



## MODEL OIC INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ACADEMY 2022

April 9th, 2022



The “Model OIC International Relations (IR) Academy” project, which has been successfully implemented in Azerbaijan for 11 years, has been started once again. The first lecture program of the project is organized by the Eurasian Regional Center of Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF-ERC) in partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Young people selected from hundreds of applied students representing different universities of Azerbaijan, such as Baku State University, the Academy of Public Administration, Azerbaijan University of Languages, etc. took part in weekly lectures for 2 months and then in the "Model OIC" Council of Foreign Minister's simulation.

At the opening ceremony, Acting

Director General of ICYF-ERC, Mr. Vusal Gurbanov, first thanked the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Azerbaijan as a partner of the project, as well as Baku State University for its organizational support during the program. Then, Mr. Gurbanov gave detailed information about the project's goals and lecture topics. Further, the Vice Rector for International Relations of Baku State University, Mr. Shahin Panahov, praised the cooperation between the university and ICYF-ERC within this program. The representative of Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF), Mr. Yunus Cholak, joined the program in an online format and informed participants about the International Model OIC.

Then, the guest lecturers of the program, Ambassador Extraordinary

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## THE SECOND TRAINING SESSION OF "MODEL OIC INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ACADEMY 2022"

April 16th, 2022

The second training session of "Model OIC International Relations (IR) Academy" project, organized by the Eurasian Regional Center of Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF-ERC) in partnership with Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Azerbaijan, was held in Baku State University on April 16, 2022.

and Plenipotentiary of the State of Palestine to Azerbaijan, Mr. Nasser Abdul Karim Abdul Rahim, and Vice Rector of ADA University, Mr. Fariz Ismayilzade, accordingly made a presentation on "Muslim World and Palestinian Issues" and "Modern Diplomacy and the role of Azerbaijani diplomacy in the Karabakh War". During the program, lecturers answered various questions from participants.

It should be noted that the main objectives of the Model OIC IR Academy project are to support the strengthening of international cooperation among the OIC youth, to help young people and members of youth organizations gain new knowledge and experience in diplomacy, management, and communication. After two months of lectures, students will take part in the Model OIC Council of Foreign Ministers' simulation. At the end, selected participants with foreign language skills and specific abilities will get the chance to represent Azerbaijan in the International Model OIC.

Over the past years, Azerbaijani students several times have represented the country in the "International Model OIC" simulations, which covered the whole OIC space and attended by representatives of more than 40 OIC member countries.



Around 100 students representing different universities of Azerbaijan took part in the lectures.

During the program, ICYF-ERC hosted two guest speakers. The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the Republic of Azerbaijan, Mr. Bilal Hayee, made a presentation on "The Role of Pakistan within the OIC region: Pakistan's Foreign Policy with the OIC Member States".

Then, Mrs. Leyla Abdullayeva, the Head of the Press Service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, delivered a lecture on the topic of "The Priorities of Azerbaijan's Foreign Policy and the Role of the Media in Diplomacy."

During the program, lecturers

answered various questions from participants, and the sessions earned overwhelmingly positive responses.

## THE THIRD TRAINING SESSION OF "MODEL OIC INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ACADEMY 2022"

April 23rd, 2022

The third training session of the "Model OIC International Relations (IR) Academy" project, organized by the Eurasian Regional Center of Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF-ERC) in partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Azerbaijan, was held at Baku State University on April 23, 2022.

This time, ICYF-ERC hosted two Azerbaijani guest speakers. The Adviser to the Minister of Education, Mr. Nijat Mammadli, made a speech on "The Future of Education in a Changing World".

Then, Mr. Farid Shafiyev, AIR Center Chairman, delivered a lecture on the topic of "International Conflicts and Coordination between OIC Member States".



During the program, the youth actively participated in Q&A sessions, and lectures were transformed to a real and fruitful learning experience.



## THE FOURTH TRAINING SESSION OF "MODEL OIC INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ACADEMY 2022"

April 30th, 2022

The fourth training session of the "Model OIC International Relations (IR) Academy 2022" project, organized by the Eurasian Regional Center of Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF-ERC) in partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Azerbaijan, was held at Baku State University on April 30, 2022.



The lectures were attended by more than 120 students representing various universities in Azerbaijan.

During the program, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the Republic of Azerbaijan, Mr. Bakhrom Ashrafkhanov made a presentation on the topic of "The Recent Development of Uzbekistan in Central Asia and its contribution to the OIC".

Then, Mr. Agil Shirinov, Rector of the Azerbaijan Institute of Theology, delivered a lecture on the topic of "The Role of Islam in World Civilization".

During the question-and-answer session, our distinguished lecturers answered the on-topic ques-

tions of the participants.

## THE FINAL TRAINING SESSION OF "MODEL OIC INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ACADEMY 2022"

May 7th, 2022

The last training session of the "Model OIC International Relations Academy 2022" organized by the Eurasian Regional Center of ICYF in partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Sport of the Republic of Azerbaijan was held at Baku State University on May 7, 2022.

Around 100 selected students attended the session to gain valuable knowledge from educational lectures.

During the program, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Morocco to Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan H.E. Mr. Mohamed Adil Embarch made a presentation on the topic of "The Strategy behind Africa's Rising Power: Morocco as a Role Model for Muslim World".



Then, our next guest speaker was the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Kyrgyz Republic to the Republic of Azerbaijan and Georgia H.E. Mr. Kairat Osmonaliyev, made a presen-

tation on the topic of "The Foreign Policy of Kyrgyzstan within the framework of the OIC: the context of Azerbaijani-Kyrgyz relations".

