include a new restaurant, educational facilities, a botanical garden, an exhibition ground, an open air theatre and sports facilities. The works will also improve the site's amenities and public safety, as well as provide the necessary infrastructure to maintain the natural and cultural heritage of the park.

The primary objective of the collaboration and project is to rehabilitate and redevelop Nairobi's City Park as major metropolitan park which will be recognised internationally for excellence in restoration, environmental practices and financial self-sustainability.

[AKDN](#)

May 15, 2013

- [delivered](#) the keynote address at a conference titled *Culture: Key to Sustainable Development*, organised by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the Ministry of Culture of the People's Republic of China, the National Commission of the People's Republic of China and the Hangzhou Municipal Government in Hangzhou, China.

“Cultural endeavours, in particular, involve risks that go beyond external, economic factors. Their progress can depend heavily on variable qualities of human nature, including the pride and confidence of the peoples involved. In any development effort, there will be a tipping point along the way when we see the glass as half full rather than half empty. But these tipping points are more likely to tip in the right direction when attention to local confidence has become an ingrained reflex... cultural development can contribute, in unique and distinctive ways, to the human aspiration for a better quality of life. And that of course, precisely, should be the objective of the post 2015 development agenda.”

Mawlana Hazar Imam

[Speech](#)

May 24, 2013

- [introduced](#) Kofi Annan who delivered the Pluralism Lecture. Annan served as the seventh Secretary-General of the United Nations from January 1997 to December 2006.

“Our Global Centre for Pluralism was founded here in Ottawa in 2006 to address what I believe is the central challenge of our time – learning to live peacefully and constructively in a highly diversified and rapidly shrinking world.

As Kofi Annan has taught us, pluralism requires constant dialogue, a readiness to compromise, and an understanding that pluralism is not an end in itself, but a continuous process... We want the Centre to be a place where we can all learn from one another about the challenges of diversity – and where we can share the lessons of successful pluralism.”

Mawlana Hazar Imam

[Speech](#)

September 5, 2013

- [presided](#) over the signing of a renewed agreement between the Aga Khan University and Roman Catholic Patriarch of Lisbon, Dom Manuel Clemente the Catholic University of Portugal at the Ismaili Centre, Lisbon.

September 6, 2013

- [presented](#) awards of the 2013 Cycle of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture in Lisbon, Portugal.

“This is the twelfth time over 36 years that we have presented the Aga Khan Award for Architecture. The award cycles have fostered a deeply enriching conversation during this time, one that has involved, altogether over 5000 nominated projects, and over 100 premiated ones.

Our ceremony tonight is only the second one we have held in predominantly Christian countries. I mention this point because it speaks to an essential dimension of the Award: While its roots lie deep in our concern for the state of Islamic architecture, the Award is also committed to a spirit of pluralism and a respect for diversity, a set of values which are deeply embedded in Portuguese history.

It was on the Iberian Peninsula, of course, that one of history’s great pluralistic societies flourished for several centuries, a home for Christian and Jewish peoples that was also part of an Islamic empire. Portugal has for many ages nourished a profound sense of what we might call “world awareness”. It was in that same spirit of “world awareness” that this Award was founded, and it is in that spirit that it is presented tonight.”

Mawlana Hazar Imam

[Speech](#)

The Aga Khan Award for Architecture is given every three years to projects that set new standards of excellence in architecture, planning practices, historic preservation and landscape architecture. Through its efforts, the Award seeks to identify and encourage building concepts that successfully address the needs and aspirations of societies across the world, in which Muslims have a significant presence.

The selection process emphasizes architecture that not only provides for people's physical, social and economic needs, but that also stimulates and responds to their cultural expectations. Particular attention is given to building schemes that use local resources and appropriate technology in innovative ways, and to projects likely to inspire similar efforts elsewhere.

[Aga Khan Award for Architecture](#)

September 16, 2013

- [presided](#) over the signing of a Protocol Agreement in Dhaka between the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Aga Khan Development Network with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, and the Foreign Minister, Dr Dipu Moni. The agreement was to an enhanced collaboration in the areas of social, cultural and economic development. The agreement builds on an earlier accord and protocol signed between the two parties 20 years ago.

The Aga Khan Development Network has worked in Bangladesh for over three decades in early childhood development, pre-tertiary education, and financial services. The Aga Khan Foundation and its partners have delivered early childhood education to over 30,000 children and parents in difficult-to-reach places including urban slums and disaster prone areas. The Aga Khan School Dhaka, considered one of the leading English medium schools in the country, offers international quality education to more than 1,200 students.

[AKDN](#)

September 18, 2013

- [inaugurated](#) restored Humayun's Tomb, Delhi, India, with Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, Union Minister of Culture Mrs Chandresh Kumari Katoch, and Chairman of the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, Mr Ratan Tata.

“A central premise of our work is that cultural enrichment and historic restoration can also be effective springboards for economic and social progress. Rather than being a drain on fragile economies, as some once feared, investment in cultural legacies can be a powerful agent in improving the quality of human life. The impact of such projects can begin by diversifying local economies, expanding employment and teaching new skills..”

Mawlana Hazar Imam

[Speech](#)

The restoration of the Mughal Emperor Humayun's 16th century garden tomb, the jewel of Mughal architecture that predates the Taj Mahal, was completed after six years of conservation works and 200,000 work days undertaken by master craftsmen.

[Aga Khan Trust for Culture](#)

September 20, 2013

- [presided](#) over the inauguration of the Aga Khan Academy, Hyderabad.

“Our purpose, as you know, is to educate the most talented young minds from many countries, for a global future....The ongoing objective in all of this work is to provide an outstanding education for outstanding students – to prepare men and women of exceptional ability to meet extraordinary challenges.”

Mawlana Hazar Imam

[Speech](#)

“I think the Aga Khan Academy is another feather in the cap of Hyderabad and Andhra Pradesh. This school will teach the children an overall development of their personality and make excellent citizens, not only for this city or state, but for the world.”

Chief Minister Shri Kiran Kumar Reddy

“Learning at the Academy extends well beyond the classroom. Through active engagement in the rich co-curricular, residential, and service programmes, students begin to see themselves as leaders who can make a difference in the world around them.”

Salim Bhatia

Director of the Aga Khan Academies Network

[Speech](#)

In 2000, Mawlana Hazar Imam established an integrated network of schools, called Aga Khan Academies, dedicated to expanding access to education of an international standard of excellence. The Academies, which [will educate](#) young men and women from pre-primary through higher secondary education, are planned for key locations in Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

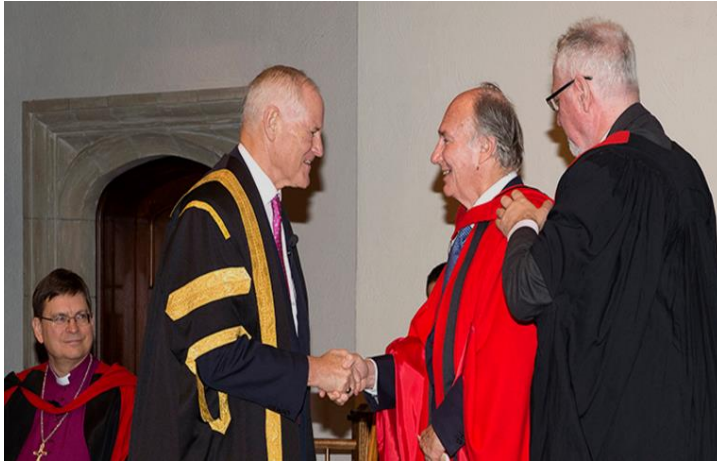
The first such school, the [Aga Khan Academy in Mombasa](#), began operating in August of 2003, the second, the [Aga Khan Academy in Hyderabad](#), India, in 2011 and the third [Aga Khan Academy in Maputo](#), Mozambique in 2013.



An art student at the Aga Khan Academy presents her work to Hazar Imam, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, and the Minister for Human Resources Development. Photo: AKDN/Gary Otte

November 25, 2013

- was [bestowed](#) an honorary degree in recognition of his work through the Aga Khan Development Network by Trinity College at the University of Toronto, Canada.



Chancellor Graham confers the honorary degree upon Mawlana Hazar Imam, as Professor Andy Orchard, former Provost of Trinity College, performs the hooding. Photo: The Ismaili/Moez Visram

The Chancellor noted that Trinity College was honouring Hazar Imam ***“in recognition of his contribution to peace, security and the well-being of millions of people throughout the world.”*** Referring to the event as an extraordinarily special occasion, Chancellor Graham drew a parallel with the Anglican tradition of bringing faiths together and remarked ***“we are honouring a man who as a leader of the Ismaili community, and a globally accepted statesman we all happen to respect immensely.”***

“I am deeply honoured to present today, for the degree of Doctor of Sacred Letters, His Highness the Aga Khan, the Imam of the Shia Ismaili Muslims. In this College the ideal and the beliefs we hold dear are held within the same ethical framework as that of His Highness...”

The Aga Khan Development Network is His Highness’ way of bringing together the faith and the action of the Ismaili beliefs...It is grounded in the ethics of Islam, in which economic, cultural and social matters all come together to determine the quality of life for human beings.”

Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson
Alumna and Honorary Fellow of the College

“No one has done more to further the cause of diversity, inclusion and sharing than this remarkable leader and human being.”

Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson
University of Toronto, [Press Release](#)
Full Citation at [The Ismaili](#)

November 27, 2013

- was [presented](#) the 2013 Gold Medal by the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada — the Institute’s highest honour. This was the first time in over 30 years that a non-architect was chosen to receive the distinction.



Mawlana Hazar Imam with George Baird, 2010 Gold Medal recipient and Paul Frank, President of RAIC.
Photo: AKDN / Farhez Rayani

“In recognising His Highness we cite his remarkable accomplishments in various aspects of the field of architecture as part of his broader social and economic development work, particularly the specialised cultural programming undertaken through the Aga Khan Trust for Culture. This includes the Aga Khan Historic Cities Programme, which has been responsible for the restoration of many heritage sites throughout the Muslim world, as well as the Aga Khan Award for Architecture.”

George Baird, recipient of the 2010 Gold Medal who nominated Mawlana Hazar Imam for this year’s distinction

“The language of architecture speaks in different idioms, but it also provides powerful connections, resonating in landscapes both urban and rural, global and local, monumental and humble, secular and spiritual. An “Architecture of Pluralism” is one that will encourage all of us to listen to one another and to learn from one another, with a deep sense of humility and a realization that diversity itself is a gift of the Divine.”

Mawlana Hazar Imam

[Speech](#)

December 16, 2013

- made an [official visit](#) to Pakistan discuss development issues in a series of high-level meetings in Islamabad. Hazar Imam met with Pakistan’s president, Mamnoon Hussain, and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif described the AKDN as a model for other development organisations. He pointed out that there were many areas that would benefit from broader involvement, highlighting the needs of Pakistan’s energy sector in particular.

December 19, 2013

- [presided](#) over the convocation ceremony of Aga Khan University in Karachi, Pakistan.

“My grandfather, Sir Sultan Mahomed Shah Aga Khan, was deeply aware of Islam’s rich intellectual heritage. Of equal significance, he was also convinced of the enormous importance of higher education for the future of the Ummah around the world.



He had engaged personally in developing educational opportunities for Muslims in pre-partition India – and was largely responsible for creating Aligarh University. He saw that effort as fulfilling a tradition going back one thousand years, to the role of his predecessors, the Fatimids, in founding the Azhar University and the Dar ul-Ilm in Cairo, known through the ages as the “House of Knowledge.

Whenever and wherever it may have been, in the Middle East, or South, or Central Asia, or Northern Africa, the most brilliant periods in Islamic history were marked by an expansive quest for intellectual excellence.”

Mawlana Hazar Imam

[Speech](#)

During the convocation, Mawlana Hazar Imam announced the creation of seven new graduate schools across two continents that will work in areas of relevance to developing societies:

“The Liberal Arts, I believe, can provide an ideal context for fostering interdisciplinary learning, nurturing critical thinking, inculcating ethical values, and helping students to learn how to go on learning about our ever-evolving universe. A liberal arts orientation will also help prepare students for leadership in a world where the forces of civil society will play an increasingly pivotal role.”

Mawlana Hazar Imam

[Speech](#)

The Convocation marked thirty years since the University received its Charter. Shamsh Kassim-Lakha, the founding President of the Aga Khan University, received the Award of Distinction Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa – AKU's highest award of distinction.

[The Ismaili](#)

December 21, 2013

- [met](#) with the President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Hamid Karzai, and ministers and senior officials of the Government of Afghanistan to discuss development issues.

- The Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) began working in Afghanistan in the late 1990s, providing food aid and a range of livelihood and support services to Afghans both in country as well as refugees who had fled their homes as a result of the conflict.
- AKDN has channeled more than USD \$900 million toward Afghanistan's economic, social, and cultural reconstruction through partnerships with the Afghan government as well as international organisations and donors.
- AKDN programmes encompass large-scale rural development; health, education, governance and civil society programmes, including Afghanistan's National Solidarity Programme; the rehabilitation of historic neighbourhoods in Kabul and Herat; the management and operations of a paediatric hospital and two provincial hospitals; an extensive network of financial and micro finance services; a rapidly growing mobile phone network with innovative investments in corporate social responsibility; and, a five-star hotel in Kabul.

[AKDN](#)

February 5, 2014

- [met](#) with Germany's foreign minister, Frank-Walter Steinmeier, to discuss cooperation between the German government and the AKDN. The discussions focused on intensifying joint efforts by Germany and AKDN to stabilize fragile states.
- [led](#) a delegation of senior AKDN executives at meetings with the top leadership of Germany's KfW Development Bank and its DEG Development Corporation branch - the Network's long-standing partners on projects in Asia and Africa.



Mawlana Hazar Imam with a delegation of senior executives of the AKDN at meetings with Bruno Wenn, the Chairman of German Investment and Development Corporation (DEG), Dr Norbert Kloppenburg of the German government-owned development bank KfW and representatives of their institutions. Photo: AKDN / Zahur Ramji

February 27, 2014

- [delivered](#) an historic address to the Canadian Parliament at the invitation of then Prime Minister of Canada, The Right Honourable Stephen Harper.



Mawlana Hazar Imam delivering an address to a joint session of the Parliament of Canada. Photo: Gary Otte/AKDN

“The Ismailis, the Ismaili combination of self-reliance, and their willingness to give of themselves for the betterment of others, and of Canada itself, is a reflection of your teachings.

And, Your Highness, it was a good day – a good day for all of us – when you told your followers to “make Canada your home.”

You must be very proud of them – certainly we all are.”

Right Honourable Stephen Harper

[Speech](#)

“The Ismaili Imam is a supra-national entity, representing the succession of Imams since the time of the Prophet...The role of the Ismaili Imam is a spiritual one; his authority is that of religious interpretation. It is not a political role. I do not govern any land. At the same time, Islam believes fundamentally that the spiritual and material worlds are inextricably connected.

Faith does not remove Muslims — or their Imams — from daily, practical matters in family life, in business, in community affairs.

Faith, rather, is a force that should deepen our concern for our worldly habitat, for embracing its challenges, and for improving the quality of human life.”

Mawlana Hazar Imam

[Speech](#)

February 28, 2014

- [announced](#), together with Prime Minister Stephen Harper, a joint initiative to invest \$100 million to improve the quality of life for more than a million people living in Asia and Africa.



Mawlana Hazar Imam and Prime Minister Stephen Harper sign a Protocol of Understanding between the Ismaili Imamat and the Government of Canada in the Hall of Honour at the Canadian Parliament. Photo: AKDN / Zahur Ramj

Building on three decades of collaboration between the Government of Canada and the AKDN, the partnership will strengthen health systems in Central Asia and education systems in East Africa. It will also support the work of civil society organisations working on gender issues, climate change adaptation, and innovative approaches to alleviating poverty.

In Canada, Aga Khan Foundation Canada will launch public engagement and learning activities, giving Canadians the chance to participate more meaningfully in improving quality of life for people in the developing world.

The partnership will enable Canada to leverage the extensive institutional and intellectual assets of the AKDN.

[AKDN](#)

March 10, 2014

- [delivered](#) the 88th Stephen Ogden Lecture at Brown University as part of its 250th anniversary celebrations.

“Whether for 250 years or a thousand, we at Brown recognise and celebrate the institutions and people throughout the world who champion fundamental values like the discovery of knowledge and the notion that knowledge is a globally shared source of strength.”

Christina Paxson, President of Brown University

[Speech](#)

“Down through many centuries, great Muslim cultures were built on the principle of inclusiveness. Some of the best minds and creative spirits from every corner of the world, independent of ethnic or religious identities, were brought together at great Muslim centres of learning. My own ancestors, the Fatimids, founded one of the world’s oldest universities, Al-Azhar in Cairo, over a thousand years ago. In fields of learning from mathematics to astronomy, from philosophy to medicine Muslim scholars sharpened the cutting edge of human knowledge...”

One of the important values of the Shia Ismaili tradition is the transformative power of the human intellect – that conviction underscores AKDN’s strong commitment to education, at all levels, wherever we are present. “

Mawlana Hazar Imam

[Speech](#)

Stephen A. Ogden Jr., an active member of the Brown class of 1960, was seriously injured in an automobile accident in the spring of his junior year. After a valiant fight for life, he died in 1963. Established by his family, the Ogden lectureship came into being two years later as a means of achieving in some small measure what Steve Ogden had hoped to accomplish in his life: the advancement of international peace and understanding.

The Ogden Lectures are a living tribute to the memory of a young man who had hoped to devote his abilities and energy to the field of international relations. These lectures have brought to the University and to Rhode Island a large number of U.S. and foreign diplomats as well as many other observers of the international scene. All have given lectures, free and open to the public, on current world topics.

[Brown University](#)

May 7, 2014

- [met](#) with Dr. Jim Yong Kim, president of the World Bank Group in London, UK, to discuss global development challenges and efforts to end poverty.

The World Bank Group and the AKDN have worked together on a number of major projects in the past. Members of the World Bank Group have partnered with AKDN agencies on major infrastructure projects for electricity generation in Côte d'Ivoire, Tajikistan and Uganda; promotion of the industrial sector and the development of better infrastructure services in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda; tourism promotion, including investment in the Kabul Serena Hotel; capitalisation of a bank in Kyrgyzstan; and the creation of microfinance services in a number of countries.

[AKDN](#)

May 29, 2014

- [addressed](#) the Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH) Summit in Toronto, Canada – a three-day high level gathering of heads of state and top health officials, organised by Canada's prime minister, Stephen Harper.

“Our challenge – as always – is a balance [between] honest realism with hopeful optimism. And surely there are reasons to be optimistic.

In no other development field is the potential leverage for progress greater than in the field of maternal and newborn health.”

