

Memories
Golden Jubilee
of
Mawlana Hazar Imam
Shah Karim Al Hussaini

July 11, 2007

to

December 13, 2008

BISMI-LLAHI-R-RAHMANI-R-RAHIM

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.

Holy Qur'an 3:103

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
Holy Qur'an 4:174

“Believe, therefore, in Allah and His Messenger, and in the Light
which we have sent down. And Allah is well acquainted with all that
ye do.”

Holy Qur'an 64:8

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

Prophet Muhammad

BISMI-LLAHI-R-RAHMANI-R-RAHIM

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



Holy Qur'an 24: 35

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

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

THE GOLDEN JUBILEE: A GLOBAL JOURNEY

HOMAGE CEREMONY

July 11, 2007

- Inaugural Ceremony to mark the Golden Jubilee of Mawlana Hazar Imam's Imamat



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



Mawlana Hazar Imam and his family outside his residence. Left to right: Iliyan Boyden, Sara Boyden, Prince Aly Muhammad, Princess Zahra, Prince Rahim, Mawlana Hazar Imam, Prince Aryn, Prince Hussain, Princess Khaliya, Princess Aleya, and Princess Yasmin. Photo: [The Ismaili](#)/Gary Otte

Homage Ceremony



Leaders of the Jamat from the past 50 years arriving at Mawlana Hazar Imam's residence to pay homage on behalf of the global Jamat. The procession was accompanied by devotional recitations from the different cultural traditions of the global Jamat.

Photo: Gero von Boehm/ZDF
www.zdf.de/ZDFmediathek/content/339638?inPopup=true

The Golden Jubilee Emblem

At the centre of the Emblem is the Imam's crest. The fifty crescents surrounding the Crest represent the half century of the spiritual leadership of Mawlana Hazar Imam. The outer ring embodies a verse from the Quran (Surah 4, Ayat 1) rendered in calligraphy in the Fatimid Kufic script and reads as follows:

*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 multiple of men and women*



The *kufic* script of calligraphy is named after the city in which it originated. In the first centuries of Islam, copies of the Quran were written on parchment and a number of different styles of script became prominent. The term *kufic* was named after the city of Kufa in Iraq, where a particular variant of the angular style developed, and came to be used generically to denote all angular scripts. While not an easy script to read, *kufic* provided great aesthetic delight. Over time, cursive hands took on a more exalted role and copies of the Quran were written in various other scripts. Regional styles also flourished: in north India *bihari* was a favourite style for fine copies of the Quran, while *maghribi*, the only cursive script which arose directly out of *kufic*, became the standard in the region which gave the script its name (the Maghrib - in mediaeval Muslim geography it referred to the western part of North Africa: present-day Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia).¹

White and gold were the colours of the coat of arms of the Fatimids of Egypt, who founded al-Azhar University in Cairo, one of the oldest institutions of higher learning.²

¹ www.iis.ac.uk/view_article.asp?ContentID=105553

² Aziz Ali Nanji, *Heritage Reviewed Tradition Revived* (Elite Publishers (Pvt) Ltd.)

July 12, 2007

- Mawlana Hazar Imam opened the *Spirit and Life* Exhibition at The Ismaili Centre, London, UK. Their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Cornwall and the Prince of Wales attended the opening of the Exhibition, which ran from July 12 to August 31, 2007.



Mawlana Hazar Imam greeting Their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Cornwall and the Prince of Wales at the Ismaili Centre, London. Photo: AKDN/ Arnhel de Serra



Mawlana Hazar Imam speaking at the *Spirit and Life* Exhibition. Photo: AKDN/ Arnhel de Serra

Regarding the significance of the exhibition, Mawlana Hazar Imam said:

“This exhibition of artistic masterpieces from the Islamic world underlines that the arts, particularly when they are spiritually inspired, can become a medium of discourse that transcends the barriers of our day-to-day experiences and preoccupations. Many questions are currently being raised in the West about the Muslim world, with countless misconceptions and misunderstandings occurring between our contemporary societies. I hope that this exhibition will hold a special significance at a time which calls for enlightened encounters amongst faiths and cultures.”

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Mawlana Hazar Imam and Their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Cornwall and the Prince of Wales view a painting of 18th century Iran at the opening of the Spirit & Life Exhibition. Photo: AKDN/ Arnhel de Serra

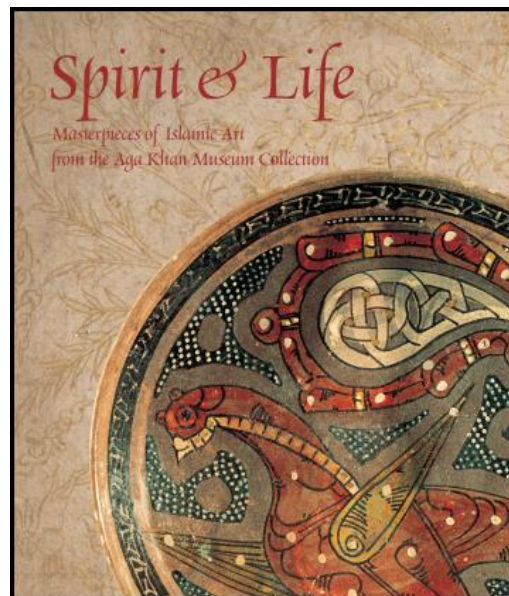
Spirit and Life Exhibition

Organized by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, *Spirit & Life* exhibited manuscripts and art from the permanent collection of the Aga Khan Museum, which will open in Toronto, Canada, in 2010. The exhibition displayed over 165 objects from the collection showing the diversity of artistic traditions in the Muslim world, covering a geographical area stretching from India in the East to Morocco in the West and spanning over a thousand years from the ninth to the nineteenth century.

[AKDN Press Release](#)

“The arts have always had a special significance for my family. More than a thousand years ago my ancestors, the Fatimid Imams, encouraged patronage of the arts and fostered the creation of collections of outstanding works of art and libraries of rare and significant manuscripts. Many of my family members are art lovers and collectors. In particular my late uncle, Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, was a great connoisseur of manuscripts and miniatures, and many of the works on paper and parchment presented in this exhibition come from his collection. I have been adding to these holdings myself for a number of years to create a complementary collection of Islamic works of art. I believe that these works all contribute to an understanding of some of the aesthetic values which underpin Muslim arts and the humanistic traditions of Islam.....The objects in this exhibition span over a thousand years of history. At times, the Muslim and Western worlds opposed each other in antagonism and conflict; at others, they cooperated constructively and in harmony. It was during the latter that the greatest scientific, social and economic developments occurred, to the benefit of all. It is my deepest wish that this be the path of the future.”

Mawlana Hazar Imam
Foreword, *Spirit and Life*
Catalogue, Published by
Aga Khan Trust for Culture



FIRST GOLDEN JUBILEE VISIT – EAST AFRICA

August 12, 2007

- Mawlana Hazar Imam arrived in Nairobi, Kenya, on the first leg of an official visit to East Africa, at the invitation of the Governments of Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. This was the first Golden Jubilee visit.



Mawlana Hazar Imam being presented with a bouquet by seven year old Ramla Saleh upon arrival. Photo: The Ismaili/ Aziz Islamshah



Mawlana Hazar Imam meets with leaders Kenya's Muslim communities. Photo: The.Ismaili/Gary Otte

August 13, 2007

- Mawlana Hazar Imam met with His Excellency President Mwai Kibaki of Kenya at the State House.



Mawlana Hazar Imam in discussion with His Excellency President Mwai Kibaki of Kenya. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte



His Excellency President Mwai Kibaki, His Highness the Aga Khan, together with members of government, leaders of the AKDN and the Ismaili community at State House. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte

August 13, 2007

- In the afternoon, Mawlana Hazar Imam and Professor Saitoti, Kenyan Minister of Education, formally launched the Faculty of Health Sciences of the Aga Khan University (AKU-FHS) – East Africa’s first premier private medical school. This was the first Social Development project of the Golden Jubilee Year.



Mawlana Hazar Imam and Professor George Saitoti unveil a plaque to commemorate the launch of the Faculty of Health Sciences. Photo: AKDN/ Zahir Day

“A golden jubilee is a valuable opportunity for putting the present into historical perspective. In that spirit, I would begin today by emphasizing how my concern for education grows intimately out of my family history. It was just a century ago that my late Grandfather, Sir Sultan Mahomed Shah Aga Khan, began to build a network of educational institutions which would eventually include some 300 schools, many of them in East Africa. My late Grandfather, who was also the founding figure of Aligarh University in India, was renewing a tradition which stretches back over 1000 years, to our forefathers, the Fatimid Imam-Caliphs of Egypt, who founded Al-Azhar University and the Academy of Knowledge in Cairo. And going back even further, I would cite the words of the first hereditary Imam of the Shia Muslims, Hazrat Ali Ibn Abi Talib, who emphasized in his teachings that “No honour is like knowledge.”

Those words have inspired an emphasis on education within our tradition ever since that time. That tradition has been expressed in recent decades in many ways, ranging from the sponsorship of Madrasa early childhood projects to the founding of the Aga Khan University and the University of Central Asia. We are also establishing a new network of Aga Khan Academies – outstanding residential primary and secondary schools – teaching the International Baccalaureate and covering no less than 14 countries in Africa and Asia.”

Excerpts from Mawlana Hazar Imam’s [speech](#)

August 13, 2007

- In the evening, Mawlana Hazar Imam attended a State banquet hosted by His Excellency President Mwai Kibaki.

“As I observe this Jubilee year, I plan to use this occasion to do two things: first, to visit places and people that have been particularly important to the Ismaili community and to me throughout this last half century, and, secondly, to discuss issues which have been particularly important to us, with a special effort to put them into historical perspective, and to build for the future.”

Kenya has played a role in past Jubilee celebrations of the Ismaili Imam—during my late Grandfather’s time and my own. Some of our projects here bear names which came from those celebrations—like Diamond Trust and Jubilee Insurance. Some of our proudest accomplishments were launched as Jubilee initiatives. In that same spirit, we are announcing this week a number of new Golden Jubilee projects in Kenya and other parts of East Africa. . . . If one of the themes of a Jubilee celebration is the search for historical perspective, then perhaps it will be appropriate for me to stretch that search back to the roots of the Islamic and Ismaili traditions, as I cite the words of the first hereditary Imam of the Shia Muslims, Hazrat Ali ibn Abi Talib. Hazrat Ali said: “No honour is like knowledge. No belief is like modesty and patience. No attainment is like humility. No power is like forbearance. And no support is more reliable than consultation.”

Those words seem particularly relevant today. The spirit that Hazrat Ali evokes – the spirit of modesty, humility, forbearance, and consultation – is an approach we might also call the spirit of partnership. It is this spirit which I hope will characterize these Jubilee celebrations—even as it guides leaders in the public, private and civil sectors as they confront the great challenges of our time.”

Excerpts from Mawlana Hazar Imam’s speech

- During dinner, Hazar Imam was bestowed Kenya’s highest medal of honour, the Chief of the Order of the Golden Heart of Kenya, (C.G.H.) by His Excellency President Mwai Kibaki.



August 14, 2007

- Mawlana Hazar Imam attended a ceremony marking the 25th anniversary of the Aga Khan Development Network's Madrasa Programme in Mombasa, which was initiated during the Silver Jubilee year. This programme provides early childhood education for children from marginalized communities in East Africa. The Madrasa Programme was launched at the request of East Africa's Muslim leaders who wanted to improve the overall educational achievement of their children while at the same time promoting a secular, integrated curriculum based on the universal ethics and values of Islam and local cultural traditions.

[AKDN Press Release](#)

"A deep concern for Knowledge - and the best ways of sharing Knowledge - goes back to the very roots of the Islamic tradition. When we think of our proud educational traditions, however, we often think first about the great Universities and Libraries which became centers of Islamic culture down through the centuries.... It is also important to note some additional distinctions concerning this program. One is the Programme's pluralistic, inclusive approach - embracing Muslim and non-Muslim children alike - and helping all of them to learn important lessons about diversity.... It is striking that modern neuro-sciences have demonstrated that long before the age of 6, children are aware of the different cultural backgrounds amongst each other in their classes. It is thus before that age that pluralism can be instilled as a life value."

Excerpts from Hazar Imam's [speech](#)

August 14, 2007

- Mawlana Hazar Imam laid the foundation stone for the construction of the new residential campus at the Aga Khan Academy in Mombasa along with Professor George Saitoti, Kenya's Minister for Education.

"Educating effective future leaders is a high responsibility. To do it well, we must look beyond the world which is passing from sight and turn our eyes to the uncharted world of the future. We must rise above the antiquated approaches of earlier days and instead infuse our students with what I would call three "A's" of modern learning - the spirit of anticipation, the spirit of adaptation and the spirit of adventure. This will happen best in learning environments which are both serious and focused on the one hand, but which are also joyous and inspiring places, operating on the cutting edge of pedagogy and knowledge."



Excerpts from Hazar Imam's [speech](#)

- In the evening, Hazar Imam hosted a banquet in Nairobi in honour of His Excellency President Mwai Kibaki.

August 15, 2007

- The first Darbar of the Golden Jubilee year was held in Nairobi. President Zul Abdul of the Ismaili Council for Kenya submitted a loyalty address on behalf of the Jamat.
- Mawlana Hazar Imam attended a dinner reception organized in his honour by the Jamati institutions of Kenya.



Mawlana Hazar Imam at the institutional dinner in Nairobi, Kenya. Photo: The Ismaili/Aziz Islamshah

August 16, 2007

- Mawlana Hazar Imam arrived in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, in the morning.



Honourable Joseph James Mungai, Tanzania's Minister for Home Affairs, receives Mawlana Hazar Imam at Julius K. Nyerere International Airport. Photo: AKDN/ Gary Otte



Mawlana Hazar Imam waves to the Jamat as he leaves the airport with Honourable Joseph James Mungai. Photo: AKDN/Zahur Ramji

August 17, 2007

- Mawlana Hazar Imam granted Darbar in Dar-es-Salaam. President Zahir Jivani of the Ismaili Council for Tanzania submitted a loyalty address on behalf of the Jamat.
- In the evening Mawlana Hazar Imam attended a reception hosted in his honour by the Ismaili institutions for Tanzania.



Mawlana Hazar Imam addressing leaders of the Jamat and various AKDN institutions. Photo: The Ismaili/ Zahur Ramji

August 18, 2007

- In the morning, Mawlana Hazar Imam flew to Zanzibar – home to one of East Africa’s oldest Ismaili communities and the site of the region’s oldest Ismaili Jamatkhana. He received a warm welcome by cultural dancers.
- At a State luncheon hosted in honour of Mawlana Hazar Imam, His Excellency Abeid Karume, President of Zanzibar presented Mawlana Hazar Imam with a gift of a traditional Zanzibar chest.
- Later in the day, Mawlana Hazar Imam returned to Dar-es-Salaam and met with His Excellency President Kikwete at State House, where an official collection of commemorative postage stamps, marking the Imam’s Golden Jubilee, were formally unveiled.



Mawlana Hazar Imam is welcomed by cultural dancers upon arrival. Photo: The Ismaili/ Zahur Ramji



His Excellency Abeid Karume, President of Zanzibar presents Mawlana Hazar Imam with a traditional Zanzibar chest. Photo: The Ismaili/ Zahur Ramji



His Excellency Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, President of Tanzania and Mawlana Hazar Imam unveil the commemorative stamps. Photo: The Ismaili/ Zahur Ramji

August 18, 2007

- In the evening, President Kikwete hosted a State dinner in honour of Mawlana Hazar Imam. At the dinner, Mawlana Hazar Imam announced plans to build a major new university campus in Arusha, in north-eastern Tanzania. The U.S. \$450-million complex will be developed over the next 15 years. He said that the decision to erect a new campus in Arusha stemmed from his faith in the future of the East African Region. Arusha is official seat of the East African community which includes Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi.



“The story of the Ismaili community in East Africa goes back well before the start of my Imamate, at least as far back as the middle of the 19th century. Various Aga Khan institutions have been active here for more than 100 years - ever since my late Grandfather founded the first Aga Khan Girls School in Zanzibar in 1905. Today, our work here takes many forms: We work in the medical field through the Aga Khan Hospital and an array of clinics and dispensaries. Our educational institutions serve students and teachers of all ages. We are active in banking and microfinance, insurance, tourism, leisure and cultural preservation. As you know, the field of education has been a central concern of my Tradition - going back to the great institutions of learning which were such a distinguished part of Islamic history for so many centuries.

The challenge of development - in education as in other fields - is highly complex -and it calls for complex responses. We must replace old, dogmatic prescriptions with new pragmatic approaches... The best way to celebrate the past is to grasp the future - and that it is good to make new plans with an eye on their historical context.Our dream is that the Aga Khan University - as it expands in East Africa and elsewhere - will play a central role in the great Knowledge Society of tomorrow. This vision for the future is important to me personally because it so fittingly honors the past.

The great chapters of Islamic history, after all, demonstrate how peoples of a common faith, spread widely throughout the world, have flourished when they embraced and advanced a cosmopolitan Society of Knowledge. As the 49th Imam of the Shia Imami Ismaili Muslims, I often look back to the words of the Fourth Caliph, who was also the first Imam of the Shia Muslims, Hazrat Ali ibn Abi Talib. Listen to Hazrat Ali’s words: ‘No honour is like knowledge. No belief is like modesty and patience. No attainment is like humility. No power is like forbearance. And no support is more reliable than consultation.’ The passage - beginning with the word ‘knowledge’ and ending with the word ‘consultation’ - sums up my message to you tonight. It is my prayer that all of us - with a common commitment to knowledge - and in a continuing spirit of consultation - can go forward together to meet our great challenges.”

Excerpts from Mawlana Hazar Imam’s [speech](#)

August 19, 2007

- Mawlana Hazar Imam arrived at Entebbe Airport in Uganda where he was welcomed by Martin Alier, Advisor to the President of Uganda, Mayor Sebaggala, Yusuf Karmali, President of the Aga Khan Council for Uganda, and Mahmood Ahmed, Resident representative of the AKDN Uganda.



- Hazar Imam met President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda at State House.

Anne Marie Mirembe welcomes Mawlana Hazar Imam with flowers. Photo: Gary Otte/The Ismaili

- Hazar Imam was hosted by the Government of Uganda at a luncheon.

August 20, 2007

- In the evening, Mawlana flew to Dar-es-Salaam, where he hosted a dinner in honour of the President of Tanzania.



His Excellency President Kikwete and Mawlana Hazar Imam in conversation over dinner. Photo: Zahur Ramji/ The Ismaili

- After dinner, Mawlana Hazar Imam flew to Kampala.

August 21, 2007

- Mawlana Hazar Imam flew to Jinja by helicopter, where he laid the foundation stone of the Bujagali Hydroelectric Power Project. The US \$770 million project is the country's first private hydroelectric power project, and is expected to significantly lower the price of electricity in Uganda. The plant is also one of the largest independent power plants in sub-Saharan Africa.

Mawlana Hazar Imam was joined by Prince Aryn and Prince Rahim.

[Video](#) of opening



Mawlana Hazar Imam welcomes His Excellency President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda to the Bujagali site. Looking on are Prince Aryn, Chairman of the Executive Committee, Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development and Mahmood Ahmed, Resident Representative, AKDN Uganda. Photo: AKDN/ Gary Otte



Mawlana Hazar Imam and His Excellency President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda, lay the foundation stone for the Bujagali Hydropower Project. Photo: AKDN/ Gary Otte

“The laying of this foundation stone is indeed an historic moment. The project we celebrate today is an unprecedented endeavour...it represents the largest single private sector investment of any sort in East Africa and the largest independent power project in sub-Saharan Africa. I understand it is the largest single power investment ever made by the International Finance Corporation - anywhere in the world... I believe that the Bujagali project will propel a great chain of positive developments - an exciting upward spiral.From the very beginnings of civilization, the use of water - intelligently, respectfully, and creatively - has been at the very center of human concerns. The Nile River itself has been a great source and sustainer of life for thousands of years. Today, we repeat and renew that ancient story once again as we lay this Foundation Stone - and thus signal the opening of a new era in African history.”

Excerpts from Mawlana Hazar Imam's [speech](#)

August 22, 2007

- Mawlana Hazar Imam laid the foundation stone of the Aga Khan Academy in Munyonyo, Kampala, Uganda. The Academy will be built on a 44 acre plot on the shores of Lake Victoria, about 18 km from the centre of Kampala.



Mawlana Hazar Imam lays the foundation stone for the Aga Khan Academy, Kampala in the presence of His Excellency Professor Gilbert Bukenya, Vice President of the Republic of Uganda. Photo: AKDN/ Gary Otte

*“A strong commitment to learning has been at the very root of Ismaili and Islamic culture, going back to the first Imam of the Shia Muslims, the fourth Caliph, Hazrat Ali ibn Abi Talib, and his emphasis on knowledge. The tradition was renewed over many centuries in many places by the Abbasids, the Fatimids, the Safavids – the Mughals, the Uzbeks and the Ottomans. During his Imam, my late Grandfather started some 300 schools in this region. The Academies Programme is thus planted in rich historic soil... The final point I would emphasize today, above all else, is our uncompromising commitment to *Quality*-- in every aspect of the Academy experience. Our hallmark will be quality students, quality instructors, quality facilities – an unwavering devotion to world-class standards.”*

Excerpts from Mawlana Hazar Imam’s [speech](#)

August 23, 2007

- Mawlana Hazar Imam granted Darbar at Darkhana Jamatkhana in Kampala. President Yusuf Karmali of the Ismaili Council for Uganda submitted a loyalty address on behalf of the Jamat.
- Mawlana Hazar Imam departed from Entebbe after a twelve-day Golden Jubilee visit to East Africa.

September 4, 2007

- Mawlana Hazar Imam announced the nine recipients of the 2007 Aga Khan Award for Architecture, at a ceremony held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Award marked its thirtieth anniversary and the completion of its tenth triennial cycle.



Standing back row: Hani Rashid, Homi Bhabha, Okwui Enwezor, Sahel Al-Hiyari, Billie Tsien, Farrokh Derakhshani

Standing front row: Mohsen Mostafavi, Modjtaba Sadria, Homa Farjadi, Han Tümertekin, Omar Akbar, Glenn Lowry, Farshid Moussavi

Seated, left to right: Shirazeh Houshiary, Kenneth Yeang, Prince Hussain, Mawlana Hazar Imam, Princess Khaliya, Brigitte Shim, Rashid Khalidi. Photo: AKDN

“A central concept when this all began 30 years ago was the power of Architecture to connect the past with the present and the future. It was my strong impression then that Architecture had largely abandoned the indigenous past - especially in Muslim societies and in the developing world.....This is one of the reasons our Award Ceremonies have normally been held in historically significant settings - reminders of just how rich our Islamic heritage has been..... In my view, a healthy life, for an individual or a community, means finding a way to relate the values of the past, the realities of the present, and the opportunities of the future. The built environment can play a central role in helping us to achieve that balance.

At its best, architecture is an inherently pluralistic enterprise - one that honours diversity - including diversity within and among Islamic communities. At its best, architecture will help people to come together across old divides rather than re-enforcing those divides and isolating one group from another.”

Excerpts from Mawlana Hazar Imam’s [speech](#)



Mawlana Hazar Imam with Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Datin Seri Jeanne Abdullah after unveiling the commemorative stamp issued by Malaysia on the occasion of the 2007 Aga Khan Award for Architecture ceremony. AKDN/Gary Otte

September 22-23, 2007

- The [Historic Cities Programme exhibition](#) in Washington, DC.

The Historic Cities Programme exhibition is a Golden Jubilee International Programme that provides a unique lens on the role of culture in development. It features five projects of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture in Egypt, Syria, Mali, India, and Afghanistan. During the Jubilee, the Exhibition will tour cities in various countries around the world.

The Ismaili

October 2007

- Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) hosted an exhibition at the Kohi Vahdat complex in Dushanbe to increase awareness of the work of AKDN agencies in Tajikistan.

Since launching its first programme 12 years ago to alleviate food shortages in the Gorno-Badakhshan region, AKDN has expanded the geographic reach and thematic scope of its activities in Tajikistan. It operates in the areas of health, education and culture, as well as infrastructure and economic development. Projects include the construction of three major bridges connecting Tajikistan to Afghanistan across the Pyanj River and the rehabilitation of power facilities in the Gorno-Badakhshan region. Projects to be opened in the future are a Serena Hotel in Dushanbe and a campus of the University of Central Asia in Khorog.

Aga Khan Historic Cities Programme transported 800 kg of carved marble stones from Khorog to demonstrate how local materials have been used in the reconstruction of Khorog Park.

The Aga Khan Foundation's Mountain Societies Development Support Programme exhibited products from the projects it supports, including intricate handicrafts made in the Rasht and Gorno-Badakhshan regions, and pickled fruits and vegetables bottled in rural processing plants, alongside a display of live bees from a bee-keeping facility.

Representatives of First MicroFinanceBank of Tajikistan, an institution of Aga Khan Agency for Microfinance, informed visitors about services available at its branches throughout the country.

The Ismaili



A representative from Focus Humanitarian Assistance shows how solar powered wireless communication devices have greatly assisted in disaster response activities in the Gorno-Badakhshan region of Tajikistan. Photo: AKDN/ Michael Romanyuk

October 6-14, 2007

- The Historic Cities Programme exhibition in Texas, USA.

October 6-10 Houston Principal Jamatkhana Center

October 12-14 Sugar Land City Hall

October 14, 2007

- Prince Hussain and Princess Khaliya attended the formal inauguration of the Aga Khan Historic Cities Programme's exhibition at the City Hall in Sugar Land, Texas, USA.