During the session our honorable guest speakers answered on-topic questions from students that had a positive impact on their post-session impressions.

## THE SPECIAL TRAINING SESSION OF "MODEL OIC INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ACADEMY 2022"

May 13th, 2022



The special training session of the "Model OIC International Relations Academy 2022" organized by the Eurasian Regional Center of ICYF in partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Azerbaijan was held online on May 13, 2022.

During the session, Mr. Elməddin Mehdiyev, Director of the Azerbaijan International Development Agency (AIDA), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, delivered a lecture on the topic of "International Development: Azerbaijan's success as an emerging donor country".

After the lecture and Q&A session, the participants made a revision of the rules and procedures of the Model OIC Simulation

## ICYF-ERC ORGANIZED ISLAMIC CULTURAL HERITAGE TOUR IN BAKU CITY

May 1st, 2022



On 1 May 2022, the Eurasian Regional Center of ICYF (ICYF-ERC) organized the “Islamic Cultural Heritage” Tour for the participants of the “Model OIC: International Relations Academy 2022” which was organized in partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The first part of the tour started in Baku Inner City (Icheri Sheher). The tour guides provided by Icherisheher State Historical-Architectural Reserve Department took the participants to visit the heritages of the Baku Old City. The tour included visiting Saray Mosque, the ruins of Kaygubad Mosque, Seyid Yahya Bakuvi’s tomb, Beyler Mosque, Muhammad Mosque (Siniggala Mosque), Juma Mosque, Mekteb Mosque (School-Mosque), Sayyid Yahya Murtuza Mosque (Hazrat Ali Mosque), and Imam Kulu Mekteb-Mosque (besides the Maiden Tower).

The second part of the tour started in BibiHeybat Mosque and Shrine Complex. Inside the Mosque complex, participants prayed at shrine of the Hakima Khanim (daughter of the 7th Imam Musa

Kazim, from the family of Prophet Muhammad PbuH). The Mosque caretaker told the youth about its spiritual significance and miraculous stories that are believed to have happened there. Moreover, the group got a chance to enter the museum which displayed artifacts (pictures, paintings, and official letters) elaborating the history of the site.

The Islamic heritage tour concluded with a collective Iftar ceremony where the youth shared the joy and spirit of Ramadan.

## GROUP OF AZERBAIJANI YOUTH VISITED OIC EMBASSIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN BAKU

May 11th, 2022

In the framework of the “Model OIC - International Relations Academy 2022” program, the groups of Azerbaijani youth were received by the embassies of the OIC Member States and international organizations accredited in Azerbaijan.

During the visit to the Embassy of the State of Palestine, H.E. Ambassador Nasser Abdul Kareem A. Raheem gave a speech on the given topics – The Relations



between Azerbaijan and Palestine, and the Azerbaijani Media, and the participants asked different questions regarding the future of cooperation between Azerbaijan and Palestine.

As part of the visit to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, H.E. Ambassador Bilal Hayee informed the participants about Pakistani - Azerbaijan relations and the youth politics in Pakistan.

During the visit to the Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan, H.E. Ambassador Bakhrom Ashrafkhanov received ICYF-ERC Acting Director General Mr. Vusal Gurbanov accompanied by the group of Azerbaijani youth. In his presentation, His Excellency Ambassador discussed youth issues and informed the guests about the youth policy implemented in Uzbekistan.

At the Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco in Baku, H.E. Ambassador Mohamed Adil Embarch, informed Azerbaijani students accompanying Mr. Gurbanov on the activities of the Embassy towards strengthening cooperation between the two states.

During the visit to ICYF-ERC office, the Acting Director General of ICYF-ERC, Mr. Vusal Gurbanov delivered a speech about OIC and its structure, Model OIC Simulation Conference, ICYF-ERC and upcoming events of the Center.

After fruitful discussions, the participants had the chance to have a tour of the diplomatic missions and received special souvenirs.

The Eurasian Regional Center of ICYF (ICYF-ERC) highly appreciates



the warm welcome and hospitality of the kind offices of the Embassies.

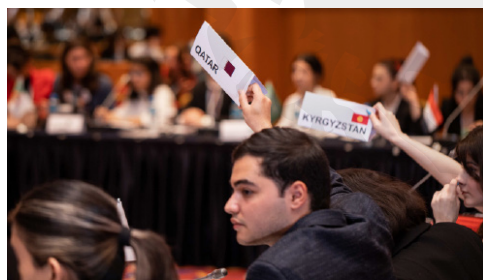
## MODEL OIC 2022 SIMULATION CONFERENCE

May 15th, 2022

A simulation conference was held in accordance with the Model Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) International Relations Academy project, which has been successfully implemented for 11 years now by the Eurasian Regional Center of Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF-ERC), at the Park Inn Hotel in Baku, the Republic of Azerbaijan.

At the opening ceremony, Mr. Vusal Gurbanov, Acting Director General of ICYF-ERC, and a senior specialist from the International Relations Department of the State Employment Agency of Azerbaijan spoke about the project's importance and its role in contributing to youth development.

Around 90 students from Azerbaijan's top universities took part in discussions on "Peacebuilding processes in Afghanistan," "Regional security challenges in the OIC geography," "Proposals for promoting inclusiveness and enhancing the capacity of youth in the OIC region," topics simulating an OIC Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) session, and adopted resolutions on the aforementioned topics.