Mawlana Hazar Imam

[Speech](#)

The Summit, *Saving Every Mother, Saving Every Child: Within Arm's Reach*, brings together a number of partners in the global fight to address maternal, newborn and child health in developing countries. It follows the June 2010 G8 summit (held in Muskoka, Ontario), when Canada led G8 and non-G8 countries to commit CAD \$7.3B (for 2010 to 2015) to MNCH.

The AKDN has been engaged in MNCH for nearly a century. The Kharadar maternity home in Karachi, for example, was established in 1924. Currently, the Network's MNCH activities span 12 countries in Central Asia (Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan), South Asia (Pakistan, India), Sub-Saharan Africa (Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Mozambique, and Mali) and the Middle East (Syria, Egypt).

Canada has supported AKDN's MNCH activity in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tanzania, Mozambique, and Mali.

[AKDN](#)

June 12, 2014

- [received](#) the 2013 North-South Prize of the Council of Europe in Lisbon, Portugal. Hazar Imam was awarded the prize for his achievements in improving the quality of life of populations around the world through the work of the Aga Khan Development Network.



His Excellency Anibal Cavaco Silva, the President of the Republic of Portugal presents Mawlana Hazar Imam with the 2013 North-South Prize. Photo: AKDN/José Manuel Boavida Caria

“We inhabit an overcrowded and interconnected planet and yet we share a common destiny. A weakness or pain in one corner can rapidly transmit itself across the globe. The pervasive rejection of pluralism in all its forms plays a significant role in breeding destructive conflicts.

Instability is infectious, but so is hope. And that it is why it is so important for us to carry the torch of hope as we seek to share the gift of pluralism...technologies alone will not save us-- the critical variable will always be and will always lie in the disposition of human hearts and minds.”

Mawlana Hazar Imam

[Speech](#)

The North-South Prize is awarded each year since 1995 to two candidates who have stood out for their exceptional commitment to promoting North-South solidarity. The candidates...must have distinguished themselves in the following areas: protection of human rights, defence of pluralist democracy, public awareness raising on issues of global interdependence and solidarity.

Despite the variety of nationalities and fields of action of those that have received the Prize since its creation, they all have in common a strong commitment to the promotion of North-South partnership.

[North-South Prize Council of Europe](#)

August 14, 2014

- [concluded](#) the week long meetings held between the Board of Trustees of the Aga Khan University in Arusha, Tanzania.



Mawlana Hazar Imam reviewing the master plan for a new 42-acre campus which will house the Aga Khan University Institute for Educational Development serving master's level students and an Aga Khan Academy for middle and secondary school students. Photo: AKDN/ Zahur

Princess Zahra, head of the Social Welfare Department of the Aga Khan Development Network and a Trustee of the University also participated in the meetings.



The Aga Khan University Board of Trustees with Mawlana Hazar Imam during their meetings in Tanzania. Photo: AKDN Zahur Ramji

During the visit, Mawlana Hazar Imam and Princess Zahra met with the leadership and Board of the Aga Khan Hospital in Dar es Salaam to review the expansion plans for a regional Heart and Cancer Centre. This major expansion of the hospital in Dar es Salaam is part of the growing AKDN integrated health system, which includes existing hospitals in Kisumu, Mombasa and Nairobi and new hospitals planned for Arusha, Mwanza, and Kampala. In Dar es Salaam alone, the capital investment will exceed USD 165 million for the hospital, a residential school – the Aga Khan Academy, and the Institute for Educational Development, providing graduate education for teachers. [AKDN](#)

September 12, 2014

- [opened](#) the Ismaili Centre, Toronto, together with Prime Minister of Canada, Stephen Harper.



Mawlana Hazar Imam and Prime Minister Stephen Harper unveil a plaque commemorating the opening of the Ismaili Centre, Toronto. Photo: AKDN /Moez Visram

“What we dedicate today is what we identify as an Ismaili Centre — a building that is focused around our Jamatkhana, but which also includes many secular spaces. These are places where Ismailis and non-Ismailis, Muslims and non-Muslims, will gather for shared activities.... But they will also, we trust, be filled with the sounds of enrichment, dialogue and warm human rapport, as Ismailis and non-Ismailis share their lives in a healthy gregarious spirit!

Mawlana Hazar Imam

[Speech](#)

“Since his accession to the Imamate in 1957, as hereditary spiritual leader of the world’s fifteen million Ismaili Muslims, the Aga Khan has devoted an extraordinary amount of time, toil and resources to the ideals of Islamic culture and history. In doing so, His Highness has greatly contributed to demystifying Islam, throughout the world, by stressing its social traditions of peace, of tolerance and of pluralism.

This is a vision of Islam of which all Canadians can be proud especially when a contrary and violent distortion of that vision so regularly dominates the news.”

Right Honourable Stephen Harper

[Speech](#)

September 12, 2014

- [presided](#) over the opening ceremony of the Aga Khan Museum, together with, Prime Minister Harper, Prince Ayn, Vice-Chair of the Museum's Board of Directors, and the Honourable Shelly Glover, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages.



"I believe strongly that art and culture can have a profound impact in healing misunderstanding and in fostering trust even across great divides. This is the extraordinary purpose, the special mandate, to which this Museum is dedicated..."

I think it is accurate to say that in Muslim societies the pursuit of artistic and cultural excellence has for many centuries been a hallmark of the life in those societies, just as for them the aesthetic experience has always been seen as part of the learning process..."

I would hope that this Museum will contribute to a new period of enlightenment, helping visitors from around the world to rediscover the common symbols that unite us all across the globe, across all civilisations, across time..."

Let me conclude by saying that if I were looking for a single word to sum up my intention and hope for the Aga Khan Museum, it would be the word "enlightenment" ...

Prince Ayn

[Speech](#)

The Aga Khan Museum is the first museum in North America dedicated to the arts of Muslim civilisations. The Museum's permanent collection of over 1,000 objects includes masterpieces that reflect a broad range of artistic styles and materials. These portraits, textiles, manuscripts, manuscript paintings, ceramics, tiles, medical texts, books and musical instruments represent more than ten centuries of human history and a geographic area stretching from the Iberian Peninsula to China.

[AKDN](#)

September 29, 2014

- [attended](#) the official inauguration of Afghanistan's new president Dr. Muhammad Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai and the swearing-in of the Chief Executive Dr Abdullah Abdullah.

- During the one day visit, Mawlana Hazar Imam met with President Ahmadzai and Dr Abdullah and reaffirmed his commitment to support the National Unity Government in the country's progress to peace, stability, social and economic development.
- The AKDN has been engaged in Afghanistan since 1995 with food aid and other humanitarian assistance during the civil war.
- In 2002, AKDN started its engagement in the reconstruction and long-term and sustainable development of Afghanistan. Its interventions range from health, education, rural development and natural resource management, critical infrastructure, tourism, telecommunications, microfinance, and financial services.
- In the area of economic development AKDN has become the largest private employer in the country, creating a number of successful project companies, including Roshan, the country's leading communications provider, the Kabul Serena Hotel and Habib Bank.

[AKDN](#)

November 3, 2014

- [visited](#) the Naryn campus, the first of UCA's three new undergraduate campuses.



Mawlana Hazar Ijman reviewing progress on the Naryn campus, the first of the University of Central Asia's three new undergraduate campuses. Photo: AKDN/ Mikhail Romanyuk

UCA was jointly founded in 2000 by the Presidents of the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan and Hazar Imam. The university's mission is to offer an internationally recognised standard of higher education in Central Asia and prepare graduates to contribute leadership and innovation to the economies and communities of the region.

[UCA](#)

December 4, 2014

- [delivered](#) a statement at the London Conference on Afghanistan re-affirming the Aga Khan Development Network's commitment to Afghanistan and emphasized the importance of civil society in securing the country's prosperous future.

“An effective enabling environment for civil society should seek to foster meritocracy, ethics and mutual accountability...women's participation in society is vital to ensure an improved quality of life. From education to health, participation in local governance to leadership in business, we have witnessed the potential for women and men to work alongside each other, while respecting the ethics of Islam, to build their communities.”

Mawlana Hazar Imam

[Speech](#)

February 23, 2015

- [received](#) the AKU Charter from His Excellency President Jakaya Kikwete, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, at State House in Dar es Salaam. This is the first time such recognition has been accorded to a foreign institution of higher learning.



February 24, 2015

- [presided](#) over the Convocation ceremony of AKU in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

“...the University also remembers its heritage on a day like this. That heritage is rooted in the rich history of Islamic intellectual accomplishment – including the work of my own ancestors in ancient Cairo 1000 years ago, when they founded the Azhar University and the Dar-ul-ilm – the House of Knowledge. This story continued over several centuries, as Muslim centers of scholarship and culture involved and inspired people of many traditions and faith communities.

A respect for diversity – a welcoming, cosmopolitan ethic – has been a hallmark of this heritage – an increasingly relevant legacy in the emerging “borderless” world that President Rasul has so aptly described.

It was this heritage that inspired my grandfather, as Imam of the Ismaili Muslim community, to make education a top priority. In fact, he started the first Aga Khan School in Africa over 110 years ago in Bagamoyo, here in Tanzania. And that same legacy was in our minds when we began planning for this new Aga Khan University.”

Mawlana Hazar Imam

[Speech](#)

February 26, 2015

- [presided](#) over the Convocation ceremony of AKU in Kampala, Uganda.

“The Aga Khan University was founded in Karachi in 1983. It recently celebrated its 30th anniversary. And then, in the year 2000, we expanded into East Africa.

Today, the Aga Khan University remains the only privately supported University with major academic programs on both the Asian and the African continents.”

Mawlana Hazar Imam

[Speech](#)

April 7, 2015

- [launched](#) the construction of a site museum at the Humayun’s Tomb Complex together with His Excellency Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Minister of Tourism & Culture, in New Delhi, India.

“[it] staggers the imagination to think of what was created here during the Mughal period, on a scale and with a splendour that had not existed before. And its accomplishments have continued to inspire subsequent generations.”

Mawlana Hazar Imam

[Speech](#)

April 8, 2015

- was [awarded](#) the Padma Vibhushan, one of the country’s highest civilian decorations, for his contributions to social development in India. The award, presented by Pranab Mukherjee, President of India, was bestowed at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi as part of the commemoration of India’s 66th Republic Day.

April 10, 2015

- [reviewed](#) the progress of Aga Khan Academy in Hyderabad, India, touring the campus including the Athletics Centre, the Junior and Senior Schools, and the student residences.



Hazar Imam meets students. Photo: AKDN

May 2, 2015

- [inaugurated](#) the restored Amir Aqsunqur Mosque (“Blue Mosque”) in Cairo, together with the Minister of Antiquities, Mamdouh El Damaty, and the Governor of Cairo, Galal Said.



Mawlana Hazar Imam speaking at the inauguration of the restoration of the "Blue Mosque. Photo: AKTC / Gary Otte

“As Muslims, we are invited to protect and enhance the world in which we live during our lifetimes. We are trustees of God’s creation, hence the word Trust in the name of the agency responsible for this restoration....

Restoration projects can also serve as springboards - as trampolines - for broad social and economic development and poverty reduction. In that process, they can help create both the human constituency needed to sustain a project - and the flow of funding needed to maintain it.

The Aga Khan Trust for Culture strives to approach such opportunities through a multi-tier, multi-dimensional strategy, drawing on experts not only from fields such as archaeology, conservation, restoration, and engineering, but also from the worlds of finance, tourism, education, sanitation and public health - among others.”

Mawlana Hazar Imam

[Speech](#)

Restoration of the 14th century Amir Aqsunqur “Blue Mosque” in Al-Darb al-Ahmar area was undertaken by AKTC in collaboration with the Supreme Council of Antiquities and the Governorate of Cairo with the support of the World Monuments Fund and the Selz Foundation. The restoration was part of the larger Al-Darb al-Ahmar Urban Regeneration Programme.

The Mosque has been closed since 1992 due to damage it had suffered from an earthquake in the same year.

[AKDN](#)

May 25, 2015

- [signed](#) an agreement with Premier Wynne between the Province of Ontario, Canada, and the Ismaili Imamate for cooperation in a number of areas including culture and education.

The partnership combined Ontario's excellence in education, green energy, health care and other key areas with the Aga Khan Development Network's vast global experience in bringing sustainable development to societies living in diverse cultural and geographical environments.

“Our history, our interpretation of our faith is anchored in the intellect and we rejoice in investing in the human intellect. It's part of the ethics of what we believe in and it's part of what we believe distinguishes us obviously from the environment in which we live. So the agreement that we have is giving us new opportunities to widen our exposure to education in the industrialized world but to widen that education within a context where our values are the same. That is very important because it's clear that with the global community such as the Ismaili community we need to invest in global values, in values which can be applied to any society at any time in any part of the world.”

Mawlana Hazar Imam

[Speech](#)

May 25, 2015

- [presided](#) over the inauguration of the Aga Khan Park by the Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario.

“The Garden has for many centuries served as a central element in Muslim culture. The Holy Qur'an, itself, portrays the Garden as a central symbol of a spiritual ideal – a place where human creativity and Divine majesty are fused, where the ingenuity of humanity and the beauty of nature are productively connected. Gardens are a place where the ephemeral meets the eternal, and where the eternal meets the hand of man.

The tradition of Islamic Gardens places an emphasis on human stewardship, our responsibility to nature and to protect the natural world. We see that principle expressed in the disciplined use of geometric form – framing the power and mystery of nature.

And, of course, the Garden of ancient tradition, like the Garden here today, is a place where – whatever difficult moments may come our way – we can always find, in the flow of refreshing water, a reminder of Divine blessing.”

Mawlana Hazar Imam

[Speech](#)

June 3, 2015

- [signed](#) an agreement with Portugal’s Minister of State and Foreign Affairs Rui Machete between the Republic of Portugal and the Ismaili Imamat for the establishment of a formal Seat of the Ismaili Imamat in Lisbon, Portugal. The Agreement marked the first such accord in the Imamat’s modern history.



Mawlana Hazar Imam and Portugal’s Minister of State and Foreign Affairs Rui Machete sign the agreement. Photo: AKDN / Gary Otte

September 15, 2015

- [delivered](#) an address at the International New York Times Athens Democracy Forum.

“I believe that the progress of democracy in our world is fundamentally linked to improving the quality of human life. The promise of democracy is that the people themselves best know how to achieve such progress. But if that promise is disappointed, then democracy is endangered. A UNDP survey of South American publics some years ago demonstrated that most people preferred an effective authoritarian government to an ineffective democratic one. Quality of life was the prime concern...”

It is not the power of our tools, but how we use them that will determine our future...At the heart of a democratic ethic is a commitment to genuine dialogue to achieve a better quality of life...”

Mawlana Hazar Imam

[Speech](#)

The annual forum, held to coincide with the UN International Day of Democracy, brings together diplomats, scholars, corporate executives, politicians, thought-leaders, and journalists from around the world to discuss at the foot of the Acropolis the state of liberal democracies and the major challenges they face in the world today.

The forum is held in Greece, the birthplace of democracy.

[Athens Democracy Forum](#)

October 16, 2015

- [presided](#) over the signing of an agreement between Malaysia's state of Penang, Think City SDN Berhad and the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC) in Gouvieux, France. The agreement was to expand the scope of an existing partnership for the protection, development and enhancement of Penang's historic George Town for another three years. The agreement follows a Memorandum of Understanding signed in November 2013, under which AKTC provided technical assistance to George Town, which was declared a World Heritage site by UNESCO in 2008.

October 22, 2015

- [delivered](#) the Keynote Address at a conference organised by the International Council on Monuments and Sites in London, United Kingdom. The conference marked the 50th anniversary of the organisation. His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester, Patron of ICOMOS-UK, reviewed an exhibition of the work of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture with Luis Monreal, General Manager the AKTC.

"All Muslims are called upon to improve the physical condition of our world, and honouring our cultural heritage is vital to that calling. Our response in simple terms is that not a day goes by where my institution – the Ismaili Imamat – is not building or rebuilding something somewhere: a historic site perhaps, but also a hospital, a university, an industry... Our central objective is to improve the quality of life for people in the developing world, and it is from this perspective that I will speak to you today."

Mawlana Hazar Imam

[Speech](#)

[ICOMOS-UK](#), an independent charity established in 1965, promotes the appreciation and understanding of our cultural heritage in the UK and worldwide. ICOMOS-UK is the UK National Committee of [ICOMOS](#) (International Council on Monuments and Sites). ICOMOS is a non-governmental international organisation dedicated to the conservation of the world's monuments and sites and is advisor to the [UNESCO World Heritage Committee](#) on cultural World Heritage sites.

November 6, 2015

- [met](#) UN High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres in Geneva, Switzerland, the headquarters of UNHCR, to discuss past and future cooperation in emergency operations around the world.

"We must do everything possible to prevent human suffering. But pre-empting humanitarian emergencies requires investments, equipment and the necessary resources to ensure the response system is already in place when the crisis hits."

Mawlana Hazar Imam

[AKDN Press Release](#)

November 12, 2015

- [delivered](#) the Samuel L. and Elizabeth Jodidi Lecture at Harvard University's Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, titled *The Cosmopolitan Ethic in a Fragmented World*. Hazar Imam's his lecture covered the challenges to pluralism and cosmopolitanism.

“The more we communicate, the harder it can sometimes be to evaluate what we are saying. More information often means less context and more confusion. More than that, the increased pace of human interaction means that we encounter the stranger more often, and more directly. What is different is no longer abstract and distant. Even for the most tolerant among us, difference, more and more, can be up close and in your face. What all of this means is that the challenge of living well together — a challenge as old as the human-race — can seem more and more complicated...”

A cosmopolitan ethic will also be sensitive to the problem of economic insecurity in our world...Endemic poverty still corrodes any meaningful sense of opportunity for many millions. And even in less impoverished societies, a rising tide of economic anxiety can make it difficult for fearful people to respect, let alone embrace, that which is new or different.”

Mawlana Hazar Imam

[Speech](#)

[Transcript](#) of introduction by Ali Asani.

[Transcript](#) of interview with Professor Diana L. Eck.



Mawlana Hazar Imam in conversation with Professor Diana at Harvard

The Jodidi Lecture is among the most prominent lecture series of the Weatherhead Center and is one of the most distinguished at the University. Established in 1955, the lecture series provides for the “delivery of lectures by eminent and well-qualified persons...for the promotion of tolerance, understanding and good will among nations, and the peace of the world.”

[Weatherhead Center for International Affairs](#)

December 11, 2015

- [arrived](#) in Nairobi, Kenya to participate in Jamhuri Day celebrations at the invitation of His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta.



Mawlana Hazar Imam is greeted by the Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Amina Mohamed.
Photo: AKDN/Aziz Islamshah

December 17, 2015

- [announced](#) in Kampala, Uganda, the creation of the Aga Khan University Hospital.