Prince Hussain and Princess Khaliya examining the description and model of Cairo's 12th century Ayyubid wall being restored by the Aga Khan Historic Cities Programme. Photo: The Ismaili/ Aly Z. Ramji

- Performance of *A Mystical Journey* at The Centre for Performing Arts in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

October 17, 2007

- Prince Hussain and Princess Khaliya viewed *A Mystical Journey* at the Winspear Centre in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.



Mohamed Manji, President of the Ismaili Council for Canada, Prince Hussain and Princess Khaliya at the pre-performance reception. Photo: The Ismaili/ Alnoor Nathoo



The Whirling Sufis. Photo: The Ismaili/ Aziz Ladha

A Mystical Journey - Sufi Music and other Expressions of Devotion from the Muslim World, an international Golden Jubilee initiative featuring artists from Algeria, Bosnia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Syria performing music from various Sufi and other esoteric traditions of Islam.

October 17, 2007

- Mawlana Hazar Imam addressed the Louvre Roundtable in Paris, France, at the exhibition of Islamic masterpieces at the Louvre in collaboration with the Aga Khan Trust for Culture. The exhibition ran at the Louvre from October 5, 2007 to January 7, 2008.



Prince Ameen, Souren Melikian (curator of a related exhibition) and Mawlana Hazar Imam viewing objects from the Masterpieces of Islamic Art from the Aga Khan Museum exhibition at the Louvre. Photo: AKDN

“...the 1,428 years of the Ummah embrace many civilisations and are therefore characterised by an astonishing pluralism. In particular, this geographic, ethnic, linguistic and religious pluralism has manifested itself at the most defining moments in the history of the Ummah, hence the objective of the Aga Khan collection, which is to highlight objects drawn from every region and every period, and created from every kind of material in the Muslim world....the Muslim world has always been wide open to every aspect of human existence. The sciences, society, art, the oceans, the environment and the cosmos have all contributed to the great moments in the history of Muslim civilisations. The Qur’an itself repeatedly recommends Muslims to become better educated in order better to understand God’s creation. Our collection seeks to demonstrate the openness of Muslim civilisations to every aspect of human life, even going so far as to work in partnership with intellectual and artistic sources originating in other regions.”

Excerpts from Mawlana Hazar Imam’s [Closing Address](#)

October 19-20, 2007

- The Historic Cities Programme exhibition in Los Angeles, California, USA

October 20, 2007

- Performane od *A Mystical Journey* at the Stampede Corral in Calgary, Canada

October 26, 2007

- Mawlana Hazar Imam inaugurated the restored monuments of Darb al-Ahmar in Cairo. The restoration of the fourteenth century Umm al Sultan Shabaan mosque and the Khayrebek complex, which encompasses a thirteenth century palace, a mosque, and an Ottoman house. The restoration was undertaken by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture in collaboration with the Supreme Council of Antiquities of Egypt.

[AKDN Press Release](#)

“I have found that this endeavour has provided for me, personally, a profound sense of connection with my own ancestors, the Fatimid Caliphs, who founded Cairo and who laid its physical and cultural foundations 1000 years ago. To reach back across 35 generations and to be able to engage in the restoration and renewal of their legacy is a rare and stirring privilege. How could I not be affected seeing the remains of the original Fatimid walls and towers that protected this city when they founded it? And this experience has special meaning for me as I mark my own 50th year as Imam of the Shia Ismaili Muslims.The Fatimids, after all, prided themselves on a broadly inclusive approach to knowledge. What they founded here would become a truly global city – to use contemporary parlance. Pluralism was indeed the hallmark of a Golden Age of the City Victorious 1000 years ago. I am happy that I can feel in this time also, like during the time of my predecessors, that there is true pluralist consensus surrounding our endeavours – all of us working together – to revive the Islamic city.”

Excerpt from Mawlana Hazar Imam’s [speech](#)



Mawlana Hazar Imam, H.E. Farouk Hosni, Egypt’s Minister of Culture, and H.E. Dr. Abdel Azim Wazir, the Governor of Cairo, marked the completion of the restoration of the fourteenth century Umm al Sultan Shabaan mosque and the Khayrebek complex. Photo: AKDN

October/November 2007

- Regional sports festivals in the provinces of Badakhshan, Baghlan, Bamyán and Kabul, Afghanistan, in preparation for the Golden Jubilee Games in Nairobi, Kenya

October 28-November 1, 2007

- The Historic Cities Programme exhibition at Berkley, California, USA

November 4, 2007

- Performance of *A Mystical Journey* at Roy Thompson Hall in Toronto, Canada.

November 5, 2007

- Mawlana Hazar Imam met with Government officials in Ottawa, Canada.



The Honourable Jason Kenney, Secretary of State (Multiculturalism and Canadian Identity), along with the Hon. Josee Verner, Minister of Canadian Heritage, met with Mawlana Hazar Imam in Ottawa to discuss issues relating to pluralism. Photo: Ismailmail

- Performance of *A Mystical Journey* at Place des Arts, Théâtre Maisonneuve, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

November 9-11, 2007

- The Historic Cities Programme exhibition at the Symphony Center in Chicago, Illinois, USA

November 13, 2007

- Mawlana Hazar Imam delivered the keynote address at a conference in Berlin, Germany titled Central Asia and Europe: A New Economic Partnership for the 21st Century. The Conference was hosted by the German Federal Foreign Office and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECA). The conference is the first major international gathering to review prospects for partnership in the region



Mawlana Hazar Imam with German Foreign Minister, Dr Frank-Walter Steinmeier in Berlin. Photo: AKDN/ Arnhel de Serra

[AKDN Press Release](#)

“A sound enabling environment must create a favourable framework in which people’s energy and creativity can be motivated, mobilized and rewarded.... Throughout Central Asia, with each passing day, we see new examples of what can be achieved when we learn to transcend old boundaries -- to replace the icy past of the Cold War by the warmth of new partnerships.”

Excerpts from Mawlana Hazar Imam’s [speech](#)

November 14, 2007

- Mawlana Hazar Imam was interviewed by BBC News UK about his funding of regeneration projects across the Muslim world.

Hazar Imam said restoration work in historic cities *“can actually change the economic standings of thousands of people who are amongst the poorest because these historic cities are concentrations of the ultra poor.”*

BBC News

HAZAR IMAM’S VISIT TO MOZAMBIQUE

November 20, 2007

- Mawlana Hazar Imam arrived in Maputo, Mozambique. A few hours after his arrival, he met with President Armando Guebuza at the Ponta Vermelha Presidential Palace.



Mawlana Hazar Imam is greeted by the Minister of Foreign Affairs & Cooperation, Ms. Alcinda Abreu, at the Maputo Airport. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte



Mawlana Hazar Imam meeting with President of Mozambique, Armando Guebuza, in the President's office. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte

November 20, 2007

- Mawlana Hazar Imam attended State Banquet hosted in his honour at Ponta Vermelha Presidential Palace in Mozambique.

“An anniversary is always an occasion for reflection - for looking back and for looking ahead. As we reflect tonight, we can do so with a special sense of hope and promise- in the future of Mozambique and in the future of Africa...”

Mozambique has learned to set careful priorities - to establish clear markers for progress, and then, carefully, to measure its progress against those indicators The key ingredient in all of these efforts - within Mozambique and in its regional neighborhood, is a spirit of genuine partnership - an understanding that we can do things together that we can never do separately.

...

We must also help young people build “Bridges to the Future” - that is the name, in fact, of one of our new scholarship programs. Our philosophy is to build leadership for tomorrow by educating the young on the basis of academic potential - not on social status or family income. That philosophy is at the core of our Aga Khan Academies program. Many of you were present three years ago when we laid the foundation stone for a new Aga Khan Academy at Maputo. It will be part of an 18 school network - in 14 different countries - all teaching the international baccalaureate curriculum....In all of these Schools, moreover, our watchword will be “Pluralism” as we develop leaders who can deal effectively with diverse peoples in a globalizing world.”

Excerpts from Mawlana Hazar Imam’s speech



Mawlana Hazar Imam with President Armando Guebuza, Prime Minister Luisa Diogo, and Foreign Minister Alcinda Abreu before the State Dinner at the Ponta Vermelha Presidential Palace. Photo: AKDN/Gary Otte



Mawlana Hazar Imam speaking at the State Banquet Photo: AKDN/ Gary Otte

November 21, 2007

- Mawlana Hazar Imam hosted a reception at the Polana Serena Hotel for the Diplomatic community, international organizations and donor agencies. The reception was followed by the unveiling of an official collection of Golden Jubilee commemorative postage stamps for Mozambique by President Armando Guebuza and attended by several government dignitaries. The five stamps portray images of projects supported by AKDN in Mozambique as well as the Maputo Jamatkhana.



An official collection of Mozambique postage stamps marking Hazar Imam's Golden Jubilee. Photo: The Ismaili

- Mawlana Hazar Imam hosted lunch in honour of President Guebuza.
- Later in the day, Hazar Imam met with the President of the Assembly of the Republic, Eduardo Mulembwe.



Mawlana Hazar Imam with President Eduardo Mulembwe.
Photo: AKDN/ Gary Otte

- Hazar Imam was guest of honour at a banquet in Maputo hosted by Mozambique's President, His Excellency Armando Guebuza.

At the banquet, Mawlana Hazar Imam announced that AKDN will expand its involvement in Mozambique to establish a garment factory, as well as the country's first microfinance bank. He also said the people of Mozambique will benefit from the construction of a new undersea high-speed fibre optic cable that will link Southern and Eastern Africa with Mumbai in India and Marseille in France – a project co-financed by the Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development the network's economic development arm. The cable will also serve Kenya, Tanzania, Madagascar and Rwanda.

[AKDN Press Release](#)

November 21-25, 2007

- The Historic Cities Programme exhibition at Plano Ismaili Center and Jamatkhana in Dallas, Texas, USA.
- National Sports Tournament in Dallas, Texas, in preparation for the Golden Jubilee Games in Nairobi, Kenya.

November 22, 2007

- Mawlana Hazar Imam granted Darbar at the Texlon factory. President Amirali Bhanji of the Ismaili Council for Portugal submitted a loyalty address on behalf of the Mozambique Jamat, which falls in that country's area of jurisdiction. As he arrived at the hall, Mawlana Hazar Imam took the time to look at a display of paintings and works of art by children of all ages from the Mozambique Jamat.



Mawlana Hazar Imam looks at a display of calligraphy produced by children from the Jamat of Mozambique before entering the Darbar hall. Photo: The Ismaili/ Aziz Islamshah

- Mawlana Hazar Imam departed for Pemba later in the day.



Mawlana Hazar Imam is met by leaders of the Ummah upon his arrival in Pemba. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte

November 23, 2007

- Mawlana Hazar Imam travelled to two villages in the heart of Cabo Delgado to review projects supported by the Aga Khan Foundation, Mozambique.

In Pemba's Cabo Delgado region, the Aga Khan Development Network is involved in rural support projects designed to reduce poverty in the remote areas of the country. The programme covers 146 villages and benefits 21,000 households. Situated in the northernmost district of Mozambique, Cabo Delgado is among the poorest districts in the country, with a life-expectancy of only around 36 years. The Aga Khan Foundation's Coastal Rural Support Programme is implementing an integrated rural development programme in this district, combining improved agricultural techniques, education and health initiatives and a microfinance programme.



Mawlana Hazar Imam walking through the village square accompanied by (from left to right) Lebreton Saah Nyambe, Director of the CRSP programme, Sikander Jamal, Chair of AKF Mozambique, Faiza Janmohamed, CEO, AKF Mozambique and Nazim Ahmad, Resident Representative, AKDN Mozambique. Photo: The Ismaili/Gary Otte

AKDN Press Release

Mawlana Hazar Imam toured the Natungo village, a settlement of mud and bamboo huts inside the Quissanga National Park populated by 755 people, virtually all of them Sunni Muslims. The entire population gathered at the main square to greet the Imam, who congratulated the villagers on the progress they have made in improving living conditions over the past few years and urged them to send more of their children to school. AKDN has been active in the village since 2003.



The Director of the First Microfinance Programme, Rahim Bangy, explains the outcome of the programme and how it has benefited several villagers. Photo: AKDN/Lucas Moura

The village chief, Henriques Gutura, said the villagers were better off today than a few years ago with a decent school building, an early education programme and more modern land tilling techniques. "For us, the Aga Khan presence means that we have better health, more education and better agricultural techniques," he said.

AKDN Press Release

November 23, 2007

- Mawlana Hazar Imam went to Ibo Island, where he reviewed income generation activities supported by the Aga Khan Agency for Microfinance. At the Fort Sao Jao Baptista, he viewed the detailed work of silversmith groups, flower artisans, a carpenter, and agriculturalists.



Eliane Damasceno, Director of the Entrepreneur Development Initiative (EDI) of the Aga Khan Foundation, welcomes Mawlana Hazar Imam to the São João Baptista Fort. The old Portuguese fort is now an important tourist attraction where several silversmiths come daily to develop their crafts. Photo: The Ismaili/ Lucas Moura



Mawlana Hazar Imam is presented with a bouquet of dried flowers by Balbina Pinheiro, one of the artisans of the flower group supported by the Aga Khan Foundation, Mozambique. Photo: Photo: The Ismaili/ Lucas Moura

Ibo Island is just north of the small town of Pemba in the Quirimbas Archipelago. Mawlana Hazar Imam was warmly received by villagers and the Island's administrator. At the Ibo Fort, he spent time with several villagers who had benefited from loans from the Aga Khan Agency for Microfinance. They included traditional silversmiths who had maintained their exceptional filigree work skills, carpenter groups, fisherman, and crafts groups, all of whom had increased their standards of living in the last few years as a result of small loans. "I used to have a thatched roof, and now I have a corrugated iron roof," said one fisherman.

[AKDN Press Release](#)

HAZAR IMAM'S VISIT TO MADAGASCAR

November 26, 2007

- Mawlana Hazar Imam arrived in Antananarivo, Madagascar.



Mawlana Hazar Imam being welcomed to Antananarivo by Nishad Djaffar, President of the Ismaili Council for Madagascar. Looking on is Rajemison Rakotomaharo, President of the Senate of Madagascar (left) and Anvaraly Jiva, President of the Ismaili Council for the European Union (centre). Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte



Mawlana Hazar Imam greeting members of the Jamat from Madagascar and around the world who had gathered at the airport Antananarivo to welcome him Photo: The Ismaili/ Zahur Ramji



Mawlana Hazar Imam and President of the Senate, Rajemison Rakotomaharo taking questions from the media following Hazar Imam's arrival in Madagascar. Photo: The Ismaili/: Gary Otte

November 27, 2007

- Met with the President of the Republic of Madagascar Marc Ravalomanana to review current projects of the AKDN in Madagascar
- Met with Prime Minister Charles Rabemananjara at the Primature
- Met with the President of the Senate Rajemison Rakotomaharo



Photo: AKDN/ Gary Otte



Photo: AKDN/ Gary Otte



Photo: AKDN/ Gary Otte

- In the evening, Mawlana Hazar Imam was guest of honour at a dinner hosted by the Prime Minister Charles Rabemananjara of Madagascar.

“Islam’s ethics establish an inextricable link between spiritual and material life, Din and Dunya. Consequently, 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.”

Excerpts from Mawlana Hazar Imam’s speech

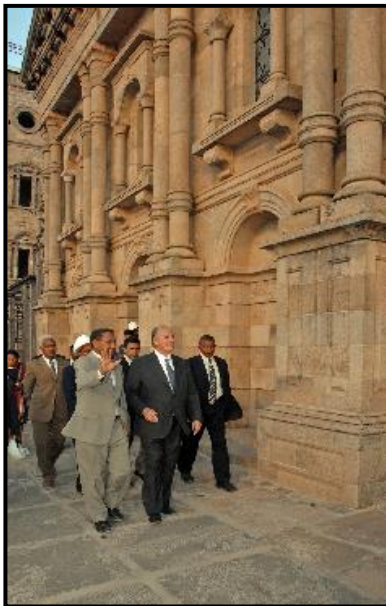
November 28, 2007

- Mawlana Hazar Imam visited the Sofia region in the north of the country where he met with representatives from villages that have been supported by the Aga Khan Foundation's Rural Support programmes. This programme has helped the villagers increase their production of rice, a commodity produced by 80% of rural households. Most have doubled their yield and some villagers have increased their production by up to six times.



Mawlana Hazar Imam and Philibert Rakotosom, the Secretary General of the Ministry for Agriculture arriving in the village of Ambalafary greeting villagers who have participated in the integrated rural development programme organized by AKF. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte

- Mawlana Hazar Imam returned to Antananarivo, where he visited the Palais du Rova, an important monument of Malagasy national heritage which is currently undergoing reconstruction after a fire damaged the structure in 1995.



Mawlana Hazar Imam visiting the Palais du Rova in Antananarivo. Photo AKDN/Zahur Ramii



Hazar Imam in the village of Ambalafary, near Kaladry in the Sofia region, with Marcelline Hoareau, AKF Project Director in the Sofia region, and Philibert Rakotosom, Secretary General for the Madagascar Ministry for Agriculture, speaking with rice farmers participating in AKF's integrated rural development programme. Photo: AKDN/Gary Otte

November 28, 2007

- Mawlana Hazar Imam hosted a reception in honour of President Marc Ravalomanana who was represented by Prime Minister Charles Rabemananjara.

November 29, 2007

- Mawlana Hazar Imam granted Darbar in Antananarivo. President Nishad Djaffar delivered a loyalty address on behalf of the Malagasy Jamat.
- Later that day, Mawlana Hazar Imam visited the offices of the Premier Agence de Microfinance (PAMF) in Antananarivo.
- In the evening, Mawlana Hazar Imam was the Guest of Honour at a reception hosted by the Jamati institutions of Madagascar.



Hazar Imam visiting the headquarters of the Première Agence de Microfinance in Antananarivo, accompanied by Dr. Haja Nirina Razafinjatovo, the Minister of Finance and Budget. Photo: AKDN/Zahur Ramji



Mawlana Hazar Imam addressing Jamati institutional leaders at the dinner hosted in his honour in Antananarivo. Photo: The Ismaili/ Zahur Ramji

November 30, 2007

- Mawlana Hazar Imam departed from Madagascar in the morning.

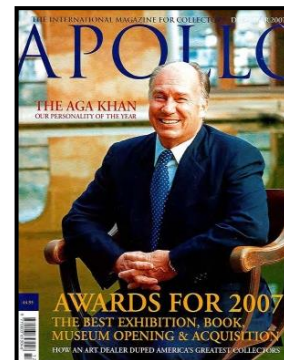
December 2007

- The December issue of Apollo magazine named Mawlana Hazar Imam 'Personality of the Year' for his efforts in developing and promoting culture.

[Apollo magazine, Decmebr 2007](#)

December 14-16, 2007

- The Historic Cities Programme exhibition at the University of Central Florida, USA.



December 21-22, 2007

- The Historic Cities Programme exhibition at City Hall of Miramar, Florida, USA.

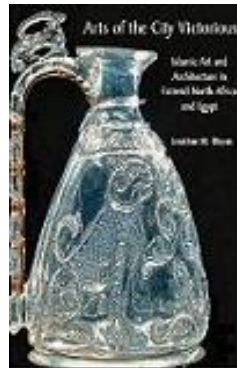
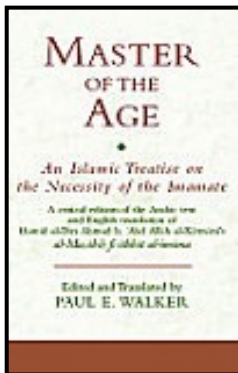
December 27, 2007

- As part of The Institute of Ismaili Studies' Golden Jubilee publications, three new books were introduced at the Scarborough Jamatkhana, Toronto, Canada, by Professor Azim Nanji and Dr. Fahmida Suleman.

➤ *Master of the Age: An Islamic Treatise on the Necessity of the Imamate*, is a critical edition and translation by Professor Paul E. Walker

➤ *Arts of the City Victorious: Islamic Art and Architecture in Fatimid North Africa and Egypt* by Professor Jonathan M. Bloom, Norma Jean Calderwood

➤ *Word of God, Art of Man: The Qur'an and its Creative Expressions. Selected Proceedings from the International Colloquium, London, October 18-21, 2003*, Edited by Dr. Fahmida Suleman.



[The Institute of Ismaili Studies](#)

December 30, 2007

- *Spark of Knowledge* Symposium

The Jamat gathered at the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts, University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada. They were joined via live video telecast by Jamat from Edmonton, Calgary, and Montreal. The symposium explored ways in which to advance the frontiers of knowledge in an increasingly pluralistic and interconnected world. A similar event was held on December 29 in Toronto. The symposium was opened by Mohamed Manji, President of the Ismaili Council for Canada.

[The Ismaili](#)

January 2008

- In celebration of the Golden Jubilee of Mawlana Hazar Imam, and in recognition of the contributions of the Ismaili community in Portugal, Correios de Portugal (Portuguese Mail Services) issued commemorative stamps featuring photos of the Centro Ismaili, Lisbon.



Photo: Correios de Portugal/The Ismaili

January 30, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam met with President of the Asian Development Bank in Gouviex, France.

Mawlana Hazar Imam, founder and Chairman of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN), met with Mr. Haruhiko Kuroda, President of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), for discussions on joint collaboration between the ADB and AKDN. The meeting preceded the signing of an agreement aimed at expanding the partnership between the two institutions. Prince Ayn, who signed the agreement on behalf of Mawlana Hazar Imam, thanked the ADB for its long-standing cooperation and lauded the Bank's efforts to adopt a new long-term strategy this year in the face of growing challenges and opportunities in the Asia-Pacific region.

[AKDN Press Release](#)



Mawlana Hazar Imam receiving Mr. Haruhiko Kuroda in Gouviex, France. Photo: AKDN/ Gary Otte



Prince Ayn and Mr. Haruhiko Kuroda signing the agreement in the presence of Mawlana Hazar Imam. Photo: AKDN/ Gary Otte

January 31, 2008

- Best-selling author Ms. Karen Armstrong delivered the first of five lectures in Islamabad, Pakistan, on the pluralistic and intellectual traditions of Islam, at the Serena Hotel. Aga Khan Foundation (Pakistan) organized this lecture as part of a series of events, conferences and seminars being held to mark the Golden Jubilee of Mawlana Hazar Imam.
Aga Khan Foundation Press Release

February 1, 2008

- Official launch of the Aga Khan Foundation's travelling exhibition, *Bridges that Unite*, in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. The exhibition was on display until February 13, 2008.



Alan Lowe (left), Mayor of Victoria, Hon. Beverley Oda, Minister of International Cooperation, and Khalil Shariff, CEO of Aga Khan Foundation Canada. Photo: Bridges that Unite

The Honourable Beverley J. Oda, Minister of International Cooperation joined Aga Khan Foundation Canada's Chief Executive Officer Khalil Z. Shariff along with local dignitaries and other guests to officially launch *Bridges that Unite*, a new, interactive exhibition showcasing our national ability to bridge the developed and the developing world.

Twenty-five years ago, Canada invested in an innovative partnership with the AKDN in northern Pakistan – one of the world's poorest, most isolated and volatile regions. Since then, this partnership has grown in scope and depth and created a wealth of knowledge and practical experience that has had a ripple effect across Asia and Africa. Visitors to the exhibition will discover that, from Afghanistan to Zanzibar, a ring of chairs, in which people meet to discuss and find solutions to their problems, has become a symbol of lasting, positive change.

Bridges that Unite Press Release

REFLECTION

Canada has partnered with the AKDN in several projects. What role should Canada play in this partnership with the AKDN as the needs of the people in the developing countries evolve?

March 8, 2008

- *Spark of Knowledge* Symposium held at Ismaili Centre, London, UK.
- Performances of *A Mystical Journey* at Royce Hall, UCLA, Los Angeles, USA.

March 11, 2008

- Performance of *A Mystical Journey* at Palace of Fine Arts Theatre in San Francisco, California.

March 13, 2008

- Official opening of the art exhibition titled *The Path of Princes: Masterpieces of the Aga Khan Museum Collection*, in Lisbon, Portugal by Prince Ayn. Prince Hussain and Princess Khaliya were also in attendance. The exhibition was on display from March 14 to July 6, 2008.

The Path of Princes: Masterpieces of the Aga Khan Museum Collection” exhibition at the Calouste Gulbenkian Museum in Lisbon was officially opened by Emílio Rui Vilar, President of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and Prince Ayn, who was representing Mawlana Hazar Imam.

The exhibition comprised works of Islamic art, covering over a thousand years of history, from the collection of the future Aga Khan Museum, planned for opening in 2011 in Toronto, Canada.

[AKDN Press Release](#)



João Castel-Branco of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation (left), Prince Ayn and Luis Monreal, General Manager of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, at the inauguration of the exhibition
Photo: AKDN/ Lucas Moura



Prince Hussain and Princess Khaliya with curator Maria Fernanda Passos Leite at the inauguration of the exhibition. Photo: AKDN/ Lucas Moura

March 15, 2008

- Performance of *A Mystical Journey* at Olympia Theatre Gusman Center in Miami, Florida, USA.

March 17, 2008

- Performance of *A Mystical Journey* at The Arena at Gwinnett Center in Atlanta, Georgia.

March 22, 2008

- Performance of *A Mystical Journey* at Cadillac Palace Theatre in Chicago, Illinois.

HAZAR IMAM'S VISIT TO UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

March 23, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam commenced his Golden Jubilee visit to the United Arab Emirates in the country's capital, Abu Dhabi.