Distinguished participants who are selected by the jury for their

outstanding performance during the conference will have the right to represent the Republic of Azerbaijan in the "International Model OIC" competition to be held in one of the OIC member states.

The ambassadors of Pakistan, Palestine, Uzbekistan, Indonesia, and a number of OIC member states to Azerbaijan gave lectures to project participants about their countries' foreign policy priorities. Besides, Azerbaijan's foreign policy, international conflicts, co-operation between OIC member states, the role of education in a changing world, the role of Islam in world civilization, and other topics were discussed by prominent scholars and experts representing various scientific and educational institutions in Azerbaijan.

The main goals of the Model OIC project, which is co-organized by ICYF-ERC and the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Azerbaijan and supported by Baku State University, are to support the strengthening of international youth cooperation and to assist Muslim youth in enhancing their knowledge and experience.

Azerbaijani participants have always represented Azerbaijan honorably at "International Model OIC" conferences attended by delegates from more than 40 OIC member states over the past years.

Model OIC is now being implemented in several countries, with the goal of completing the project in all OIC countries and holding simulation conferences

in the near future.

## THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF MODEL OIC INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ACADEMY 2022

June 2nd, 2022



The closing ceremony of the "Model OIC-IR Academy" project, which has been successfully implemented for over a decade by the Eurasian Regional Center of the ICYF (ICYF-ERC), was held in the Park Inn Hotel in Baku, Azerbaijan on June 2.

The event was attended by the representatives of government agencies, members of parliament, ambassadors of the OIC member states, the media and NGOs. A short introductory video about the activities of Model OIC was shown.

The first speaker, Mr. Vusal Gurbanov, Acting Director General of ICYF-ERC, spoke about the main goals and objectives of the project, which has more than a thousand alumni and noted the growing interest in Model OIC in recent years. Mr. Gurbanov also mentioned how the project which got around 600 applications is being successfully implemented in more than 30 OIC member states.

In his speech, Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan, H.E. Mr. Elnur Mammadov spoke about Azerbaijan-OIC relations, in particular, the

successes of Azerbaijan's foreign policy at the 48th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC in March this year. He also expressed hope that the "Model OIC" project will be of great value in helping youth on their way to becoming a diplomat, and praised the work done by ICYF-ERC aimed at enhancing the knowledge and skills of youth.

In her speech, Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Ms. Indira Hajiyeva spoke about the importance of the Ministry's support for ModelOIC as the partner of the project, the role of non-formal education in youth development, and noted that in the future the Ministry will be in tight collaboration with ICYF-ERC in implementing initiatives under the Ministry's youth policy.

Speaking on behalf of the diplomatic corps, Ambassador of the State of Palestine to the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Mr. Nasser Abdul Kareem noted that he was honored to be one of the lecturers in this project for many years, calling it a "successful platform for Azerbaijani youth".

Then, the finalists of the simulation conference, which was held on May 15, 2022, were awarded by the representatives of the OIC embassies accredited in Azerbaijan.

## INTERNATIONAL YOUTH EVENTS

The Eurasian Regional Center of Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF-ERC) annually holds international youth projects in the field of culture, academic life, youth leadership, entertainment, sports, and youth capacity building in countries enlisted under its mandate. Based on the gained experience from "The 1st Debate Championship of ICYF-ERC" organized in Baku, Azerbaijan in partnership with Debate in Civil Society Public Union, in the forthcoming months the championships are held locally in other Eurasian countries, and the winning team will gain an opportunity to participate in the International Debate Championship. The Model OIC International Relations Academy has been implemented in Azerbaijan for the first time in the world in 2011 by the Eurasian Regional Center of ICYF with the support of the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Currently, the project is being implemented in about 40 OIC member countries based on the experience launched in the Republic of Azerbaijan. Kazan OIC Youth Entrepreneurship Forum is an annual large-scale international youth entrepreneurship activity which has been implemented since 2014 within the framework of cooperation between the Eurasian Regional Center of Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF-ERC) and the Government of the Republic of Tatarstan. Also, ICYF-ERC organized digital projects like "Peace Letter to Allah" on the occasion of Ramadan 2022 and "DiGi-Q" digital quiz series, as well as, was among the partners of one of the biggest Startup projects of the region - Take Off Baku Startup Summit.

### RAMADAN 2022 CONTEST

April 1st, 2022

Ramadan is the month of closeness to God. Allah promises peace in the Quran, Surah Al-Qadr (97:5- All peace is that night until the rise of dawn.). ICYF-ERC organized its Ramadan 2022 Contest "Peace Letter to Allah" to provide an opportunity to remember

### RAMADAN 2022 CONTEST "PEACE LETTER TO ALLAH" WINNERS



**1ST PLACE:**  
MUSA K. CEESAY  
(GAMBIA)



## TOP NEWS OF THE EDITION

ICYF-ERC is deeply honored to receive the Certificate of Appreciation from H.E. Mr. Rashad Nabiyev, Minister of Digital Development and Transport of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and Mr. Selcuk Bayraktar, Chairman of TEKNOFEST's Board of Directors and the T3 Foundation's Board of Directors and the T3 Foundation's Board of Trustees, in recognition of its valuable contribution to TAKE OFF BAKU as a partner on May 26-28, 2022, in Baku, Azerbaijan.