“We started the Aga Khan University in Pakistan some 32 years ago and it has grown into a truly international institution, with major campuses in Africa as well as in Asia, and with programmes in many fields. But right at the centre of its mission, from the very start, has been one principle goal: to help ensure the people living in the developing world are able to access international standards of health care.

We are here today because of this common conviction. We have to bring to Africa and Asia global standards of health care. The populations of these countries cannot be isolated from the best simply because they have been born in countries outside the Western world.

...we have to educate on an ongoing basis in Africa, in Asia, to global standards of medicine and nursing, and that is our goal.

...I would like to emphasise to you how important it is that you should bring to bear on young men and young women a commitment to serve at home, and not to leave home in a position where the homeland does not have the benefit of the knowledge which has been imparted.

Modern medicine is expensive, but it is our responsibility to make it available to all the population, and we undertake to do that.

...our hope is that over the years we will have a system covering East Africa where an individual needing care will be able to enter the system at any point and receive the appropriate health care, whether it be in Uganda or in Kenya or in Tanzania or even further afield.”

Mawlana Hazar Imam

[Speech](#)

December 17, 2015

- [presided](#) over the land grant ceremony in Kampala by the Government of Uganda.



Mawlana Hazar Imam and His Excellency President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda lay a brick at the Nakawa site to symbolise the foundation stone-laying for the Aga Khan University Hospital. Photo: AKDN/Will Boase

“... the creation of the Aga Khan University Hospital in Uganda has a purpose not only in serving Uganda, but has the purpose of serving East Africa, and bringing knowledge and competence of sophisticated science on an ongoing basis..the faculty of medicine at the Aga Khan University is not only going to provide service, it is also going to provide research, it is going to provide continuing education to the nursing and medical communities in East Africa.”

Mawlana Hazar Imam

[Speech](#)

“I would like to salute the Aga Khan, because in every area that His Highness works, whether it is building the Bujagali dam, or the Serena Hotel, we always see a mark of excellence...I am confident that the Aga Khan University Hospital will be at the same level of excellence, if not even higher.”

Prime Minister Rugunda

“As a regional university in East Africa, today marks a major step for the Aga Khan University as we establish a much larger presence in Uganda, in addition to our growing footprint in Kenya and Tanzania.”

Firoz Rasul, President, AKU

[Speech](#)

January 25, 2016

- [hosted](#) the Académie Diplomatique Internationale's Board meeting in Paris, France.

Académie Diplomatique Internationale (ADI) is an international organisation founded in 1926 dedicated to promoting modern diplomacy and contributing to the understanding and analysis of the emerging dynamics in global affairs.

From its historic residence in Paris, the ADI convenes conferences, seminars, and public debates on contemporary issues, conducts training programmes in diplomatic practice, and provides other services through its membership club that is open to the Paris-based diplomatic, business, and foreign policy communities.

The ADI engages in these activities with a diverse range of public, private, and independent sector partners both in France and internationally.

ADI Board

On December 12, 2012, the General Assembly, attended by ambassadors and representatives from 72 states, was convened at the Académie Diplomatique Internationale under the presidency of His Highness the Aga Khan. His Highness presented the President's Report, followed by a report on ADI activities by the Director General, Jean-Claude Cousseran. A general discussion on ADI activities and the development of its projects ensued. The General Assembly elected the Board, which then was convened to elect the members of the executive committee. His Highness the Aga Khan was unanimously reelected as the President.

[Académie Diplomatique Internationale](#)

[ADI's Diplomatic Initiatives](#) include

[Protecting Cultural Heritage in Times of Conflict](#)

Protecting Cultural Heritage in Times of Conflict is a new initiative that is intended to provide practical means for helping enhance the protection of cultural objects and historical sites in politically fragile regions of the world. A planning meeting was held in April 2013 in Paris in cooperation with the Cultural Heritage Programme at the University of Oxford, and the Aga Khan Trust for Culture in Geneva.

The project was initiated following a [Forum for New Diplomacy](#) featuring Irina Bokova, Director General of UNESCO in December 2012.

[Académie Diplomatique Internationale](#)

February 4, 2016

- [attended](#) the conference in London, UK, on the Syrian crisis.

The Supporting Syria and the Region conference brought together world leaders from around the globe to rise to the challenge of raising the money needed to help millions of people whose lives have been torn apart by the devastating civil war.



The UK, Germany, Kuwait, Norway, and the United Nations co-hosted the conference.

[Supporting Syria & the Region Video](#)

“I am deeply distressed over the indiscriminate and widespread devastation of life and property, including that of irreplaceable cultural assets which are the manifestation of Syria’s stunningly rich pluralistic history.

AKDN’s development and humanitarian work in Syria began many years before the war. In the present situation, we have committed resources and efforts to ensure that Internally Displaced People receive humanitarian assistance, and are supported to sustain their livelihoods.

We aim to meet the urgent needs of the present, but where also possible to protect and strengthen the foundations for the future. We seek to create “islands of stability”, where there is public consensus, in the face of war. It is my conviction that “islands of stability” can be replicated wherever security permits. Investing in them will help prevent displacement of people and anchor communities that would otherwise flee as refugees.

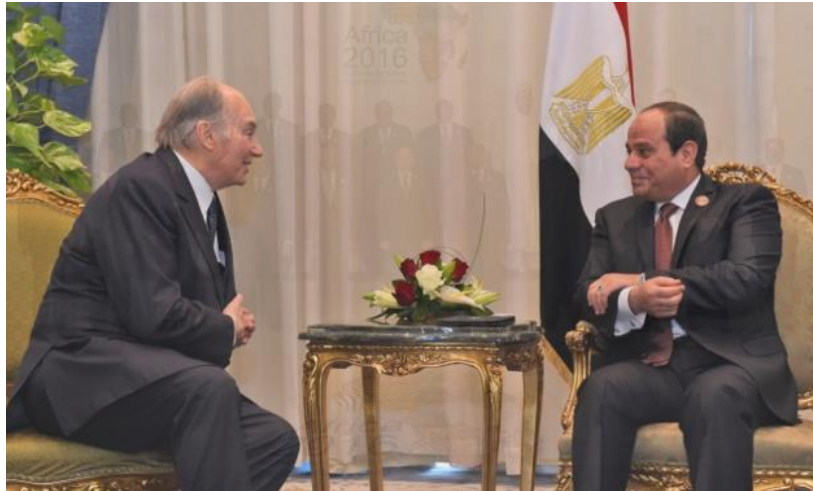
Since the onset of conflict in 2011, AKDN has dedicated \$50 million towards these endeavours in Syria and is now committing to increasing this investment to \$200 million over the next four years. Our efforts will expand to wider areas of the country. Our goal is peace, stability, and reconstruction.”

Mawlana Hazar Imam

[Full Statement](#)

February 21, 2016

- [delivered](#) keynote address at the conference titled *Africa 2016: Business for Africa, Egypt and the World* held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, hosted by Egypt's president, His Excellency Abdel Fattah el Sisi.



Mawlana Hazar Imam meets with Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi.
Photo: AKDN/Zahur Ramji

“The problem of fragmentation has often afflicted Africa, separating tribe from tribe, country from country, the private sector from the public sector, those who hold political power from those who are in opposition. In such cases, the fact of being different is often seen as a burden, or a threat, a source of fear and suspicion. But there is another way to look at our differences...I believe this changing attitude toward diversity is now happening in Africa, in part because of a new sense of African confidence. We see more cooperation today across tribal and religious lines, across political divisions and national boundaries...”

...here are many reasons to believe that this is Africa's Moment and that Africans will seize it. Among those positive elements is a growing sense of confidence that encourages Africans to work together across old lines of division, including cooperative engagements with the institutions of Civil Society.”

Mawlana Hazar Imam
[Speech](#)

About [Africa 2016 Forum](#)

March 17, 2016

- [inaugurated](#) Nation Media Group's new state-of-the-art printing press in Nairobi, Kenya.

"Our goal was not to tell people what to think, but to give them reliable information so that they could think, more clearly, for themselves.

All over the world, the number of media voices is exploding – websites, bloggers and social media voices multiply every day. The result is often a wild mix of messages: good information and bad information, superficial impressions, fleeting images, and a good deal of confusion and conflict. And this is true all over the world.

What is true, too often, can then depend not on what actually happened, but on whose side you are. Our search for the truth can then become less important than our allegiance to a cause – an ideology, for example, or a political party, or a tribal or religious identity, or a pro-government or opposition outlook. And so publics all over the world can begin to fragment, and societies can drift into deadlock.

In such a world, it is absolutely critical – more than ever – that the public should have somewhere to turn for reliable, balanced, objective and accurate information, as best as it can be discovered."

Mawlana Hazar Imam

[Speech](#)

May 11, 2016

- [arrived](#) in Lisbon for his first visit since the agreement establishing the global Seat of the Ismaili Imam in Portugal. Mawlana Hazar Imam met with Foreign Affairs Minister Augusto Santos Silva before meeting with the President of the Portuguese Republic, His Excellency Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, who also hosted a private dinner in his honour.



Mawlana Hazar Imam introduced the first senior officials of the Imam, to Portugal's President. Left to Right: Dr Shafik Sachedina, Head of Community Affairs, Jane Piacentini-Moore, Head of the Department for International Financial Affairs, Ambassador Arif Lalani, Head of the Department of Diplomatic Affairs, His Highness the Aga Khan, His Excellency President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, Nazim Ahmad, Head of the Department of Portugal and other Lusophone Countries and Maitre Laurent Chambaz, Head of the Department for International Legal Affairs. Photo: AKDN / Luis Filipe Catarino

May 12, 2016

- [signed](#) an Agreement of Cooperation between the the Ismaili Imamat and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education of the Portuguese to strengthen research capacity and to improve the quality of life in Portugal and in Portuguese-speaking countries, particularly in Africa. This endeavour will be supported by the Ismaili Imamat with a 10 million euro grant over 10 years.

May 16, 2016

- [arrived](#) in Canada, commencing a six-day visit, attending meetings in Ottawa and Toronto.

May 17, 2016

- [toured](#) the future international headquarters of the Global Centre for Pluralism, which was undergoing renovation. The Centre is situated along Sussex Drive in Ottawa, Canada, in the heritage building that formerly housed Canada's War Museum.
- [met](#) with Prime Minister Right Honourable Justin Trudeau at Parliament Hill in Ottawa to discuss "pluralism, diversity and all the things that Canada can contribute to offering more peace and stability in the world," according to the Prime Minister.

May 19, 2016

- [introduced](#) Justice Albie Sachs at the Annual Pluralism Lecture. Justice Sachs recounted the story of South Africa's struggle to redefine itself as a post-apartheid nation. Justice Sachs presented Mawlana Hazar Imam with a copy of the Bill of Rights, which he described as "South Africa's most precious gift to the world."

[Hazar Imam's introductory remarks](#)



Justice Albie Sachs presents Mawlana Hazar Imam with the South African Bill of Rights. Photo: GCP / Tom Sandler/The Ismaili

May 20, 2016

- was [bestowed](#) a Doctor of Letters in Mediaeval Studies *honoris causa* by the Pontifical Institute for Mediaeval Studies at St Basil's Collegiate Church in Toronto, Canada. David Mulroney, President of the University of St Michael's College and a former Canadian Ambassador to China, delivered the citation.



Richard Alway, Praeses of the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies congratulates Mawlana Hazar Imam upon the conferring the honorary degree. Photo: The Ismaili/Zahur Ramji

“Canadians take special pride in the links that connect us to the Aga Khan, to the Ismaili community and to the important values that they so effectively champion...Let us celebrate today our own connection to His Highness, a champion of pluralism, a transcender of borders and barriers, and a great, wise and benevolent connector.”

President Mulroney

[Citation](#)

Founded in 1929, the [Pontifical Institute for Mediaeval Studies](#) is the oldest humanities research institute in Canada. It is dedicated to advancing studies in the intellectual and material cultures of the Middle Ages, and to deepening the understanding of how this period has shaped life and ideals in Western culture. It received a papal charter in 1939. In 2014, it launched an initiative to explore the three great Abrahamic faith traditions – Judaism, Christianity and Islam – in the Middle Ages and concentrates on the inter-relationships and major points of contact during this period.

[AKDN](#)

May 24-28, 2016

- [participated](#) in the conference in London, UK, focused on the multi-dimensional aspects of secular and religious education, headed by Mr. Orozbek Moldaliev, Director of the State Commission on Religious Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic.

June 22, 2016

- [inducted](#) Dominique Perrault as a Member of the ‘Academie des Beaux-Arts’, Official Ceremony in Paris, France.



Photo: Dominique Perrault Architecture

Dominique Perrault is a French architect and planner and the founder of [Dominique Perrault Architecture](#) in Paris. He studied architecture at the Ecole Supérieure des Beaux-Arts and town planning at the Ecole Supérieure des Ponts et Chaussées in Paris, he also has a postgraduate degree in History from the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales. He gained international recognition after winning the competition for the Bibliothèque Nationale de France in 1989 (completed in 1995) at the age of 36, for which he received the Mies van der Rohe Prize in 1997.

September 21, 2016

- [received](#) the inaugural Adrienne Clarkson Prize for Global Citizenship in Toronto, Canada.

“One enormous challenge, of course, is the simple fact that diversity is increasing around the world. The task is not merely learning to live with that diversity, but learning to live with greater diversity with each passing year...”

Pluralism means responding to diversity not only at home, but on a global basis, creating genuine “visions of opportunity” wherever constraints or reversals are in the air...

The call of pluralism should ask us to respect our differences, but not to ignore them, to integrate diversity, not to depreciate diversity.

The call for cosmopolitanism is not a call to homogenization. It means affirming social solidarity, without imposing social conformity. One’s identity need not be diluted in a pluralistic world, but rather fulfilled, as one bright thread in a cloth of many colours.”

Mawlana Hazar Imam

[Speech](#)

“Tonight, this prize for Global Citizenship is recognizing and celebrating His Highness the Aga Khan, whose entire life demonstrates steadfast unchanging commitment to the ideals of belonging and inclusion. Through his words, through his actions, and through the results obtained by the institutions that he has founded and encouraged and nourished, he has become a light in much of the world’s conflicting darkness. He is someone who has consistently encouraged thought and dialogue as well as practical approaches and inventing strategies that remove barriers, that help to change attitudes, and that ultimately reinforce principles of respect and understanding.”

The Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson

[Speech](#)

The awarding of the Adrienne Clarkson Prize for Global Citizenship culminated the [6 Degrees Citizen Space 2016 conference](#) presented by the [Institute for Canadian Citizenship](#). The annual award recognizes a leader whose life has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to the ideals of belonging and inclusion.

[The Ismaili](#)

September 27, 2016

- [presided](#) over, with Rémy Rioux, Director-General of the [French Development Agency](#), the signing of a loan agreement for US\$25 million to finance the construction of the Aga Khan Academy Maputo, Mozambique. The agreement will expand provision of high quality education to train teachers, supporting economic and social development in Mozambique. It will offer a large number of students from lower income families the opportunity to access quality education.

October 4-5, 2016

- [attended](#) the Brussels Conference on Afghanistan. This conference gathered more than 70 countries and 20 international organisations and agencies to provide a platform for the government of Afghanistan to set out its vision and track record on reform. For the international community, it will be the opportunity to signal sustained political and financial support to Afghan peace, state-building and development. [European Council](#)



Mawlana Hazar Imam with US Secretary of State John Kerry, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg at the Brussels Conference on Afghanistan. Photo: AKDN/ Anya Campbell

“Since 2001, AKDN and its partners have channelled over \$1 billion to enhance self-reliance and improve the quality of life of Afghans. Between now and 2020, AKDN plans similar investments in cultural heritage, education, energy, health, and poverty alleviation.

First, it is urgent to drive efforts to sustain and develop Afghanistan’s human and social capital. For this purpose, AKDN supports the Ministry of Education’s National Education Strategic Plan in over 850 schools and education centres. In health, AKDN’s public private partnerships have provided treatment to over 1.6 million Afghans and trained over 13,000 doctors, nurses, and health workers...

Second, supporting civil society is essential. Decades of experience have taught us that effective civil society is fundamental to lasting progress, helping ensure development that is inclusive and participatory...

Third, area development should be supported. Ensuring sustained social and economic gains often requires working across frontiers.”

Mawlana Hazar Imam
[Statement](#)

October 13, 2016

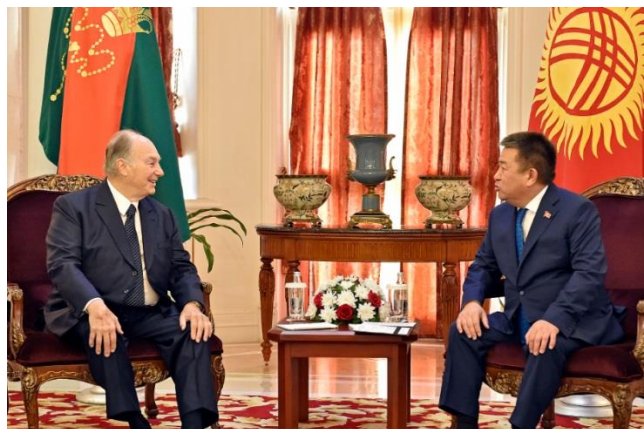
- [met](#) the President of the Republic of Madagascar, Hery Rajaonarimampianina, in Antananarivo, to discuss development in Madagascar, where the Aga Khan Development Network operates a number of programmes.

- The Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) has been implementing a rural development programme in all seven districts of north-western Madagascar's Sofia Region since 2005.
- To date, the programme has provided more than 46,000 small farmers with technical support and training on improved rice farming. Farmers have been able, on average, to triple their yields. In turn, greater yields have led to more food-sufficient households and surpluses that have been sold in neighbouring towns.
- In support of these efforts, the Premiere Agence de Microfinance (PAMF) was established in 2006. PAMF works closely with AKF to provide financial services in Sofia, operating in both the rural areas and small cities. It has expanded to 13 branches, including outside Sofia.
 - ❖ PAMF also works in the urban areas of the Analamanga region, and cities such as Majunga in Boeny, where it is focused on small traders and artisans as well as the rural sectors of these urbanized districts.
 - ❖ In addition, PAMF also offers loans for warehousing and inventory credit in its own granaries, in borrowers' own granaries or in village granaries.

[AKDN](#)

October 17, 2016

- [arrived](#) in Kyrgyzstan, ahead of the inauguration of the University of Central Asia's Naryn campus. He was accompanied by Prince Aly Muhammad.



Mawlana Hazar Imam meeting with the Speaker of Parliament Chynybai Tursunbekov. Photo: AKDN/ Gary Otte

October 18, 2016

- was [presented](#) the Order of Danaker by President Atambayev of the Kyrgyz Republic.

The order is the country's highest recognition given to a foreign citizen for contributions to the strengthening of peace, friendship and cooperation between peoples and for working towards preserving inter-ethnic harmony and the mutual enrichment of national cultures.