Sheikh Mohammed Bin Hamdan Al Nahyan welcomes Mawlana Hazar Imam at Abu Dhabi airport, upon his arrival in the United Arab Emirates.
Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte

- Shortly after his arrival, Princess Zahra and Prince Rahim arrived in Abu Dhabi.

March 23, 2008

- In celebration of Mawlana Hazar Imam's Golden Jubilee, a Jamati orchestra in Dubai together with the Ismaili Council for the United Arab Emirates produced a unique musical synthesis titled *Frontierless Brotherhood — A Fusion of Diversity*. The two-disc set reflects the cultures and heritage of Ismailis from around the world. The Orchestra, which has entertained the Jamat in the United Arab Emirates for a number of years, brought together talented individuals from different cultural, linguistic and geographical backgrounds.

[The Ismaili](#)

March 24, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam, Prince Rahim, and Princess Zahra met His Highness Sheikh Hamdan Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates. Sheikh Hamdan hosted an official lunch at his palace. Sheikh Hamdan's wife, Sheikha Shamsa, hosted lunch in honour of Princess Zahra.



Mawlana Hazar Imam, Princess Zahra, and Prince Rahim with His Highness Sheikh Hamdan Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte

- In the evening, Mawlana Hazar Imam, Prince Rahim, and Princess Zahra were the guests of His Highness Sheikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces of the UAE at an official dinner.

March 25, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam arrived in Dubai accompanied by Prince Rahim and Princess Zahra.



Mawlana Hazar Imam being greeted by leaders of the Jamat upon arrival in Dubai. Photo: The Ismaili/ Aziz Islamshah

- In the afternoon, Mawlana Hazar Imam granted a Darbar. Prince Rahim and Princess Zahra were present during the Darbar proceedings. President Naushad Rashid of the Ismaili Council for the UAE submitted the loyalty address.
- In the evening, Mawlana Hazar Imam visited the Ismaili Centre Dubai.



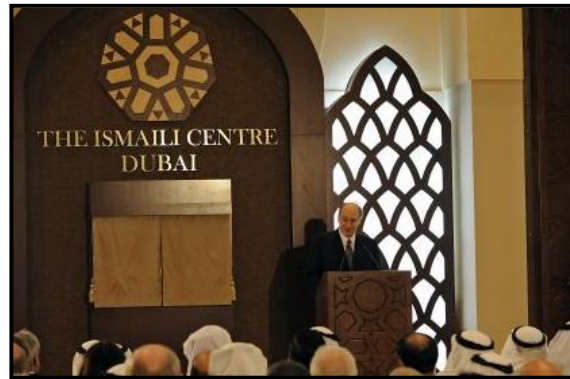
Mawlana Hazar Imam visiting the Early Learning Centre at The Ismaili Centre Dubai. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte

March 26, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam officially opened the Ismaili Centre Dubai in the presence of His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum and His Highness Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan. Prince Rahim and Princess Zahra were present at the ceremony.



Mawlana Hazar Imam, His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum (left), and His Highness Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan unveil the ceremonial plaque marking the opening of the Ismaili Centre Dubai. Photo: The Ismaili/ Aziz Islamshah



Mawlana Hazar Imam addressing the guests at the opening ceremony of the Ismaili Centre Dubai
Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte

“(the) ethic of exploration and interconnectedness is one that is deeply shared by the Ismaili community. It is an ethic, in fact, that is firmly rooted in our faith — a value system which grows from deeply spiritual roots. It understands that human diversity is itself a gift of Allah — that pluralism is not a threat but a blessing. It sees the desire to explore and connect as a way to learn and grow — not to dilute our identities but to enrich our self-knowledge. This ethic emanates ultimately from a relationship to the Divine which inspires a deep sense of personal humility — and a relationship to humankind which is infused with a spirit of generous service and mutual respect.”

This new Centre is itself a profoundly spiritual place. Its defining symbolism is inspired by the Fatimid tradition — stretching back over 1000 years and widely shared with sister traditions throughout the Islamic world — from Baghdad to Bokhara. This building exists fundamentally as a place for peaceful contemplation, but one that is set in a social context. It is not a place to hide from the world, but rather a place which inspires us to engage our worldly work as a direct extension of our faith.”

Excerpts from Mawlana Hazar Imam’s [speech](#)

March 26, 2008

- Following the opening of the Ismaili Centre, Mawlana Hazar Imam inaugurated the Dubai Park located adjacent to the Centre. Presented as a gift from Hazar Imam to the City of Dubai, the 3,000 square metre park was developed by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture.



Mawlana Hazar Imam and Hussain Nasir Lootah, Acting Director General of Dubai Municipality cut the ribbon to inaugurate the Dubai Park. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte

- Later in the day, Mawlana Hazar Imam was Guest of Honour at the launch of the “Khor Dubai” Cultural Project being unveiled by UAE Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum. The project which aims to establish Dubai as a global centre for cultural and civilised dialogue, will create a cultural hub along the 20 km shoreline of Dubai Creek and envisions the construction of libraries, theatres, museums and other cultural institutions, including the first museum dedicated to Prophet Mohammed (peace be upon him and his family).

[The Ismaili](#)

March 27, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam departed from Dubai. He was bid farewell at the Royal Terminal of theDubai International Airport by His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum on behalf of the Ruling Family, as well as leaders of the UAE Jamat.



His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum bids farewell to Mawlana Hazar Imam at the Royal Terminal of Dubai International Airport, as members of the Jamati leadership look on. Photo: AKDN/ Gary Otte

The Ismaili Centre Dubai

The site of the Ismaili Centre Dubai, located at Oud Metha, was a gift of the Ruling Family of Dubai presented by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Dubai, to Mawlana Hazar Imam on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee in 1982.

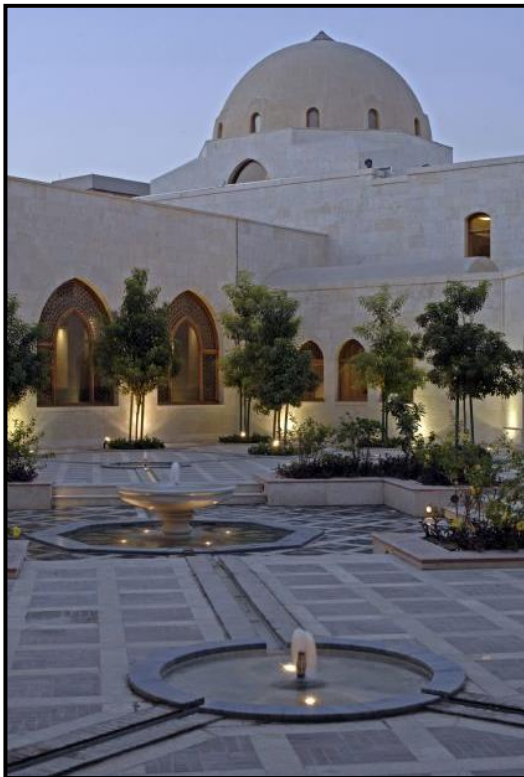


Photo: Gary Otte/The Ismaili

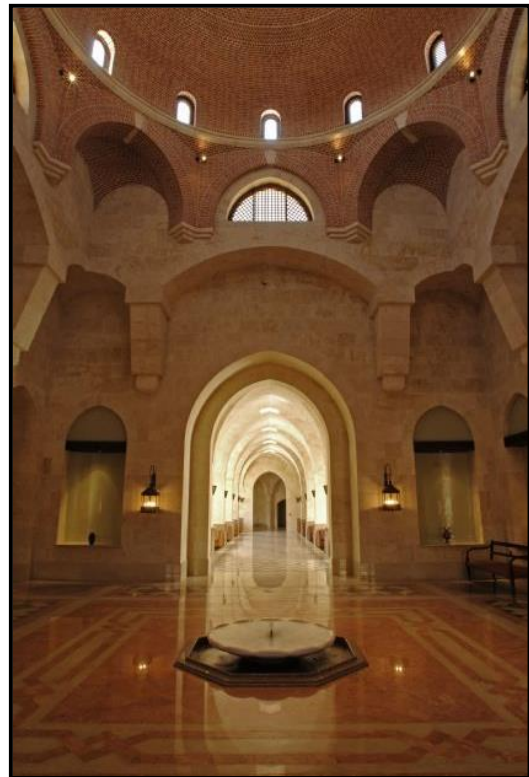
The Centre incorporates an Early Learning Centre (ELC) with a capacity of 225 children and will offer early childhood programmes that will be culturally relevant, dual medium (Arabic and English) and pluralistic in approach.

The Ismaili Centre Dubai will house offices of the Aga Khan Development Network, the Ismaili Institutions, and the Scouts and Guides groups.

The Ismaili



The main courtyard features an intricate geometric arrangement of channels that use gravity to carry water from a central fountain. The marble patterns and flower beds draw upon various traditions from across the Islamic world. Photo: The Ismaili



The main entrance hall of the Ismaili Centre, Dubai draws architectural inspiration from Fatimid mosques. At the centre of the marble floor is an ornamental fountain crafted from a solid block of Carrara marble. Photo: The Ismaili

March 29, 2008

- Performance of *A Mystical Journey* at McFarlin Memorial Auditorium in Dallas, Texas, USA.

March 30, 2008

- Performance of *A Mystical Journey* at George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, Texas.

April 2008

- National sports tryouts held at the Aga Khan University in Karachi, Pakistan, in preparation for the Golden Jubilee Games to be held in Nairobi, Kenya.



Athletes line-up to register at the Aga Khan University Sports Complex. Photo: Ismaili Council for Pakistan/ The Ismaili

April 1-13, 2008

- The Historic Cities Programme exhibition at McCord Museum in Montreal, Canada.



Christophe Bouleau of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture in discussion with guests at the opening of the Historic Cities Programme exhibition at the McCord Museum in Montreal. Photo: The Ismaili/ Aliya Allibhai

April 1-13, 2008

- *Bridges that Unite* exhibition at the Nickel Arts Museum, Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

April 5, 2008

- Performance of *A Mystical Journey* at York College Performing Arts Centre in Queens, New York, USA.

HAZAR IMAM'S VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES

April 11, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam arrived in Austin, Texas, for an eight-day visit to the United States.

Mawlana Hazar Imam, who was also accompanied by Princess Zahra, was received by Mayor Will Wynn of Austin, Deputy Secretary of State for Texas Coby Shorter III, other Texas dignitaries, and leaders of the US Jamat.

The Ismaili



Mawlana Hazar Imam and Princess Zahra walk under a sabre arch salute presented by the Sol Ross volunteers of Texas, as they disembark in Austin, Texas. Photo: The Ismaili/Gary Otte



Princess Zahra greets leaders of the US Jamat at Austin airport. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte



Mawlana Hazar Imam, accompanied by Mayor Will Wynn of Austin, waving to the leaders of the Jamat at Austin airport. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte

April 12, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam and Princess Zahra met with Governor Rick Perry at State Capitol.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the University of Texas and the Aga Khan University that aims to strengthen collaborations between the two institutions.

President Powers of University of Texas, Governor Rick Perry of Texas, President Rasul of the Aga Khan University and Mawlana Hazar Imam in discussions at the Governor's office at the Texas State Capitol.
AKDN / Gary Otte



Mawlana Hazar Imam addressing the media prior to the signing of the MOU, as Governor Rick Perry of Texas looks on. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte

The MOU provides for an expansion of the two Universities' existing programs relating to education and teaching about Muslim Histories and Cultures as well as identifies a number of other intellectual development areas for further initiatives, including architecture and human settlement; management, government, public policy and civil society; economic growth and development; education, science and technology; health sciences including joint research and training; and human development. Mawlana Hazar Imam stressed the importance of the developing countries' abilities to nurture and retain the talent of their people. He said:

“Developing countries in Asia and Africa urgently need to retain the best brains, to educate their most talented young men and women, if we are to bridge the gulf between industrialized states and developing countries.”

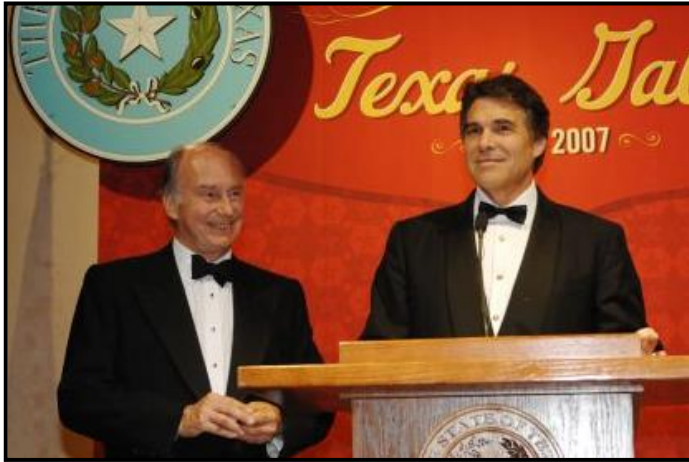
[AKDN Press Release](#)

April 12, 2008

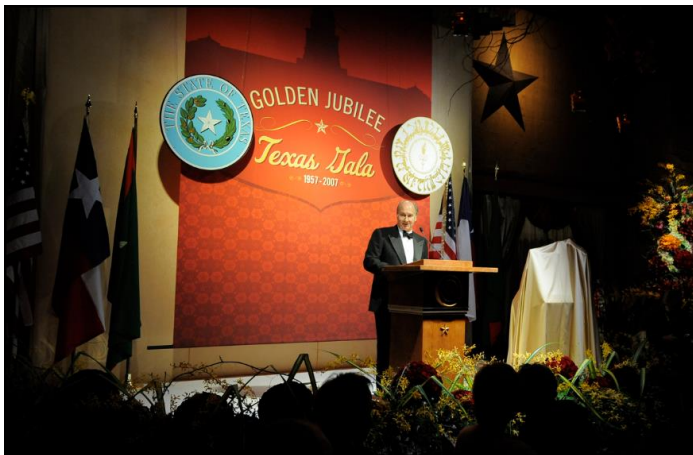
- The signing ceremony was followed by a lunch hosted by the University of Texas.

April 12, 2008

- In the evening, Mawlana Hazar Imam and Princess Zahra attended a Gala hosted by the Governor and First Lady of Texas in honour of Mawlana Hazar Imam.



Governor Rick Perry of Texas introducing Mawlana Hazar Imam to the guests at the State Gala. Photo: AKDN/ Zahur Ramji



Mawlana Hazar Imam speaking at the Gala. Photo: AKDN / Gary Otte

“The United States’ position as a world leader, in my view grows directly out of its accomplishments as a Knowledge Society - and this Knowledge - rightly applied - can continue to be a resource of enormous global value.

I thought it might be appropriate for me to say a few words at this point about the Ismaili community and my role as Imam. The Ismailis are a diverse community within the Shia branch of Islam, living in many parts of the world, and encompassing numerous ethnic and linguistic traditions. Their diversity reflects the profound pluralism of the Muslim world. The diverse Ismaili community has been united over many centuries by an allegiance to the living hereditary Imam of the time. Let me also emphasize the inseparable nature, within Islam, of faith and world: the intertwining of spiritual responsibility with the conduct of daily life. My responsibilities as Imam for interpreting the faith are thus accompanied by a strong engagement with issues relating to the quality of life, affirming the dignity of all peoples.”

Excerpts from Mawlana Hazar Imam’s [speech](#)

April 12, 2008

- At the dinner, Mawlana Hazar Imam announced the establishment of the new Ismaili Centre at Houston, Texas.

“As many of you know, Ismaili institutions everywhere are anchored in the community’s Jamatkhana, our places of congregation.....We are confident that the new Ismaili Centre in Houston, like the Centre in Dubai, will not only enhance the physical fabric of the city, but will also serve as a tangible symbol of the values we share with our good neighbours here in Texas.”

Excerpts from Mawlana Hazar Imam speech

April 13, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam granted Darbar at San Antonio Convention Center for the Jamat from Southwest and North Texas regions of USA. Princess Zahra was present for the Darbar. President Mahmoud Eboo of the Ismaili Council for USA submitted a loyalty address on behalf of the Jamat. This was the first of four Darbars held in the US.
- In the afternoon, Mawlana Hazar Imam departed for California.



Leaders of the Jamat bid farewell to Mawlana Hazar Imam and Princess Zahra at San Antonio airport. Photo: The Ismaili/ Zahur Ramji

April 13, 2008

- Upon his arrival at Van Nuys airport near Los Angeles, Mawlana Hazar Imam was received by Will Fox, Deputy Chief of Staff and Charlotte Schultz, Chief of Protocol from the office of the Governor of California, President Samia Rashid, and other leaders of the Ismaili Council for Western USA.



Mawlana Hazar Imam is greeted by Charlotte Schultz, Chief of Protocol and Will Fox, Deputy Chief of Staff from the office of the Governor of California, and President Samia Rashid and other leaders of the Ismaili Council for Western USA. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte

April 14, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam met with California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger at his office in Santa Monica.



Mawlana Hazar Imam and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger at the Governor's office in Santa Monica, California. Photo: The Ismaili/Gary Otte

April 14, 2008

- The Governor and First Lady Maria Shriver hosted lunch at the Getty Centre in Los Angeles.



Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and First Lady Maria Shriver are joined by guests in a standing ovation for Mawlana Hazar Imam at the luncheon.
Photo: The.Ismaili/Gary Otte

During the luncheon Governor Schwarzenegger praised the Aga Khan Development Network and Mawlana Hazar Imam's efforts to alleviate poverty, and promote architecture and culture. In his remarks, Hazar Imam thanked the Governor for his hospitality and stressed the need for the strengthening of human resources, which contribute towards the building of a civil society that supports fragile democracies.

- In the evening, Mawlana Hazar Imam was the guest of Mayor of Los Angeles, Antonio Villaraigosa, for dinner at Getty House, the official residence of the Mayor.



Mawlana Hazar Imam with the Mayor of Los Angeles, Antonio Villaraigosa.
Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte

April 15, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam granted Darbar at Los Angeles Convention Center for the West regions of the US and the international Jamat.
- Following the Darbar, Mawlana Hazar Imam departed for Chicago, Illinois.
- Upon his arrival at Midway International Airport in Chicago, Mawlana Hazar Imam was received by Ms. Sheila Nix, Deputy Governor of Illinois, Mr. Jack Lavin, Director of Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, and Ms. Eva Sieradzki, Director of International Relations and Protocol from the office of the Governor of Illinois, as well as leaders of the Jamats of Midwestern and Northeastern USA.



Mawlana Hazar Imam with Ms. Sheila Nix, Mr. Jack Lavin, and President Mahmoud Eboo of the Ismaili Council for USA. Photo: The Ismaili

April 16, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam met with Governor Rod Blagojevich of Illinois and Mayor Richard Daley of Chicago, at the Aon Centre in Chicago.
- Governor Rod Blagojevich of Illinois. hosted a lunch at the Mid-America Club in honour of Mawlana Hazar Imam.



Mawlana Hazar Imam addressing guests at the luncheon Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte

“I am here to learn. I am also here to seek partnerships. The global knowledge society is led by the United States. And therefore we are looking for partnerships. Partnerships which are long, which are stable and which produce quantifiable results. We will work with anybody who wants to help us in social development, economic development, pluralism and more important than anything else, building civil society.”

Excerpts from Mawlana Hazar Imam’s speech

- Later in the day, Mawlana Hazar Imam granted Darbar at Donald E. Stephens Convention Center for Midwestern US and international Jamat.

April 16-19, 2008

- The Historic Cities Programme exhibition at Metro Hall in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

April 17, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam departed for Atlanta, Georgia.
- At Fulton County Airport in Atlanta, Mawlana Hazar Imam was welcomed by Chris Young, Chief of Protocol for the State of Georgia, State Representative Melvin Everson, and leaders of the Jamat.



A Guard of Honour welcomes Mawlana Hazar Imam to the State of Georgia. Photo: The Ismaili/Zahur Ramji

- Later in the day, Mawlana Hazar Imam granted Darbar at Georgia International Convention Center in Atlanta for Southeast US and Florida Jamat.

April 18, 2008

- In the morning, Mawlana Hazar Imam met with Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue and First Lady Mary Perdue of Georgia at the Governor's Mansion.
- The Governor and First Lady hosted lunch in honour of Mawlana Hazar Imam. Hazar Imam thanked the Governor for his warm welcome to Georgia and expressed his appreciation for the United States' relief efforts in Central Asia.



“Islam is a faith of generosity; it is not always seen as a faith of generosity. You have an ethic of generosity in the United States. Generosity is also an ethic of our faith. Our faith reminds us constantly to care for the poor, the weak and the marginalized in society.”

Excerpts from Mawlana Hazar Imam’s speech



Mawlana Hazar Imam speaking at the luncheon. Photo: The.Ismaili/Gary Otte

April 18, 2008

- In the afternoon, Mawlana Hazar Imam delivered the annual Peterson Lecture on *Global Education and the Developing World* to the Annual Meeting of the International Baccalaureate Organisation (IBO) at their annual meeting. IBO was marking its fortieth anniversary.

Mawlana Hazar Imam delivering the Peterson Lecture. Seated behind him is Mr. Jeffrey Beard, Director General of the IB, Dr Monique Seefried, Chairman of the IB Board of Governors, and Salim Bhatia, Head of the Aga Khan Academies unit. Photo: Gary Otte/The Ismaili



“In the final analysis, the great problem of humankind in a global age will be to balance and reconcile the two impulses of which I have spoken: the quest for distinctive identity and the search for global coherence. What this challenge will ultimately require of us, is a deep sense of personal and intellectual humility, an understanding that diversity itself is a gift of the Divine, and that embracing diversity is a way to learn and to grow - not to dilute our identities but to enrich our self-knowledge.

What is required goes beyond mere tolerance or sympathy or sensitivity - emotions which can often be willed into existence by a generous soul. True cultural sensitivity is something far more rigorous, and even more intellectual than that. It implies a readiness to study and to learn across cultural barriers, an ability to see others as they see themselves. This is a challenging task, but if we do that, then we will discover that the universal and the particular can indeed be reconciled. As the Quran states: "God created male and female and made you into communities and tribes, so that you may know one another." (49.13). It is our differences that both define us and connect us.”

Excerpts from Mawlana Hazar Imam’s speech

- Following the lecture, Mawlana Hazar Imam met with the Board of Governors of the IBO as well as educators and teachers invited to the event.
- In the evening, Mawlana Hazar Imam was the guest of honour at a dinner hosted by the Jamati institutions of the USA.



Mawlana Hazar Imam addressing the leaders of the USA Jamat . Photo: The.Ismaili

April 19, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam concluded his eight-day Golden Jubilee visit to the USA. Leaders of the US Jamat gathered at the airport to bid Hazar Imam an emotional farewell.



President Mahmoud Eboo of the Ismaili Council for USA and his wife Karima Eboo bid farewell to Mawlana Hazar Imam. Photo: Zahir Ramji

April 20-25, 2008

- The Historic Cities Programme exhibition at Ontario Science Centre in Toronto, Canada.

HAZAR IMAM'S VISIT TO WEST AFRICA

April 23, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam arrived in Bamako, Mali. He was accompanied by Prince Rahim, Prince Hussain, and Princess Khaliya. Mawlana Hazar Imam and his family were received at the airport by the President of the Republic, Amadou Toumani Touré, senior government ministers, and representatives of the Aga Khan Development Network. Mawlana Hazar Imam held meetings with these officials.



Mawlana Hazar Imam, Prime Minister of Mali Modibo Sidibé meeting with Heads of AKDN and Government leaders. Photo: Gary Otte/AKDN

- Mawlana Hazar Imam attended State dinner hosted in his honour. At the dinner, Mawlana Hazar Imam was awarded the Grand Cross of the National Order of Mali, the country's highest honour, by President Touré.

April 24, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam, Prince Rahim, Prince Hussain, and Princess Khaliya visited Mopti, where they were welcomed by President Touré. Hazar Imam and President Touré officiated over the inauguration of the Komoguel I Mosque, which had been restored by the AKTC.

“The history of the Ummah has reason to remember the prestige and influence of Mali’s great mosques. At the height of the empire, in the eighth century, it was from these great seats of learning, these veritable centres of intellectual and spiritual activity, that Islam spread across Africa . It is therefore an immense privilege for me to be able to restore these magnificent mosques..... the great tradition of mud brick building has been revived and the skills acquired can henceforth be put into practice in the construction of all mud brick buildings, whether intended for religious or secular purposes.....My hope is that the regeneration of the areas around the mosques will mean the preservation and protection of the heritage of our glorious past which deserves our respect and admiration. And it is our duty as Muslims to contribute to and to encourage this effort, as the Holy Qu’ran reminds us by commanding us to leave the world in a better condition than that in which we received it, and instructing us to help one another in the performance of good works.”

Excerpts from Mawlana Hazar Imam’s speech

- In the afternoon, Mawlana Hazar Imam travelled to Timbuktu, where he was awarded an honorary degree Doctor Honoris Causa from the University of Sankoré as well as an Honorary Citizenship to the Community of Timbuktu by the Imam of the Djingarey Ber Mosque and other local leaders.



Mawlana Hazar Imam speaking outside the Djingarey Ber Mosque in Timbuktu. Photo: AKDN / Arnhel de Serra

“I feel extremely humble, since there can be no greater honour than to be accorded citizenship of a city that has always been renowned for its dedication to the quest for knowledge. Amid such a worthy and learned gathering I am reminded of the verses of the Holy Qur’an in which Allah reminds us that He gives the blessing of wisdom to whoever He wills, but only those with intelligence remember that He has done so..... this university has been the alma mater of the town’s 180 Qu’ranic schools and the birthplace of the many scholarly works which became uniquely influential in Africa during the Middle Ages. The sum of all that knowledge has been preserved in the richly-stocked libraries of Timbuktu which house thousands of manuscripts, most of them written by scholars born in the town. This tradition of learning and the transmission of knowledge is at the heart of Islam and the practice of the faith.”