The Take Off Baku Startup Summit got a huge success thanks to organizers and contributions from all the partners of the event.



humanity and grief - stricken mankind in special prayers. Prayers can alleviate all distress and worries, providing peace of mind and strengthening faith by communicating with Allah Almighty and making special prayers for fellow Muslims and all those suffering from war calamities around the world.

The topic of the contest was "Peace Letter to Allah". The main motive behind organizing this competition was to arouse the importance of Peace in light of the Quran, especially during Ramadan which holds a message of peace from Allah towards humanity. Allah promises peace in the Quran, Surah Al-Qadr (97:5- All peace is that night until the rise of dawn.).

We received numerous competitive essays within the framework of the Peace Letter. According to the jury of experts' evaluation two letters were distinguished among all the submitted entries. The winning position holders are as follows: 1st Place went to Musa K. Ceessay (Gambia) and Best Mention went to Moutawakkil Bakary (Cameroon).

## "THE 1ST DEBATE CHAMPIONSHIP OF ICYF-ERC" IN KAZAN, TATARSTAN

April 1st, 2022



On April 1-3, the Eurasian Regional Center of Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF-ERC) in partnership with "Selet" Youth Organization successfully organized the local stage of "The 1st Debate Championship of ICYF-ERC" in Kazan, Republic of Tatarstan.

At the opening ceremony of the event, on behalf of Mr. Vusal Gurbanov, Acting Director General of ICYF-ERC, Mr. Said Omanov and Ms. Aygul Gabdrakhmanova, Director of the "Selet" Youth Organization, greeted participants and emphasized the role of such events in the development of leadership and public speaking skills of young people as well as successful exchange of creative ideas for effective regional cooperation.

During the two-day championship selected 32 debaters discussed 8 different topics on global climate change, the role of international organizations in reducing youth unemployment, the importance of environmental factors in investment projects and the role of distance education in knowledge acquisition.

At the end of the Debate Championship, the winners were awarded with certificates and special prizes.

## THE DEBATE CHAMPIONSHIP WAS HELD IN TARAZ, KAZAKHSTAN

May 28th, 2022

The XX Republican debate tournament for the rolling cup of the AMANAT Party has been held by the Youth Wing MK "Jas Otan" under the "Amanat" Party

with the support of Eurasian Regional Center of Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF-ERC) in Taraz, Kazakhstan on May 28-29, 2022.

More than 50 young participants, selected among 600 young people, took part in the championship (Amanat Cup) organized by the youth wing of the "Amanat" Party in Kazakhstan. According to Nurlan Jetpisbayev, the Chairman of the party's youth wing, the debates focused on the referendum on constitutional changes in the country, the importance of state symbols, economic development of recently formed regions and other issues. The winners of the debate championship were "Young Researchers" from Pavlodar region and "Kunayev" organization, representing Almaty, which will represent Kazakhstan in the International Debate Tournament with the participation of 6 countries.



The Acting Director General of the Eurasian Regional Center, Vusal Gurbanov, wished the participants success and emphasized the importance of the debate championships' sustainability.

## "THE 1ST DEBATE CHAMPIONSHIP OF ICYF-ERC" (YNTYMAK CUP) WAS HELD IN BISHKEK, KYRGYZSTAN

May 28th, 2022

On May 28, the Eurasian Regional Center of Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF-ERC) in partnership with the Ministry of Culture, Information, Sports and Youth Policy of Kyrgyz Republic, Kyrgyz Youth Congress and Debate in Civil Society Public Union has successfully organized the local stage of the “1st Debate Championship of ICYF-ERC” (YNTYMAK CUP) at the Kyrgyz State University named after Yusuf Balasaguni in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic.



At the opening ceremony of the event, on behalf of Mr. Vusal Gurbanov, Acting Director General of ICYF-ERC, Mr. Said Omanov, Mr. Askar Shaikidinov, Chair of the Kyrgyz Youth Congress, and Mr. Nijat Safarov, Program Coordinator of DCS PU, greeted participants and emphasized the role of such events in the development of leadership and public speaking skills of young people as well as successful exchange of creative ideas for effective regional cooperation.

During the championship selected 36 teams, 72 debaters discussed various topics on finance, Hi-Tech, world diplomacy, culture, artificial intelligence, etc.

The winners were awarded certificates, and special prizes and the winning team got a chance to represent the Kyrgyz Republic in the

International Debate Tournament with the participation of 6 countries.

At the end of the championship, the debaters and the chief judge, Samat Anarkulov, thanked the organizers, noting that the championship was organized at the highest level and that each tournament is a great holiday for debaters.

### DIGI-Q

April 4th, 2022

The Eurasian Regional Center of ICYF (ICYF-ERC) organized “DiGi-Q” digital quiz series in partnership with the OIC Youth Indonesia, Youth Advocacy Network Pakistan, Youth Wing MK “Jas Otan”, Republic of Kazakhstan, “Selet” Youth Organization, Republic of Tatarstan (RF), and Scheherazade Foundation, Romania.

The main motive behind the project was to increase the activation and participation of OIC youth towards knowledge seeking in Arts, Culture, History, Science and Travel of Eurasian countries. Moreover, we aimed at online engagement of youth from OIC member states, so they



got familiar with the purposeful understanding and gained interest in ICYF-ERC projects.