“It is my privilege to award the Order of Danaker to His Highness the Aga Khan...The Danaker is a mark of honour awarded to individuals who unite people, nations and countries. On behalf of the people of Kyrgyzstan, and in my personal capacity, I would like to express sincere gratitude for the contributions and support Your Highness has been providing through AKDN in a variety of sectors including education, healthcare, agriculture and others.”

President Atambayev

“I look forward to many years of partnership and achieving development goals for the people of Kyrgyzstan. This is a country which is marking global thinking on pluralism, and successful pluralism is one of the most immediate global issues today.”

Mawlana Hazar Imam

[AKDN](#)

October 19, 2016

- [opened](#), together with Kyrgyz Prime Minister Sooronbay Jeenbekov, the first campus of the University of Central Asia in Naryn, Kyrgyz Republic.

“This was the place that leading thinkers from around the known world would look to for leadership. What were the latest breakthroughs in astronomy or mathematics, in chemistry or medicine, in philosophy or music? This was the place to find out. This region is where algebra got its name, where the earth’s diameter was precisely calculated, where some of the world’s greatest poetry was penned.”

Mawlana Hazar Imam [Speech](#)

- [inaugurated](#), together with Prime Minister and Governor Amanbay Kayypov, Seitaaly Jakypov Park in the centre of Naryn, rehabilitated by AKTC.



Kyrgyz Prime Minister HE Sooronbay Jeenbekov and Mawlana Hazar Imam unveil the plaque to officially inaugurate the campus in Naryn, Kyrgyz Republic. Photo: AKDN / Gary Otte



Prime Minister HE Sooronbay Jeenbekov and His Highness the Aga Khan unveiling the plaque to open the Seitaaly Jakypov Park. Photo: AKDN/Rahim Kara

November 4, 2016

- [arrived](#) in the United Arab Emirates, ahead of the presentation of the thirteenth awards of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture. He was accompanied by Prince Ameen and Prince Aly Muhammad.

November 5, 2016

- [addressed](#) the winners’ seminar in Dubai.
- In the evening, Mawlana Hazar Imam [hosted](#) a dinner and concert at the Ismaili Centre, Dubai for the international attendees of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture.



Mawlana Hazar Imam is received by Sheikha Lubna bint Khalid, Minister of State for Tolerance upon his arrival in Dubai. Photo: AKDN/Gary Otte

November 6, 2016

- [presented](#) awards of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture at the Al Jahili Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Al Ain, Abu Dhabi.

“Architecture is the only art form which has a direct, daily impact on the quality of human life...”

The purpose of the Award when it was first launched was to help renew one of the world’s great cultural legacies, the rich traditions of Islamic architecture. Those traditions were being lost, we feared, amid a rush of modernising, westernising enthusiasms - depriving people everywhere of the insights, the intuitions and the idioms of some of the richest cultures in world history.

We can learn valuable lessons from history without getting lost in history; we can look boldly ahead without ignoring what has gone before....The best architecture teaches us to engage with Nature respectfully; not by conquering or subduing it, nor by isolating ourselves away from it.”

Mawlana Hazar Imam

[Speech](#)

December 2, 2016

- [participated](#) in a two-day conference on [Safeguarding Endangered Cultural Heritage](#) in Abu Dhabi. The Conference, held under the patronage of UNESCO, took place in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, bringing together heads of States and Ministers from over 40 countries, as well as representatives from international organizations and museums.



Mawlana Hazar Imam with UAE’s ruling leadership, heads of states and dignitaries from 40 countries during the Abu Dhabi Declaration, Safeguarding Endangered Cultural Heritage Conference at Emirates Palace in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

December 16, 2016

- Mawlana Hazar Imam's 80th birthday was celebrated by the Jamat and members of Hazar Imam's family. Representing the global Ismaili community Jamati and institutional leaders visited the Imam at his home to offer congratulations, express *shukrana*, and re-affirm the Jamat's *bayyah* to the Imam of the Time.

Aitmadi Dr Mahmoud Eboo, Chairman of the Ismaili Leaders' International Forum wished Hazar Imam "a very happy 80th birthday" in several of the many languages spoken by Ismailis in the countries in which they live, Hazar Imam was also presented with a gift of art — a mosaic of horses by the late Ismail Gulgee that was commissioned in 1989.

[The Ismaili](#)



Mawlana Hazar Imam is presented with a cake on behalf of the worldwide Jamat on the occasion of his 80th birthday. Photo: The Ismaili/ Farhez Rayani

“My wish for the decades ahead is that you stand firmly by the principles and ethics of our faith... Wherever you are, whatever age you are, whatever you do in your lives, it is essentially important to me that the principles of our faith should be respected everyday of your lives. This is my hope and this is my prayer...”

I think we can conclude today that the Jamat is a strong community. It is a global community. It is a community with strong institutions, with strong ethics and it is respected around the world. What more could I wish for as the Imam of the Time? You could not give me a greater gift than the ability - than the right - to say the things that I have just said.

“But the essence of the Jamat, the ethics of our faith, the principles which we believe in and which we seek to practice in our lives are the essence of how our community will stay united,”

Mawlana Hazar Imam

Mawlana Hazar Imam's 80th birthday celebration
Gallery – The Ismaili



Hundreds of lanterns decorate the grounds of Mawlana Hazar Imam's residence on the occasion of his 80th birthday celebration. Photo: The Ismaili/Farhez Rayani



Members of Hazar Imam's family applaud as the birthday cake is presented to Mawlana Hazar Imam. Photo: The Ismaili/Zahur Ramji



Mawlana Hazar Imam cuts his birthday cake. Photo: The Ismaili/Farhez Rayani



Mawlana Hazar Imam and members of his family applaud the artists at the end of the performance.
From L to R: Prince Hussain, Princess Salwa, Prince Rahim, Mawlana Hazar Imam, Prince Ameen, Princess Zahra, Prince Aly Muhammad, and Princess Zahra's daughter Sara. Photo: The Ismaili/Zahur Ramji

April 20, 2017

Mawlana Hazar Imam

- [met](#) His Excellency Sergei Lavrov, Russia’s Minister of Foreign Affairs, to discuss areas of cooperation and mutual interest.

“Our cooperation is essential not only for my community, but for the whole of Central Asia. Right now we are creating joint institutions, which will have great significance for what is happening in the whole of Central Asia.”

Mawlana Hazar Imam

[Ismailmail](#)



Mawlana Hazar Imam meeting with the Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. | Russia / MoFA

May 15, 2017

- [arrived](#) in Ottawa, Canada, accompanied by Princess Zahra and Prince Aly Muhammad. Soon after their arrival, Mawlana Hazar Imam, Princess Zahra and Prince Aly Muhammad visited the Global Centre for Pluralism, and were given a tour of the building by John McNee, Secretary General of the Centre.



Mawlana Hazar Imam and Prince Aly Muhammad at the Global Centre for Pluralism, accompanied by Ismaili Council for Canada President Malik Talib and Farhad Mawani, Project Manager for the renovation of 330 Sussex Drive. Photo: AKDN/Moez

May 16, 2017

- [opened](#) the international headquarters of the Global Centre for Pluralism, with His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada.

“Pluralism does not mean the elimination of difference, but the embrace of difference. Genuine pluralism understands that diversity does not weaken a society, it strengthens it. In an ever-shrinking, ever more diverse world, a genuine sense of pluralism is the indispensable foundation for human peace and progress.”

Mawlana Hazar Imam

[Speech](#)



Photo: AKDN/Mo Govindji

May 18, 2017

- was [awarded](#) the Architectural League of New York's President's Medal on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture. The Medal was presented at the Metropolitan Club by League President Billie Tsien.

"The Aga Khan Award has been a bridge connecting the world to the beauty and power of work done to serve Muslim populations." She continued: "This award helps to elevate the quality of architecture, planning and landscape design by shedding light on exemplary work. And most importantly it affirms the power of architecture to create and to sustain a humane and beautiful world for all people. All people, all cultures, all faiths look to beauty as a profound source of both solace and joy."

President Billie Tsien



League President Billie Tsien presents Mawlana Hazar Imam with the Architecture League's 2017 President's Medal. Photo: AKDN/Leandro Viana

"...what is the art form that has the most important impact on every society, in every part of the world? And the answer is quite simply, architecture. "It's a very important evening in my life because it's a recognition of an art form that which I believe needs global recognition, needs global attention, needs the best brains that we can mobilize, to improve the human habitat for decades and decades ahead. Thank you for this wonderful award..."

Mawlana Hazar Imam

[AKDN Press Release](#)

The President's Medal is [The Architectural League of New York's](#) highest honor and is bestowed, at the discretion of the League's President and Board of Directors, on individuals to recognize an extraordinary body of work in architecture, urbanism, art, or design.

June 19, 2017

- Mawlanan Hazar Imam [contributed](#) €500,000 towards the support of victims of the deadly forest fire in Pedrógão Grande in central Portugal.

July 11, 2017

- Diamond Jubilee of Mawlana Hazar Imam's Imamatus. Global Jamati leaders paid homage to Mawlana Hazar Imam at Aiglemont.

Mawlana Hazar Imam became the fifth Imam in fourteen centuries to mark sixty years of his Imamatus.

[The Ismaili](#)

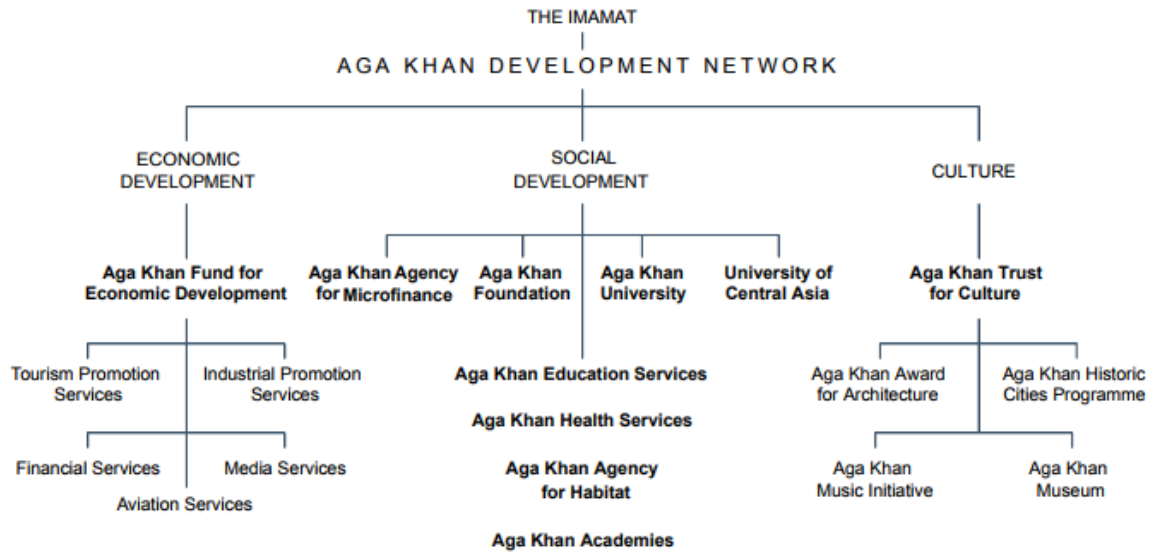


Over 400 senior leaders of the worldwide Jamat includes men and women who have served the Imam and the community over the past 60 years in procession towards Mawlana Hazar Imam's residence at Aiglemont estate in Gouvieux, France. Photo:AKDN/ Thomas Wibaux



Mawlana Hazar Imam and members of his family at the homage ceremony. From L to R: Master Iliyan, Miss Sara, Princess Salwa with Prince Irfan, Prince Rahim with Prince Sinan, Mawlana Hazar Imam, Prince Ameen, Princess Zahra, Prince Hussain, Princess Aleya, and Princess Yasmin. Photo:AKDN / Zahur Ramji

Initiatives of the Aga Khan Development Network following the extended Golden Jubilee year January 2009 to July 11, 2017



Source: AKDN

April 16, 2009

- The [Talloires Network](#) and the [MacJannet Foundation](#) in Medford/Somerville, USA presented the MacJannet Prize Global Citizenship award to Urban Health Program based in Aga Khan University in Pakistan.

The MacJannet Prize was established by the Talloires Network and the MacJannet Foundation to recognize exceptional student community engagement initiatives at Talloires Network member universities and contributes financially to their ongoing public service efforts.

[The Talloires Network, Tufts University](#)

May 12, 2009

- [The Water and Sanitation Extension Programme](#), an initiative of Aga Khan Planning and Building Service, Pakistan, was declared as one of twelve winners of the Dubai International Award for Best Practices (DIABP). The awards were presented in Dubai, UAE. This is the first ever social project from Pakistan to receive this prestigious award in the fourteen-year history of DIABP.

May 31, 2009

- [Roshan](#), the leading telecom operator in Afghanistan, announced the expansion of the first-of-its-kind Telemedicine solution in Afghanistan beyond Kabul to include provincial hospitals.

July 20, 2010

- Prince Aamyn [delivered remarks](#) on behalf of Mawlana Hazar Imam at the Kabul Conference on Afghanistan, in Kabul.

“How can we link the poor to growth and growth to the poor? There needs to be a willingness to support small-scale and medium-level investments in the short term that may not immediately be considered financially sustainable by conventional measures, but which experience demonstrates are necessary to achieve medium to long-term returns and benefit.”

Prince Aamyn

[Speech](#)

July 23, 2009

- The First MicroFinance Institution Syria (FMFI-S), KfW Entwicklungsbank and the State Planning Commission of Syria [signed](#) two financial agreements in Damascus. These agreements will expand FMFI-S's loan activities to the poorest inhabitants of Syria as well as to people in rural areas.

In 2007, the Syrian government developed and passed new microfinance legislation. Subsequently, the Central Bank of Syria licensed FMFI-S to be the first deposit-taking microfinance institution, which allows it to take savings, and lend to entrepreneurs and small and medium sized businesses. Originally established in 2003, as a microfinance programme, FMFI-S completed its transition to a deposit-taking institution in October 2008.

FMFI-S is a part of the Aga Khan Agency for Microfinance.

[Aga Khan Agency for Microfinance](#)

September 29-Oct 2, 2009

- [Representatives](#) from the AKDN joined 1,200 participants from more than 70 states, provinces and countries at the Governors' Global Climate Summit 2, held in Los Angeles, CA. AKDN was a major sponsor of the conference.

March 16, 2010

- More than [200 masterpieces](#) representing over one-thousand years of Islamic cultural history from the Aga Khan Museum collection were displayed at the Martin-Gropius Bau in Berlin from March 17 to June 6, 2010. Federal President Köhler of the Federal Republic of Germany inaugurated the exhibition.

May 8, 2010

- The First MicroBank Mozambique (FMB-M) was [inaugurated](#) in Pemba, Mozambique, in a ceremony attended by President Armando Guebuza of Mozambique and Governor Eliseu Machava of Cabo Delgado, as well as officials and staff from agencies of the Aga Khan Development Network and members of the local and provincial governments.

FMB-M was launched in 2004 as a microfinance programme which evolved into a rural micro bank earlier this year. The bank is part of the Aga Khan Agency for Microfinance, which is an international financial institution with the objective of achieving the double-bottom line of maximising social impact while generating growth, expansion, and sustainability. By late 2009, FMB-M had disbursed over 2,000 outstanding loans, amounting to approximately US\$1 million.

[AKDN](#)

May 18, 2010

- The Continuing Education Centre, an initiative of Om Habibeh Foundation (OHF) - an affiliate of the Aga Khan Development Network - was [inaugurated](#) in Aswan, Egypt. This centre provides new graduates with the skills necessary to be employed in the labour market. It also aims to provide practical employment-related training to the youth of Aswan and Upper Egypt with the ultimate goal of fostering economic development.

The Center signed protocols of co-operation with the School of Continuing Education at the American University in Cairo (AUC) to teach courses in General English, English for Specific Purposes and Accounting, and with Microsoft Egypt for Information Computer Technology (ICT). These courses will be delivered by trainers, recruited from Aswan, who have undergone intensive training. The former courses will be jointly certified by OHF and AUC, and the ICT courses will be jointly certified by OHF and Microsoft Egypt. The programmes will use curricula and teaching methods that encourage critical thinking and inquiry, and make the learning experience interactive, context-appropriate and hands-on.

[AKDN](#)

October 26, 2010

- In Damascus, the French Government and the Aga Khan Development Network [signed](#) a Partnership Convention for cooperation in Syria. The convention was signed by His Excellency Mr. Eric Chevallier, France's Ambassador to Syria, Mr. Mohamed Seifo, AKDN's Resident Representative in Syria, and Mr. Philippe Lecrinier, Director of the Agence Française de Développement in Syria (AFD).

This agreement followed the signing of a Partnership Convention in December 2008 by the French Minister for Foreign Affairs Bernard Kouchner and AKDN's Chairman and founder Mawlana Hazar Imam, to expand cooperation in a number of countries.

October 7, 2010

- The Gulabpur Khanqah in Shigar valley, Skardu, Baltistan, was awarded the [2010 Asia-Pacific Award of Distinction](#) in Cultural Heritage by UNESCO. For nine consecutive times, the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC) has won a UNESCO Asia Pacific Cultural Heritage Award for its conservation efforts in Pakistan's Gilgit-Baltistan province. Among earlier awards, AKTC received commendations for its restoration of Baltit Fort in Hunza and Shigar Fort in Baltistan.



October 29, 2010

- President Amadou Toumani Touré [opened](#) the new Centre for Earthen Architecture in Mopti, Mali. The centre, located in the city's Komoguel district, includes an exhibition space designed to present Mali's rich heritage of earthen architecture to the public, a community centre with public toilets and showers, a cafeteria and a park.



AKDN / Lucas Cuervo Moura

This project is the outcome of a public-private partnership between the Ministry of Culture, the municipality of Mopti and the Aga Khan Trust for Culture.

November 5, 2010

- Prince Amyn [inaugurated](#) the exhibition of a selection of masterpieces from the Aga Khan Museum at the Sakıp Sabancı Museum in Istanbul, Turkey. The items were displayed until February 27, 2011.

The exhibition, organised in cooperation with the host museum, was the first created from the Aga Khan Museum collections to focus on the [Arts of the Book and Calligraphy](#).



Prince Amyn viewing the exhibition. Photo: AKTC

“It is my hope that the collection presented here will provide the public with an appreciation of the pluralism of Muslim cultures emanating from different and varied regional and historic aesthetics, some as different as those characteristic of the Mughul Empire or of the Egyptian Fatimids, but that all nevertheless shows the unity of Muslim cultures as well as their pluralism. Unity within diversity...As the exhibition shows, both the ethic and the aesthetics of Islam are cosmopolitan.”

Prince Amyn
[Speech](#)

November 10, 2010

- The Federative Republic of Brazil and the Ismaili Imam [signed](#) a Protocol of Intentions to support development activities as part of their joint efforts to support the fight against poverty, during the official two-day visit of President of Brazil Lula da Silva to Mozambique.