Excerpts from Mawlana Hazar Imam’s speech

- In the evening, Mawlana Hazar Imam returned to Bamako.

April 25, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam and Prince Rahim met with government Ministers of Mali in the morning.
- In the afternoon, President Touré accompanied Mawlana Hazar Imam to the inauguration ceremony for the Bamako Park.
- In the evening, Mawlana Hazar Imam hosted a reception for members of the diplomatic corps, international organizations, and senior government officials in Mali.



Mawlana Hazar Imam and President Amadou Toumani Touré of Mali review a model of the Bamako Park project with Luis Monreal, Director General of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture. Photo: Gary Otte/AKDN

April 26, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam departed Mali for Burkina Faso.
- At the airport in Ouagadougou, Mawlana Hazar Imam and his family were greeted by Prime Minister Tertius Zongo, senior government Ministers, and representatives of AKDN.
- Mawlana Hazar Imam and Prince Rahim met with President Blaise Compaoré and Government ministers to review the work of the Aga Khan Development Network in Burkina Faso.
- Mawlana Hazar Imam spoke at a special seminar of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture held to celebrate three past Burkinabé recipients of the Award³. The Seminar was organised by the Burkinabé Ministry of Culture and the Aga Khan Trust for Culture.

Prince Hussain and Princess Khaliya attended the seminar.



Farrokh Derakshani, Director of the Aga Khan Award, with Mawlana Hazar Imam and representatives of the Ministry of Culture. Photo: Arnhel de Serra/AKDN

³ These recipients of the AKAA can be viewed at www.akdn.org/akaa_award5_awards.asp
www.akdn.org/akaa_award9_awards.asp
www.akdn.org/akaa_award10.asp#burkina

April 26-28, 2008

- The Historic Cities Programme exhibition at the University of Waterloo School of Architecture in Cambridge, Ontario, Canada

April 27, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam and Prince Rahim visited the Susuco sugar plant in Banforo; the plant is owned by Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development.
- Prince Ayn opened the Ismaili Economic Forum, a Golden Jubilee International Programme, in Dubai, UAE. Approximately 270 delegates from 25 countries, participated in the three-day conference held at the Ismaili Centre Dubai.



Upon arriving at the Ismaili Centre Dubai, Prince Ayn is received by Vice-President Wazir Dareedia of the Ismaili Council for the UAE and LIF Chairman Azim Lakhani. Photo: The.Ismaili



Prince Ayn addressing the Ismaili Economic Forum at the Ismaili Centre Dubai. Photo: Ismaili Council for the UAE/The Ismaili

“I hope that this Economic Forum, in this special Jubilee year, will reach new levels of success in identifying opportunities, in analysing and meeting the challenges that lie ahead. In our world, where both the workings and effects of globalisation are evolving and are as yet neither fully evident nor fully understood, it is important, I believe, that Ismaili professionals and businesses around the world review how best they can work together, how our traditions of collaboration can be given new life and new, original, productive forms of expression.”

Excerpts from Prince Ayn’s **speech**



A gift of a traditional dhow is presented to Prince Ayn Aga Khan at the Ismaili Economic Forum. Photo: The.Ismaili

April 28-29, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam arrived in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, where he held meetings with Government officials. Hazar Imam also launched the Premiere Agence de Microfinance (PAMF). The Agency will begin operations in northern Côte d'Ivoire.

PAMF will serve disadvantaged communities through a network that is expected to grow over eight branches by 2012. Loans are primarily intended for income-generating activities, and are designed to improve agricultural productivity, acquire livestock, and establish small enterprises in rural and urban areas.

Two microfinance institutions were launched in Mali and Burkina Faso in 2006.

[AKDN](#)

During their visit, Mawlana Hazar Imam and Prince Rahim also inspected Filtisac Côte d'Ivoire — a manufacture of jute, polypropylene and polyethylene bags for the agricultural trade. Filtisac is one of the oldest entities of the Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development in the region, and Mawlana Hazar Imam was present at its opening in 1965.



Mawlana Hazar Imam touring the jute bag manufacturing plant at Filtisac. Photo: Gary Otte/AKDN

[The Ismaili](#)

May 1, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam departed Côte d'Ivoire for Senegal.
- Mawlana Hazar Imam held meetings with government officials in Dakar, Senegal. In the afternoon, Mawlana Hazar Imam departed from Dakar, concluding his Golden Jubilee visit to West Africa.



Mawlana Hazar Imam and President Abdoulaye Wade in Dakar, Senegal. Photo: AKDN/Gary Otte

May 2-5, 2008

- Canadian Ismaili Games held in Vancouver, Canada, in preparation for the Golden Jubilee Games in Nairobi, Kenya.

May 11, 2008

- The Portuguese Jamat celebrated the launch of the three new publications by The Institute of Ismaili Studies (IIS) at the Ismaili Centre in Lisbon, which featured keynote addresses by Professor Azim Nanji, Director of the IIS, and Dr. Omar Ali-de-Unzaga, Academic Co-ordinator of the IIS Qur'anic Studies Unit.

May 11-19, 2008

- The Historic Cities Programme exhibition at the Pendulum Gallery in Vancouver, Canada.

HAZAR IMAM'S VISIT TO INDIA

May 12, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam arrived in New Delhi, where he was received at the airport by the Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. E. Ahmad, the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Shivshankar Menon, the Chief of Protocol for the Government of India, Mr. Sunil Lal, and leaders of the Jamat in India.



President Nizamuddin Ajani of the Ismaili Council for India welcomes Mawlana Hazar Imam to the country. Photo: The.Ismaili

- Mawlana Hazar Imam met with the Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. E. Ahmad, the Honourable Vice President, Mr. Mohammad Hamid Ansari, the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh and the Chairperson of the ruling United Progressive Alliance, Mrs. Sonia Gandhi.

- In the evening, Mawlana Hazar Imam was the guest of honour at a dinner hosted by the Vice President of India Mohammad Hamid Ansari.



Mawlana Hazar Imam meeting with Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. Photo: The Ismaili



Mawlana Hazar Imam introduces leaders of the Jamat and AKDN India to Vice President Ansari at the dinner. Photo: The.Ismaili

May 13, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam visited the Sundar Nursery and Nila Gumbad.

In addition to housing and protecting hundreds of plants, the Sundar Nursery also includes a number of ancient monuments, many of which date back to the Mughal period. The Aga Khan Trust for Culture is currently working on the preservation of these monu.

The Ismaili

- Later in the day, Mawlana Hazar Imam met with the Honourable President of India, Mrs. Pratibha Patil and with the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Lal Krishna Advani.
- In the evening, Mawlana Hazar Imam hosted a reception for the diplomatic corps of India.



Mawlana Hazar Imam with President. Pratibha Patil. Photo: Gary Otte/The Ismaili

May 14, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam travelled to Hyderabad, where he was greeted at the airport by Government representatives and leaders of the Jamat. The Jamat lined the streets around the airport to greet the Imam.
- Mawlana Hazar Imam met with the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Dr. Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy and the Governor of the state, Mr. Narayan Dutt Tiwari.
- Mawlana Hazar Imam also visited the site of the Aga Khan Academy in Hyderabad, where he had laid the foundation of the Academy in 2006.



Mawlana Hazar Imam waves at members of the Jamat. Photo: Gary Otte/The Ismaili

- In the evening, Mawlana Hazar Imam flew to Mumbai, where he was greeted by members of the Jamat.

May 14-16, 2008

- The International Conference on School Safety was held in Islamabad, Pakistan. This Golden Jubilee initiative aimed to discuss issues related to school safety across the globe and to come up with recommendations for action at national and regional levels. The Aga Khan Development Network, represented by Aga Khan Planning and Building Service, Pakistan and Focus Humanitarian Assistance, Pakistan, was the main sponsor of the Conference.

www.schoolsafetyconference.org/Index.html

May 15, 2008

- In the morning Mawlana Hazar Imam visited the Prince Aly Khan Hospital in Mumbai. Established in 1945, the hospital was named after Hazar Imam's father, Prince Aly Khan, who donated the land upon which it was built. Mawlana Hazar Imam toured the facility, and also met with the Senior Management of the hospital and the Directors of the Aga Khan Health Services in India.
- From the hospital, Mawlana Mawlana Hazar Imam went to the Diamond Jubilee School in Mumbai. Originally established in 1947 following the Diamond Jubilee of Imam Sultan Mahomed Shah, the school was last visited by Mawlana Hazar Imam in 1958. In 2007, it moved to a new site which was inaugurated by Princess Zahra. Mawlana Hazar Imam reviewed the school facilities and met briefly with the Directors of the Aga Khan Education Service in India.



Mawlana Hazar Imam looks at photographs of his visit to the Diamond Jubilee High School in 1958, and Princess Zahra's inauguration of the new school in 2007. Photo: Gary Otte/The Ismaili

The Ismaili



At the Diamond Jubilee High School in Mumbai, Mawlana Hazar Imam speaks with the Board of Directors of the Aga Khan Education Service, India. Photo: The.Ismaili



Mawlana Hazar Imam in conversation with doctors at Prince Aly Khan Hospital in Mumbai. Photo: The.Ismaili

May 16, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam departed from Mumbai early in the morning for Ahmedabad, where he met with the Chief Minister of Gujarat, Mr. Narendra Modi and the Governor of the state, Mr. Nawal Kishore Sharma.

Mawlana Hazar Imam with the Governor Nawal Kishore Sharma. Photo: Gary Otte/The Ismaili

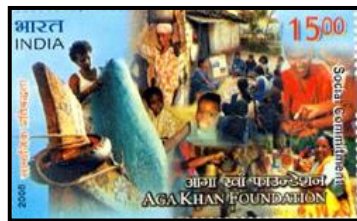


May 16, 2008

- In the afternoon, Mawlana Hazar Imam travelled by helicopter to the small Gujarat town of Sidhpur for the first of three Golden Jubilee Darbars. The Jamat from across the state of Gujarat, had travelled to Sidhpur for this Darbar which was held at a site constructed to accommodate over 50,000 people.
- After the Darbar, Mawlana Hazar Imam returned to Mumbai.

May 17, 2008

- In the afternoon, Mawlana Hazar Imam granted a Golden Jubilee Darbar to the Jamats of Western India who had gathered at the Bombay Exhibition Centre in Goregaon.
- Commemorative Postage Stamps issued by India Post to commemorate Aga Khan Foundation's work in India.



<http://www.indiapost.gov.in/Stamps2008.html>

May 18, 2008

- In the afternoon, the Jamats of South, Central, North, and East India gathered in Mumbai for the third Golden Jubilee Darbar of Mawlana Hazar Imam's visit to India.
- In the evening, the Jamati institutions of India hosted a dinner in honour of Mawlana Hazar Imam.

May 19, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam departed from Mumbai for Dhaka, Bangladesh.

HAZAR IMAM'S VISIT TO BANGLADESH

May 19, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam arrived in Dhaka, where he was received by the Honourable Chief Advisor of Bangladesh, Dr. Fakhruddin Ahmed, Government ministers, and Jamati leaders.
- From the airport, Mawlana Hazar Imam went to the National Martyr's Memorial at Savar to lay a wreath.



Mawlana Hazar Imam with Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed, government officials, and leaders of the Jamat. Photo: The.Ismaili

May 19, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam met the Chief Advisor of Bangladesh Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed at his office to discuss the work of the Aga Khan Development Network in Bangladesh.
- In the evening, the Chief Advisor unveiled a set of postage stamps commemorating the Golden Jubilee of Mawlana Hazar Imam's Imamat.

Mawlana Hazar Imam and the Honourable Chief Advisor of Bangladesh sign first day covers. Photo: TheIsmaili/Gary Otte



The Media

- Thereafter, Mawlana Hazar Imam attended a State banquet hosted in his honour. In his address, Hazar Imam said:

“Economic value is no longer tied to how much land one controls - or how many machines or factories one owns. Within our lifetimes, redominantly “Agricultural Societies” and “Industrial Societies” of the past have been joined - and sometimes supplanted - by what many call the “Knowledge Society,” propelled by the digital revolution, and focusing on the creation and management of information. In a Knowledge Society, the most productive investments we can make are investments in education. And education is another priority we share with the Bangladeshi people.

Education has always been a central theme in Islamic life- and in the life of my family, going back a thousand years, to my forefathers, the Fatimid Imam-Caliphs of Egypt. My Grandfather built on this tradition by founding a network of some 300 educational institutions, including Aligarh University in India. And we renewed this commitment more recently through the founding of The Aga Khan University and the University of Central Asia.”

Excerpts from Mawlana Hazar Imam's speech

May 20, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam presided over the foundation stone laying ceremony of the first Aga Khan Academy in Bangladesh. The Academy in Bashundhara District in Dhaka will eventually be part of a network of 18 centres of educational excellence in a total of 14 countries across Africa, Central and South Asia and the Middle East.



Mawlana Hazar Imam and Dr. Hossain Zillur Rahman, Bangladesh's Education Adviser, unveil the plaque commemorating the foundation stone laying ceremony of the Aga Khan Academy in Dhaka. Photo: AKDN Gary Otte

In his address, Hazar Imam stated that Bangladesh is the first Muslim country to host an Aga Khan Academy.

- In the afternoon, Mawlana Hazar Imam met with Bangladesh's Honourable Adviser for Foreign Affairs, the Honourable Adviser for Finance, the Honourable Adviser for Religious Affairs and the Honourable Adviser for Education.
- In the evening, Mawlana Hazar Imam hosted a Banquet in honour of the Chief Advisor of Bangladesh, Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed, which was preceded by a reception for the Bangladesh diplomatic corps.

May 21, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam met with the Honourable President of Bangladesh, Iajuddin Ahmed at the Bangabhaban Palace.
- In the afternoon, Mawlana Hazar Imam presided over the foundation ceremony of the Ismaili Jamatkhana and Centre in Dhaka, in the presence of Bangladesh's Honourable Adviser for Foreign Affairs Dr. Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury.



Mawlana Hazar Imam addresses guests at the foundation ceremony of the Ismaili Jamatkhana and Centre in Dhaka. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte

May 21, 2008

In his address at the opening of the Centre, Mawlana Hazar Imam said the Jamatkhana will be:

“.. a place of peace and tranquillity, filled with a spirit of humility and prayer. It will not be a place for conceit or self-satisfaction, but rather a place for search and enlightenment. It will be a place where men and women in this pluralist country can help strengthen those common bonds which reflect our common challenges and which will shape our common destiny.”

Excerpts from Mawlana Hazar Imam’s speech

- In the evening, Mawlana Hazar Imam was guest of honour at a dinner hosted by the Jamati institutions of Bangladesh.

Mawlana Hazar Imam smiles and applauds after a performance by Ismaili dancers at the Jamati institutional dinner in Dhaka.
Photo: The.Ismaili



May 22, 2008

- In the morning, Mawlana Hazar Imam granted a Darbar to the Jamat of Bangladesh.
- In the afternoon, Mawlana Hazar Imam departed from Dhaka.

Mawlana Hazar Imam bids farewell to the Jamat as he prepares to leave Dhaka.
Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte



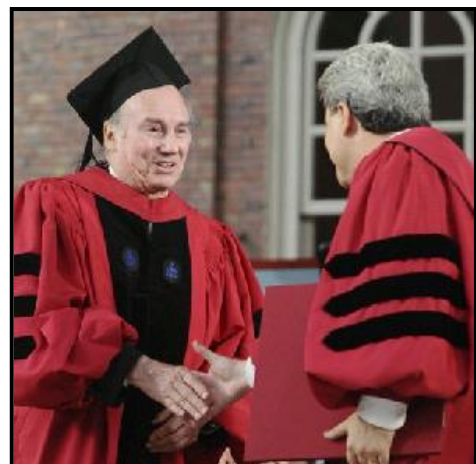
May 23-26, 2008

- Athletes representing USA, Australia, and New Zealand gathered in Meadville, Pennsylvania, USA to train for the Golden Jubilee Games to be held in Nairobi, Kenya.

June 5, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam received an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, during the Commencement Ceremony.

Mawlana Hazar Imam receiving an Honorary Degree from Marc Goodheart, Secretary of the university. Photo: Robert Spencer Getty Images



June 8, 2008

- ‘Friends of the Environment’ Competition held in Lahore, Pakistan hosted by the Aga Khan Planning and Building Service Pakistan. The event was held as part of the Golden Jubilee celebrations.

June 11-22, 2008

- [Bridges that Unite](#) exhibition at the Roundhouse Community Arts and Recreation Centre, Vancouver, Canada.

June 12, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam attended a one-day International Donors Conference – Aid for Afghanistan, held in Paris France. Over 65 countries and more than a dozen international organisations met at to pledge funds for Afghanistan and review their development strategy for the violence-plagued state. In his [speech](#) to the delegation, Mawlana Hazar Imam confirmed that the Aga Khan Development Network would be making a \$100m commitment over the next five years to support Afghanistan. Later, Mawlana Hazar Imam, French Foreign Minister, Bernard Kouchner, Afghan Foreign Minister, Rangin Dadfar Spanta, and the Director of the French Development Agency, Jean-Michel Severino signed a letter of intent to further develop and train medical and paramedic personnel for the French Medical Institute for Children (FMIC) in Kabul.

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French President Nicolas Sarkozy, center, welcomes U.S. First Lady Laura Bush, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Mawlana Hazar Imam, and Afghan President Hamid Karzai, at the opening of the conference

June 18, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam was officially installed as an Associate Foreign Member of France’s Académie des Beaux Arts. The official ceremony, held under the dome of the Institut de France in Paris, was attended by the Académie’s President, Yves Millecamps and its Perpetual Secretary, Arnaud d’Hauterives, as well as other members of the Académie and representatives of civil society and the diplomatic corps. The French President, Nicolas Sarkozy, was represented by his top aide on cultural affairs, Mrs. Isabelle Mariani

[AKDN](#)



The Perpetual Secretary of the Académie des Beaux Arts, Arnaud d’Hauterives, and Mawlana Hazar Imam.
Photo: AKDN/Gary Otte

June 21, 2008

- CIVIC Programme, Canada

In the spirit of service, the CIVIC program, which stands for “Challenging Ismaili Volunteers In Communities”, was introduced as a Golden Jubilee youth initiative that allowed youth between the ages of 13 to 25 to become “ambassadors” for the spirit of voluntary service. The CIVIC day volunteer activity focused on one or more themes which reflected initiatives of the AKDN, including Health, Environment, Humanitarian Assistance and Architecture.

Region	Theme	Partner Organization(s)	Activity
British Columbia	Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The City of Vancouver• The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation• The Stanley Park Ecology Society• University of British Columbia Farm• Evergreen-Chubb Creek• Byrne Creek Streamkeepers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Park Restoration
Prairies	Humanitarian Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Mustard Seed Ministry▪ Habitat for Humanity▪ Ismaili Seniors Action team▪ Aspen Family and Community Network Society▪ Boys and Girls Club of Calgary▪ Calgary Drop-In and Rehab Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Serving meals to homeless• Building fences and landscaping for new homes• Assisting seniors and homeless families
Edmonton	Humanitarian Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Habitat for Humanity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Building sheds for homes
Ottawa	Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ City of Ottawa – Adopt a Park Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Park Restoration
Ontario	Humanitarian Assistance, Environment		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Helping at the Becel Ride for Heart event• Interactive story-telling sessions with seniors▪ Park clean up and tree planting
Quebec and Maritimes	Environment		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Restoration activities at local schools

www.goldenjubileecanada.org/english/civic/about.aspx

June 23-29, 2008

- Golden Jubilee Games held in Nairobi, Kenya. Over 1,200 athletes from 27 countries participated in the games.



Performers at the Opening Ceremony of the Golden Jubilee Games in Nairobi. Photo: Ejaz S. Karamali/The Ismaili

June 23-July 1, 2008

- The Historic Cities Programme exhibition at the Alberta Legislature in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

June 29, 2008

- Prince Hussain and Princess Khaliya were present on the last day of the Golden Jubilee Games in Nairobi, Kenya. They also attended the closing ceremonies in the evening.



Prince Hussain and Princess Khaliya at the Golden Jubilee Games in Nairobi. Photo: Moez Visram/The Ismaili

June 30, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam received an Honorary Doctorate of Law degree from National University of Ireland, Maynooth. He was cited for “outstanding contributions to the elimination of global poverty, the advancement of women, the promotion of Islamic culture and the furthering of pluralistic values in society.”

Mawlana Hazar Imam is the first Muslim to receive this honorary degree from NUI, Maynooth.



Mawlana Hazar Imam, Princess Zahra, and Dr. Garret FitzGerald, Chancellor of the National University of Ireland in the courtyard of the University. Photo:Maxwell/AKDN

HAZAR IMAM'S VISIT TO THE UNITED KINGDOM

July 2, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam arrived in London, England, in the afternoon, to commence his seven-day Golden Jubilee visit to the United Kingdom. He was greeted at the airport by officials of the British Government and leaders of the UK Jamat.



Leaders of the UK Jamat welcoming Mawlana Hazar Imam. Photo: Gary Otte/The Ismaili



Leaders of the Jamat wave goodbye to Mawlana Hazar Imam as he leaves Heathrow Airport. Photo: The.Ismaili

July 3, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam met with the British Government's Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the Right Honourable David Miliband MP at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office.
- Mawlana Hazar Imam was a guest of honour at a luncheon hosted by the Right Honourable Jack Straw, Secretary of State for Justice and the Lord Chancellor.
- After lunch Mawlana Hazar Imam met with British Prime Minister the Right Honourable Gordon Brown.



Mawlana Hazar Imam with British Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Gordon Brown.
Photo: Gary Otte/ The Ismaili

- In the evening, Mawlana Hazar Imam hosted a reception for diplomats and senior government officials, followed by an Imamat dinner attended by political and civil society leaders from across the United Kingdom in Whitehall.

“In 1957, there was only one Ismaili space here for congregational prayer - and that was on leased premises! Creating places of prayer as centres for community life was fundamental to ensuring the cohesion of the community, and there are now over 40 such places. Among them, of course, a central focal point is The Ismaili Centre, located in South Kensington. Having Baroness Thatcher with us tonight is particularly significant because The Ismaili Centre was opened by her in 1985.”

Like other Ismaili Centres around the world, the London Centre serves not only as a gathering place for Ismailis, but as an active participant in local society, sponsoring a variety of cultural initiatives - exhibitions, lectures and other public events. These efforts reflect our pride in our heritage and our eagerness to share it with others.”

Excerpts from Mawlana Hazar Imam's speech



Mawlana Hazar Imam, Prince Hussain, Princess Khaliya and senior Jamati leaders at the UK Institutional dinner.
Photo: The.Ismaili

July 4, 2008

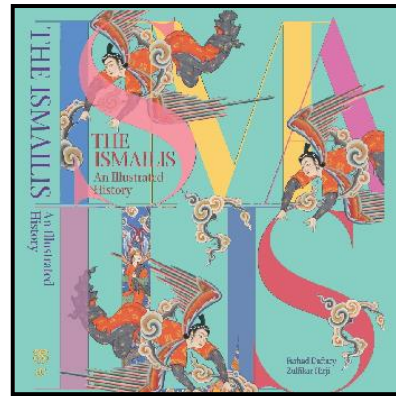
- In the morning, Mawlana Hazar Imam met with faculty and staff from The Institute of Ismaili Studies and the Aga Khan University's Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations at the Ismaili Centre. During the reception, the leaders of the IIS presented Mawlana Hazar Imam with a copy of their latest publication titled *The Ismailis: An Illustrated History*.



Photo: The.Ismaili



Professor Azim Nanji and Dr. Farhad Daftary of the IIS present Mawlana Hazar Imam with a copy of *The Ismailis: An Illustrated History*. Photo: Gary Otte /The Ismaili



The Ismailis: An Illustrated History, a publication on the origins and history of the Ismailis. Photo: The Institute of Ismaili Studies

- Later in the day, the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, visited the Ismaili Centre to meet with Mawlana Hazar Imam.



Mawlana Hazar Imam and the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, at the Ismaili Centre. Photo: The.Ismaili



Mawlana Hazar Imam and Mayor Boris Johnson (on Imam' right) visit the roof-top garden of the Ismaili Centre London. Photo: Gary Otte/The Ismaili

July 4-10, 2008

- The Historic Cities Programme exhibition at the Headquarters Jamatkhana in Calgary, Canada.

July 5, 2008

- In the afternoon, Mawlana Hazar Imam granted Darbar to the Jamat of United Kingdom and the countries under its jurisdiction, as well as members of the international Jamat, at the ExCeL centre in London. President Zauhar Meghji of the Ismaili Council for the United Kingdom delivered the loyalty address.



Mawlana Hazar Imam in conversation with volunteers as he departs the ExCeL centre following the Darbar. Photo: The Ismaili/ Zahur Ramji/

- Inaugural Canadian National Ismaili Students Total Achievement and Recognition (I-STAR) Awards gala held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Calgary, Alberta. Dr. Tom Kessinger, the Deputy Chairman, Board of the Aga Khan Development Network, and General Manager of Aga Khan Foundation, was the keynote speaker.

July 6, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam met with the Ismaili Leaders' International Forum at the Ismaili Centre in London.
- In the evening, Mawlana Hazar Imam was the guest of honour at a dinner hosted by the Jamati institutions of the United Kingdom, held at the Banqueting House in Whitehall.