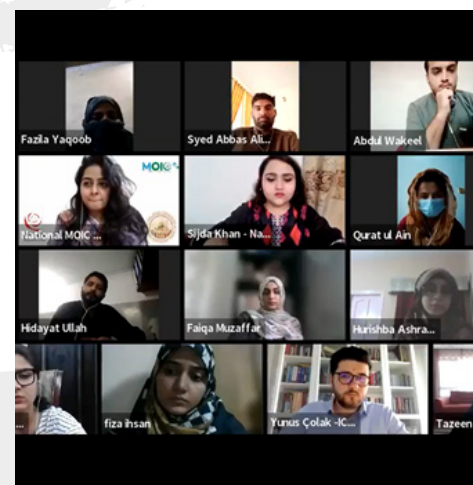
The duration of the DiGi-Q quiz series lasted for 8 weeks and all the winners got a chance to be featured on our social media pages. Weekly winners were also nominated for the special prizes!

### MODEL OIC INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ACADEMY

April 16th, 2022

National MOIC Pakistan, in collaboration with Eurasian Regional Center of ICYF, brings an opportunity to learn from seasoned experts and step into the world of diplomacy.

The 1st Academic Session of the Model OIC International Relations Academy 2022 in Karachi was organized by National MOIC Pakistan, in collaboration with Eurasian Regional Center of ICYF (ICYF-ERC) on April 16, 2022.



The session started its work with the opening remarks of Mr. Vusal Gurbanov, Acting Director General of ICYF-ERC. In his opening statement, Mr. Gurbanov touched upon the projects and programs implemented by ICYF-ERC, noting that one of the main priorities of the Center is educating the youth on current trends of international relations from the perspective of the OIC Member States in theory and practice.



The guest speaker of the session, esteemed scholar Dr. Aqdas Afzal delivered a presentation on the topic of “Understanding Global Economy and the Effects of COVID-19”. In his speech, Dr. Afzal highlighted the essence of challenges and solutions from national and international economic experience.

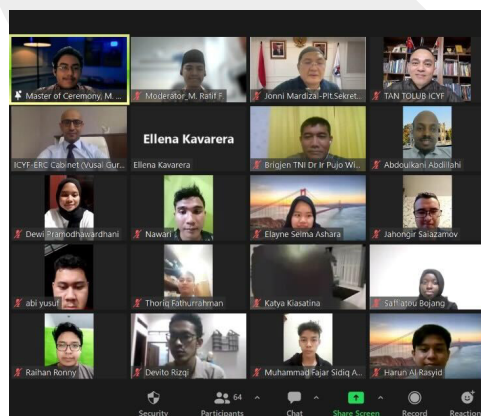
Over the next two months, 40 young students from Pakistan will participate in the training sessions about multilateral diplomacy and international relations.

Special gratitude for moderating and organizing the session to Ms. Hudda Luni and Ms. Rutaba Tariq.

## MODEL OIC IR ACADEMY 2022 IN INDONESIA

May 15th, 2022

OIC Youth Indonesia, Indonesia NYC in collaboration with Eurasian Regional Center of ICYF (ICYF-ERC) organized the MOIC IR Academy in the Republic of Indonesia. It is a course open to all students interested in learning more about negotiation, diplomacy, and international relations issues.



This event was a comprehensive and excellent youth model towards quality youth leadership, balanced education and proper training. It is also an initiative to

train students to be able to explain and elaborate on the basic theoretical and practical aspects of diplomacy and the system of OIC.

## MODEL OIC IR ACADEMY 2022 IN TATARSTAN

June 14th, 2022

From 14 to 26th June, the Eurasian Regional Center of Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF-ERC) in partnership with the “Selet” Youth Social Fund and Academy of Youth Diplomacy has successfully organized the “Model OIC International Relations Academy 2022” in Kazan, Republic of Tatarstan (RF).



Around 40 students took part in discussions and seminars on the following topics: youth policy, conflict resolution, technological development, migration issues, human rights, and food crisis in OIC countries in respective committees (IPHRC, ICYSM, CFM) and adopted resolutions on the aforementioned topics during the simulation conference.

At the closing ceremony, Mr. Vusal Gurbanov, Acting Director General of ICYF-ERC, highlighted the project’s importance and its role in contributing to youth development, congratulated all participants and wished

them success in future achievements. Distinguished participants were awarded with special diplomas.

It should be noted that Simulation Conference is aimed at presenting participants an opportunity to engage in the real-time working of international relations within the diplomatic sphere as well as discuss important topics on the agenda of OIC.

ICYF-ERC highly appreciates the continuous support of the Ministry of Youth Affairs of Tatarstan to the youth capacity-building projects.

## KAZAN OIC YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP FORUM

May 19th, 2022

The Kazan OIC Youth Entrepreneurship Forum is an annual youth entrepreneurship activity initiated by Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum and the government of the Republic of Tatarstan. The 8th Kazan OIC Youth Entrepreneurship Forum was co-organized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs of the Republic of Tatarstan, Eurasian Regional Center of Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF-ERC) and Tatarstan Republic Youth Social Fund “Selet”.

The opening ceremony of the VIII Kazan OIC Youth Entrepreneurship Forum, held in hybrid format on May 19 in Kazan, Tatarstan (RF), started with the host Mikhail Vanushin welcoming the guests and expressing gratitude to Government of Republic of Tatarstan and ICYF-ERC. In his opening remarks, President of the Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF) Taha Ayhan congratulated the successful project authors and stressed the importance of the event.

Then, Acting Director General of the Eurasian Regional Center of ICYF (ICYF-ERC) Vusal Gurbanov highlighted the uniqueness of this platform for the Youth of OIC countries to submit projects and get investments. The opening ceremony was continued by Head of Direction of Rosmolodezh. Business Alexey Rvachev.