The agreement was signed by the Ambassador of Brazil, Mr. Antonio de Souza e Silva, on behalf of the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil; and the Representative of the Aga Khan Development Network, Mr. Nazim Ahmad, on behalf of the Ismaili Imam. The ceremony took place in the presence of Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brazil, Mr. Celso Amorim.

November 16, 2010

- Prince Hussain [signed](#) the Charter for Regions of Climate Action (R20 Charter) on behalf of the Aga Khan Development Network at the Governors' Global Summit held at the University of California at Davis.

The mission of the R20 is to help sub-national governments around the world to develop and communicate low-carbon and climate resilient economic development projects.

[R20 Regions of Climate Change](#)



January 21, 2011

- The [Musical Arts of the Pamirs](#), Volumes I, II, and III was launched at the Ismaili Centre, Dushanbe, Tajikistan. Published by the University of Central Asia, the three-volume set is part of a five-volume study on folk music, oral history, and theatre traditions from the Pamir region of Tajikistan. The *Musical Arts of the Pamirs* is the culmination of approximately 40 years of field work by Dr Nizom Nurdjanov, along with his colleagues, Dr Fayzulla Karomatov and Dr Bahriniso Kabilova.

The University of Central Asia first began working with Dr Nurdjanov's team in January 2009 with the goal of reviving decades of research on the diverse musical traditions of the region. In partnership with UCA and The Christensen Fund (TCF), the series seeks to contribute to the preservation and revitalization of traditional Tajik music.

Dr Nurdjanov's has a fifty-year career at the A. Donish Institute of History, Archaeology and Ethnography within the Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan, where he has served as professor since 1951 and published over 35 monographs and 850 articles on the diverse cultural traditions of Tajikistan.

[AKDN](#)

March 23, 2011

- Prince Rahim and Her Excellency President Otunbaeva [inaugurated](#) the new Head Office of the Kyrgyz Investment and Credit Bank (KICB) in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic. The Aga Khan Development Network was one of the organisations that helped establish the bank.



President Roza Otunbaeva and Prince Rahim Aga Khan unveil a commemorative plaque at the official opening of the new Head Office of the Kyrgyz Investment and Credit Bank, 23 March 2011. Photo: AKDN/Sultan Dosaliev

“I am here today to pledge the continuing support of the Aga Khan Development Network to the future growth of KICB, including its expansion into every part of this country—and, beyond that, to other countries of Central Asia.”

Prince Rahim

[Speech](#)

KICB was set up in 2001 to issue short, medium and long-term loans to stimulate the development of small and medium-sized businesses throughout the Kyrgyz Republic. Currently, KICB serves over 27,000 clients throughout the region and operates a network of 16 branches in five oblasts in the Kyrgyz Republic.

Located in the centre of Bishkek, at the intersection of Moskovskaya Street and Erkindik Boulevard, the new modern Head Office occupies four floors with a gross area of over 2,700 square meters. It is equipped with modern banking facilities and security system, which will further improve the quality of service of the Bank and increase its efficiency. The new building, which houses a number of operational units, can accommodate over 200 staff

[AKDN](#)

May 14, 2011

- For the first time, learners from Afghanistan [graduated](#) from the University of Central Asia's School of Professional and Continuing Education, Khorog. At a ceremony held at the Khorog Theatre, 63 Afghan learners received awards together with 139 learners from Tajikistan.



Learners of the fifth SPCE graduation. Photo: AKDN/Khursand Saidhusainov

May 20, 2011

- The University of Central Asia's School of Professional Continuing Education Naryn building was [opened](#) by Akylbek Japarov, Member of Parliament and Head of Finance and Budget Committee together with Vice Governor of Naryn Oblast Emilbek Alymkulov.



The School of Professional and Continuing Education Naryn Campus.

Source: AKDN/ Mikhail Romanyuk

June 13-18, 2011

- The Mountain Societies Research Centre of the University of Central Asia and the National Centre of Competence in Research North-South [co-hosted](#) an International Symposium on Pastoralism in Central Asia: Status, Challenges and Opportunities in Mountain Areas, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic.

June 16, 2011

- Princess Zahra, head of the Social Welfare Department of AKDN, [accepted](#) an award presented to the Aga Khan Planning and Building Services' innovative Building and Construction Improvement Programme (BACIP). The award was presented in a ceremony held in London, UK. Other recipients from India and Africa were also announced.



Photo: AKDN/Nadia Bettega

“To meet the household needs in a healthy, safe and sustainable manner and to narrow the household energy gap, the Aga Khan Planning and Building Services established BACIP. It has been developing methods, products and technologies that can improve housing standards. It uses materials and skills and provides income generation activities even in the most remote and extreme areas.

BACIP was inspired by His Highness the Aga Khan’s conviction that, as part of a continuum of development efforts ranging from education to infrastructure, “a proper home can provide the bridge across that terrible gulf between poverty and a better future”. We hope that this initiative will help lift thousands of families out of the vicious cycle of poverty.”

Princess Zahra
[Speech](#)

[Ashden](#) is a charity that champions and supports the leaders in sustainable energy to accelerate the transition to a low-carbon world. Established in 2001, the Ashden Awards are a globally recognised measure for excellence in the field of green energy.

Our winners are inspiring a brighter future: including creating low-carbon buildings, increasing energy access in off-grid communities, promoting more sustainable ways of travel and helping people get smarter in how they use energy. Their inspiring stories show how, with ingenuity and determination, even the toughest problems can be overcome.

We help our winners expand their work by opening up new opportunities for them to achieve even more.

August 9, 2011

- Focus Humanitarian Assistance (FOCUS) Pakistan [mobilised](#) members of its Disaster Assessment and Response Team (DART), to assess the damage resulting from the collapse of the Lyari Building in Karachi, and to identify rescue and relief needs..

August 16, 2011

- The Vanj Bridge in Khumrogi, Tajikistan, was [inaugurated](#) by Tajikistan's President H.E. Emomali Rahmon..

The Vanj Bridge joins three other bridges at Darwaz, Tem, and Ishkashim as part of the Aga Khan Development Network's multi-sector cross-border development strategy. Since 2002, the bridges have served as the primary connection between Tajikistan's Gorno-Badakhshan Oblast and Afghanistan's Badakhshan Province.



Photo: AKDN

September 1, 2011

- The restoration of Altit Fort in Pakistan received the [Award of Distinction](#) at the 2011 UNESCO Asian-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation held in Bangkok. The restoration work was an Aga Khan Trust for Culture project.

Conservation works for the 900-year-old Altit Fort focused on mending structural defects, stabilising and repairing existing walls, replacing some roofs, treating wood decay and providing appropriate lighting.



Altit Fort, Pakistan. Photo: AKDN / Christopher Wilton-Steer

“The Award of Distinction winner Altit Fort in Hunza, Pakistan represents yet another step forward in the model of community-based conservation practice that has been evolving in the body of work of the Aga Khan Cultural Service of Pakistan,” says the UNESCO Citation. “Meticulous historical research and scientific investigation informed the conservation work, which successfully tackled a complex array of problems. Today the building has regained its iconic place in the Hunza Valley and now serves as a beacon to inspire future generations.”

[Other awards](#) received by agencies of the AKDN.

October 19, 2011

- Prince Hussain, representing the AKDN, attended a [tree-pledging ceremony](#) in Nairobi City Park in association with the Lions Clubs International. The ceremony was attended by Hon. Noah Wekesa, Minister for Forestry and Wildlife, Lions Clubs International President Wing-Kun Tam

A commitment was made to plant 1.5 million trees in Kenya by June 2012. The United Nations had declared 2011 the International Year of Forests.



Prince Hussain plants a tree in the presence of David Boyer, Senior Director of Prince Sadruddin Fund for the Environment; Mr. Aziz Bhaloo, Resident Representative AKDN Kenya; Dr Wing-Kun Tam, Lions Clubs International President; Lions District Governor Mr. Murtaza Dungarwalla; Executive Director of Lions Clubs International Mr Peter Lynch.

Photo: AKDN/Aziz Islamshah

“The areas of planted forests are increasing and it is tree planting through partnerships between government, businesses, civic organizations, and communities that is helping turn the tide on deforestation, not just in Kenya but around the world. This is a great testament to the spirit and vision of the late Professor Wangari Maathai, who we will all miss greatly. As some of you may know, the Aga Khan Development Network shares this vision, having planted over 120 million trees in Asia and Africa over the past 25 years.”

Prince Hussain
[Speech](#)

October 22, 2011

- U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton thanked the Aga Khan Development Network for arranging for the use of the Ismaili Centre, Dushanbe for the forum and remarked that the Network was “working so hard to create opportunities for the Tajik people.” Ms. Clinton was speaking at a meeting called the “Town Hall with Women, Youth, and Civil Society.” The town hall meeting was part of a “New Silk Road Initiative.”

The town hall meeting brought together various members of the country’s civil society, local and international aid and development organizations, and local and regional media outlets. The Secretary discussed collaboration – within the context of the New Silk Road Initiative – with AKDN Resident Representative Munir Merali.

[AKDN](#)

November 22, 2011

- A guidebook for children titled *Let’s Explore Humayun’s Tomb* [was launched](#). The guidebook, authored by Dr Narayani Gupta and illustrated by Ms Anitha Balachandran on behalf of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, was printed with support by the Ford Foundation. Over 60,000 copies – 30,000 each in Hindi and English – have been published by the Archaeological Survey of India. Humayun’s Tomb, one of India’s 26 World Heritage Sites, is visited by over 300,000 school children every year.

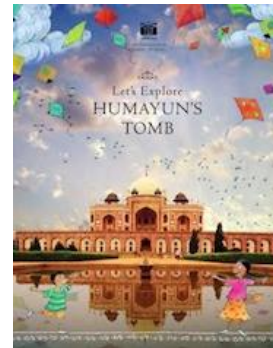


Photo: AKDN

December 9, 2011 to February 26, 2012

- A selection of masterpieces from the Aga Khan Museum collection [was exhibited](#) at the Hermitage, St. Petersburg. The exhibition, sponsored by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, centred on architecture in the Islamic World. The exhibition was organised in cooperation with the Hermitage.

January 19, 2012

- The Kyrgyz Republic’s Ministry of Education and Science, the United States Agency for International Development and the Aga Khan Foundation [signed](#) an agreement to reprint 90,500 copies of dual-language children’s books aimed at promoting peace, tolerance and respect for diversity among primary school children. The books were distributed to all 2,204 schools in the country.

February 8, 2012

- The Aga Khan Music Initiative [launched](#) a new programme of workshops, lecture-demonstrations and concert performances at seven prestigious American colleges and universities: Brandeis, Dartmouth, Emory, Harvard, Stanford, University of California, Berkeley, and University of Maryland.

Feb 15-24, 2012

- The Aga Khan Trust for Culture [hosted](#) the *Jashne Khusrau* festival, with the support of the Ford Foundation, as part of a major Urban Renewal project in the Humayun's Tomb-Hazrat Nizamuddin Basti area of Delhi.

Hazrat Amir Khusrau Dehlavi, the renowned 13th century Sufi poet, was the favourite disciple of Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya. His remarkable legacy is entwined with the rich cultural heritage of the Hazrat Nizamuddin Basti. Since 2008, AKTC has focused on documenting, researching, and disseminating this legacy and making it meaningful in the present context.

[AKDN](#)

March 5, 2012

- The University of Central Asia [launched](#) its latest publication, *Ancient Monuments of Tien-Shan* in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic. Written by Kubat Tabaldiev, the book is based on twenty years of archeological research in the Naryn and Issyk Kul regions. It presents evidence of a rich heritage dating from different historical eras encompassing the Stone Age, Bronze Era, Early Iron Age and the Middle Ages.



Photo: AKDN

March 8, 2012

- The Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) [signed](#) a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in Tokyo to widen their partnership in international development.

The MOU was signed by Mr. Aly Nazerali, the Aga Khan Foundation's CEO and AKDN's Senior Advisor on Policy and Institutional Relations, and Mr. Masato Watanabe, Vice President of JICA. The two agencies would work together towards sustainable development and equitable growth, particularly in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and neighbouring countries, as well as Eastern and Western Africa.

April 12, 2012

- Prince Hussain, on behalf of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, [signed](#) a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Kenya's Ministry of State for National Heritage and Culture in Nairobi. The agreement was to collaborate in the rehabilitation and restoration of the Nairobi City Park to international standards in terms of architecture, landscape, and horticulture.



Prince Hussain, Prof Karega Mutahi, Permanent Secretary, Office of the Deputy Prime minister and Minister for Local Government, and Dr Jacob Ole Miaron PhD, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of State for Heritage and Culture, signing the MoU. Photo: AKDN/Aziz Islamshah

May 9, 2012

- Prince Ayn, Director of Director of the Aga Khan Foundation, [signed](#) an agreement with the Patriarchate of Lisbon to renew a partnership agreement to improve the quality of life of marginalized groups in Greater Lisbon. The agreement was to be implemented through the Urban Community Support Programme, an initiative of the Aga Khan Foundation, Portugal.



His Eminence Dom José Policarpo, and Prince Ayn sign the renewed partnership agreement between the Patriarchate of Lisbon and the Aga Khan Foundation as the Portuguese Minister of Solidarity and Social Security, Pedro Mota Soares and the AKDN Resident Representative for Portugal, Nazim Ahmad look on. Photo: AKDN

“The renewal of this partnership agreement represents yet another milestone in the long-standing relationship that the AKF and Aga Khan Development Network and indeed the Ismaili Imamats have enjoyed with the Patriarchate of Lisbon. In determining the best way to alleviate social exclusion, we found that providing training and increasing the beneficiaries’ ability to help themselves is crucial in allowing those on the margins of society to break the vicious circle of poverty.”

Prince Ayn

[Speech](#)

May 16, 2012

- The Aga Khan Music Initiative (AKMI) and the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) [signed](#) a five-year collaboration agreement to provide education and training to a new generation of cultural development specialists. The programme will focus on building expertise in the music and cultures of the Middle East and North Africa, Central Asia and South Asia, regions of interest to AKMI and SOAS.

AKMI is an interregional music and arts education program with worldwide performance, outreach, mentoring, and artistic production activities. The Initiative was launched by Mawlana Hazar Imam to support talented musicians and music educators working to preserve, transmit, and further develop their musical heritage in contemporary forms.

Music Initiative began its work in Central Asia, subsequently expanding its cultural development activities to include artistic communities and audiences in the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia. AKMI designs and implements a country-specific set of activities for each country into which it invests and works to promote revitalization of cultural heritage both as a source of livelihood for musicians and as a means to strengthen pluralism in nations where it is challenged by social, political, and economic constraints.

[AKDN](#)

May 29, 2012

- The Smithsonian Folkways and the Aga Khan Music Initiative [celebrated](#) the tenth and final release of their award-winning "Music of Central Asia" series, a groundbreaking CD/DVD set titled *Borderlands: Wu Man and Master Musicians from the Silk Route*.

July 19, 2012

- In Singapore, Prince Ayn and Dr. Yaacob Ibrahim, Singapore's Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts, [opened](#) the exhibition [Treasures of the Aga Khan Museum: Architecture in the Islamic World](#). The exhibition ran from July 19 to October 28, 2012.



Dr. Yaacob Ibrahim, Singapore's Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts, and Prince Ayn, arriving at the inauguration ceremony at the Asian Civilisations Museum in Singapore. Photo: AKDN/Alex Moi

July 20, 2012

- A [two-day seminar](#) of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture on planning practices was held at the Urban Redevelopment Centre in Singapore.

The seminar was a collaboration of the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Singapore, the National University of Singapore, the Harvard University Graduate School of Design and the Aga Khan Award for Architecture. The event was part of a programme of seminars that takes place during the three-year cycles of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture. The Award is given to projects that set new standards of excellence in architecture, planning practices, historic preservation and landscape architecture.

[AKDN](#)

August 23, 2012

- The Council of Europe [awarded](#) its "Cultural Event" label to the Aga Khan Music Initiative, a programme of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture in London, UK. The Award was given in recognition of the series of master classes, presentations, and concerts that the Music Initiative has offered through its "Performance, Creation and Outreach" programme.

The Council of Europe "Cultural Event" (CECEL) label recognises exceptional and innovative cultural and artistic projects, which convey strong messages related to the Council of Europe's mission and values and address key challenges of the European societies of today. Four other projects also received the award.

The CECEL is awarded every calendar year to a small number of outstanding projects. The selection committee chooses the projects to be awarded on the basis of artistic value, relevance to the concerns of contemporary European societies and the Council of Europe's mission and values, innovative approach, diversity of audiences and means of expression, geographical scope, etc.

[AKDN](#)

September 14, 2012

- The 3.5MW Nyagak I hydropower station in Paidha, Zombo District in Uganda was [inaugurated](#) by His Excellency President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni of Uganda and Mahmood Ahmed, AKDN Representative in Uganda. The occasion officially marked the onset of 24-hour electricity supply for the people of the West Nile sub-region.

Developed by the West Nile Rural Electrification Company Ltd. (WENRECo) with the financial support of the World Bank and the German Government through its development bank, KfW, the Nyagak I hydropower plant will be the principal source of power generation, substantially replacing thermal generation.

WENRECo, a subsidiary of Industrial Promotion Services (IPS), was awarded a 20-year license to generate and provide electricity in the West Nile region in April 2003. IPS is the infrastructure and industrial development arm of the Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development, an agency of the Aga Khan Development Network.

[AKDN](#)

October 12-13, 2012

- A [seminar](#) of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture was held at the Ismaili Centre Dushanbe, in cooperation with the Union of Architects of Tajikistan. The discussion focused on the state of architecture in a number of Commonwealth of Independent States.

January 10, 2013

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for a ten-year conservation and landscape restoration project at the Quli Qutb Shah Tomb complex in Hyderabad, India, was [signed](#) by the Andhra Pradesh State Department of Archaeology and Museums, the Quli Qutb Shah Urban Development Authority and the Aga Khan Trust for Culture and Aga Khan Foundation.

The MoU was signed in the presence of Luis Monreal, General Manager of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture; Gulam Rahimtoola, Vice Chairman of the Aga Khan Foundation, and various government officials.

April 2, 2013

- Musicians from the Silk Route performing with the Aga Khan Music Initiative [presented](#) a specially created concert programme in the Senate Room of the Portuguese Parliament, in Lisbon, as part of the Nowruz celebration.



AKDN / Luis Saraiva

April 18, 2013

- The [foundation ceremony](#) of the Bamyan Provincial Hospital (BPH) was held in Kabul, Afghanistan. The new building is a project of the Aga Khan Health Services supported by Canada. The ceremony was attended by government officials as well as representatives of AKDN: H.E. Nurjehan Mawani, Diplomatic Representative of the Aga Khan Development Network to Afghanistan; and Dr. Gijs Walraven, Director of Health for AKDN; representatives of the Bamyan provincial government and municipality; agencies working in Afghanistan, as well as staff of the current BPH and members of the local community.