Mawlana Hazar Imam is accompanied by President Zauhar Meghji of the Ismaili Council for the United Kingdom, as he leaves the Jamati institutional dinner. Photo: The Ismaili/ Zahur Ramji

July 7, 2008

- In the morning Mawlana Hazar Imam met with the Right Honourable Douglas Alexander, Secretary of State for International Development at the Department for International Development.



Mawlana Hazar Imam with the Right Honourable Douglas Alexander.
Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte

- In the afternoon the Right Honourable David Cameron, Leader of the Opposition, met with Mawlana Hazar Imam at the Ismaili Centre.
- In the evening Her Majesty the Queen hosted a black-tie dinner in honour of Mawlana Hazar Imam at Buckingham Palace. The Duke of Edinburgh, the Prince of Wales, the Duchess of Cornwall, and the Duke of York from the Royal Family, and Prince Aryn, Princess Yasmin, Princess Zahra, Prince Rahim, Prince Hussain, and Princess Khaliya from the Imam's family were also present at the dinner.



Mawlana Hazar Imam presents Prince Hussain to Her Majesty the Queen. Prince Aryn, and Prince Rahim prepare to be greeted by His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh and the Duchess of Cornwall, as Princess Yasmin looks on. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte



Mawlana Hazar Imam together with Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh at a dinner hosted in Hazar Imam's honour at Buckingham Palace to commemorate his Golden Jubilee. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte

July 8, 2008

- In the morning, leaders of the UK Jamat gathered at the London Heliport to bid farewell to Mawlana Hazar Imam, who departed by helicopter.



Leaders of the Jamat gather at the London Heliport as Mawlana Hazar Imam prepares to depart the UK. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte



Mawlana Hazar Imam conveys his appreciation to the police escort prior to departing the UK. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte

HAZAR IMAM'S VISIT TO PORTUGAL

July 10, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam arrived in Lisbon, Portugal, in the afternoon. Leaders of the Jamat gathered at the airport to welcome Mawlana Hazar Imam, who was received by Alberto Costa, Minister of Justice, on behalf of the Government of Portugal.



Mawlana Hazar Imam receives a guard of honour upon his arrival in Lisbon. Ambassador Manuel Corte Real, Head of State Protocol received Mawlana Hazar Imam. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte



Mawlana Hazar Imam is welcomed by senior leaders of the Jamat upon his arrival in Lisbon. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte

July 10, 2008

- From the airport, Mawlana Hazar Imam went to the Presidential Palace for a meeting with President Cavaco Silva. Following their meeting, the Portuguese President hosted lunch in honour of Mawlana Hazar Imam.



Mawlana Hazar Imam with the President of the Portuguese Republic, Cavaco Silva. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte

- Later in the afternoon, the United Nations High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations, Jorge Sampaio, met with Mawlana Hazar Imam at his hotel.

IMAMAT DAY

July 11, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam met with the Minister of Justice, Alberto Costa, at the Ministry of Justice. He then met with the President of the Assembly of the Republic, Jaime Gama, who also hosted a lunch in honour of Mawlana Hazar Imam at the Assembly building.
- In the afternoon, Mawlana Hazar Imam visited the Foreign Office to meet with the Foreign Minister, Luís Amado.
- In the evening Mawlana Hazar Imam met with Prime Minister José Sócrates at the Prime Minister's official residence. There, Mawlana Hazar Imam and the Foreign Minister signed an Agreement of International Cooperation between the Ismaili Imamat and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Portuguese Republic.



Mawlana Hazar Imam and Foreign Minister Luís Amado shake hands upon signing the Agreement.. Photo: The Ismaili/Gary Otte

July 11, 2008

- The Prime Minister hosted a dinner in honour of Mawlana Hazar Imam, which was attended by Prince Ayn, Prince Rahim, Prince Hussain and Princess Khaliya.



Mawlana Hazar Imam, Prime Minister Sócrates, Foreign Minister Amado, Prince Ayn, Prince Rahim and Prince Hussain. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte

July 12, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam visited the Ismaili Centre in Lisbon, where he received the Minister of Science, Technology and Higher Education, Mariano Gago. Mawlana Hazar Imam was later joined by the Cardinal Patriarch of Lisbon, D. José Policarpo.
- Following their meeting, Mawlana Hazar Imam and the Cardinal Patriarch witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Catholic University of Portugal (UCP) and the Aga Khan University (AKU) by the Rector of the UCP and the President of the AKU. Also present was the Minister for Culture, José António de Melo Pinto Ribeiro.



Mawlana Hazar Imam and the Cardinal Patriarch of Lisbon, D. José Policarpo, in the gardens of the Ismaili Centre in Lisbon. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte

July 12, 2008

- In the evening, Mawlana Hazar Imam, accompanied by Prince Rahim, hosted a reception at the Ismaili Centre. Guests included diplomats, leaders of government, and members of civil society institutions in Portugal.



Prince Rahim is welcomed to the Ismaili Centre in Lisbon, upon his arrival for the reception. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte



During the diplomatic reception, Mawlana Hazar Imam speaks with Aga Khan Foundation scholarship recipients from Mozambique. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte

July 13, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam granted Darbar at the Parque das Nações in Lisbon.
- In the afternoon, Mawlana Hazar Imam met with the Minister of Social Solidarity, Vieira da Silva.
- In the evening, the Jamati Institutions of Portugal hosted a dinner in honour of Mawlana Hazar Imam.
- A bicycle rally *Journey of Motivation* was organized as part of the Golden Jubilee celebrations by the Ismaili Local Council, Gilgit, Northern Pakistan. The rally began at Shah Karim Hostel in Konodas, Gilgit and ended at Naltar Bala, where the closing ceremonies were held.

Pamir Times

July 14, 2008

- In the morning, Mawlana Hazar Imam met with Professor Adriano Moreira, President of the Sciences Academy of Lisbon (Academia das Ciências de Lisboa).
- Later in the day, leaders and members of the Jamat gathered to bid farewell to Mawlana Hazar Imam as he departed Lisbon, concluding his Golden Jubilee visit to Portugal.



Mawlana Hazar Imam heads toward his plane departing Lisbon at the conclusion of his Golden Jubilee visit to Portugal. Photo: The Ismaili/ Zahur Ramji

July 16, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam attended the launch of the Louvre Museum's Islamic Art Department in Paris, France.



Saudi Arabian Prince Alwaleed bin Talal Bin Abdul aziz Al Saud, front left, and French President Nicolas Sarkozy, front right, place a map of the Louvre Museum's future Islamic Art Department inside its first stone, in Paris, during a ceremony marking the launch of the works. In the background, from left to right, Prince Alwaleed bin Talal's wife, Princess Ameera, Mawlana Hazar Imam, and French Culture minister Christine Albanel. AP Photo/ Ercic Feferberg, Pool

July 17, 2008

- In commemoration of Mawlana Hazar Imam's Golden Jubilee, The Institute of Ismaili Studies launched the book *The Ismailis: An Illustrated History*, in Vancouver, Canada. The book is co-authored by Dr. Farhad Daftary and Dr. Zulfikar Hirji.

- Professor Nanji at Ismaili Jamatkhana and Centre
- Dr. Zulfikar Hirji at Headquarters Lions Gate Jamatkhana



July 18, 2008

- Professor Azim Nanji launched the book *The Ismailis: An Illustrated History*, at the Headquarters Jamatkhana, Calgary, Canada.
- Dr. Zulfikar Hirji launched the book *The Ismailis: An Illustrated History*, at Scarborough Jamatkhana, Toronto, Canada.

July 19, 2008

- Professor Azim Nanji launched the book *The Ismailis: An Illustrated History*, at Etobicoke Jamatkhana, Ontario, Canada.
- Premiere of the show *Ali to Karim* at Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center in Los Angeles, USA.

Ali to Karim: A Tribute to the Ismaili Imams recounts the story of our 49 Imams in seven episodes. It traces the unbroken thread of Imamatus through the tapestry of Muslim civilisations woven over 1,400 years of history. It transports viewers to 8th century Arabia, 12th century Persia and 17th century France, through a lyrical world that draws on legends and tales, poetry and paintings, film and historical source

[The Ismaili](#)



Source: The.Ismaili

July 20, 2008

- Professor Azim Nanji launched the book *The Ismailis: An Illustrated History*, at the Headquarters Jamatkhana in Toronto, Canada.
- Dr. Zulfikar Hirji launched the book *The Ismailis: An Illustrated History* in Kitchener, Ontario, Canada.

July 21, 2008

- Professor Azim Nanji and Dr. Zulfikar Hirji launched the book *The Ismailis: An Illustrated History*, at the Jamatkhana in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

July 23, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam was interviewed by Portuguese television P2 in Lisbon, Portugal.

“There will always be limits in inter-religious dialogue, when religions, in their essence, cannot attain a consensus above a common platform, when proselytism is, therefore, worth more. There are several forms of proselytism and, in several religions, proselytism is demanded. Therefore, it is necessary to develop the principle of a cosmopolitan ethic, which is not an ethic oriented by faith, or for a society. I speak of an ethic under which all people can live within a same society, and not of a society that reflects the ethic of solely one faith. I would call that ethic, quality of life.”

Excerpts from transcript of interview

July 25, 2008

- Kenya hosted the first major book launch of an Institute of Ismaili Studies publication outside North America and Europe. Co-authors of the book, *The Ismailis: An Illustrated History*, were present for the book launch in Nairobi.
- Asif Alidina of the IIS introduced The Institute.
 - Professor Azim Nanji, Director of The IIS, shared the history of the book, its importance, and the relevance of its launch during the Golden Jubilee.
 - Dr. Farhad Daftary presented a brief history of the Ismailis over the 1,400 year history.
 - Dr. Zulfikar Hirji talked about how the book was researched and how some of the hundreds of impressions were sourced, several of which were being published for the first time
The Ismaili



Dr. Farhad Daftary addressing the audience in Nairobi. Photo: The Ismaili/ Zahir Daya

July 26-27, 2008

- Performance of *Ali to Karim* at Charles W. Eismann Center in Dallas, Texas, USA.

July-August 2008

- Ismaili Tariqah and Religious Education Board for Karachi and Balochistan presented a Golden Jubilee activity titled *Diversity Week*. The programme highlighted presentations on Arab, Syrian, Central Asian, Iranian, and Indo-Pak cultural and linguistic traditions. The *Diversity Week* also included a cultural exhibition titled *Cultural Mela* presented by students of Religious Education Centres, where they highlighted the various Ismaili cultures of Indo-Pak, Afghan, Central Asian, and Arab cultures.

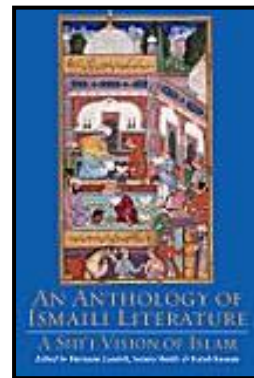


Photo: Ismailimail

The week-long programme was held in each of the 27 Jamatkhana of Karachi, Pakistan.

August 2008

- The Institute of Ismaili Studies published *An Anthology of Ismaili Literature: A Shi'i Vision of Islam*, to commemorate Mawlana Hazar Imam's Golden Jubilee.



August 3, 2008

- Performance of *Ali to Karim* at Gusman Center in Miami, Florida, USA

August 9, 2008

- Performance of *Ali to Karim* at Harris Theater in Chicago, Illinois, USA.

August 16, 2008

- Performance of *Ali to Karim* at Symphony Space in New York, New York, USA.

August 22-24, 2008

- Performance of *Ali to Karim* at Rialto Center for the Arts in Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

HAZAR IMAM'S VISIT TO SYRIA

August 24, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam arrived at Damascus airport to commence his Golden Jubilee visit to Syria. He was received by Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Al-Dardari, the Minister of Tourism, leaders of the Jamat and AKDN institutions in Syria.



Upon his arrival in Damascus, Mawlana Hazar Imam is received by the Deputy Prime Minister of Syria, Abdullah Al-Dardari, senior government ministers as well as leaders of the Jamat and AKDN. Photo: The Ismaili/Gary Otte



Mawlana Hazar Imam is welcomed with flowers and affection upon his arrival in Damascus. Photo: The Ismaili/Gary Otte

August 24, 2008

- In the afternoon, Mawlana Hazar Imam met with the President, His Excellency Dr. Bashar Al-Assad.



Mawlana Hazar Imam with His Excellency Dr. Bashar Al-Assad. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte

August 25, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam met with the Prime Minister, Muhammad Naji Al-Otri, and the Deputy Prime Minister, Abdullah Al-Dardari.
- Following the meetings, Mawlana Hazar Imam and the Prime Minister witnessed the signing of an agreement by the Governor of the Central Bank, Dr Adib Mayaleh, to mark the launch of the First MicroFinance Institution (FMFI) in Syria.



Dr Adib Mayaleh, Governor of the Central Bank of Syria (right) and Mr Jean Lorenz Ehretrant, Chief Executive Officer of the FMFI, exchange agreements after a signing which recognises the FMFI as the first microfinance institution to operate in the country. Photo: AKDN/Gary Otte

The FMFI is the first entity of its kind in the country. It will operate as a banking institution, while remaining focused on poverty alleviation and sustainable economic development in line with the mandate of the Aga Khan Agency for Microfinance.

In his remarks to the media about the opportunities that microcredit can present to the poor, Mawlana Hazar Imam said:

“It is a resource which needs to be developed... I hope we will be able to expand the microcredit activities in Syria, to more and more people across the country, particularly in rural environments.”

[AKDN](#)

August 25, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam and Syrian Prime Minister His Excellency Mohamed Naji Al-Otri witnessed the signing of a Memorandum between Aga Khan University (AKU) and the Ministries of Health and Higher Education of the Government of Syria to enhance capacity in the health sector.



Dr Ghiath Barakat, Minister of Higher Education, and Mr Firoz Rasul, President of Aga Khan University, sign an agreement to further develop the healthcare sector in the country. The signing of the agreement was witnessed by Mawlana Hazar Imam and Prime Minister Muhammad Naji Al-Otri. Photo: AKDN / Gary Otte

The signing of the Memorandum marks the expansion of an existing partnership between the Government of Syria and AKU. As part of this partnership, AKU will provide technical assistance to the Ministries for:

- Strengthening of selected Bachelors and Masters programmes for nurses through developing capacity of faculty and introducing research-based, relevant curricula
- Establishing quality assurance systems at the Damascus Hospital through comprehensive training of staff

At the signing ceremony, Mawlana Hazar Imam said:

“Institutions that teach best practices, measured in global terms, are critical for any country in the world, however well developed it is. Building institutional capacity in Syria - jointly in healthcare and education, is a goal which we have shared since we started our discussions and the agreement that was signed today with regard to Higher Education and institutional building, enters directly into this area.”

From 2003-2007, AKU served as an intellectual partner to Syria’s Ministry of Health. In this period, AKU introduced nursing quality assurance at seven hospitals, trained over 100 nurses in clinical skills and quality assurance, assisted in the development of the Ministry of Health’s diploma nursing curriculum and trained forty teachers in contemporary pedagogies. During this time, nine students have benefited from higher education opportunities at AKU in Pakistan, including Bachelor and Master of Science in Nursing and Master of Education degree programmes. Most of these students have now returned to Syria to contribute to the development of the health and education sectors in their country.

[AKDN Press Release](#)

August 25, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam witnessed the signing of an agreement between the Governor of Damascus, Bishr Mazen Al-Sabban, and Mahmud Janmohamed, Managing Director of Tourism Promotion Services — an agency of the Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development. The agreement, which was ratified by the Minister of Tourism, Sadallah Agha Al-Qala, announces the investment of approximately \$20 million towards the building of a five-star hotel through the preservation and restoration of four heritage buildings in Old Damascus.



Mawlana Hazar Imam and Prime Minister Muhammad Naji Al-Otri address a gathering of media at the Prime Minister's office after the signing of the three agreements of collaboration between AKDN and the Government of Syria. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte

In his remarks to the media, Hazar Imam said:

“Islamic cultures have immense power and immense opportunity... it is up to us Muslims to illustrate those civilisations, those cultures of the past and present ... Cultural assets can and should become contributors to cultural dialogue, to cultural understanding, pride in one's heritage and make an economic contribution to the country. Cultural assets speak for our history, speak for our traditions, speak for our values, speak for our ethics.”

[AKDN Press Release](#)

- In the afternoon, Mawlana Hazar Imam held separate meetings with the Minister of Health, Dr. Maher Al-Husami, the Minister of Education, Ali Daher Saad, and the Grand Mufti of Syria, Sheikh Ahmad Badr-Eldeen Hassoun.



Mawlana Hazar Imam and the Grand Mufti of Syria, Sheikh Ahmad Badr-Eldeen Hassoun, embrace during their meeting in Damascus. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte

- In the evening, Mawlana Hazar Imam was the guest of honour at a dinner hosted by the Prime Minister at the Palace of Nobles.

August 26, 2008

- In the morning, Mawlana Hazar Imam travelled by helicopter to Salamieh.
- Upon his arrival, he visited the Mausoleum of his father, Prince Aly Khan, to pay his respects.
- Thereafter, Mawlana Hazar Imam arrived at the fields of the Agricultural School of Salamieh, where the first of two Golden Jubilee Darbars in Syria was held. The Darbar, set in the open air, was attended by over one hundred thousand people from Syria and abroad.
- Mawlana Hazar Imam hosted a reception in Damascus for government officials, diplomats and other guests.



Mawlana Hazar Imam at the Golden Jubilee Darbar at Salamieh, Syria. Photo: The Ismaili/ Akbar Hakim

- In the evening, Mawlana Hazar Imam hosted a dinner at which the Syrian Prime Minister Muhammad Naji Al-Otri was the chief guest.

August 27, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam travelled to Al-Khawabi for the second Golden Jubilee Darbar.
- After the Darbar, Mawlana Hazar Imam returned to Damascus by helicopter.
- In the evening, Mawlana Hazar Imam was guest of honour at a dinner hosted by the Jamati institutions of Syria.



Mawlana Hazar Imam speaking at the Darbar at Al-Khawabi in Syria. Photo: The Ismaili/ Amir Hakim



Mawlana Hazar Imam addressing the Syrian leadership at the institutional dinner in Damascus. Photo: The Ismaili/ Akbar Hakim

August 28, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam met again with the President of the Syrian Arab Republic, Dr. Bashar Al-Assad.
- Later, Mawlana Hazar Imam visited the site being proposed for an Aga Khan Academy in Damascus, as well as the site of a future hotel that the AKDN's Tourism Promotion Services plans to develop in Old Damascus.



Mawlana Hazar Imam and Syrian Minister for Tourism, Sadallah Agha Al-Qala, tour the site of a future hotel to be developed in Old Damascus. Photo: The Ismaili/Akbar Hakim



Mawlana Hazar Imam reviews plans at the proposed site of the Aga Khan Academy in Damascus. Photo: The Ismaili/Akbar Hakim



Mawlana Hazar Imam and Syrian Minister for Tourism, Sadallah Agha Al-Qala, on a walking tour of Old Damascus, where AKDN will restore four buildings as part of the development of a five-star hotel by Tourism Promotion Services. Photo: The Ismaili

- In the afternoon, Mawlana Hazar Imam, accompanied by Prime Minister Muhammad Naji Al-Otri, departed Damascus to travel to Aleppo. Leaders of the Jamat and AKDN gathered at Damascus airport to bid farewell to Mawlana Hazar Imam.

August 28, 2008

- In Aleppo, Mawlana Hazar Imam and the Prime Minister attended a ceremony at the Aleppo Citadel to mark the completion of cultural revitalisation work on the citadels of Aleppo, Salah ad-Din and Masyaf, which was carried out by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture in partnership with the Syrian Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums.

Also in attendance at this ceremony were the Governor of Aleppo, Dr Tamer Hejjeh, Prince Ayn, as well as numerous government officials, faith leaders and partners in cultural restoration.

Speaking at the ceremony, Mawlana Hazar Imam emphasised the importance of reviving the history of civilisations of the global Muslim Community:

"We don't do enough to illustrate to the peoples of our world the greatness of the Islamic civilisations of cultures of the past.

The background to this initiative is very simple. It is to illustrate to the peoples of our world, the history of the civilisations of the Ummah. Because they don't know our history, they don't know our literature, they don't know our philosophy, they don't know the physical environment in which our countries have lived, they view the Ummah in terminology which is completely wrong."

My interest in working in Syria is to take the various lead countries of the Ummah and say, let's start, let's move together, let's revive our cultures so that modernity is not only seen in the terminology of the west, but in the intelligent use of our past."

AKDN Pres Release



Mawlana Hazar Imam and Prime Minister Naji Al-Otri shake hands upon unveiling a plaque at the Aleppo Citadel commemorating the restoration of the citadels of Aleppo, Salah ad-Din and Masyaf. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte



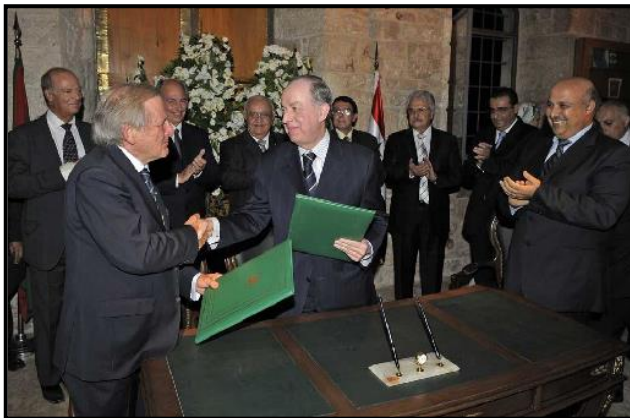
Mawlana Hazar Imam walks through Aleppo's citadel after the inauguration ceremony, accompanied by Prime Minister Muhammad Naji Al-Otri and Mr. Seifo, resident representative of AKDN Syria. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte

August 28, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam also announced the creation of a \$15 million urban park in Aleppo. The Park at Bab Qinnestrine, to be built on waste ground owned by the Aleppo Municipality, will create a vast new public green space for the people of Aleppo.

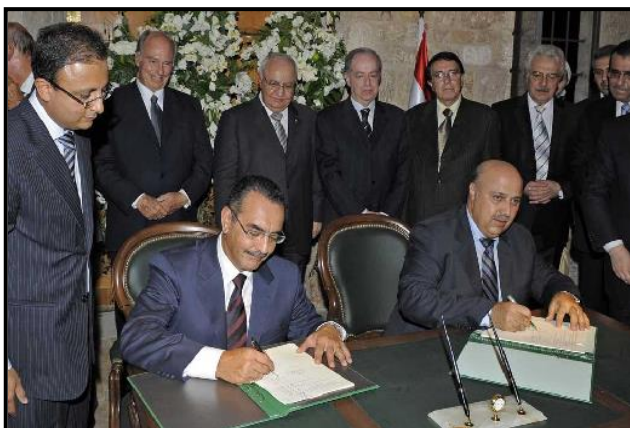


Mawlana Hazar Imam walks through the Bab Qinnestrine, selected for the development of Aleppo's urban park. Photo: The Ismaili /Gary Otte



Mr Luis Monreal, General Manager of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, signs an agreement for the development of an urban park in Aleppo with Syria's Minister of Tourism, Sadallah Agha Al-Qala. Photo: The Ismaili /Gary Otte

- Mawlana Hazar Imam witnessed the signing of an agreement for AKDN's Tourism Promotion Services to develop a hotel in Aleppo.



Mr Mahmud Janmohamed, Managing Director of Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development's Tourism Promotion Services, signs an agreement with the Governor of Aleppo, Dr Tamer Hejjeh, to restore Aleppo's historic Government House, known as "The New Serai," and convert it into a five-star hotel. Photo: AKDN/ Gary Otte

August 28-31, 2008

- Performance of *Ali to Karim* at Wortham Cullen Theater in Houston, Texas, USA

August 29, 2008

- In the morning, Mawlana Hazar Imam held several meetings.
- Mawlana Hazar Imam was interviewed by television reporter Reem Haddad of Al-Want News.
- In the afternoon, Mawlana Hazar Imam departed from Aleppo. Prime Minister Muhammad Naji Al-Otri bade farewell to Mawlana Hazar Imam on behalf of the Government. Leaders of the Jamat and the AKDN in Syria were also present.



Reem Haddad of Al-Want News interviewing Mawlana Hazar Imam



President Nasser al-Maghout of the Ismaili Council for Syria bids farewell to Mawlana Hazar Imam at the conclusion of his Golden Jubilee visit to Syria. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte

September 10, 2008

- The Councils for Canada and the USA, in consultation with Nazrana International Task Force, launched the AKDN Speaker Series Webcast.

The AKDN Speaker Series was an initiative of the Golden Jubilee Nazrana International Task Force, with support from the Ismaili Councils for Canada and the United States. It was intended to inform the Jamat about volunteer opportunities for those who wish to offer a nazrana of time and knowledge.

Each event in the series was delivered through a live webcast, and gave the Jamat a chance to learn about a specific institution — its vision, objectives, projects, and opportunities — as well as to submit questions to the speaker.

Speaker: Dr. Tom Kessinger
General Manager of the Aga Khan Foundation and
Deputy Chairman of the Board of the Aga Khan Development Network

Topic: Volunteer opportunities with the Aga Khan Foundation

[AKDN](#)

October 1, 2008

- Eight new stamps featuring various development projects of the Aga Khan Development Network in Uganda were issued by Posta Uganda. The stamps, which commemorate the Golden Jubilee of Mawlana Hazar Imam, were launched during celebrations to mark the World Post Day at the Posta office in Kampala.