The notable speakers of the panel on the topic “Building Resilient Business in the OIC” were Hasan Basri Kurt, President of the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Organization (KOSGEB), Rahim Bayramli, CEO at SABAH.lab (online), Anar Yusufzada, Director of PPP environment improvement and capacity building department at PPP Development Center (SMBDA) and Ziad Barouni, International Entrepreneurship Consultant. The session was moderated by Arzish Azam, CEO at EjadLabs.



Then, during the partner session, Adel Gilaziyev, Head of Target program department at

Investment and Venture Fund of the Republic of Tatarstan, Talifa Isgandarli, Community Manager at Sabah.lab, and Valeria Chernogorodova, Head of international activity department at Youth project and programs sector, made presentations about their centers.

The session was continued with peer-to-peer deck reviews and comments from the experts of the Forum for Demo-day preparations.

More than 150 startups from 35 countries have been registered for the Forum, and during one month's preparation stage of the Forum, young entrepreneurs, authors of 50 startup projects representing 20 countries in an online format, took part in training conducted by experts and mentors operating in different countries of the world and gained relevant knowledge.

The Demo-Day of the 8th Kazan OIC Youth Entrepreneurship Forum was held in Kazan, the Republic of Tatarstan (RF), on 20 May, 2022. Overall, the best 33 startup projects, representing 15 countries (Indonesia, Pakistan, Malaysia, Azerbaijan, Nigeria, Jordan, etc.) were selected for the “Demo Day” – final stage of the investment session. At this stage, startupper held presentations of their projects with the participation of investors and created relevant connections with them.

Soon after the pitching session, 33 successful startups were shortlisted for the award by the international jury of the Forum, consisting of Program Director of Forum Adeniya Adebayo,

International Entrepreneurship Consultant Ziad Barouni, Acting Director General of ICYF-ERC Vusal Gurbanov, CEO of Ejadlabs Arzish Azam, Program Coordinator at SABAH.lab Orkhan Abbasov, Head of Target program department at Investment and Venture Fund of the Republic of Tatarstan Adel Gilaziyev, and Kazan IT Park Deputy Director on resident relations and external affairs Rustem Yunusov.

At the closing ceremony of the VIII Kazan OIC Youth Entrepreneurship Forum, co-organized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs of the Republic of Tatarstan, ICYF-ERC, and Tatarstan Republic Youth Social Fund “Selet”, H.E. Rustam Minnikhanov, President of the Republic of Tatarstan, Taha Ayhan, President of ICYF, and Vusal Gurbanov, Acting Director General of the Eurasian Regional Center of ICYF (ICYF-ERC) addressed official speeches, congratulated successful project authors as well as highlighted the importance of this project.



During the event, which also featured promoting and sharing of Azerbaijani experience, it has been announced that 3 startup projects will be financed by the ICYF-ERC. Minister of Youth Affairs of Tatarstan Timur Suleymanov emphasized the importance of the OIC Youth Entrepreneurship



Forum, adding that they will continue the cooperation with the Center to this end.

\$5000 cash prize provided by ICYF-ERC was given to the “VideoOculograph” project by Lidiya Usanova from Russia. The project is the 1st complex intelligent device for highly reliable digital and even remote diagnostics by involuntary eye moves and pupils’ reaction and noninvasive treatment of eye pathologies if such were revealed.



\$3000 cash prize provided by ICYF-ERC was given to “Tazar” project by Ainura Sagyn from Kyrgyzstan. The project aims to give individuals and small businesses a sustainable way to dispose of recyclable materials through Tazar app.

\$2000 cash prize provided by ICYF-ERC was given to “Insure.az” project by Azer Ismayilov and Tahir Mammadov from Azerbaijan. The project aims to present comparable premiums of main insurance companies in Azerbaijan in many insurance types, as well as statistical data and various other ratings of insurance companies.

The international partners of the Forum were ICYF, Academy of Youth Diplomacy, Kazan IT Park,

SABAH.lab, Federal Agency for Youth Affairs (Rosmolodezh), Investment and Venture Fund of Tatarstan, Starta Accelerator, and SEZ “Innopolis”.

## TAKE OFF BAKU STARTUP SUMMIT

May 26th, 2022

Take Off Baku International Startup Summit was held as part of the TEKNOFEST Azerbaijan Aerospace and Technology Festival jointly organized for the first time in Baku on 26 - 29 May, 2022, by the Turkish Technology Team Foundation (T3 Foundation), Ministry of Digital Development and Transport of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Ministry of Industry and Technology of the Republic of Turkey.



It should be noted that prior to the official opening of the event, 11 master classes have been organized for 50 participating startups by international mentors on the following topics: Choosing the Right Market Segment, Customer - Centric Solutions, Pitching, Innovation and Efficiency, and Functional Competence of the Startup Team.

The Take Off Baku startup summit was moderated by Tal Catran, an international expert on startups and accelerators. The event provided opportunities

for startups to make pitching presentations, holding B2B meetings, meeting with investors, participating in exhibitions and panel discussions.

According to the jury, 25 startups out of 50 participants advanced to the final round. Startups were judged on pitching, innovation, customer orientation, competitiveness, product offering, commercialization potential, and team competence.

Of the 25 startups that qualified for the final, 14 were from Azerbaijan, 4 from Turkey, 3 from USA, 1 from Egypt, 1 from Pakistan, 1 from Argentina and 1 from Estonia.