The BPH offered an additional 86 beds for pediatric, obstetric and gynecologic care in a region where women's access to healthcare has been severely limited. It was constructed by the Aga Khan Planning and Building Services on land allocated by the Bamyan Municipality at the Mullah Ghulam site. It will be managed by Aga Khan Health Service of Afghanistan. [AKDN](#)

May 2, 2013

- The newly-constructed power transmission line bringing electricity from Tajikistan to Afghanistan was [inaugurated](#) in Khorog. The PamirEnergy Company, a project company of the Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development – the operator of the hydroelectric power plant – began exporting surplus energy from the cross-border regions of Tajik Ishkashim into Afghan Ishkashim.

Funded by the Government of Norway through the Aga Khan Foundation – with a \$2.8 million grant to PamirEnergy in 2011– the newly installed power line not only improved electricity supply capacity within Ishkashim-Tajikistan but supplied electricity to over 800 households, healthcare facilities, schools, and government offices in Sultoni Ishkashim, Afghanistan.

The project also represents the first time that any utility company has undertaken a 110 kV line construction across the mountainous regions of Tajik and Afghan Badakhshan. Norwegian support for these initiatives reflect its expertise and experience in energy and its wider support for improved cooperation between Tajikistan and Afghanistan in the cross-border area.

In 2008, PamirEnergy opened its first transmission line between Tajikistan and Afghanistan, exporting surplus power in the summer months from Tajikistan to Shugnan, Afghanistan. To date, 2,350 households (18,864 people) in the Afghan districts of Shugnan, Ishkashim and Nusai have received low-cost electricity 24 hours a day. At the same time, the quality and reliability of electricity in GBAO has also been improved through these investments. [AKDN](#)

June 20, 2013

- The National Zoo of Mali was [inaugurated](#) after 24 months of rehabilitation and expansion undertaken through a non-profit public-private partnership led by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture. The Zoo also functions as a tool for research, knowledge preservation, and the conservation of animal species. Special attention has been given to the care of endangered African species in a bid to safeguard the genetic heritage of wild species.

July 3, 2013

- The Aga Khan Music Initiative and the Montreux Jazz Foundation 2 [announced](#) a new partnership. Both organizations joined efforts to curate and present concerts, workshops, and master classes within the framework of the Montreux Jazz Festival.

The Montreux Jazz Festival is a music festival in Switzerland, held annually in early July in Montreux on the Lake Geneva shoreline. It is the second largest annual jazz festival in the world after Canada's Montreal International Jazz.

MontreauxJazzLive.com

July 30, 2013

- Qurban Bibi, a client of The First MicroFinanceBank (an institution of the Aga Khan Agency for Microfinance) in Pakistan, won the “[Best National Micro-Entrepreneur Award Female](#)” at the Citi-PPAF Micro-entrepreneurship Awards presented in Islamabad.



Photo: AKDN/FMFB Pakistan

Since the start of its operations in March 2002 as the first microfinance bank in Pakistan, FMFB Pakistan has reached out to millions of vulnerable people all across Pakistan by offering credit, savings and life insurance services to facilitate sustainable economic development.

[AKDN](#)

October 25, 2013

- Serena Hotels [received 6 awards](#), including “Africa’s leading Hotel Brand,” at the 20th edition of the World Travel Awards in Nairobi, Kenya.

Serena hotels also won

- Leading Eco Hotel of the Year 2013 - for the Amboseli Serena Safari Lodge
- Rwanda’s Leading Hotel 2013 - for the Kigali Serena (an award it also won last year)
- Kenya’s Leading Business Hotel 2013 - for the Nairobi Serena Hotel
- Uganda’s Leading Hotel 2013 - for Kampala Serena Hotel;
- Tanzania’s Leading Hotel 2013 - for the Dar es Salaam Serena Hotel

Serena Hotels are part of the Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development (AKFED), which makes bold but calculated investments as a way of stimulating further investment and development.

Beginning in the 1970s with four hotels, it has gone on to pioneer culturally and environmentally appropriate tourism in parts of the world that have often lacked sufficient foreign direct investment.

It currently operates 35 hotels, lodges and tented camps in Africa (Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Mozambique and Rwanda) and Asia (Afghanistan, Pakistan and Tajikistan).

[AKDN](#)



Amboseli Serena Safari Lodge, which won the 2013 "Leading Eco Hotel of the Year" at the World Travel Awards. AKDN

November 8, 2013

- A new agricultural institute building was [inaugurated](#) in the Baharak district of Badakhshan Province. The project was financed by the German Federal Foreign Ministry and implemented by the KfW Development Bank and its partner, the Aga Khan Foundation. It is the first such institute in the Badakhshan district.

November 20, 2013

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was [signed](#) by Rt. Honorable Mr. Lim Guan Eng, Chief Minister of the State of Penang, the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC) and Think City Sdn. Berhad (Think City) to provide technical assistance for the protection, development and enhancement of Penang's historic George Town, declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2008.

Think City Sdn Bhd is a special project vehicle established by Khazanah Nasional Berhad, the investment holding arm of the Government of Malaysia. Think City, which is a 100% owned subsidiary of Khazanah, is tasked with the urban regeneration of Malaysian cities with its pilot programme in George Town. Think City is managing the George Town Grants Programme (GTGP) that was launched in 2009. Through the GTGP, Think City continues to support non-governmental organisations and local communities having committed a total of RM 16.6 million (USD 5.2 million) including 205 projects involving building conservation, community-led shared spaces and cultural mapping projects; as well as technical assistance & capacity building programmes.
[AKDN](#)

December 9, 2013

- Serena Hotels' staff, Aga Khan Foundation experts, volunteers from the Lions Clubs of Kenya, and local people [planted](#) 11,000 trees as part of a civil society initiative contributing to the Government of Kenya's goal of 10 percent forest cover by 2030. Serena Hotels and the Aga Khan Foundation provided the seedlings while volunteers provided the labour. It is an arrangement that has resulted in the planting of 7 million trees as of November 2013.

The programmes are a continuation of tree planting undertaken by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, the Aga Khan Foundation, the Nation Media Group, Serena Hotels, Industrial Promotion Services and the Coastal Rural Support Programme of AKF. The tree planting programmes of the Serena Hotels date back over 20 years.
[AKDN](#)

January 16, 2014

- Prince Rahim [presided](#) over the opening of the new corporate head office of Diamond Trust Bank, one of the oldest financial entities of the Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development. The premises were inaugurated by the governor of Kenya's central bank, Professor Njuguna S. Ndung'u. Prince Rahim was accompanied by his wife Princess Salwa.



Prince Rahim Aga Khan speaks with staff of the Diamond Trust Bank. Photo: AKDN / Zahur Ramji

January 17, 2014

- Prince Rahim [inaugurated](#) the newly restored Jubilee Arcade in Mombasa, Kenya. The building, which first housed the Jubilee Insurance company over 60 years ago, now includes a modern arcade shopping and office complex situated in the heart of the city's Moi Avenue. Prince Rahim and Princess Salwa also visited the Aga Khan Academy.

[The Diamond Trust Bank](#) (DTB) was established in 1945 as part of Mawlana Sultan Muhammad Shah's Diamond Jubilee. The Bank has provided the Jamat and the wider East African population with access to savings, credit, and other financial services for over 70 years. DTB is listed on the Nairobi Stock Exchange and headquartered in Nairobi Kenya.

[Jubilee Insurance](#), established in 1937, was an initiative of Mawlana Sultan Mahomed Shah's Golden Jubilee where he matched funds donated by the Ismaili community. The company acquired premises in 1949 and constructed the Jubilee Insurance Building, which was opened by then Governor of Kenya, Sir Philip Mitchell, on September 10, 1951. The company expanded to Zanzibar and to Nairobi. In 1948, Jubilee Insurance went public.

The Ismaili Canada, Summer 2014

January 27, 2014

- Princess Zahra and Dr Seif Seleman Rashid, Tanzania’s Minister for Health and Social Welfare, launched the new Oncology Programme at the Aga Khan Hospital, Dar es Salaam, as part of the second phase of its expansion designed to cover cardiac and other medical specialties.



Princess Zahra Aga Khan meeting Ms Wema Obillo a registered nurse at the Oncology Department at Aga Khan Hospital Tanzania. Photo: AKDN

The Hospital’s expansion was the largest ever carried out by the Aga Khan Health Services since its opening in 1964 and the single largest private sector investment in health care in Tanzania

“Our objective is to create a true integrated system that provides access to quality affordable health care.”

Princess Zahra

[Speech](#)

May 5, 2014

- In Bamako, the Aga Khan Music Initiative (AKMI) [launched](#) a new partnership with the National Museum of Mali, aiming to re-establish the “Jeudis Musicaux,” a weekly concert programme at the National Museum, located in the National Park of Mali.

AKMI’s mandate is to support traditional and tradition-inspired contemporary music where it may be at risk. Launched by Mawlana Hazar Imam to support talented musicians and music educators working to preserve, transmit, and further develop their musical heritage in contemporary forms, the Music Initiative began its work in Central Asia, and subsequently expanded its cultural development activities to include artistic communities and audiences in the Middle East and North Africa, South Asia, and West Africa.

The Initiative designs and implements a country-specific set of activities for each country into which it invests, and works to promote revitalisation of cultural heritage both as a source of livelihood for musicians and as a means to strengthen pluralism in nations where it is challenged by social, political, and economic constraints.

[AKDN](#)

May 9, 2014

- Princess Zahra, head of AKDN's Social Welfare department, [presided over](#) the signing of an agreement between AKDN and the French Development Agency in Gouvieux, France, to expand the Health Services in Tanzania. The agreement was signed by the Agence Française de Développement's deputy Chief Executive Officer, Jacques Moineville, and Amin Habib, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Aga Khan Health Services in Tanzania.

The agreement covered the construction of a new 14,000 square metre facility to accommodate cardiology, oncology, neurosciences, critical care, mother and child health, nuclear medicine and imaging services. It also encompassed the establishment of 30 outreach centres across Tanzania to provide free monitoring, immunization and family planning services.

- Established in 1964, Aga Khan Hospital, Dar es Salaam is a private, not-for-profit institution that provides primary, secondary and tertiary level health care services in Tanzania. In 2003, the Hospital was awarded the ISO 9001: 2000 (International Standardisation Organisation) certificate. This certification is awarded only when a hospital's clinical, diagnostic, administrative, and support services conform to the ISO standards.
- The Hospital is part of the Aga Khan Development Network's Health System in eight countries, which provides community health programmes covering over 200 health facilities, including 12 hospitals. In Tanzania, the Network operates one hospital and six medical centres.
- The Hospital provides general medical services, specialist clinics and state of the art diagnostic services. It is also part of the Aga Khan Health Services international referral system, with links to the Aga Khan University Hospital, Nairobi and the Aga Khan University Hospital, Karachi.
- The Agence Française de Développement is a public development finance institution that has been working to fight poverty and foster economic growth in developing countries and the French Overseas Provinces for seventy years. It executes the policy defined by the French Government.

[AKDN](#)

June 6, 2014

- Princess Zahra [attended](#) the Silver Jubilee commemoration of the Aga Khan School, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The ceremony was attended by students and teachers of the school as well as officials of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) and the Ismaili Council



Princess Zahra cuts the cake to celebrate the silver jubilee of Aga Khan School. Photo: Dhaka Tribune

During her visit to the school, Princess Zahra visited the classrooms, laboratories and other facilities where she spoke with the students, teachers and the authorities about the importance of education and upcoming developments

- Later in the day, Princess Zahra met the AKDN leaders in Bangladesh at the Ismaili Jamatkhana and Centre, Dhaka to discuss their work. In the evening, Princess Zahra addressed the youth of the Ismaili community and attended a dinner with the Bangladeshi Ismaili leadership.
[Dhaka Tribune](#)

August 4, 2014

- The exhibition *Building for a Better Life* [opened](#) at the Union of International Architects' World Congress in Durban, South Africa. The exhibition included a survey of programmes of the AKDN that seek to have a positive impact on the built environment.

The exhibition included the winners of the 2013 Aga Khan Award for Architecture, which encompassed a bridge in Morocco and a hospital in the Sudan; several conservation programmes and public parks undertaken in the developing world by the Aga Khan Historic Cities Programme; and a preview of two projects in Toronto, Canada – the Aga Khan Museum, which was designed by UIA Gold Medal winner Fumihiko Maki, and the Ismaili Centre, designed by UIA Gold Medal winner Charles Correa, as well as the park between them, which was designed by Vladimir Djurovic.

[AKDN](#)

September 18, 2014

- The Aga Khan Museum opened to the public.

November 7, 2014

- A [seminar](#) of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture (AKAA) was hosted by the Aga Khan University in Karachi, Pakistan. Architects, urban planners and academics from around the world gathered to discuss the latest AKAA recipients.

November 14, 2014

- The Aga Khan Academy, Mombasa was [selected](#) by the Microsoft Corporation to be a Showcase School in recognition of excellence in transforming its learning environment to deliver more personalised education to students, and using mobile and cloud technology to better prepare students for success in the workplace.



Aga Khan Academy, Mombasa. Photo: Gary Otte/AKDN

As a Showcase School, the Academy would work closely with Microsoft to lead innovation in education and communicate a vision for education enabled by technology through the hosting and mentoring of other schools in the community on transformational educational practices

This elite status is given to only 150 schools worldwide and the Academy is the only school in Eastern Africa and one of two schools in Sub Saharan Africa to be selected.
[AKDN](#)

December 10, 2014

- Prince Ayn, Chairman of the Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development's (AKFED) Executive Committee, [presided over](#) the signing of an agreement between European Development Finance Institutions to partner with AKDN to improve quality of life in developing countries.



Officials from the three development financial institutions pose for a photograph with those from AKFED following the signing ceremony. Photo: AKDN

Three major European Development Finance Institutions (DFI) - Société de Promotion et de Participation pour la Coopération économique (PROPARCO) (of France), FMO (The Netherlands Development Finance Company) and (Deutsche Investitions- und Entwicklungsgesellschaft mbH of Germany) - signed the 12-year loan facility of USD 189m with the AKFED for further development in Africa, the Middle East and South and Central Asia. This is the first time that such a collaborative venture has been set up by these DFI's and a private development corporation.

The loan funded projects in sectors such as finance, infrastructure, industry, tourism, and aviation, thereby increasing revenues, employment, and access to essential services for the peoples of these areas, thus improving their quality of life.

[AKDN](#)

- PROPARCO is a Development Finance Institution jointly held by Agence Française de Développement and public and private shareholders from the North and South. Its mission is to catalyze private investment in emerging and developing countries with the aim of supporting growth, sustainable development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.
- FMO (the Netherlands Development Finance Company) is the Dutch development bank. FMO supports sustainable private sector growth in developing and emerging markets by investing in ambitious entrepreneurs.
- DEG, a subsidiary of KfW, is one of the largest European development finance institutions. DEG invests in profitable projects that contribute to sustainable development in all sectors of the economy, from agribusiness to infrastructure and manufacturing to services.

[AKDN](#)

January 21, 2015

- Aga Khan Foundation [supported](#) several sessions at the week-long ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival including a musical performance on opening night by the Alim Qasimov Ensemble, presented in collaboration with the Aga Khan Music Initiative (AKMI). This performance marked the launch of a long-term collaboration between the Festival and AKMI, which will bring artists from the Initiative's programmes across the world to Jaipur each year.
- The Om Habibeh Foundation (OHF) in Aswan, [signed](#) an Agreement with Aswan University to further develop the institutional relationship with the two organisations, specifically around the strengthening of the quality of education at the Faculty of Nursing, and the improvement of employability skills of Aswan University Students. As part of the Agreement, OHF offers English courses for 3,000 Aswan University students from various faculties to improve their chances of gaining employment after graduation.



Children play between classes at one of the schools supported by the Aga Khan Foundation in Aswan, Egypt. Photo: AKF / Jean-Luc Ray

March 10, 2015

- The Aga Khan Rural Support Programme was [awarded](#) the Times of India Social Impact Award 2015, in the NGO environment category, for its effort in ensuring access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation in Bihar and Gujarat. AKRSP was a joint winner with the Jal Bhagirathi Foundation, which is involved in water rejuvenation through community interventions.

April 18, 2015

- The restoration of the 11-acre Batashewala complex was [marked](#) in the presence of Shri Ravindra Singh, Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Government of India and Mr Michael Pelletier, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of the United States of America. The restoration was undertaken by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture in collaboration with the Archaeological Survey of India with a grant from the U.S Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation.

The complex encompasses three sixteenth-century garden-tombs, including the tomb of Mirza Muzaffar Hussain, grand-nephew of Emperor Humayun and son-in-law of Emperor Akbar. The conservation effort was begun by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture in 2011.

[AKDN](#)

June 16, 2015

- The restoration of the Tarabay al-Sherif Complex, built in 1503, and 1.5 kilometres of the historic twelfth-century Ayyubid wall were [inaugurated](#) by the Minister of Antiquities, Mamdouh El Damaty, the Governor of Cairo, Galal Said, and Luis Monreal, General Manager of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC).



An aerial view of Azhar Park in Cairo, with the restored Ayyubid wall forming the boundary (on left) of the Park. The Tarabay al-Sherif complex lies just outside the Ayyubid wall. Photo: AKTC/Gary Otte

Both projects were part of the urban regeneration programme undertaken by AKTC with the support of the Egyptian government, the Governorate of Cairo, the Supreme Council of Antiquities, and other partners.

June 30, 2015

- Prince Rahim and President Alassane Ouattara of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire [inaugurated](#) Phase 3 of the 430 MW combined-cycle gas turbine Azito Energie power plant in Abidjan. [Azito Energie](#) is an initiative of Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development.

July 7, 2015

- Canada's Seneca College and the University of Central Asia [signed](#) a partnership agreement in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic

"This partnership with Seneca College represents a critical step forward in the delivery of UCA's undergraduate curriculum, as well as in faculty development, in advance of our first campus opening in 2016."

Shamsh Kassim-Lakha

The agreement was signed by Mr Shamsh Kassim-Lakha, Executive Chairman of the UCA Board Executive Committee, and Mr David Agnew, President of Seneca College at a ceremony at UCA's Central Administration Office in Bishkek. Also in attendance were UCA Director General and Dean of Graduate Studies, Dr Bohdan Krawchenko, Dr Ariff Kachra, Dean of Academic Affairs and Seneca College faculty who have already begun working sessions with UCA staff.