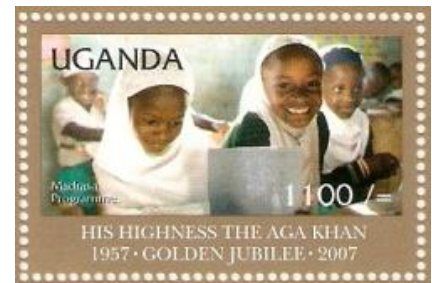
Daily Monitor



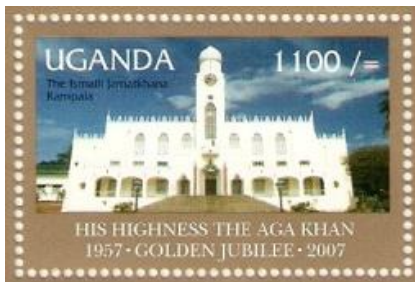
Diamond Trust Building



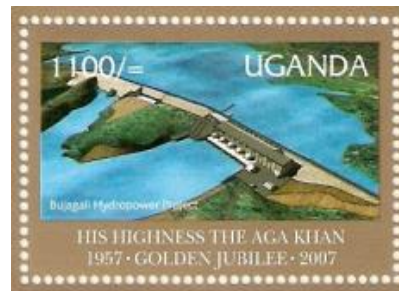
Kampala Serena Hotel



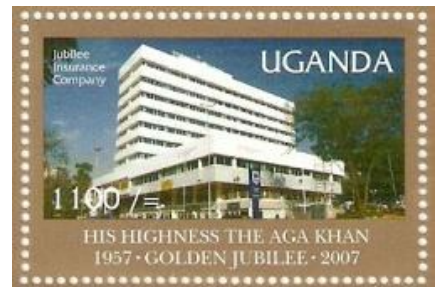
Madrasa Programme



The Ismaili Jamatkhana
Kampala



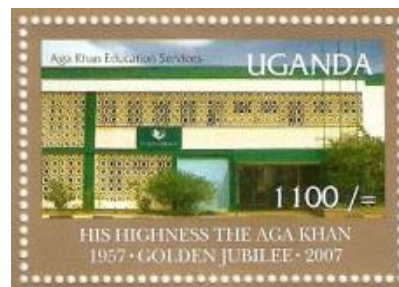
Bujagali Hydropower Project



Jubilee Insurance Company



Air Uganda



Aga Khan Education Services

October 8, 2008

- AKDN Speaker Series Webcast

Speaker Firoz Rasul
President of Aga Khan University

Topic Aga Khan University's Vision for Growth

HAZAR IMAM'S VISIT TO CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

October 28, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam arrived in Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan, where he was received at the airport with a traditional Kazakh welcome from senior government officials and AKDN leaders in the region.



Hazar Imam is greeted with a traditional Kazakh welcome as government officials look on. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte/

October 29, 2008

- In the morning, Hazar Imam was received by His Excellency President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan at the Presidential Palace in Astana.
- Mawlana Hazar Imam and President Nazarbayev discussed, amongst other things, the regional impact of the current global financial situation.

In his meetings with Kazakhstan's Prime Minister Karim Massimov, Foreign Minister Marat Tahzin and Education Minister Zhanseit Tuimebayev, Mawlana Hazar Imam covered a range of topics pertaining to ongoing and future initiatives of the Aga Khan Development Network in the wider region.



Mawlana Hazar Imam is greeted by Kazakhstan's Prime Minister, Karim Massimov. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte

Addressing the press following his meetings, Mawlana Hazar Imam also noted that he had "come to Kazakhstan to monitor the situation relating to the development of the university of Central Asia" and to discuss "matters of cooperation here, in Kazakhstan and in the Central Asian region."

October 29, 2008

- The Minister of Education and Science, Dr. Zhansait Tuimebayev, bestowed upon Mawlana Hazar Imam the title of “Honoured Educator of the Republic of Kazakhstan” in recognition of Imam’s services to Education.



Mawlana Hazar Imam meets with His Excellency President Nursultan Nazarbayev at the Presidential Palace. Photo: Ismailmail



Mawlana Hazar Imam addresses media gathered at the Presidential Palace. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte



Mawlana Hazar Imam and the Minister of Education and Science, Dr Zhansait Tuimebayev. Photo: AKDN / Gary Otte

October 30, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam arrived in Taldy Kurgan, and was received by the Akim (Governor) of the region of Almaty Oblast, Mr Serik Umbetov. Mawlana Hazar Imam was accompanied by Dr. Zhanseit Tuimebayev, Kazakhstan's Minister of Education
- Mawlana Hazar Imam travelled by road to the site where the University of Central Asia's (UCA) Kazakhstan campus is to be built, near Tekeli.
- Mawlana Hazar Imam examined campus views overlooking Tekeli and discussed spatial planning with architects from the firm of Arata Isozaki Associates. The Mayor of the Eskeldinski Rayon, Mr. Sultan Busembinov presented title deeds for land in the Rayon to UCA's Director General, Dr. Bohdan Krawchenko, in a ceremony witnessed by Mawlana Hazar Imam, Education Minister Tuimebayev and the Akim of the Almaty Oblast, Mr. Umbetov.



Hazar Imam, Education Minister Tuimebayev, the Akim Umbetov of the Almaty Oblast, and Akim Busembinov of the Eskeldinski Rayon review plans at the site of UCA's Kazakhstan campus. Photo: The.Ismaili/Gary Otte



Mr. Sultan Busembinov presented title deeds for land in the Rayon to UCA's Director General, Dr. Bohdan Krawchenko and witnessed by Mawlana Hazar Imam, Education Minister Dr. Zhanseit Tuimebayev and the Akim of the Almaty Oblast, Mr. Serik Umbetov. Photo: AKDN/Gary Otte

- After opening an exhibition showing the architectural design and site development plans for the UCA campus, the guests walked across the square to the Tekeli campus of UCA's School of Professional and Continuing Education (SPCE).
- During his tour of SPCE, Mawlana Hazar Imam explained to the English teachers the value of the study of English to make Kazakh culture more widely accessible.
- In the afternoon, Mawlana Hazar Imam attended lunch hosted in his honour by the Governor of the Almaty Oblast in Taldy Kurgan. Mawlana Hazar Imam was presented with a ceremonial robe of honour, traditional Kazakh headgear and a *dombra* (stringed musical instrument) before returning to Astana in the late afternoon.
- In the evening, Mawlana Hazar Imam was the guest of honour of the Minister of Education at a private performance of traditional Kazakh and classical Western music.

[The Ismaili](#)

October 31, 2008

Tajikistan

- Mawlana Hazar Imam travelled to Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan. He was received by the First Deputy Prime Minister of Tajikistan, His Excellency Asadullo Ghulomov, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Hamrokhon Zarifi, as well as other senior government ministers and AKDN representatives.



A five-year-old girl from the Tajikistan Jamat welcomes Mawlana Hazar Imam upon his arrival in Dushanbe. Photo: The Ismaili/ Moez Visram



Leaders of AKDN and the Jamat welcome Mawlana Hazar Imam on his arrival in Dushanbe. Photo: The Ismaili/Gary Otte

- In the afternoon, Mawlana Hazar Imam met with Foreign Minister Zarifi, and subsequently with President of Tajikistan, His Excellency Emomali Rahmon at the President's Office.
- In the evening, Mawlana Hazar Imam attended a state banquet hosted by the President in his honour.



Mawlana Hazar Imam and the President of Tajikistan, His Excellency Emomali Rahmon, meet at the President's Office. Photo: The Ismaili/Gary Otte



Mawlana Hazar Imam addresses members of the press. Photo: The Ismaili/Gary Otte

November 1, 2008

- In the morning, Mawlana Hazar Imam reviewed the progress of the Ismaili Centre Dushanbe, which is to be completed soon. Mawlana Hazar Imam also reviewed the construction of the Serena Hotel.
 - Situated on Dushanbe's prominent Ismoil Somoni Avenue, the design of the Ismaili Centre resonates with the architectural traditions of Central Asia. Inspired by the mausoleum of Ismoil Somoni, a national hero in Tajikistan, over 2.6 million bricks are being used in the construction of its façade and interior.
 - The nine-story Dushanbe Serena Hotel, which is expected to be completed in 2009, will have 95 rooms, including suites and apartments. The hotel will include a banquet hall, meeting and dining facilities, a business centre, and a health club. It will also provide office space to meet the growing demand of organisations based in Dushanbe.



Mawlana Hazar Imam tours the prayer hall of the soon to be completed Ismaili Centre Dushanbe. He is accompanied by the building's Chief Architect and the Site Manager. Photo: The Ismaili Gary Otte

The Ismaili

- Later in the day, Mawlana Hazar Imam met with the Mayor of Dushanbe, His Excellency Mahmadsaid Ubaidulloev.
- In the evening, Mawlana Hazar Imam hosted a reception for diplomats and senior government officials.
- The reception was followed by an Imamat banquet in honour of the President of Tajikistan, His Excellency Emomali Rahmon.



His Excellency President Emomali Rahmon presents Mawlana Hazar Imam with a gift of traditional Tajik garments. Photo: The Ismaili/Rahim Khoja

November 2, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam travelled aboard an AKDN helicopter from Dushanbe to Khorog, the capital of the Gorno-Badakhshan province. He was accompanied by the First Deputy Prime Minister of Tajikistan, His Excellency Asadullo Ghulomov.

- Upon his arrival, he was received by the Governor of Gorno-Badakhshan, Qodir Qosim, and the Mayor of Khorog, Mulkamon Nazaraliev, as well as leaders of the Jamat and the AKDN. Mawlana Hazar Imam was welcomed with a traditional offering of *non* (bread). As he walked along the carpet, his path was showered with the petals of sweet-scented flowers.



- In the evening, the Governor of Gorno-Badakhshan hosted a dinner in honour of Mawlana Hazar Imam.

Flower petals are showered along the red-carpeted path laid out for Mawlana Hazar Imam. Photo: The Ismaili/ Moez Visram



Mawlana Hazar Imam waves upon his arrival in Khorog. He is accompanied by First Deputy Prime Minister Ghulomov and Governor Qosim of Gorno-Badakhshan. Photo: The Ismaili/ Moez Visram



Mawlana Hazar Imam is welcomed to Gorno-Badakhshan with a traditional offering of *non* (bread). Photo: The Ismaili/ Moez Visram



A mountain-side sign built from stones by the Khorog Jamat to welcome Mawlana Hazar Imam. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gordon Cumming

November 3, 2008

- In the morning, Mawlana Hazar Imam laid the foundation stone of the first Ismaili Jamatkhana and Centre in Tajik-Badakhshan, in the presence of First Deputy Prime Minister Asadullo Ghulomov and Governor Qodir Qosim of Gorno-Badakhshan, in Khorog.



Mawlana Hazar Imam lays the foundation of the Ismaili Jamatkhana and Centre in Khorog, in the presence of First Deputy Prime Minister and the Governor of Gorno-Badakhshan. Photo: The Ismaili/Gary Otte



Mawlana Hazar Imam speaks at the foundation ceremony of the Ismaili Jamatkhana and Centre in Khorog, as the First Deputy Prime Minister and the Governor of Gorno-Badakhshan look on. Photo: The Ismaili/Gary Otte

In his address at the ceremony, Mawlana Hazar Imam said:

“I would like to say how deeply happy I am, that this Foundation Stone Ceremony will occur during the 50th year of my Imamate. I can think of few events in this year which will have given me the happiness which this one today will bring me and inshallah all the people who will participate in this event.... I would like today to situate what the Centre and the Jamatkhana aspires to be in the town of Khorog. It is my hope that the town of Khorog will become the Jewel of the Pamir. The gem cutter, the person who prepares the jewel, cuts it and cuts it and polishes it and cuts it and polishes it until he has fashioned the gem stone in to a stone of absolute purity with no clouding, absolute purity. And the gem cutter has to do his work very carefully with a lot of time, because if he makes a mistake, he can not bring back the part of the stone that he cut away by mistake. And this is what I hope, with the President of the Republic, His Excellency the Governor, we will be able to do over the years ahead, to improve the town of Khorog, to make it the Jewel of the Pamir.”



Excerpts from Mawlana Hazar Imam ‘s speech

November 3, 2008

- After the ceremony, government dignitaries and AKDN leaders accompanied Mawlana Hazar Imam on a tour of the adjacent Khorog Park, a rehabilitation project of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture.
- In the afternoon, Mawlana Hazar Imam visited the University of Central Asia's Vocational Training Centre in Khorog. He studied work done by students pursuing carpentry, stone cladding and plaster construction. One hundred eight students are currently enrolled at the Training Centre, which was inaugurated in May 2008.

Thereafter, Hazar Imam visited UCA's main campus in Dasht, where he reviewed and discussed construction plans for the future development of the campus. The tour included a helicopter ride that provided a broader vantage point from which to view the site.



During a tour of the University of Central Asia's Vocational Training Centre in Khorog, Mawlana Hazar Imam visits the plastering workshop. Photo: AKDN



Mawlana Hazar Imam reviews site plans for the development of the University of Central Asia's campus at Dasht. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte



Mawlana Hazar Imam tours the Khorog Park accompanied by senior government officials, AKDN representatives and leaders of the Jamat. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte

November 4, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam arrived in the morning by helicopter at Ishkashim for a Golden Jubilee Darbar held in open air. Thousands of murids gathered on both banks of the Pyanj River.

Following the Darbar, Mawlana Hazar Imam departed by helicopter from Ishkashim.

- Later in the day, Mawlana Hazar Imam held a joint meeting with provincial leaders from both sides of the Pyanj River: Governor Qodiri Qosim of Gorno-Badakhshan in Tajikistan and Governor Munshi Abdul Majeed of Afghan Badakhshan.



Standing at the river's edge in Khorog Park, Mawlana Hazar Imam waves at the Jamat gathered on the opposite bank. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte

November 5, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam granted a second Golden Jubilee Darbar to the Jamat of Gorno-Badakhshan at Porshinev. Over 100,000 murids had gathered for the Darbar.
- After the Darbar, Mawlana Hazar Imam travelled to Dushanbe.
- In the afternoon, Mawlana Hazar Imam and President Emomali Rahmon held a meeting in the airport VIP terminal before Hazar Imam departed from Tajikistan.



Mawlana Hazar Imam addresses the Jamat during the Golden Jubilee Darbar in Porshinev. Photo: The Ismaili/ Akbar Hakim

Kyrgyzstan

November 5, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam arrived in the evening at Manas International Airport near the capital city of Bishkek.
- The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ednan Karabaev, received Mawlana Hazar Imam on behalf of the government. Senior government officials and AKDN leaders were also present to welcome Mawlana Hazar Imam.
- Mawlana Hazar Imam met with the Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan, His Excellency Igor Chudinov, who hosted a dinner in his honour.



On arrival in the Kyrgyz Republic, Hazar Imam is greeted with a traditional welcome. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte

November 6, 2008

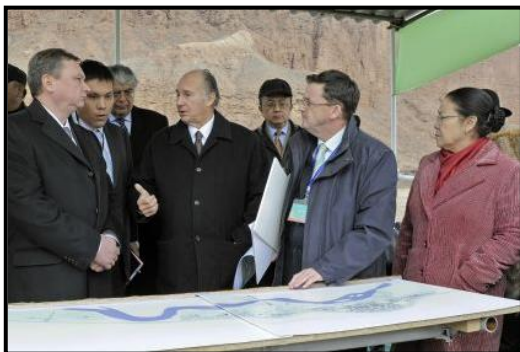
- In the morning, Mawlana Hazar Imam met with the Kyrgyz Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ednan Karabaev.
- After the meeting, Mawlana Hazar Imam travelled to Manas International Airport where he was joined by Prime Minister Igor Chudinov. The Prime Minister then accompanied Hazar Imam on a flight to Naryn, the town in which the Kyrgyz campus of the University of Central Asia (UCA) is situated.
- The The Governor of Naryn Oblast, Omurbek Suvanaliev and the Mayor of Naryn, Almaz Kulmatov welcomed Mawlana Hazar Imam and the Prime Minister.
- After reviewing the construction site of the town campus building, Mawlana Hazar Imam and the Prime Minister met teachers and students of the School of Professional and Continuing Education's English in the Villages Programmes.
- After lunch, architects, UCA management staff and civic officials accompanied the Prime Minister and Mawlana Hazar Imam to viewing points along the proposed main campus site.
- Later in the day, Mawlana Hazar Imam returned to Bishkek, where he met the Speaker of Kyrgyz Parliament, Aitibay Tagayev, at the Parliament.



Mawlana Hazar Imam is greeted by the Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic, His Excellency Igor Chudinov. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte



Students from the UCA's School of Professional and Continuing Education welcome Mawlana Hazar Imam. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte



Mawlana Hazar Imam reviews plans for the UCA's new campus at Naryn. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte



Mawlana Hazar Imam addresses members of the press in Naryn. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte

November 7, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam reviewed full-scale models of the facilities that will make up the three campuses of the University of Central Asia. The models included replicas of undergraduate and graduate dormitory rooms, faculty offices and classrooms.
- Thereafter, Mawlana Hazar Imam met with the Mayor of Bishkek, Nariman Tuleyev. Their meeting was held in a yurt — a dwelling structure that was traditionally used by nomadic peoples in the steppes of Central Asia.
- Mid-morning, Mawlana Hazar Imam departed from Manas International Airport. The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ednan Karabaev and AKDN leaders were present to bid him farewell.



Accompanied by University officials, Hazar Imam reviews a full-scale model of a classroom at the UCA. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte



Mawlana Hazar Imam and the Mayor of Bishkek, Nariman Tuleyev, meet in a yurt. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte



The AKDN Resident Representative in the Kyrgyz Republic, Nurjehan Mawani, bids farewell to Mawlana Hazar Imam. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte



Following his meeting with the Mayor of Bishkek, Mawlana Hazar Imam emerges from the yurt. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte

November 12, 2008

- AKDN Speaker Series Webcast

Speaker: Shams Jaffer
Senior Manager of Staffing for the Ismaili Imamat and AKDN Human Resources Department

Topic: TKN and opportunities with the AKDN

The Ismaili

November 17, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam delivered a speech at the Palais des Papes in Avignon, southern France during a Forum on The value and importance of cultural diversity and its role in promoting peace and development. The Forum brought together 250 key players from the economic, cultural and media sectors, along with political representatives from the various countries.



Photo: The Ismaili/ Ministère de la culture et de la communication

“...exactly fifty years ago, when I inherited the Imamate from my grandfather, I discovered that wars, indifference, negligence and the drive to standardise cultures through colonisation, or the desire to modernise the built environment, had resulted in the irreparable loss of important cultural characteristics in developing countries, particularly those in Muslim countries. In other words, the distinctive cultural features of those countries, whose key importance is stressed by UNESCO’s definition, were being eroded. Something had to be done.

I want to talk to you today about my efforts to defend these cultures, through the Aga Khan Development Network, and specifically through its dedicated agency, the Aga Khan Trust for Culture...

For my part, I believe that marks of individual and group cultural identity generate an inner strength which is conducive to peaceful relations. I also believe in the power of plurality, without which there is no possibility of exchange. In my view, this idea is integral to the very definition of genuine quality of life. ... Culture is not just an added extra or a luxury.”

Excerpts from Mawlana Hazar Imam’s speech

HAZAR IMAM'S VISIT TO CANADA

November 18, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam landed in Ottawa, the capital of Canada, in the afternoon.

Mawlana Hazar Imam was received on behalf of the Government by the Honourable John Baird, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities and the Honourable Jason Kenney, Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism. Mohamed Manji, President of the Ismaili Council for Canada, was joined by a delegation of Jamati leaders from the local Ismaili Councils for Ottawa as well as Quebec and the Maritime Provinces, in welcoming Mawlana Hazar Imam on behalf of the Canadian Jamat.



Mawlana Hazar Imam is received by President Mohamed Manji of the Ismaili Council for Canada. The Honourable Ministers John Baird and Jason Kenney welcomed Hazar Imam on behalf of the Canadian Government. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte

- From the airport, Mawlana Hazar Imam proceeded to the Delegation of the Ismaili Imam. He visited the building in anticipation of its opening in December.



The Canadian National Anthem and the Nashid al-Imamah are performed to welcome Mawlana Hazar Imam. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte/



Mawlana Hazar Imam waves at the members of the Ottawa Jamat gathered to welcome him at Lansdowne Park. Photo: The Ismaili/ Safiq Devji



Fumihiko Maki, architect of the Delegation of the Ismaili Imam, greets Mawlana Hazar Imam at the new building in Ottawa. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte

November 19, 2008

- In the afternoon, Mawlana Hazar Imam was welcomed at Rideau Hall by the Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, the Governor General of Canada.
- Mawlana Hazar Imam then visited Parliament Hill, where he met with the Honourable James Moore, Minister of Canadian Heritage, and the Honourable Jason Kenney, Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism
- In the evening, Mawlana Hazar Imam attended a working dinner with the Honourable Beverley Oda, Minister of International Cooperation and Margaret Biggs, President of the Canadian International Development Agency.



Mawlana Hazar Imam and the Honourable Beverley Oda, Minister of International Cooperation, meet at the Delegation of the Ismaili Imamat in Ottawa. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte/



Mawlana Hazar Imam in conversation with Beverley Oda

November 21, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam arrived at Pearson International Airport in Toronto in the evening. He was received on behalf of the Government of Ontario by the Honourable Chris Bentley, Attorney General of Ontario, and Reza Moridi, MPP.
- Mayor Frank Scarpitti of Markham and Jamati institutional leaders were also present at the airport to welcome Mawlana Hazar Imam.



Attorney General Chris Bentley and MPP Reza Moridi welcome Mawlana Hazar Imam to Toronto. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte

November 22, 2008

- In the morning, Mawlana Hazar Imam attended the signing ceremony of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Aga Khan University and McMaster University.

The Memorandum was signed by the President of McMaster University, Dr. Peter George, and the President of the Aga Khan University, Firoz Rasul, in the presence of Canada's Minister of International Cooperation, the Honourable Beverley Oda, and Mawlana Hazar Imam.



Mawlana Hazar Imam addresses the audience at the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between McMaster University and the Aga Khan University. Photo: The Ismaili/Gary Otte

"I view this as an agreement of a much wider spectrum of importance and outcome than you might think, simply by talking about the profession of nursing... When governments are fragile, it is civil society which comes in and sustains the development process. Professional nursing, educating women, is an absolutely fundamental pillar to the building of society."

Mawlana Hazar Imam
[AKDN Press Release](#)

AKU-McMaster-CIDA Partnership

McMaster University's School of Nursing began its affiliation with the Aga Khan University (AKU) in 1979. Two projects (1983-1987 and 1987-1992), funded primarily by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), focused on the development of nursing programs at the AKU, the curriculum, and its faculty. McMaster's problem-based, self-directed educational approach was adopted by the AKU.

In 1988, the AKU launched the first university-based nursing program in Pakistan, with assistance from McMaster University.

Beginning in 1994, CIDA funded the Development of Women Health Professionals (DWHP) Program. The DWHP Program was the largest social sector project funded by CIDA in the Canadian university system. It was a bilateral project between the Governments of Canada and Pakistan and was managed in partnership by McMaster University School of Nursing and the Aga Khan University School of Nursing.

fhs.mcmaster.ca/nursing/communities_pakistan.shtml

November 22, 2008

- Later, Mawlana Hazar Imam met the Premier of the Province of Ontario, the Honourable Dalton McGuinty, at Queens Park.



Mawlana Hazar Imam and Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty at Queens Park. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte

- Mawlana Hazar Imam granted a Golden Jubilee Darbar in the afternoon, at Rogers Centre in Toronto. This was the first of four Golden Jubilee Darbars in Canada.
- Mawlana Hazar Imam was interviewed by Don Cayo of Canwest News Service.

“The world I became involved in 1957 was a very, very difficult world to work in. The forces at play were dramatic. That has all changed significantly. Today's challenge... has evolved into how to make the remaining poor areas of the world areas of opportunity where people can have hope and confidence in improving the quality of life.... For a long time, there was a notion that development work, development activity, should not be measured...It was [seen as] unethical to measure something which was done with a charitable attitude....But measuring the impact doesn't mean that it's a commercial goal. It's understanding the impact on the communities you want to help. If your programs of support are not doing what they should do, you need to know that. You need to be able to understand what's gone wrong, and you need to be able to correct it.... One of the lessons we've learned is to . . . listen and listen and listen....



If you apply your own criteria, you'll get it wrong... It's not the issue of whether you want to see them changed. It's the issue of how do you change them.... Once [reconstruction] becomes self-sustaining, it tends to grow across divides. People look at what's happening village to village or province to province, and they ask themselves, ‘Can we get this?’ This opens up the possibility of dialogue. And, once this process starts, success will spill over.”

Excerpts from interview published in the Vancouver Sun

November 23, 2008

- In the afternoon, Mawlana Hazar Imam granted a second Golden Jubilee Darbar in Toronto at the Rogers Centre.
- After the Darbar, Mawlana Hazar Imam departed for Calgary.
- Upon arrival in Calgary, Mawlana Hazar Imam was received by the Honourable Ron Stevens, Deputy Premier of the Province of Alberta and Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations, His Worship David Bronconnier, Mayor of Calgary, and Executive Assistant to the Mayor, Alison Buie. Jamati leaders were also present to welcome Mawlana Hazar Imam to the city. A ceremonial guard representing the Calgary Police Service, Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services greeted Mawlana Hazar Imam.



A ceremonial guard representing the Calgary Police Services, the Fire Department and the Emergency Medical Services welcomed Mawlana Hazar Imam. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte



Mawlana Hazar Imam is welcomed to Calgary by Jamati leaders. Photo: Calgary Mayor

The Mayor of Calgary presented Mawlana Hazar Imam with a gift of a glass bowl created by Alberta artist Mark Gibeau. The piece was selected from the artist's *Face Series*, and reflects the people from his Prairie surroundings and the Native cultural environment of his youth.