US startup “Recepta” (project name: electronic cheque system) became winner of the 1st place in the Take Off Baku Startup Summit, and Azerbaijani startup “E-Point” (project name: Fintech, integration technology of payment system) became the winner of the 2nd place, the 3rd place winner became the Turkish startup “Co-Print” (project name: 3D technology).

As one of the partners of the Summit, ICYF-ERC Acting Director General Mr. Vusal Gurbanov presented prizes to “Wingz” (electric scooters) and “Enthouse” (smart greenhouse system) startups.



## STATEMENTS OF THE BOARD

**Ramadan Mubarak**

On the occasion of the commencement of the holy month of Ramadan, we wish you and your families peace, mercy and blessings of Allah the Almighty to spend the blessed month thoroughly and safely.

April 1st, 2022

**Eid Al-Fitr Mubarak**

On this blessed occasion of Eid Al-Fitr, the International Board and staff of the ICYF - ERC cordially congratulate all of you, your families and entire Muslim world wishing a blessed and joyous celebration.

May 2nd, 2022

**99th Birth Anniversary of National Leader Heydar Aliyev**

On the 99th Birth Anniversary, ICYF-ERC commemorates with deep respect and gratitude the dearest memory of Heydar Aliyev, National Leader and Founder of modern Azerbaijan.

May 10th, 2022

**14th Anniversary of MK "Jas Otan"**

The Eurasian Regional Center of ICYF (ICYF-ERC) is pleased to congratulate our board member organization MK "Jas Otan" under the "Amanat" party on the occasion of its 14th Anniversary.

May 14th, 2022

**National Salvation Day of Azerbaijan**

On the occasion of 15 June – the National Salvation Day of the Republic of Azerbaijan, ICYF-ERC extends its cordial congratulations to the people and Government of brotherly Azerbaijan.

June 15th, 2022

**Earthquake tragedy in Afghanistan**

The International Board and Staff of the Eurasian Regional Center of ICYF (ICYF-ERC), sharing grief of the brotherly people of Afghanistan, expresses its sincerest condolences to the families and relatives of those who lost their life and wish speedy recovery to all those injured in this devastating earthquake.

May Allah the Almighty have mercy upon the souls of the victims and grant with patience their families!

June 22nd, 2022

## ICYF-ERC IN MEDIA

## AZERNEWS

Friday June 24 2022

NATION | WORLD | BUSINESS | OIL & GAS | ARMENIAN AGGRESSION | ARMENIAN-AZERBAIJANI CONFLICT | EDITORIAL | ANALYSIS | LIFESTYLE | EVENTS | HEALTHCARE | CULTURE | TRAVEL | SPORTS | OUR WRITERS

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### The Director General of the diplomatic mission spoke about what he saw in Kalbajar [PHOTO]

🕒 3 June 2022 11:00 (UTC+04:00)



The diplomatic corps accredited in the Republic of Azerbaijan paid a visit to the liberated regions on May 31, 2020. Around 80 diplomats and military attachés from more than 50 countries and 10 international organizations took part in the visit to Kalbajar region.

LATEST

Azerbaijani minister visits Educational, Cultural & Scientific Institutions in Tehran [PHOTO] 11:00

Armenia ready to negotiate peace deal, Russian FM tells Azerbaijani president 10:50

Azerbaijani minister ranks youth-related problems among top on government's agenda [PHOTO] 10:50

Indonesia, Azerbaijan to cooperate in halal tourism 10:21

Asphalting of new highway bypassing Lachin city underway [PHOTO-VIDEO] 10:00

China launches new test satellite 08:34

Gov't goal to gain spots for Georgia in top 5 of all major global rankings - PM 08:00

Erdogan meets Saudi crown prince in Ankara

Mr. Vusal Gurbanov, Acting Director General of the Eurasian Regional Center of ICYF (ICYF-ERC), who took part in the visit to liberated regions, shared his impressions with "Bizim.Media": "Our first impression of Kalbajar was of its splendid nature and tourism potential, and we do believe that Azerbaijan will definitely make use of this opportunity and potential in the future. The Armenian vandalism, as well as the vestiges of their crimes against the Azerbaijani people, was one of the next scenes that we saw. We also spoke with living eyewitnesses of the genocide committed in Kalbajar in 1992 during our stay."



# THE ACTIVITIES OF ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ICYF-ERC

## ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ICYF-ERC MET WITH H.E. AMBASSADOR OF KAZAKHSTAN TO AZERBAIJAN

April 8th, 2022

The ICYF-ERC Acting Director General Mr. Vusal Gurbanov met with H.E. Mr. Serzhan Abdykarimov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Republic of Azerbaijan, on April 8 2022.



During the meeting held in the Embassy of Kazakhstan in Baku, Mr. Vusal Gurbanov briefed H.E. Ambassador Serzhan Abdykarimov on the activities of ICYF, in particular its Eurasian Regional Center aimed at providing the necessary opportunities for the development of youth and capacity building as well as enhancing cooperation and solidarity among the youth of the OIC Member States. He also referred to the perfect relations and successful cooperation with MK “Jas Otan” Youth Organization under the “Amanat” party, as the representation of youth of Kazakhstan in the International Board of ICYF-ERC, and highlighted their support in the organization of Central Asian

Youth Entrepreneurship Training Program where active youth from Kazakhstan took part in webinars on the topics of entrepreneurship and self-development.