[AKDN](#)

August 8, 2015

- Archaeologists [excavated](#) remnants of a sixteenth-century palace and a tunnel in the vicinity of Golconda Fort and Qutb Shahi tombs. Under an US-sponsored project taken up in partnership with Aga Khan Trust for Culture, the excavations unearthed the buried vestiges of ‘summer palace,’ an accommodation block meant for maintenance staff of Qutb Shahi rulers. The archaeologists working on the project dated the excavated site back more than 400 years.

August 27, 2015

- The Aga Khan Foundation in partnership with a Canadian NGO, the Institute for Rural Education and Development, [commissioned](#) three newly-built Early Childhood Development Centres in Arua and Koboko districts in Uganda.

September 12, 2015

- The Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development (AKFED) and BRAC signed an agreement in Dhaka, Bangladesh, to allow BRAC to acquire a lead equity stake in Industrial Promotion Development Company of Bangladesh Limited (IPDC).

IPDC was the first private sector financial institution of the country. It was established in 1981 by a distinguished group of shareholders, namely International Finance Corporation (IFC), USA, German Investment and Development Company (DEG), Germany, AKFED, Switzerland, Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC), UK and the Government of Bangladesh. Since its inception, IPDC has played a pivotal and pioneering role in reshaping the private sector industrialization of the country through innovative financial products and services.

[AKDN](#)

September 23, 2015

- Sixty-one students were [awarded](#) the General Nursing Diploma at a graduation ceremony in Faizabad, Badakhshan.

The ceremony marked a milestone: the graduation of the first class of nurses from a programme run in Faizabad and managed by the Badakhshan Provincial Public Health Directorate and Badakhshan Institute of Health Sciences, with technical support and advice from the Aga Khan University’s Programmes in Afghanistan.

[AKDN](#)



October 3, 2015

- Madrasa Childhood Development Institute held its first ever graduation, with 188 people graduating with certificates in early childhood development and childhood care in Kampala, Uganda.

AKDN [Video](#)

From the Arabic word *darasa*, which means 'to study,' a madrasa is basically a place to study, similar to the English word 'school.' Many of the earliest madrasas were comparable to today's colleges.

During Mawlana Hazar Imam's visit to East Africa in 1982, leaders of the Muslim community in Mombasa, Kenya, requested him to help them address their concerns about their children's education. Muslim children were being marginalized due to their lack of access to primary schooling.

In 1986, after five years of planning and consultation with the various stakeholders, the first Madrasa Pre-school opened in the Liwatoni Mosque in Mombasa. The second centre opened in Zanzibar in 1990, and the third, in Kampala, Uganda in 1993. Given the diversity of the Muslim Ummah in the three countries, as well as across the world, the Madrasa Programme clarified it would not promote any one interpretation of Islam over another, but promotes "a secular, integrated curriculum based on the universal ethics and values of Islam and local cultural traditions." The programme is open to girls and boys of all faiths.

During the initial years, Aga Khan Foundation was the only source of funding for the Programme. Subsequently, other agencies including the Canadian International Development Agency, UNICEF in Kenya, the World Bank, among others began to support the Programme. The Madrasa Programme has "grown to include 203 pre-schools, with nearly 800 teachers, reaching some 30,000 households and serving more than 54,000 children."

Aga Khan Foundation marked the 25th anniversary of the Madrasa Early Childhood Development Programme on August 14, 2007 in Mombasa, in the presence of Mawlana Hazar Imam, founder and Chairman of the Aga Khan Development Network and Kenya's Minister for Science and Technology, Hon. Dr. Noah Wekesa.

[The Ismaili](#)

[The Madrasa Early Childhood Programme: 25 Years of Experience](#)

November 7, 2015

- The Badakhshan Ensemble [performed](#) at the Académie Diplomatique Internationale in Paris, France. The event was organised by the Ismaili Council for France in conjunction with the Aga Khan Music Initiative.



The Badakhshan Ensemble is supported by the Aga Khan Music Initiative, a programme of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture. The Music Initiative aims to preserve the musical heritage of Central Asia by seeking out talented artists like those belonging to the Ensemble and promoting their work worldwide, as well as through educational programming

November 27, 2015

- Aga Khan University [opened](#) the Centre for Innovation in Medical Education (CIME). The centre with a range of patient manikins uses modern methods and realistic environments for intensive training to produce health professionals with excellent assessment and treatment techniques. Its opening ceremony drew acclaim from local educators and media.

“CIME represents an investment in academic excellence at AKU. The Centre ensures that we are a model of innovation in the education we impart and the outstanding clinical training we offer to graduate doctors, nurses and allied health professionals that are world class.”

Firoz Rasul, President of Aga Khan University



December 3, 2015

- Prince Aryn [presented](#) his credentials to the government of Bangladesh as Mawlana Hazar Imam's personal representative.

During the three-day visit, he also toured the Ismaili Jamatkhana and Centre, Dhaka and met with Jamati and AKDN leaders.



Prince Aryn with Foreign Minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali.
Photo: AKDN

- In his first official capacity as personal Representative, Prince Aryn [received](#) His Excellency Mohammed Shahriar Alam, State Minister for Foreign Affairs and High Representative of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, at the newly-established AKDN Diplomatic Office in Dhaka. Minister Alam participated in the inaugural reception of the Diplomatic Office, which was attended by a number of ambassadors, development partners and AKDN and Jamati institutional leaders. The Foreign Minister Mahmood Ali hosted a dinner in honour of Prince Aryn.

December 9, 2015

- Mrs. Nurjehan Mawani, Diplomatic Representative of Mawlana Hazar Imam to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, delivered a Statement at the Fifth Ministerial Conference Heart of Asia-Istanbul process in Islamabad, Pakistan.
[Mrs. Mawani's speech.](#)

The main goal of the Istanbul Process is to promote enduring peace and stability in Afghanistan. The "Heart of Asia" process has 14 member countries, including China, Russia, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and India. The process has also been supported by 17 other countries, including the United States and the United Kingdom, and 11 regional and international organizations such as the United Nations, NATO and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

[Heart of Asia](#)

December 21, 2015

- Aga Khan University Hospital in Nairobi became the first in East Africa to offer a less invasive [procedure](#) to treat brain injury, which has been used in developed countries since 1991.

January 6, 2016

- The members of the Master Jury of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture were [announced](#) in Geneva, Switzerland.

January 7, 2016

- Aga Khan University [received](#) a grant to study hypertension in Pakistan.

January 21-25, 2016

- Aga Khan Foundation [sponsored](#) several sessions at the ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival including a musical performance on opening night by the Alim Qasimov Ensemble, presented in collaboration with the Aga Khan Music Initiative.

The Ensemble's music performances featured a repertoire of music that flourished in the great cultural centres of North Africa, the Middle East, West Asia, and Central Asia beginning more than a millennium ago.

The ZEE [Jaipur Literature Festival](#) is the world's largest free literary festival, celebrating national and international writers, and encompassing a range of interests including film, music and theatre.
[India Education Diary](#)

"I am a huge fan of the remarkable work done by the Aga Khan Foundation and am delighted that we've been able to bring them on board at Jaipur."

William Dalrymple,
Co-director, ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival
[India, Education Diary](#)

"The Aga Khan Foundation began working in India in 1978, building on a century of development activities by other Aga Khan institutions. Our mandate is to empower and transform marginalised communities and improve quality of life. Since establishment, we have forged long-term partnerships with over 2,500 villages and urban settlements in six states. Annually, we work with some three million people to build community institutions; support women's empowerment through savings and self-help groups; improve agriculture, land and water conservation; and promote health, hygiene, and sanitation...In 20 countries, the Aga Khan Foundation is addressing the needs of those who have been left behind and are still striving to feed their families, educate their children, and improve their lives."

Matt T. Reed, CEO, Aga Khan Foundation India
[AKDN Press Release](#)

January 29, 2016

- The Aga Khan University Medical College's Class of 1999 donated US\$350,000 for an endowment fund for child care to enable Aga Khan University Hospital to provide financial assistance and support to needy children from semi-urban and rural communities in Pakistan.

At the gift signing agreement ceremony AKU President Firoz Rasul said that the gift comes at a particularly fitting time in the University's history.

"We have the medical professionals and facilities that allow us to treat premature babies, infants and children with very complex health problems. This contribution to our endowment will help us in treating the sickest and most fragile babies in our Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, the only one of its kind in Pakistan."

Firoz Rasul, President of Aga Khan University

[Aga Khan University Newsletter](#)

February 6, 2016

- Aga Khan University's [Convocation in Kampala](#), Uganda.

February 11, 2016

- United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon was the [guest of honour](#) at a private luncheon at the Delegation of the Ismaili Imam.

Co-hosted by John McNee, Secretary-General of the Global Centre for Pluralism, and Dr Mahmoud Eboo, Aga Khan Development Network Resident Representative for Canada, the luncheon was also attended by Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Stéphane Dion and the Minister of International Development and La Francophonie, Marie-Claude Bibeau.



UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon with AKDN Representative Dr Mahmoud Eboo, Global Centre for Pluralism Secretary-General John McNee, and Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs Stéphane Dion, at the Delegation of the Ismaili Imam in Ottawa. Photo: AKDN/Safiq Devji

March 13, 2016

- Prince Amyn was [conferred](#) the title of *Academic honor Albertina* by the Albertina Academy of Fine Arts in Turin, Italy.

March 16, 2016

- Prince Ayn [formalised a donation](#) by the Aga Khan Foundation to the *Museu Nacional de Arte Antiga* (National Museum of Ancient Art). The €200,000 contribution supports a campaign to acquire the painting *Adoration of the Magi* (1828) by Domingos Sequeira, who is considered one of the best Portuguese artists of his time.



Prince Ayn and Museum Director António Filipe Pimentel discuss Sequeira's "Adoration of the Magi." The Aga Khan Foundation is supporting the Museum's campaign to acquire the national treasure. Photo: The Ismaili/ José Caria

"We decided that the Aga Khan Foundation should answer the call and should make a significant contribution... "Culture is a dialogue between civilisations, between aesthetics, carried across the globe frequently by commerce, but even by conquest," observed Prince Ayn...It binds us together across time and place, reminding us that we all come from the same place, the heart."

Prince Ayn

[The Ismaili](#)

Born in Lisbon in 1768, Domingos António de Sequeira was appointed first court painter at the Royal Court of King John VI of Portugal in 1802. His *Adoration of the Magi* depicts the Christian tradition in which magi (wise men) of the East come to pay homage to the newborn baby Jesus — whom Muslims know as Hazrat Isa, a Prophet and Messenger of Allah — offering him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. It was recognised early on as a masterpiece, and is described as a visionary work that bears the signature style of the artist. [The Ismaili](#)

March 31, 2016

- Aga Khan University [opened](#) the new home of its School of Nursing and Midwifery in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, at Salama House.

The Salama House project was funded as part of a grant to AKU from the Federal Republic of Germany to improve health in East Africa by providing nurses and midwives with high-quality education and training. The grant included funding to enable more students to attend AKU and helped the University to develop the curriculum for its planned post-RM Bachelor of Science in Midwifery. [AKDN](#)

April 14, 2016

- A two-day [conference](#) titled *Smart Global Development* was held at the Delegation of the Ismaili Imam in Ottawa, to raise the profile of higher education on the global development agenda. His Excellency David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, delivered the opening keynote address.

“Universities and institutes of higher education are ideally positioned to contribute to sustainable development, because they’re hubs of innovation and creativity,” said His Excellency David Johnston, Governor General of Canada in his address. He suggested that the conference deliberations be guided by themes of *“inclusivity, innovation and diplomacy.”*

[Governor General’s Speech](#)

Participants from more than 20 countries as well as representatives from more than a dozen Canadian universities were gathered for the conference — a joint presentation of the Aga Khan Foundation Canada, Academics Without Borders, and the International Development Research Centre, with financial support from Global Affairs Canada.

At the conference, the University of Central Asia (UCA) and Toronto’s Seneca College reaffirmed the commitment made in 2015 in which Seneca would develop UCA’s preparatory programme in English, mathematics and science. The preparatory courses will ensure that students entering the university’s undergraduate programmes at campuses in Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and Tajikistan will be equipped with the skills they need to succeed at the university level.

[The Ismaili](#)

April 15, 2016

- Prince Amyn [met](#) with President Uhuru Kenyatta in Nairobi to discuss on-going programmes of the Aga Khan Development Network in the country and the region.

April 26, 2016

- Residents of Kara-Kulja District [marked the opening](#) of the Kok-Jar-Sai bridge which provides access to one of the largest pastures in Osh Oblast – spanning over 90,000 hectares of pasture and benefitting 8,000 people. This grazing area had been inaccessible until now as the previous bridge was destroyed by heavy rains and mud flows. This new passage facilitates access to this pasture which is an important source of local livelihoods.

The bridge was constructed by the Mountain Societies Development Support Programme, an initiative of the Aga Khan Foundation, as part of a broader project funded by the Government of the United Kingdom. The Local Government of Kara-Kulja Ayil Aymak and Local Pasture Committee also contributed to the project by providing in-kind and financial support.

April 28, 2016

- Aga Khan University, Kenya's Ministry of Health and a group of partners [launched](#) the Kenya Countdown to 2015 Country Case Study in Nairobi, one of the most detailed analyses to date of Kenya's progress in reducing maternal and child deaths.



First Lady Margaret Kenyatta with Princess at Safari Park hotel, Nairobi, Kenya. Photo: AKDN/Aziz Islamshah.

The study provides policymakers, health care providers and the public with a roadmap that can guide efforts to accelerate improvements in maternal and child health and achieve the new targets in the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. The launch was attended by the First Lady of the Republic of Kenya, Her Excellency Margaret Kenyatta, and Princess Zahra.

"Kenya has a great opportunity today...A great opportunity to build a wonderful health system for Women and Children. To do so, as we heard, it will be essential to build an extensive system, which is an appropriate system, a hub-and-spoke system, a health system that focuses on the continuum of care from village-level provision of primary care to high quality sub-county and county hospitals and then on up to referral and teaching hospitals."

Princess Zahra

The [Kenya Countdown to 2015] study was a collaborative effort led by Aga Khan University and the SickKids Centre for Global Child Health of Toronto, Canada, with key contributions by experts from the Ministry of Health, the University of Nairobi and the FCI Program of Management Sciences for Health. Funding for the study and its dissemination was provided by the U.S. Fund for UNICEF and the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, through grants from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Government of Canada, respectively.

[AKDN](#)

May 11, 2106

- The Aga Khan Health Services (AKHS) [formally opened](#) its Medical and Diagnostic Centre in Naryn, Kyrgyz Republic.

The opening ceremony was attended by Mr. Amanbay Kayipov, Governor of Naryn Oblast, Mr. Rahat Adiev, Mayor of Naryn, Mr. Kuban Kundashev, Advisor to the Minister of Health of Kyrgyzstan and hosted by Shamsh Kassim-Lakha, AKDN Diplomatic Representative in Kyrgyzstan and Dr. Fatima Ali, Regional Chief Executive Officer, AKHS.



Photo: AKDN / Iskender Ermekov

May 14-15, 2016

- In Beirut, Lebanon and Tunis, Tunisia Aga Khan Music Initiative and Grammy nominee Bassekou Kouyaté from Mali teamed up to create “Garana Roots” – a music project that celebrates the heritage and centuries’-old music from Garana, historic region in the centre of Mali where Bassekou hails from.

The world premiere of “Bassekou Kouyaté & Garana Roots” was presented at the Spring Festival. A long-term co-presenting partner of AKMI, Spring Festival is a biennial event in North Africa and the Middle East. The first concert took place at the Sunflower Theatre in Beirut on Saturday, May 14 and then at the Hamra Theatre in Tunis on Sunday, May 15.

[AKDN](#)

May 21, 2016

- Aga Khan Foundation UK and Aga Khan Museum partnered with the Jaipur Literature Festival Southbank, Central London.

The [ZEE Jaipur Literature](#) Festival is the world’s largest FREE literary festival. On May 21, the Jaipur Literature Festival participated as part of the festival of South Asian Culture held in London, UK. The Aga Khan Foundation UK supported talks by Henry Kim, Director of the Aga Khan Museum, on *Princes and Painters in Mughal Delhi*.

[Ismailimail](#)

May 24, 2016

- Princess Zahra and Prince Rahim [inaugurated](#) a 50-bed medical centre that will serve as a healthcare hub for the surrounding region. They also visited other AKDN programmes and a Jamatkhana in the area. The new medical centre is equipped to provide high quality diagnostics and secondary healthcare services. It also serves as a digital link between clinics in outlying villages and connects them with state-of-the-art medical resources in Pakistan and around the world.



Princess Zahra and Prince Rahim unveil a plaque to mark the inauguration of the Aga Khan Medical Centre in Gilgit. Photo: Rizwan Jamil Jaffery/The Ismaili

- During their visit to Pakistan, Princess Zahra and Prince Rahim also [visited](#) the Diamond Jubilee High School in Rahimabad, the Aga Khan University's Professional Development Centre in Gilgit, and a Jamatkhana in Baladul Karim.

Completed in 2014, the Baladul Karim Jamatkhana uses a seismic resistant technology developed by the Aga Khan Agency for Habitat, and is situated on a site that is safe from natural hazards.



Princess Zahra visits with students in the Early Childhood Development programme at the Diamond Jubilee High School in Rahimabad. Photo: AKDN/Rafiq Hakim

Princess Zahra and Prince Rahim also met with Jamati and AKDN leaders to assess the needs of the Jamat and review the impact of the existing programmes.

The Aga Khan University's Professional Development Centre, North works with over 146 schools serving more than 76,000 students to improve the quality of instruction, management and administration. Over 15,000 teachers, head teachers, education managers, and district supervisory staff have benefitted, of which more than half are women. In an earthquake-prone region like Gilgit-Baltistan, Jamatkhana serve as safe shelters. All structures under the Jamatkhana development programme seismically resilient and designed to resist seismic forces for a higher than that defined by the Geological Survey of Pakistan.
[The Ismaili](#)

May 27, 2016

- Princess Zahra and Prince Rahim attended a [signing ceremony](#) to mark the coming together of HBL (Habib Bank Ltd) and First MicroFinanceBank Ltd.

Owned by the Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development, HBL is Pakistan's first commercial bank. The combination of the two financial institutions aims to better serve customers from all segments of Pakistani society.



Photo: Al-Jalil Ajani/The Ismaili

“For me and Princess Zahra, the main takeaway is that we’ve heard the word ‘optimism’ several times today, and I think that’s what I’m feeling now,” said Prince Rahim, speaking at a dinner hosted by the Ismaili Council for Pakistan on Wednesday evening. Noting that while there are challenges ahead, he said that these *“are not insurmountable — we have to look at them as opportunities and a chance to help people who are in need.”*

Prince Rahim
[The Ismaili](#)

May 27, 2016

- A [ceremony](#) to commemorate a new electricity transmission line was observed in Khorog, Tajikistan, by representatives from the US Embassy and the Aga Khan Foundation, who jointly funded the project, and Tajik and Afghan government officials. Villages in the Pamir mountains of Tajikistan and Afghanistan have been joined by an electricity transmission line that will bring power to 3,000 Afghans for the first time in their history.