Calgary Mayor David Bronconnier presents Mawlana Hazar Imam with a gift on behalf of the City. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte



Mawlana Hazar Imam waves to the Jamati leaders gathered at the Calgary airport.

Photo:

www.calgarymayor.ca/multimedia/photos.cfm

November 24, 2008

- In the morning, Mawlana Hazar Imam met with Linda Hughes, Chancellor of the University of Alberta, and Dr Carl Amrhein, the University's Provost and Vice-President (Academic).
- Later in the morning, Mawlana Hazar Imam called on the Honourable Norman L. Kwong, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, and his wife, Her Honour Mary Kwong, at McDougall Centre.
- Mawlana Hazar Imam then attended a reception and luncheon hosted by the Aga Khan University (AKU), where he addressed a group of Canadian businessmen who founded the Awali Project in partnership with the University's Institute for Educational Development.



Mawlana Hazar Imam in discussion with the Honourable Norman L Kwong, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, and his wife, Her Honour Mary Kwong. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte

Awali – which means “beginning” in Swahili – has brought together private Canadian citizens, the Canadian International Development Agency and the AKU to invest in the development of quality education in East Africa.

www.theismaili.org/cms/622/Canada-visit

“Thank you not only on behalf of the Aga Khan University, but thank you on behalf of themillions and millions of people in Asia and Africa who need to believe in hope. That onlyhappens when society moves forward in an organized and stable way....To development in most of these fragile parts of the world, one of the fundamental principles is to develop strong institutions. AKU has achieved that in Africa and Asia, and we have achieved it with Canadian support and Canadian willingness to look at the developing world as it is, not as certain people would like it to be. I think our institutions have tofunction in societies that are changing, and your help is helping us do that.”



Mawlana Hazar Imam addresses a group of Canadian donors at a luncheon hosted by the AKU. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte

Excerpts from Mawlana Hazar Imam's speech cited in the Calgary Herald, November 25, 2008

November 24, 2008

- In the late afternoon, Mawlana Hazar Imam granted a Golden Jubilee Darbar at the Calgary Roundup Centre.
- After the Darbar, Mawlana Hazar Imam departed for Vancouver.
- Mawlana Hazar Imam arrived in Vancouver in the evening. He was received by the Honourable Steven L. Point, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, as well as by Jamati leaders. Two children from the Jamat presented flowers to Mawlana Hazar Imam before renditions of the Canadian National Anthem and the Nashid al-Imamah were performed.



Mawlana Hazar Imam is received by the Honourable Steven L. Point, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte



Children from the Jamat offer flowers to Hazar Imam upon his arrival in Vancouver. Photo The Ismaili/ Gary Otte



The Canadian National Anthem and the Nashid al-Imamah are performed to welcome Mawlana Hazar Imam to Vancouver. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte



Mawlana Hazar Imam is greeted by a large crowd as he arrives at the Pan Pacific Hotel in Vancouver

November 25, 2008

- In the morning, Mawlana Hazar Imam met with the Mayor of Burnaby, His Worship Derek Corrigan at City Hall. During the meeting, Mayor Corrigan announced the gifting of a 15-acre piece of land to Mawlana Hazar Imam on the occasion of his Golden Jubilee. A public park will be developed on this land in partnership between the AKDN and the City of Burnaby.
- The Premier of British Columbia, the Honourable Gordon Campbell, hosted a luncheon in honour of Mawlana Hazar Imam. Guests included members of Vancouver's academic and corporate sectors, community leaders, the mayors of Vancouver and other British Columbia municipalities, environmentalist David Suzuki, leaders of the Jamat and representatives of the Aga Khan Foundation.



Mawlana Hazar Imam meets with His Worship Derek Corrigan, Mayor of Burnaby, at City Hall. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte



Mawlana Hazar Imam with Premier Gordon Campbell at the luncheon. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte

In his address, Mawlana Hazar Imam said:

"I have to thank you for two reasons. Not only because you've received these men and women in Canada but you have given them the wherewithal to return to their countries in your cause. Bring back to Africa, bring back to Asia, bring back to East Africa the pluralism, the values of Canada, the knowledge society which you have created here in Canada. Knowledge its purist form is often abrasive and when this knowledge comes into these societies it creates difficulties, it creates reactions because these societies are not prepared for pure knowledge. What Canada has done is it has humanized that knowledge."

[CTV BC](#)



Mawlana Hazar Imam addresses the gathering at a luncheon hosted in his honour by British Columbia Premier Gordon Campbell. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte

November 25, 2008

- In the afternoon, Mawlana Hazar Imam granted a Golden Jubilee Darbar at BC Place.
- In the evening, Mawlana Hazar Imam was guest of honour at a dinner hosted by Ismaili Council for Canada and other Jamati institutions at The Fairmont Hotel Vancouver.



Mawlana Hazar Imam addresses the gathering during the institutional dinner. Photo: The Ismaili/ Zahur Ramji



Mawlana Hazar Imam applauds during the institutional dinner .Photo The Ismaili/ Zahur Ramji

Shenaz Jeraj, Vice President of Council for Canada, delivers the opening remarks at the Jamato institutional dinner.



- Following the dinner, Jamati leaders bid farewell to Mawlana Hazar Imam at Vancouver International Airport.

President Mohamed Manji of the Ismaili Council for Canada bids farewell to Mawlana Hazar Imam. Photo: The



HAZAR IMAM'S VISIT TO SINGAPORE

December 1, 2008

- In the late evening, Mawlana Hazar Imam arrived at the Changi International Airport to commence his Golden Jubilee visit to Singapore. The Senior Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Zainul Abidin Rasheed, received Mawlana Hazar Imam on behalf of the government. Inayat Bana, President of the Ismaili Council for Malaysia and Singapore, and a delegation of Jamati leaders welcomed Mawlana Hazar Imam on behalf of the Jamats from eleven countries of South East Asia and Australasia.



President Inayat Bana of the Ismaili Council for Malaysia and Singapore welcomes Mawlana Hazar Imam at the start of his Golden Jubilee visit. Photo: Akbar Hakim/The Ismaili



Mawlana Hazar Imam is received by Singapore's Senior Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Zainul Abidin Rasheed, upon his arrival. Photo: Akbar Hakim/The Ismaili



Mawlana Hazar Imam receives flowers and a warm welcome from Jamati leaders upon his arrival in Singapore. Photo: Akbar Hakim/The Ismaili

The Jamat from 11 countries of the Far East under the jurisdiction of the Ismaili Council for Malaysia and Singapore gathered in Singapore for Mawlana Hazar Imam's Golden Jubilee visit. Mawlana Hazar Imam last visited the Far East Jamat in 1987. The Far East Jamat includes Ismailis living in Japan, Hong Kong, Sri Lanka, South Korea and other Southeast Asian countries.

The.Ismaili

December 2, 2008

- In the morning, Mawlana Hazar Imam met with President S.R. Nathan at the Istana, the official residence and office of Singapore's Head of State.
- Following the meeting, Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong hosted a luncheon for Mawlana Hazar Imam.
- In the afternoon, Mawlana Hazar Imam met with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, George Yeo.
- Following this meeting, Mawlana Hazar Imam visited Singapore City Gallery.
- Thereafter, Mawlana Hazar Imam received a tour of Singapore's Asian Civilisations Museum.
- In the evening, Mawlana Hazar Imam attended a dinner hosted in his honour by the Minister-in-charge of Muslim Affairs, Dr. Yaacob Ibrahim.



Mawlana Hazar Imam is greeted by President S.R. Nathan at the Istana in Singapore. Photo: The Ismaili/ Akbar Hakim



Singapore's Senior Minister, Goh Chok Tong, hosts a luncheon for Mawlana Hazar Imam. Photo: The Ismaili/ Akbar Hakim



Mawlana Hazar Imam visits the Singapore City Gallery, where he is hosted by the CEO of the Urban Redevelopment Authority, Cheong-Chua Koon Hean. Photo: The Ismaili/ Akbar Hakim



Mawlana Hazar Imam receives a guided tour of the Asian Civilisations Museum from its Deputy Director of Curation and Collections, Tan Huism, during his Golden Jubilee visit to Singapore. Photo: the.Ismaili/Akbar Hakim

December 3, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam granted a Golden Jubilee Darbar at the Singapore Expo Centre.
- Mawlana Hazar Imam attended a luncheon hosted by the Jamati institutions of the Far East. The leadership presented Mawlana Hazar Imam with a model of a traditional Thai house, crafted by skilled goldsmiths, as a gift.



Mawlana Hazar Imam is joined in applause by Presidentbanoo and the Vice-President of the Ismaili Council for Malaysia and Singapore, during the luncheon hosted by the Jamati institutions. Photo: The Ismaili/ Akbar Hakim



Mawlana Hazar Imam is presented with a gift of a model of a traditional Thai House. Photo: The Ismaili/ Akbar Hakim

- Following the luncheon, Mawlana Hazar Imam departed from Singapore. The Senior Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Zainul Abidin Rasheed, bid farewell to Mawlana Hazar Imam on behalf of the Government. Senior Jamati leaders also bid farewell to Mawlana Hazar Imam.

- AKDN Speaker Series Webcast

Speakers: Dr. Gijs Walraven
Director, Aga Khan Health Services (AKHS) and
Aga Khan Planning and Building Services (AKPBS)

Mr. Mirza Mohamed Pardhan
Director, Aga Khan Education Services (AKES)

Topic: TKN opportunities with AKHS, AKPBS and AKES

[TheIsmaili](#)

HAZAR IMAM RETURNS TO CANADA

December 5, 2008

- Commencing the second leg of his Golden Jubilee visit to Canada, Mawlana Hazar Imam arrived in Ottawa in the afternoon, accompanied by Prince Ayn, Princess Zahra, Prince Rahim, Prince Hussain and Princess Khaliya.

Prince Ayn and Prince Rahim, who travelled separately, stopped over in Toronto and visited the site of the Ismaili Centre, Toronto and the Aga Khan Museum, on Wynford Drive.



Mohamed Manji, President of the Ismaili Council for Canada, welcomes Mawlana Hazar Imam and Princess Zahra to Ottawa. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte



Mawlana Hazar Imam introduces Prince Rahim and Prince Ayn to the Honourable Jason Kenney, Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte



Leaders of the Jamat welcome Princess Zahra and Prince Hussain to Canada. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte

OPENING OF THE DELEGATION OF THE ISMAILI IMAMAT

December 6, 2008

- The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada, hosted a luncheon in honour of Mawlana Hazar Imam and his family.
- Following lunch, Mawlana Hazar Imam and the Prime Minister officially opened the Delegation of the Ismaili Imamat. The ceremony was held in the presence of Prince Aryn, Princess Zahra, Prince Rahim, Prince Hussain and Princess Khaliya. The 350 guests also included senior government ministers, several members of Parliament, diplomats, senior leaders of the global Jamat as well as heads of various AKDN agencies and institutions.



Mawlana Hazar Imam introduces Princess Zahra to Prime Minister Stephen Harper outside the Prime Minister's residence in Ottawa.



Prime Minister Stephen Harper welcomes Prince Rahim to his residence as President Mohamed Manji of the Ismaili Council for Canada looks on.



Mawlana Hazar Imam addresses guests at the opening of the Delegation of the Ismaili Imamat
Photo:
pm.gc.ca/eng/media_gallery.asp?media_category_id=278&media_category_typ_id=3



Mawlana Hazar Imam and Prime Minister Stephen Harper unveil the plaque to inaugurate the Delegation of the Ismaili Imamat.
Photo:
pm.gc.ca/eng/media_gallery.asp?media_category_id=278&media_category_typ_id=3

[Video of opening](#)

In his address, Mawlana Hazar Imam said:

“This new Delegation of the Ismaili Imam, like the Ismaili Centre and the Aga Khan Museum to be built in Toronto, reflects our conviction that buildings can do more than simply house people and programmes. They can also reflect our deepest values, as great architecture captures esoteric thought in physical form.

When I invited Professor Maki, a master of form and light, to design this building, I made a suggestion to him - one that I hoped would help connect this place symbolically to the Faith of Islam. The suggestion I made focused on creating a certain mystique, centred around the beautiful mysteries of rock crystal.



Mawlana Hazar Imam speaking as the Right Honourable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada, looks on. Photo: AKDN / Gary Otte

Why rock crystal? Because of its translucency, its multiple planes, and the fascination of its colours - all of which present themselves differently as light moves around them. The hues of rock crystal are subtle, striking and widely varied - for they can be clear or milky, white, or rose coloured, or smoky, or golden, or black.

It is because of these qualities that rock crystal seems to be such an appropriate symbol of the profound beauty and the ever-unfolding mystery of Creation itself - and the Creator. As the Holy Quran so powerfully affirms, “Allah is the Creator and the Master of the heavens and the earth.” And then it continues: “Everything in the heavens and on earth, and everything between them, and everything beneath the soil, belongs to Him.”

But in Islamic thought, as in this building, beauty and mystery are not separated from intellect - in fact, the reverse is true. As we use our intellect to gain new knowledge about Creation, we come to see even more profoundly the depth and breadth of its mysteries. We explore unknown regions beneath the seas - and in outer space. We reach back over hundreds of millions of years in time. Extra-ordinary fossilised geological specimens seize our imagination - palm leaves, amethyst flowers, hedgehog quartz, sea lilies, chrysanthemum and a rich panoply of shells. Indeed, these wonders are found beneath the very soil on which we tread - in every corner of the world - and they connect us with far distant epochs and environments.

And the more we discover, the more we know, the more we penetrate just below the surface of our normal lives - the more our imagination staggers. Just think for example what might lie below the surfaces of celestial bodies all across the far flung reaches of our universe. What we feel, even as we learn, is an ever-renewed sense of wonder, indeed, a powerful sense of awe - and of Divine inspiration.

Using rock crystal’s iridescent mystery as an inspiration for this building, does indeed provide an appropriate symbol of the Timelessness, the Power and the Mystery of Allah as the Lord of Creation....

It is our prayer that the establishment of the Delegation will provide a strongly anchored, ever-expanding opportunity for rich collaboration - in the devoted service of ancient values, in the intelligent recognition of new realities, and in a common commitment to our shared dreams of a better world.”

Excerpts from Mawlana Hazar Imam’s [speech](#)

THE DELEGATION OF THE ISMAILI IMAMAT

The foundation ceremony of the Delegation of the Ismaili Imam took place on June 6, 2005, in the presence of Governor General of Canada, Adrienne Clarkson.



"The initiation of the Delegation of the Ismaili Imam is a celebration of the Ismaili community's permanent presence in, and commitment to, Canada...."

The Delegation will serve a representational role for the Imam and its non-denominational, philanthropic and development agencies which constitute the Aga Khan Development Network - the AKDN. An open, secular facility, the Delegation will be a sanctuary for peaceful, quiet diplomacy, informed by the Imam's outlook of global convergence and the development of civil society.

The architectural planning has been entrusted to the capable hands of Fumihiko Maki, an architect of world standing. Maki and Associates have my enthusiastic admiration for addressing, with tact and empathy, challenges of design which are difficult and subtle. They call for translating concepts that have a context in our faith and our history, yet stride boldly and confidently ahead, into modernity; for expressing both the exoteric and the esoteric, and our awe and humility towards the mysteries of Nature, Time and beyond. The outcome is an inter-play of multiple facets, like rock crystal. In it are platforms of pure but translucent horizontality. Light's full spectrum comes alive and disappears as the eye moves. In Islam the divine is reflected in Nature's creation.

The building will be a metaphor for humanism and enlightenment and for the humility that comes from the constant search for answers that leads inevitably to more questions....

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

Excerpts from Mawlana Hazar Imam's speech

THE DELEGATION OF THE ISMAILI IMAMMAT: HOW IT BEGAN

Excerpts from *An Essay in Glass* by Maria Cook, published in the Ottawa Citizen on December 6, 2008

In October 2002, Fumihiko Maki, a distinguished architect, received an unusual letter at his Tokyo office. It was written on behalf of Prince Karim Aga Khan IV...The Aga Khan...had appointed Mr. Maki to design a building in Ottawa. It would be the first in the world to represent him and the Aga Khan Development Network, which supports social, economic and cultural projects in developing countries...."The goal is to create a building which causes the viewer to wonder how different elements and different planes relate to each other, how they work together to tickle the eye," the Aga Khan said, proposing that Mr. Maki take inspiration from rock crystal, the mineral quartz in its clear and colourless form. "In a rock crystal the cuts and angles permit both transparency as well as translucency," the letter said. "It pleases and confuses the eye by its internal planes running at different angles, creating a sense of visual mystery. The ... building in a sense should be somewhat mysterious and visually nearly esoteric. It should not be blatant but ethereal, not obvious but difficult to captivate."

Mr. Maki and his 47-year-old associate, Gary Kamemoto, read and re-read the Aga Khan's letter. They were moved by its beauty and they struggled to discern its meaning. Mr. Maki placed it on his desk in a plastic folder.

"It was not one-dimensional," says Mr. Kamemoto. "I found it to be extremely poetic and visionary. It invited a tremendous amount of creative imagination. This isn't the kind of letter that you receive and put away in a file. We all had it on our desks and we referred to it often. It was our job to convert this into a piece of architecture....."

"Rock crystal is only a metaphor," Mr. Maki thought. "It has a very hard surface. It should be reflective to light...."

"What was very interesting to us is that it's a very ephemeral object," Mr. Kamemoto says. "It's constantly changing. What we observed is complete transparency in some areas and complete opacity in others. Then there are infinite numbers of translucency."

"The way the light interacts with it from different angles, you don't see an object. You see the light bounce within it. We thought that was, perhaps, the spirit of the building which he was asking us to provide" said Mr. Maki.

The underlying organization of the building is informed by the heritage of Islamic architecture. Mr. Kamemoto notes that the central courtyard at the Alhambra, the splendid 14th-century palace in Spain, must be discovered. "We felt that's what the building should do. From the outside it looks dignified, quiet and stately, but once you got inside there was a sense of discovery, which was the atrium and the courtyard...."

A floor of Canadian maple gives warmth and a note of welcoming domesticity to the moment of arrival. Maple strips make a pattern of 49 squares, a reference to the 49th Imam. The space is filled with light and the play of shadows from the glazed roof.

[Ottawa Citizen](#)

December 7, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam departed from Ottawa, marking the completion of his Golden Jubilee visit to Canada.

HAZAR IMAM'S VISIT TO FRANCE

December 8, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam viewed the show *A Mystical Journey* at Théâtre Mogador in Paris. Mawlana Hazar Imam was joined by Princess Zahra, Prince Hussain, leaders from the Government of France and members of French society, as well as senior Jamati leaders from France and abroad.



Mawlana Hazar Imam, Princess Zahra, Prince Hussain and others in the audience applaud the performance of *A Mystical Journey* in Paris. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte

December 9, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam met Michèle Alliot-Marie, Minister of the Interior, Overseas France and Local Authorities, at the Minister's office at Place Beauveau.
- Following the meeting, Mawlana Hazar Imam and Prince Rahim were welcomed by Prime Minister François Fillon at the Hôtel Matignon, the Prime Minister's official residence.



Mawlana Hazar Imam in conversation with Minister Michèle Alliot-Marie. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte



The Prime Minister of France, François Fillon, welcomes Mawlana Hazar Imam to his official residence in Paris. Photo: The Ismaili/ Gary Otte

December 9, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam then travelled to Quai d'Orsay, where he met Bernard Kouchner, France's Minister of Foreign Affairs. Mawlana Hazar Imam and the Foreign Minister signed a partnership agreement for development. The agreement builds on a number of successful AKDN projects to which the French government, French institutions and French companies have contributed. Collaborations have included Roshan telecommunication and the French Medical Institute in Afghanistan and the Bujagali hydroelectric plant in Uganda.

AKDN Press Release



Mawlana Hazar Imam is greeted by Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner at the Quai d'Orsay in Paris. Photo: AKDN/ Gary Otte



Mawlana Hazar Imam and Minister Kouchner sign the partnership agreement. Photo: AKDN/ Gary Otte



Prime Minister Fillon of France hosts Mawlana Hazar Imam and Prince Rahim at his official residence. Photo: AKDN/ Gary Otte

December 11, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam granted the final Golden Jubilee Darbar at Parc des Expositions in Paris. Mawlana Hazar Imam was joined by Prince Aryn, Princess Zahra, Prince Rahim, Prince Hussain and Princess Khaliya.
- Following the Darbar, Mawlana Hazar Imam and his family viewed the *Rays of Light* photo exhibition at the Darbar venue. The exhibition provided a visual description of the past 50 years of Hazar Imam's Imamah.



Mawlana Hazar Imam and members of his family visit the *Rays of Light* exhibition at Place des Expositions in Paris. Photo: The Ismaili/ Akbar Hakim

- In the evening, Mawlana Hazar Imam and his family attended a dinner hosted in their honour by the Jamati institutions of France.



Mawlana Hazar Imam, Prince Aryn, Prince Hussain and senior Jamati leaders applaud the performance during the institutional dinner. Photo: The Ismaili/ Akbar Hakim



Mawlana Hazar Imam addresses the Jamati leaders during the institutional dinner in Paris. Photo: The Ismaili/ Akbar Hakim

December 12, 2008

- Performance of *A Mystical Journey* at Le Palais des Congrès de Paris, France.

December 13, 2008

HAZAR IMAM'S 72nd BIRTHDAY AND THE OFFICIAL END OF THE EXTENDED GOLDEN JUBILEE YEAR

- The Postal Corporation of Kenya launched new stamps to commemorate Mawlana Hazar Imam's Golden Jubilee and his birthday.

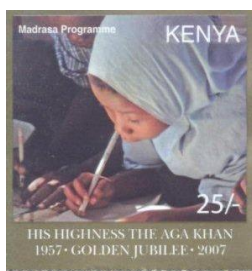
The stamps highlight key projects that the Aga Khan Development Network is associated with in Kenya. The themes of these postage stamps range from education, medical care, poverty alleviation and child development.



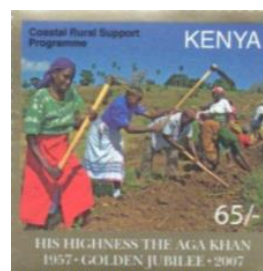
Aga Khan University
Hospital, Nairobi



Aga Khan Academy,
Mombasa



Madrasa
Programme



Coastal Rural
Support Programme

Daily Nation

- A delegation of leaders of the Jamat from around the world gathered at Mawlana Hazar Imam's residence at Aiglemont, France to mark the conclusion of the commemoration of Mawlana Hazar Imam's Golden Jubilee. Mawlana Hazar Imam reviewed the goals that had been established at the beginning of the Golden Jubilee, and set out a vision for addressing issues of importance to the Jamat's future well-being and progress. Jamats across the world gathered to celebrate this occasion and express gratitude for the opportunity to be part of the Golden Jubilee.
- Video titled *Golden Jubilee Memories* highlighting Mawlana Hazar Imam's Golden Jubilee events, shown to global Jamat.

ALI TO KARIM: A TRIBUTE TO THE ISMAILI IMAMS

Re-printed from [The Ismaili](#)

Ali to Karim: A Tribute to the Ismaili Imams recounts the story of our 49 Imams in seven episodes. It traces the unbroken thread of Imamatus through the tapestry of Muslim civilisations woven over 1,400 years of history. It transports viewers to 8th century Arabia, 12th century Persia and 17th century France, through a lyrical world that draws on legends and tales, poetry and paintings, film and historical source

[The Ismaili](#)



EPISODE ONE - Early Ismailism: 6th – 8th century

In the formative period of Islam, differing perspectives on the nature of religious authority emerged, eventually coalescing into two broad groups of Muslims, Shia and Sunni. The Shia, already in existence during the lifetime of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him and his family), maintained that while revelation ceased at the Prophet's death, the need for the community's spiritual and moral guidance continued, calling for an ongoing interpretation of the Islamic message. This, the Shia affirm, could only be given by an authoritative teacher — the Imam — from the Prophet's family and progeny (Ahl al-Bayt). This concept of leadership was rooted, above all, in the Shia understanding of the Holy Qur'an, reinforced by the Prophet's pronouncements which are understood as unequivocal designation of Hazrat Ali ibn Abi Talib, the Prophet's cousin and son-in-law, as the first in the line of hereditary Imams.

Scene 1 — Books! Books! Books!

Scene 2 — Visualizing Ghadir Khumm

Scenes 3-5 — Impressions of Hazrat Ali: an auspicious birth, companion of the Prophet a chivalrous hero (javanmard), a learned scholar, the first Imam

Scene 6 — Flash forward: Poet Nasir Khusraw expresses his loyalty to the Ahl al-Bayt (Prophet Muhammad, Hazrat Ali, Hazrat Bibi Fatima, Hazrat Hasan, Hazrat Husayn)

Scene 7 — Martyrdom of Imam Husayn at Kerbala; the devotion of Imam Zayn al-Abidin; contributions to the understanding of Shia doctrine by Imams Muhammad al-Baqir and Jafar al-Sadiq; and the emergence of two Shia communities, Ithna Asharis (Twelvers) and Ismailis

EPISODE TWO - Dawr al-Satr (Cycle of Concealment): 8th – mid-10th century

The four successive Imams after Imam Ismail lived in environments and circumstances that required them to conceal their identities. Establishing a base in Salamiyya, Syria, the Imams organized a wide network of da'is (loyal emissaries) who, with great intellectual competence, spread the message of Islam and the teachings of the Prophet and the Imams (peace be upon them). A metaphorical illusion to a tale of the Seven Sleepers, who, according to legend and tradition, fled from religious persecution and took refuge in a cave for over 300 years, awaking in a new dawn.