June 29, 2016

- The U.S. Agency for International Development, the Aga Khan Foundation, and the Industrial Promotion Services of West Africa [announce](#) a groundbreaking and innovative public-private partnership that will promote telemedicine to help in the fight against HIV/AIDS. This project will work on prevention, care, and treatment for HIV patients using cutting-edge technology involving internet-connected computers.

Jubilee Games – July 22 to 29, 2016 in Dubai, UAE

July 23, 2016

- Prince Rahim participated in the opening ceremony held at the world Trade Centre.

“In the current times, I can think of no better way than this and of no better place than Dubai to promote the notion of bringing young minds from diverse backgrounds and different environments together in the spirit of friendship and peace.”

[Speech](#)



Prince Rahim presents Sheikh Nahyan with a memento of the 2016 Jubilee Games during the opening ceremony, as LIF Chairman Mahmoud Eboo looks on. Photo: The Ismaili / Aly Ramji



Prince Rahim Aga Khan participates in "the wave" with Ismaili Leaders' International Forum Chairman Mahmood Eboo, National Council President for the UAE, Amirudin Thanwala, and spectators during the Canada vs. Tajikistan Women's Volleyball game at the Jubilee Games UAE 2016. Photo: Perrvaiz Akhter/The Ismaili

July 23, 2016

- In Bamyan, Afghanistan, 45 women trained by the Aga Khan Health Services (AKHS) [graduated](#) from the two-year Community Midwifery Education programme in Bamyan. The training of these 45 community midwives supported by the Ministry of Public Health SEHAT project and the governments of Canada and France, respectively. The 45 women who took their oath of midwifery are part of a larger group of 177 midwives trained by AKHS in Bamyan.

July 24, 2016

- Aga Khan Hospital in Dar es Salaam was [awarded](#) Joint Commission International (JCI) accreditation, the gold standard in hospital accreditation. The Hospital is the first in Tanzania to achieve JCI accreditation. The accreditation means that the Aga Khan Hospital has achieved a level of quality and patient service that is equal to the best hospitals in the world.

July 29, 2016

- Focus Humanitarian Assistance (FOCUS), an affiliate of the Aga Khan Development Network, and the Swiss Cooperation Office in Tajikistan [signed](#) an agreement in Dushanbe to implement Phase II of a 36-month project to directly and indirectly enhance community disaster preparedness levels of approximately 50,000 people in Tajikistan.

The project is co-funded by the Swiss Government and implemented by FOCUS, the Mountain Societies Development Support Programme and Aga Khan Foundation, Tajikistan. The initiative will make communities more resilient to disasters, through enhanced risk assessment techniques, and will work with communities and local government on hazard risk management initiatives to protect against the adverse impact of natural disasters.

August 23, 2016

- Princess Zahra, Chair of the Aga Khan Health Services Board Executive Committee, Tanzania's Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Honourable Madam Umyy Ally Mwalimu [launched](#) Phase 2 construction of the Aga Khan Hospital Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.



Princess Zahra and, Honourable Madam Umyy Ally Mwalimu launching Phase 2 construction/ Photo: AKDN / Zahur Ramji

August 25, 2016

- Prince Aamyn [spoke](#) at the third [Edinburgh International Culture Summit](#), which brings together Culture Ministers, artists, thinkers and arts leaders from around the world to share ideas, expertise, and best practice with a view to inspiring positive change in cultural policy and investment.

September 1, 2016

- Gates Foundation [awarded](#) US\$25M to Aga Khan University (AKU) for Maternal/Child Health in Pakistan. AKU will work to prevent deaths of mothers and children in Pakistan under a five-year, US\$25 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, testing a variety of approaches in an effort to develop insights and evidence that can influence policy across the country and beyond its borders.
- The Conservation of the seventeenth-century Shahi Hammam in the Walled City of Lahore [received the Award of Merit](#) in UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation, announced in Bangkok.



Conserved interior of the Great Hall of the Shahi Hammam, showing excavated cold pool, restored fresco work, a visitor walkway and lighting and illumination. Photo: AKDN

The Aga Khan Cultural Service Pakistan, with financial support of the Royal Norwegian Embassy, and facilitation from the Walled City of Lahore Authority, carried out the conservation of the Mughal-era public bathhouse. The two-year project which was completed in 2015 is part of a successful public-private partnership between the Aga Khan Trust for Culture and the Government of Punjab. The primary objectives of the conservation effort were to re-establish the monument as a bathhouse through the exposure, conservation and display of the remains of the original waterworks, drainage and hypocaust system through archaeological excavation, structural consolidation and restoration of the historic floor levels.

[AKDN](#)

September 6, 2016

- Prince Rahim represented Mawlana Hazar Imam at the [opening ceremony](#) of the Second World Nomad Games (Sep 6-8), an international event that celebrates the cultural heritage of nomadic peoples throughout out the world. Attending at the invitation of His Excellency President Almazbek Atambayev, Prince Rahim led the Aga Khan Development Network delegation, which included Shamsh Kassim-Lakha, the Diplomatic Representative of the AKDN in the Kyrgyz Republic. Some 30 Delegates were also present, including heads of state, ministers and other high level dignitaries.



Prince Rahim led the AKDN delegation at the opening ceremony. Photo: AKDN

“I am delighted to be back in Kyrgyzstan to enjoy its stunning landscapes, traditions of hospitality and to meet old and new friends,”

Prince Rahim
[The Ismaili](#)

October 5, 2016

- The Ministry of Urban Development of the government of Afghanistan and the Aga Khan Trust for Culture [signed](#) a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the conservation and rehabilitation of Kabul’s key historic areas that will protect and enhance heritage assets of the capital city.

October 7, 2016

- Focus Humanitarian Assistance (FOCUS), an affiliate of the Aga Khan Development Network, [donated](#) 125 tents and 100 non-food item packages to the Governor of Takhar to support 750 internally displaced people in Kunduz, Afghanistan. The tents were mobilised from FOCUS’s stockpiles in Fayzabad, Badakhshan and funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance, under the FOCUS USAID Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction Programme.

October 13, 2016

- Egypt’s Ministry of Antiquities [signed](#) a Memorandum of Understanding with the Aga Khan Trust for Culture intended to broaden institutional engagements through joint ventures and exchange programmes in the field of museums and archaeology.

October 17, 2016

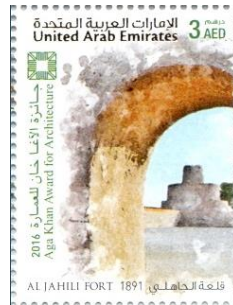
- The Aga Khan Early Learning Centre, Dubai, [achieved](#) the UK National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA) Level 3 accreditation. The accreditation recognizes the Aga Khan Early Learning Centre as an exemplary nursery and pre-school programme, based on international standards of quality and excellence in early childhood care and educational practice. This is the highest award given by the NDNA, and the Aga Khan Early Learning Centre is the first and only nursery to achieve this level of certification in the UAE.

October 27, 2016

- The [pluralism forum](#) was held at the Delegation of the Ismaili Imamat in Ottawa, Canada. The forum was titled *Pluralism and Peace in a Fragmenting World: What is Canada's Role?* Panelists discussed pluralism in peace-building and the opportunities for Canadian leadership.

November 6, 2016

- Emirates Philatelic Association issued a [commemorative stamp](#) in honour of Aga Khan Award for Architecture.



November 10, 2016

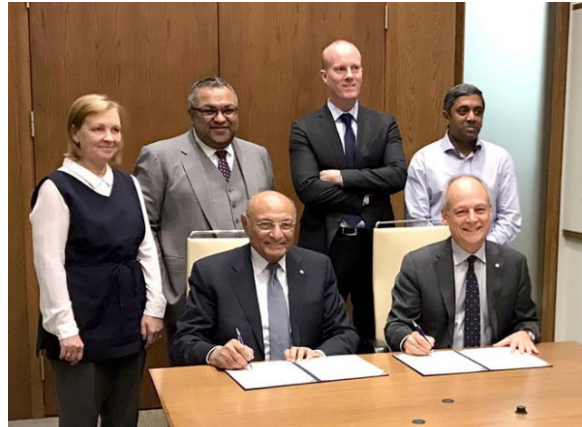
- In Nairobi, Kenya, Canada's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Stéphane Dion [signed](#) a Memorandum of Understanding with the Aga Khan Development Network for co-operation during emergencies, building on the longstanding relationship between Canada and the Aga Khan Foundation.
- The University of Central Asia [announced](#) an innovative research partnership with the Secretariat of the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Programme, Snow Leopard Trust and the Snow Leopard Foundation Kyrgyzstan to conserve fragile ecosystems and promote sustainable development in Central Asia's high mountain regions.

November 27, 2016

- Aga Khan Museum [won](#) the 2016 [Urban Vitality Award](#) from the Canadian Urban Institute for its architectural contribution to the City and outstanding relationship to Toronto's multicultural identity.

November 25, 2016

- University of Toronto (UofT) and the University of Central Asia (UCA) [signed](#) a Memorandum of Understanding in Toronto, Canada, to build linkages through curriculum and faculty development, faculty and student mobility, and joint research collaborations. The first initiative under this agreement will foresee UofT's Computer Science Department develop UCA's undergraduate Computer Science curriculum to be delivered at its recently launched campus in Naryn, Kyrgyz Republic.



Professor Meric S Gertler, President of UofT and Dr Shamsh Kassim-Lakha, Chairman, Board of Trustees of UCA, signed a Memorandum of Understanding to develop the Computer Science Curriculum for the UCA's undergraduate programme. Photo: UCA

January 12, 2017

- The Aga Khan Development Network and the Agence Française de Développement [signed](#) agreements in Nairobi, Kenya, for the improvement and expansion of the Aga Khan Hospitals in Kisumu and Mombasa. Under the agreement, the two Aga Khan Hospitals will strengthen existing services, expand diagnostics, and upgrade the quality of service delivery and facilities to international standards.



Aga Khan Hospital Kisumu. Photo: AKDN

January 20, 2017

- The Department of Emergency Management (formerly FOCUS) of the Aga Khan Agency for Habitat and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Small Grants and Ambassador's Fund Program [initiated](#) a project in Islamabad, Pakistan, *Creating Resilient Communities in Shimshal Valley, Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan*. The project, which aims to build resilience against the threat of glacial lake outburst flood events in Shimshal valley, will build the capacity of community members in Disaster Risk Reduction and Community-Based Disaster Risk Management.

February 14, 2017

- The University of Central Asia (UCA) and the National Research University's Higher School of Economics (HSE) [signed](#) an agreement in Moscow, Russia. HSE will develop the curriculum for UCA's undergraduate programme in Economics and contribute towards faculty development and research.

February 28, 2017

- The College of American Pathologists, an internationally recognised standard for clinical laboratories, [accredited](#) the Aga Khan University Hospital's Clinical Laboratories – the first laboratory in Pakistan. AKUH is the only teaching hospital in Pakistan that is accredited by the Joint Commission International, a gold standard in healthcare delivery.

March 11, 2017

- Afghanistan's first women doctors specializing in paediatric surgery and pathology are among the 14 doctors [awarded](#) certificates of specialization by Mr Firoz Rasul, President of Aga Khan University and Dr Najibullah Safi, Director General, Preventive Medicine, Ministry of Public Health. The three women, one in pathology and two in paediatric surgery are the first women fully trained in these specialties to practice in Afghanistan. In another first for Afghanistan four graduates - two radiologists, one cardiologist and one female pathologist - are becoming the first specialist doctors to be trained in these disciplines by a hospital in the country.

March 17, 2017

- The Gilgit-Baltistan government and Aga Khan Rural Support Programme [signed](#) an agreement for the economic empowerment of women, to provide technical skills like embroidery, handcrafting, to women to take full advantage of their potential.

April 7, 2017

- Details of an Islamic garden gifted by Mawlana Hazar Imam to the University of Alberta were revealed at a special ceremony. The event also included the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Alberta and the Aga Khan University.

“On the 150th anniversary of Canada, it is appropriate that we are creating together a Mughal-style garden, which echoes the great contributions that Muslims have made to world heritage,” said Mawlana Hazar Imam in a written statement.

The gift celebrates both Canada's sesquicentennial and Hazar Imam's Diamond Jubilee, marking 60 years of his Imamate.

[The Ismaili](#)

April 19, 2017

- The Aga Khan Health Services (AKHS) and Expertise France [signed](#) an agreement to enhance the quality of palliative care services in the Aga Khan Hospitals in Kenya and Tanzania. The programme is funded by the Agence Francaise de Developpement under which AKHS will receive € 250,000 to conduct specialised training for 4 doctors and 4 nurses – also known as “champions” through the Institut Curie.

April 24, 2017

- Princess Zahra and the Second Vice President of Afghanistan, Sarwar Danesh, [opened](#) a 141-bed facility for the Bamyan Provincial Hospital. With a major focus on the health of mothers and children, the facility expands the hospital's capacity to deliver much needed services in obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics and surgery.



“Today is a momentous day as we open the new Bamyan Provincial Hospital. The Aga Khan Development Network started work in the Bamyan Province in 2003. At that time health service delivery at Bamyan Hospital was provided from a 35 bed facility with 72 staff working mainly out of tents. There was no Essential Package of Hospital Services, nor a Masterplan for the Hospital to guide its development, very limited equipment, medicines and consumables, and there was a great shortage of qualified health staff.”

Princess Zahra

[Speech](#)

Bamyan Hospital - A project undertaken by the Aga Khan Development Network, with the Government of Afghanistan, and with the financial support of the Government of Canada (Global Affairs Canada), the Aga Khan Foundation Canada and the Government of France (Agence Française de Développement).

- Construction began in 2013, led by the Aga Khan Agency for Habitat, which specializes in ecologically friendly and seismic-resistant construction.
- The new 141-bed, state-of-the-art Hospital is designed to be structurally safe, seismic-resistant and highly energy-efficient.
- The Hospital's innovative construction was designed to be both durable and to blend in with the environment.
- Over half of the new Hospital's power is supplied by solar panels located on a hilltop behind the Hospital, on a piece of land donated by the Bamyan government.

[AKDN](#)

April 24, 2017

- Princess Zahra made a three-day [visit](#) to Gorno Badakhshan Autonomous Region, Tajikistan to review projects of the AKDN.



April 27, 2017

- Aga Khan Foundation was [awarded](#) the FICCI-India Sanitation Coalition prize for a model of integrated block-level sanitation.

May 3, 2017

- The Secretary General of the Global Centre for Pluralism John McNee [accepted](#) the Foreign Policy Association Medal in New York on behalf of Mawlana Hazar Imam.

“It is a great honour to receive this prestigious Medal on behalf of His Highness the Aga Khan and the Global Centre for Pluralism. His Highness asked me to convey his deep appreciation to the Board of the Foreign Policy Association and to Noel Lateef, its President. Many of you may not know much about the Aga Khan. He is both a faith leader—he is the Imam of the Ismaili Muslims—and a major global philanthropist who has devoted his life to making the world a better place for all, regardless of faith or ethnicity.”

John McNee

[AKDN Press Release](#)

May 11, 2017

- Prince Aamyn [delivered](#) opening remarks at an exhibition titled *Traces of Words: Art and Calligraphy from Asia* held at the Museum of Anthropology in Vancouver, Canada. Select pieces from the Aga Khan Museum’s collection were displayed at the exhibition.



“Together we can bring to students and the general public, unique insights — new perspectives on the dialogue of cultures that since all time have characterised different peoples residing in different areas of the globe, and which bind us together in a common cultural heritage, thus improving and broadening understanding, tolerance, and brotherhood.”

Prince Aamyn

[The Ismaili](#)

June 8, 2017

- Princess Zahra and Dr. Dorothy Gwajima, Acting Director of Curative Services at the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, [opened](#) a state-of-the-art laboratory and a low cost inpatient unit at the Aga Khan Hospital in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

June 9, 2017

- Her Excellency Margaret Kenyatta, the First Lady of the Republic of Kenya, [inaugurated](#) a state-of-the-art cardiac catheterisation laboratory at the Aga Khan Hospital in Mombasa in the presence of Princess Zahra Aga Khan and other dignitaries.



Princess Zahra during her address at the launch of the cardiology programme at Aga Khan Hospital Mombasa. On the dais with her are Bruno Deprince, Regional Director, Agence Francaise De Developpement , Dr. Patrick Amoth, Director, Ministry Of Health, Kenya and HE Margaret Kenyatta, First Lady of the Republic of Kenya. Photo: AKDN / Aziz Islamshah

The catheterisation laboratory at the Aga Khan Hospital in Mombasa, is the first in the Coast province and the second such facility to be established in the region by the AKDN (the first unit was established at the Aga Khan University Hospital, Nairobi, in September 2008). The new unit consists of state-of-the-art equipment which is capable of performing complex cardiac procedures such as angioplasties, stenting of damaged cardiac vessels and pacemaker insertions and includes a 3-bed coronary care unit all supported by advanced radiology and other diagnostic services.

[AKDN](#)

Reflection

“My Grandfather dedicated his life to the Imam 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.”

“I have dedicated my life to the upliftment and progress of the Ismailis all over the world.”

Mawlana Hazar Imam July 11, 1957

25 Years in Pictures Silver Jubilee Publication Volume 1

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“...my responsibilities as spiritual leader and interpreter of the faith are coupled with a deep commitment to improving the quality of life. These activities are not limited to the Ismaili community but extend to those who share their lives, whether on a local, national or international scale. Our duty is to try to free people from poverty. And to me, poverty means being without shelter, without protection, without access to healthcare, education, or credit, and without hope of ever controlling one’s own destiny. This means condemning one’s children and grandchildren to unacceptable living conditions.

A voluntarist and innovative strategy is needed in order to break this chain of despair and total imprisonment.”

Mawlana Hazar Imam

at the State Banquet, Antananarivo, Madagascar

November 27, 2007

[Speech](#)



Mawlana Hazar Imam speaking at the state banquet hosted in his honour by Prime Minister Charles Rabemanjara in Antananarivo.

Photo: AKDN/Gary Otte

Reflection

O mankind! Verily
There hath come to you
A convincing proof
From your Lord:
For we have sent unto you
A light (that is) manifest (4:174)



And hold fast,
All together, by the Rope
Which God (stretches out
For You), and be not divided
Among yourselves;
And remember with gratitude
God's favour on you;
For ye were enemies
And He joined your hearts
In love. So that by His Grace,
Ye became brethren;
And ye were on the brink
Of the Pit of Fire,
And He saved you from it.
Thus doth God make
His signs clear to you:
That ye may be guided (3:103).

*"The stars are a pledge to the world
that it will not be drowned,
and my family are a pledge to the community
that it will not go astray."*

Prophet's *hadith*