- Scene 1** — The Seven Sleepers: a metaphor for this period in which a wide network of da'is emerge to spread Ismaili thought
- Scene 2** — Qualities of a da'i
- Scene 3** — A man in search: initiation of a da'i
- Scene 4** — The renowned scholars, Ikhwan al-Safa (Brethren of Purity), who were influenced by Ismaili thought

EPISODE THREE - The Fatimid Caliphate: 10th – 11th century

The Ismaili Imams for the first time established a state (caliphate) in North Africa. At its peak, the Fatimid Caliphate, centered in Egypt, extended westward to North Africa, Sicily and other Mediterranean islands, and eastward to the Red Sea coast of Africa, Palestine, Syria, the Yemen and the Hijaz. The geographer, al-Muqaddasi, wrote of the harmony among different religious groups in Fatimid lands. Christians and Jews, as well as Muslims of all persuasions were able to rise to the highest echelons of the Fatimid state on grounds of merit and competence. The Fatimids' patronage of learning, the sciences and cultural endeavors made the Fatimid court of Cairo a flourishing center of civilisation, attracting artists, poets, mathematicians, physicians, astronomers, and thinkers from all over the Muslim world as well as Europe and the Far East. This period of Ismaili history has been described by many scholars, Muslim and non-Muslim alike, as a 'golden age' of early Islamic thought and literature. The Fatimid ethos espoused inclusiveness, pluralism, meritocracy and free intellectual inquiry.

- Scene 1** — Advent of the Fatimids; Tale of the Gardener in Sijilmasa: a prophecy about the coming of Imam al-Mahdi (the Rightly Guided One)
- Scene 2** — Majestic entrance of the Imam into a sea port town eventually named al-Mahdiyya after him; al-Mahdiyya is in current day Tunisia
- Scene 3** — The auspicious construction of the Fatimid capital in Egypt begins; the alignment of the planet al-Qahir (Mars) prompts its name, al-Qahira, Cairo, the City Victorious
- Scene 4** — The Rope of Imamat
- Scene 5** — Dar al-Hikma (Academy of Wisdom); Imam al-Muizz invents the fountain pen; Al-Azhar University is established
- Scene 6** — The Sun and Moon: metaphors of Light
- Scene 7** — Al-Muayyad fi'l-Din al-Shirazi initiates Nasir Khusraw
- Scene 8** — Fatimid Pageant

EPISODE FOUR - Alamut: 11th – 13th century

The seat of the Ismaili Imamate moved to Iran, where the Ismailis succeeded in establishing a state comprised of a defensive network of fortified settlements. With its head-quarters at Alamut in northern Iran, the Ismaili state later extended to parts of Syria. While continually struggling to keep hostile forces at bay, the Ismailis of the Alamut state maintained their intellectual and literary traditions. Their fortresses housed impressive libraries whose collections included books on various religious traditions, philosophical and scientific texts, and scientific equipment. Despite the hostile environment, the Ismailis upheld the primacy of the intellect and their patronage of learning, benefiting Muslim as well as non-Muslim scholars and scientists. Ismaili settlements provided sanctuaries for waves of refugees fleeing the Mongol invasions. It was these invasions that ultimately brought down Alamut in 1256.

Scene 1 — Origin of the Nizari Ismailis

Scene 2 — Hasan Sabbah acquires Alamut by peaceful means

Scene 3 — A hierarchy of believers

Scene 4 — In defense of Ta'lim (authoritative teaching) an imagined debate between Hasan Sabbah and al-Ghazali on the role of the living guide, the Imam of the Time

Scene 5 — A network of castles

Scene 6 — Hasan Sabbah seeks forgiveness for any shortcomings

Scene 7 — Glorious rises the sun

Scene 8 — An imagined encounter between Russian scholar Vladimir Ivanov, explorer Freya Stark, and French philosopher Henry Corbin, at the foot of Alamut on the eve of the Mongol invasion

Scene 9 — Imam Shams al-Din Muhammad in Azerbaijan

EPISODE FIVE - Anjudan / Satpanth: 13th – 19th century

The post-Alamut period in Ismaili history spanned more than six centuries. Ismailis lived in dispersed communities under the direction of each succeeding Imam. Over centuries, centers of activity were established in southern Iran, the Indian sub-continent, Afghanistan, the mountainous regions of the Hindu Kush, Central Asia and parts of China. During this time, Nizari Ismailis observed taqiyya (precautionary dissimulation), concealing their true beliefs, practices and literature in order to protect themselves from persecution. By the mid 15th century, relations between Ismailis and Sufi orders in Iranian lands were warm and cordial. The Ismaili Imams appeared to outsiders as Sufi Masters or pirs, while their followers adopted the Sufi appellation 'murids' (disciples).

Scene 1 — Russian scholar Ivanov at the tombs of Imam al-Mustansir billah and Imam Gharib Mirza in Anjudan, and Imam Nizar in Kahak

Scene 2 — A tribute to the resilience and survival of the Ismailis over centuries

Scene 3 — Establishment of Jamat Khanas on the Indian sub-continent

Scene 4 — Legends of Pir Shams

Scene 5 — Meanwhile in Persia...

Scene 6 — At the court of the Qajars, the monarch Fath Ali Shah confers the title of Aga Khan (lord, commander) upon the 46th Imam, Mawlana Shah Hasan Ali

EPISODE SIX - Modern: 19th – 20th century

The 46th Imam, Aga Hasan Ali Shah, settled in India, establishing his headquarters in Mumbai (Bombay) in 1849, laying the foundations for the Ismaili community's future social progress, and beginning an era of more regular contact between the Imam and his widely dispersed followers.

Passing away in 1881, Aga Khan I was succeeded by his eldest son, Aga Ali Shah, who became Aga Khan II and the 47th Imam. Imam Aga Ali Shah later received the title of His Highness, first granted to his father, from the British government. He set about the long-term task of the community's social development with emphasis on education, establishing a number of schools in Mumbai and other centers where Ismailis lived. After only four years as Imam, Aga Khan II passed away in 1885. The office of Imam then devolved upon his son, Sultan Muhammad Shah, who became the 48th Imam. At the time of his accession, Imam Sultan Muhammad Shah was seven years old. At age nine, he received the title of His Highness from Queen Victoria.

Under his 72-years of leadership and guidance, the community entered a period of remarkable progress in health, education, housing, commerce, and industry. In South Asia and East Africa, he established networks of health clinics, hospitals, schools, hostels, cooperative societies, investment trusts, building societies, and insurance companies.

Scene 1 — Aga Hasan Ali Shah migrates from Iran to India, eventually arriving in Mumbai in 1846: a reporter's account

Scene 2 — Aga Khan II

Scene 3 — Memoirs of Aga Khan III

Scene 4 — Imam Sultan Muhammad Shah cites the Poet Saadi on compassion for his fellow men

Scenes 5 to 6 — Appreciation of the arts (painting, ballet, opera) and love of sports

Scene 7 — Imam Sultan Muhammad Shah presides over the League of Nations; helps establish Aligarh University; advocates the emancipation of women; initiates Jubilee projects



Imam Sultan Mahomed Shah cites the poet Saadi on compassion for his fellow man. Photo: The.Ismaili/Farhez Rayani

EPISODE SEVEN - Contemporary: 20th – 21st century

Imam Sultan Muhammad Shah passed away on 11th July 1957, and was succeeded by his grandson, Prince Karim, as Aga Khan IV and the 49th hereditary Imam of the Shia Ismaili Muslims.

Mawlana Hazar Imam emphasizes that Islam is a thinking, spiritual faith that teaches tolerance and compassion, and upholds the duty to respect and support Allah's greatest creation — humankind. Consistent with the 1 400 year old Muslim tradition of leadership and ethics, it is the Imam's role not only to guide in matters of faith but also to lead in the effort to ensure the security and well being of the Jamat and others amongst whom the Jamat lives. It is in this context of improving the quality of life that Mawlana Hazar Imam has established the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN), which is active in the fields of education, health, culture, industry, tourism, media, civil society and infrastructure development. Underpinned by the Muslim ethic of compassion for the vulnerable in society, AKDN agencies work for the common good of all citizens, regardless of ethnicity or religion.

Scene 1 — The Will of Imam Sultan Muhammad Shah, Aga Khan III

Scene 2 — Takht Nashini: the investiture of Mawlana Shah Karim al-Hussaini as 49th Imam of the Ismailis

Scene 3 — Ya Shah Karim, our Hazar Imam

Scene 4 — Paving a path towards a pluralistic future

Scene 5 — Aga Khan Development Network

Scene 6 — AKDN Pageant



Paving the path towards a pluralist future. Photo: The.Ismaili/Farhez Rayani

EXCERPTS FROM REMARKS MADE BY DIGNITARIES DURING THE GOLDEN JUBILEE EVENTS

“So much attention is paid to the outward differences between Faiths. Almost reflexively, this becomes translated into seemingly impenetrable divisions between people; people who – if they did but know it – are in fact linked by much and separated by rather little. How refreshing it is, then, to be reminded by this marvellous exhibition of the spirituality from which our Faiths draw their real strength, and of the heritage and traditions which we share.”



Excerpt from speech by HRH The Prince of Wales at the inauguration of the Spirit & Life Exhibition, London, UK, July 12, 2007

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales speaking at the inauguration of the *Spirit & Life* Exhibition.
Photo: AKDN/ Arnhel De Serra

“Through the Aga Khan Health Services, the institution is playing an important role in the provision of quality healthcare services to our people. Indeed, Kenyans have benefited enormously from the three Aga Khan hospitals in the country, where over half a million patients are treated annually. Moreover, the hospitals also provide employment to over 1,800 people. In addition, the Aga Khan University hospital is the first University hospital in our region. The Aga Khan University hospital offers high quality medical training to the students. I am glad to note that the hospital has trained over 4,500 community health workers.”

Excerpt from speech by His Excellency Honourable Mwai Kibaki, President of the Republic of Kenya, at the State Banquet in Honour of Mawlana Hazar Imam at State House, Nairobi, Kenya, August 13, 2007

“At this time, we envisage a network of 18 campuses across 14 countries in East Africa, South and Central Asia, and the Middle East. Once fully developed, the network of Aga Khan Academies will be teaching 20,000 students who possess the potential to become future leaders of civil society..... It is especially meaningful to gather here in Mombasa early in this, His Highness’s Golden Jubilee Year. We reflect with awe on the institutions His Highness has created and strengthened in Kenya and elsewhere over the past half century and the contributions those institutions have made to the quality of life for all Kenyans. Based on that legacy, we can confidently look ahead fifty years from today and envision the excellence of the Aga Khan Academy in Mombasa, an institution that we hope Kenyans from all backgrounds will come to view as a national treasure.

Excerpts from speech by Salim Bhatia at the Foundation Stone-Laying Ceremony of the Residential Campus of the Aga Khan Academy Mombasa, Kenya, August 14, 2007

“You have made invaluable contribution and extended invaluable support to our development endeavours. Mention any of the key social sectors such as education and health, there is a landmark contribution of Your Highness and that of the Aga Khan Development Network to show-case. There are many Tanzanians today who are what they are because of your generous contribution. They got their education from schools you built or through your sponsorship. And, thousands and thousands have had their ailments treated in hospitals you built We admire you for your visionary leadership. It is this faculty in you that has engendered so much progress in different parts of the world. I am told many of the things happening bear your signature of conception. You are a hallmark of your great managerial skills. Indeed, you are a unique human person. ... We continue to pray to his Almighty Allah to shower you with his countless blessing so that you can continue to serve mankind in the many years ahead.”

Excerpts from speech by His Excellency President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete at the dinner hosted in honour of Mawlana Hazar Imam at State House, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, August 18, 2007

“His Highness the Aga Khan has made significant contribution towards the social and economic development of this country....Specifically, in the power sector, AKFED as public-private partnership with Government is operating the West Nile power supply concession under which power supply in the area has been increased from four hours per day to 18 hours per day and also involves the construction of the 3.5 MW Nyagak mini Hydro-power plant, which is expected to be commissioned early next year. Regarding the Bujagali Hydro-power Project, for which we have laid a foundation stone this morning, Industrial Promotion Services an affiliate of AKFED is leading consortium called Bujagali Energy Limited, which will be responsible for the development and operation of this project. I understand the Bujagali Project is the largest single infrastructure investment of the Aga Khan Development Network worldwide. I commend His Highness for this remarkable contribution.”

Excerpt from speech by President Yoweri Museveni at the Laying of the Foundation Stone of Bujagali Hydropower Project, Kampala, Uganda, August 21, 2007

“Today what we have heard of the programme, the specific programme, and the broad vision out of which this programme has been born, inspires us at both levels. Today we are laying the foundation not just for another education institution but for an integrated vision which is not only going to build this particular institution but may hold lessons for other initiatives that government and other partners in society are trying to take forward. And this is what has impressed me most, the integrated nature of the vision. It is not just another quality education centre.”

Excerpts from speech by Dr. Hossain Zillur Rahman, Bangladesh’s Education Advisor, at the Foundation Laying of the Aga Khan Academy, Dhaka, Bangladesh May 20, 2008

“His Highness the Aga Khan has made significant contribution towards the social and economic development of this country. Uganda is proud to be associated with the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN), of whose initiatives we are great beneficiaries. Institutions like the Aga Khan Schools, Diamond Trust and Jubilee Insurance Company have not only offered services to Ugandans but also availed employment. Together with some other recent projects, these institutions have brought a difference in the lives of our communitiesAllow me to register our profound appreciation for the confidence you have placed in Uganda, making massive investments and boosting our economy.”

Excerpts from speech by His Excellency President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni at the Laying of the Foundation Stone for the Aga Khan Academy of Excellence (delivered by Vice President Professor Gilbert Bukenya on behalf of President Museveni), Kampala, Uganda, August 22, 2007

“In your role as Founder and Chairman of the Aga Khan Development Network, you have, with great perseverance and enthusiasm, contributed significantly towards the integrity of mankind and towards the integrated development of the countries in the world. Amongst us, we have encouraging signs which intensify our certainty that the bases are launched, for a wider, diversified and long-lasting cooperation with the Aga Khan Development Network, whether considering the integrity of mankind or the integrated development of our Mozambique. Let us consider as an example:

- the rural and integrated development project of the coast in the Province of Cabo Delgado
- the investments in the Polana Hotel, a touristic and architectural reference, and of great importance in Mozambique
- the project of the Aga Khan Excellency Academy in Matola



Part of these activities, which also include the areas of health, the development of national entrepreneurship and microfinances, currently benefit approximately 100 000 Mozambicans.

Our people have access to these projects and its benefits, regardless of gender, religion and social status and, thus, the Aga Khan Development Network participates, in a sustained manner, in the battle against poverty in Mozambique, in the rural areas and in the city, from Rovuma to Maputo and from the Indic to Zumbo.”

Excerpts from speech by President of the Republic, Armando Guebeza at the State Banquet at Ponta Vermelha Palace, Maputo, Mozambique, November 20, 2007

“Rare is the religious leader whose vision is so extraordinary that his appeal transcends nationality, ethnicity and faith traditions. His Highness, the Aga Khan, is one such extraordinary leader. If the history of civilization is filled with chapters concerning the strife borne of differences over religion, race, tribe and language, then blessed indeed are the peacemakers who have heard a higher calling of unity, who have recognized our common bonds of humanity.....50 years ago, when he became the Imam, His Highness infused His community with a sense of purpose aimed at lifting people out of poverty and forging a better day.

Because of that vision, universities have been built in remote, mountainous regions of Central Asia. Because of that vision, young children in poor African countries like Zanzibar are getting an education, and developing a sense of hope that once would have been drowned out by despair. Because of that vision, healthcare is now available to communities ravaged by AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. Because of that vision, communities in Afghanistan that have known nothing but war have had their buildings refurbished and their land restored so that children and their parents have safe parks to enjoy. From Cairo to Kabul, from Toronto to Karachi, a vision of peace and prosperity has taken hold because of the persistence of this one man, His Highness, the Aga Khan.

Your Highness, look at what you have done, and the progress your people have made in this, the 50th year of Your Golden Jubilee! The world is a far better place because you have helped make it so! Congratulations on your success and thank you for your visionary persistence.”

Excerpts from [speech](#) by Governor Perry at the State Banquet hosted in honour of Mawlana Hazar Imam by the Governor and First Lady Austin, Texas, April 12, 2008

“For half a Century the Aga Khan has provided spiritual guidance for Ismailis and worked to improve the quality of life in some of the most vulnerable communities in the world...His name has become synonymous with humanitarian aid and development in countries beset by conflict and poverty. Just as importantly he has worked tirelessly as a bridge-builder between faiths and cultures. And perhaps most importantly of all, you have acted as a bridge-builder between faiths and cultures. In a world still riven by sectarian strife, this is very important work indeed.... on behalf of the government and people of Canada, I want to thank you for choosing to build the Delegation - the world's first - in our nation's capital.... The work done here will help lift the darkness of poverty, ignorance and inequality that afflicts so many in our troubled world.... In its modern, state-of-the-art design and essentially secular purpose, the work done here will be infused with the ancient traditions and tenets of the Ismaili faith, as embodied by your tireless efforts to teach the world there is more that unites than divides us.”

Excerpts from [speech](#) by Prime Minister Stephen Harper at the opening of the Delegation of the Ismaili Imam, Ottawa, Canada, December 6, 2008

“The IB promotes cultural harmony instead of hegemony. We are asked not to subsume or even ignore our own identities – but to celebrate and share them. It is a program ambitious in its academic rigor, rich in its international identity, and broad in its choice of service and community activities. It provides students access to the very best of the knowledge society, while reminding us that this knowledge society is neither the product nor the domain of a single culture or tradition.”



Excerpts from speech by Mr. Karim Thomas, IB Programme graduate to the IBO Atlanta, USA, April 18, 2008

Mr. Karim Thomas addressing the audience on his experience of the programme and the values that it inspires. Gary Otte/The Ismaili

“His Highness is the first member of the Islamic community to be so honoured in the history of NUI Maynooth and it is particularly fitting that this University should honour him at this time, steeped as it is in the history of Catholicism in Ireland, but now a vibrant multicultural and multi-denominational university, with students from more than 50 countries... the Aga Khan embodies the spirit of understanding, tolerance and ecumenism that should link the great religions of the world. For fifty years, he has been a voice of moderation and a voice of reason in promoting an Islam that embraces and indeed celebrates pluralism and diversity..... But he has done much more than that. He has become a major activist for civilized humanity and universal values, not only in words but in deeds and not only in one location but around the world. For he believes in the long tradition of Ismaili community values - that education, self-reliance, solidarity and character are the elements that keep a community vibrant and healthy and lead to enlightenment and dignity. ... Few people on this earth have contributed more to the promotion of tolerance than our guest of honour here today.”



John Hugues, President of the National University of Ireland. Photo: AKDN

Excerpts from Citation by President John Hughes at the National University of Ireland, Nui Maynooth, Ireland, June 30, 2008

“The Aga Khan is not only a spiritual leader to millions but also a champion for causes benefitting the developing countries of the world...His devotion to lifting up others through faith and service is an example to us all.”

Governor Perdue of Georgia

Press Release from Office of the Governor, April 18, 2008

gov.georgia.gov/00/press/detail/0,2668,78006749_110479098_111702429,00.html

“1968 is the year that the IB is founded; by a small group of resolute, forward-looking men and women searching for international peace, searching for the means to educate young people to become the next harbingers of hope. Thanks to their vision we can offer young people today the gift of a high quality IB education; an education that derives its quality from its values as well as from its high standards, high standards that can be reached by anyone who is motivated. We all know that motivation may be intrinsic, but so often it comes from motivated teachers, teachers who love what they teach, care so much for their students that they are able to transmit to them the love for what they teach, the love for learning. The IB teachers are at the core of the IB success, they are the ones instilling in our students the knowledge and the values that will allow them to be builders in the world of tomorrow and to transmit the message of peace and understanding that is so paramount in an IB education.”

**Excerpts from speech by Dr. Monique Seefried
Chairman, IB Board of Governors at the Annual Meeting of
the International Baccalaureate 2008 Peterson Lecture,
Atlanta, Georgia, USA, April 18, 2008**



Mawlana Hazar Imam receives applause from IB Board Chairman Monique Seefried and the rest of the auditorium after speaking to students and educators. Photo: Yahoo/AP Photo/John Amis/Ismaili Mail

“The Academies are committed to a policy of dual-language instruction, so students at the Academy in Dhaka will be taught in Bangla and in English. This policy derives directly from our commitment to educating future leaders who are rooted in their own culture, history, and language and who are also comfortable on the global stage where English is the lingua franca. We believe that the strongest leaders are those with roots that have been well nurtured.... We also aspire for the quality of education across Bangladesh to be enhanced through the establishment of the Aga Khan Academy, an institution of the highest quality. Underlying this aspiration, this commitment, is the Muslim ethic of sharing one’s resources, whether material or intellectual, with those who need them most.”

**Excerpts from speech by Salim Bhatia, Director of Aga
Khan Academies Programmes, at the Laying of the
Foundation Stone for the Aga Khan Academy, Dhaka,
Bangladesh, May 20, 2008**



Salim Bhatia addressing the guests at the Laying of the Foundation Stone for the Aga Khan Academy in Dhaka

“....the friendship between the United Kingdom and your family goes back to Queen Victoria and your own Grandfather. There have over that time been many shared goals. His Highness’ family has a tradition of support for higher learning that goes back a thousand years to the time of the Fatimid Empire in Egypt. This country shares His Highness’ view of education as the key ingredient for the development of civil society. Education erodes segregation between faiths and cultures, is the source of the shared values that we need to develop and it is a chance to explore personal convictions.....

The International Development accord of co-operation between the United Kingdom government and the Aga Khan Development Network was signed in 1988, and we have worked with the Aga Khan rural support programme in Northern Pakistan since the 1990s. This has been a partnership over many years and from the perspective of my own department of the United Kingdom government with our own belief, that it is the development of skills and the training for skills that is so often the route out of poverty, we have been delighted to see that principle embodied in so much of the work that takes place in rural communities.”

Excerpts from speech by the Right Honourable John Denham MP, Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, at the banquet hosted by Mawlana Hazar Imam London, United Kingdom, July 3, 2008

“I learnt much from my meeting with the Aga Khan ...The Aga Khan has a deep sense of humanity. He talked about the importance of ‘cosmopolitan ethics,’ based not on religious beliefs but on the common brotherhood of man which all religions subscribe to. If we concentrate on the well-being of the child, all of us can find common cause. If our starting point is a religious abstraction, the differences can never be bridged.”

**George Yeo,
Minister for Foreign Affairs, Singapore, December 2, 2008**

“We are both confessional universities with a religious perspective of the world and life, so we are both ideologically orientated Institutions. We have both international dimensions in perspectives, extended for more than one continent and country. From Asia until Europe as in the case of the Aga Khan University and from Europe to Asia as in the case of the Portuguese Catholic University and looking both for all the world.



We have the conditions but also the common wish to start a noteworthy cooperation not only in the inter religious dialogue so this is even important to the Peace building in the international relations frame, but also in the promotion of Human dignity in the development of our societies in which so committed and engaged so many Institutions belonging to our religious confessions, working in the field of Education, and promotion of health services. Our intention with this agreement is to establish the basis to a future cooperation.”

Excerpts from speech by Professor Manuel Braga da Cruz at the Signing of Memorandum of Understanding between the Aga Khan University and the Catholic University of Portugal, Lisbon, Portugal, July 12, 2008

“Your Highness, your Golden Jubilee marks fifty years of profound global influence; fifty years of tireless work to improve the quality of life, not just for Ismailis, but for people of all faiths in all corners of the world....It is an honour to be here today to speak as well about another important jubilee, for the partnerships between McMaster and the Aga Khan University now has a twenty-five year history of its own. This collaboration now celebrating its silver jubilee and has shown how effective universities in general and these two universities in particular can be in working together to address the important challenges facing the developing world.



McMaster University President Dr. Peter George and Mawlana Hazar Imam at the signing ceremony of a Memorandum of Agreement between McMaster University and the Aga Khan University. Photo: Susan Emigh/McMaster Daily News

Our common goal comes from the understanding that the health of communities and nations depends on the health of their people. Together, the Aga Khan and McMaster universities are working to preserve and enhance individual health and with it, the fortunes of families, villages, cities and countries. In short, we believe we can change the world and the evidence of our twenty-five years of accomplishment is proof....The Memorandum of Understanding we sign today will provide the foundation for partnerships in Africa and Asia, in regions where the nursing profession has not been given its due attention

We will assemble experienced nursing leaders to find the solutions to the dramatic need for nursing practice, education and regulation in these areas and we will have an important and lasting influence. I know this will happen because I have seen it before; I have watched exactly this type of impact unfold for the past twenty-five years....I look forward to the next twenty-five years and the continued growth of hope here and around the world.”

Excerpts from speech by Dr. Peter George, President of McMaster University at the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement between the McMaster University and the Aga Khan University at Fairmont Royal York Hotel, Toronto, Canada November 22, 2008

REFLECTION

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

Mawlana Hazar Imam being interviewed by Peter Mansbridge . hoto: CBC

During the extended Golden Jubilee year, Mawlana Hazar Imam focused the world and the Jamat's attention to the many initiatives, collaborative partnerships and institutions that he has established 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.

Mawlana Hazar Imam's future hopes and aspirations are indeed for the whole of humanity. 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 realizing Mawlana Hazar Imam's vision for Humanity?