In his turn, Ambassador Abdykarimov provided information on the concrete steps taken by the Government and relevant authorities of Kazakhstan to support and encourage the sustainable development of youth on a national level. The parties agreed to enhance the joint work to enlarge the participation of youth of Kazakhstan in the activities of ICYF and its Eurasian Regional Center and to support the promotion and development of regional cooperation.

## ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ICYF-ERC MET WITH H.E. AMBASSADOR OF KYRGYZSTAN TO AZERBAIJAN

April 26th, 2022

The ICYF-ERC Acting Director General Mr. Vusal Gurbanov met with H.E. Mr. Kairat Osmonaliev, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kyrgyz Republic to the Republic of Azerbaijan, on April 26 2022.

During the meeting held in the Embassy of Kyrgyz Republic in Baku, Mr. Vusal Gurbanov underlying the strong and brotherly relations between Kyrgyzstan and Azerbaijan informed His Excellency on the

activities of the Center towards strengthening cooperation between the two states in the youth field as well.

In his turn, Ambassador Osmonaliev encouraged ICYF-ERC to develop its cooperation in brotherly Kyrgyzstan for the benefit of Kyrgyz youth, emphasizing the readiness of the Embassy to contribute to this cooperation.

The parties also exchanged views on the development of international youth-oriented projects in the Kyrgyz Republic and in the region at large.

## ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ICYF-ERC MET WITH H.E. AMBASSADOR OF MOROCCO TO AZERBAIJAN

April 27th, 2022

The ICYF-ERC Acting Director General Mr. Vusal Gurbanov met with H.E. Mr. Mohamed Adil Embarch, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Morocco to the Republic of Azerbaijan, on April 27 2022.

10 Azerbaijani students accompanied Mr. Gurbanov as part of the embassy visits organized within the “Model OIC: International Relations Academy 2022” project.

During the meeting held in the Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco in Baku, Mr. Vusal Gurbanov expressed gratitude to H.E. Amb. Mohamed Adil

Embarch for the organized meeting and informed about future youth-oriented projects to be organized by ICYF-ERC throughout the year. In his turn, H.E. The Ambassador informed the guests on the activities of the Embassy towards strengthening cooperation between the two states.

We would like to thank the Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco in Baku for the warm welcome and fine hospitality with which it received the students.

### **ICYF-ERC AND UNITED YOUTH ORGANIZATION OF KYRGYZSTAN ENTER INTO COOPERATION**

May 7th, 2022

On May 7, 2022, the protocol of cooperation was signed in an online format between the Eurasian Regional Center of Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF-ERC) and United Youth Organization of Kyrgyzstan (UYOK).

The signed agreement reflects concrete steps to hold international youth events like Model OIC, Debate Championship, and other international projects in Kyrgyz Republic for the year of 2022-2023.

The agreement was signed by Acting Director General of ICYF-ERC Mr. Vusal Gurbanov and President of United Youth Organization of Kyrgyz Republic (UYOK) Mr. Askar Shaikidinov with the participation of H.E. Mr. Kairat Osmonaliyev, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kyrgyz Republic to the Republic of Azerbaijan.

### **ICYF-ERC ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL PAID A COURTESY VISIT TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE AMBASSADOR OF MALAYSIA TO AZERBAIJAN**

May 13th, 2022

On 13 May 2022, ICYF-ERC Acting Director General Mr. Vusal Gurbanov paid a courtesy visit to H.E. Mr. Yubazlan Bin Yusof, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Malaysia to the Republic of Azerbaijan.

During the meeting held in the Embassy of Malaysia in Baku, both sides shared insights on various matters relating to youth development and discussed the current projects and future prospects intended to increase the participation of youth both, on local and international levels, including in the brotherly Malaysia.

Meanwhile the bilateral talk on cooperation between the parties Mr. Vusal Gurbanov shed light on the current activities and perspectives for collaboration. His Excellency Ambassador was also informed about the activities of ICYF, in particular its Eurasian Regional Center' efforts toward strengthening solidarity and maintaining cooperation among the youth of the OIC Member States. Both sides addressed several issues pertaining to mutual collaboration and development of partnerships.

### **ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ICYF-ERC MET WITH H.E. AMBASSADOR OF IRAN TO AZERBAIJAN**

May 24th, 2022

On 24 May 2022, the ICYF-ERC Acting Director General, Mr. Vusal Gurbanov paid a courtesy visit to H.E. Mr. Seyed Abbas Mousavi, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Republic of Azerbaijan.

During the meeting held at the Embassy of Iran in Baku, both sides shared insights on various matters relating to youth development. They discussed the current activities and perspectives for collaboration to increase the participation of youth both, on local and international levels, including with our fraternal country Iran. His Excellency Ambassador has also informed about the Eurasian Regional Center's (ICYF-ERC) efforts toward strengthening solidarity and upholding cooperation among the youth of the OIC Member States. Both sides exchanged views on several issues of mutual interest.

The subject of special importance was the Model OIC project which is an academic simulation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) that aims to educate participants on current trends in theory and practice of international relations from the perspective of the OIC Member States. The project will be organized during the year of 2022 in Iran.

### **ICYF-ERC HOSTED A DELEGATION OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AGENCY OF UZBEKISTAN**

May 27th, 2022

On the 27th of May, the Eurasian Regional Center of ICYF (ICYF-ERC) hosted a delegation from the Youth Affairs Agency of the Republic of Uzbekistan headed



by the Director of Agency, H.E. Mr. Alisher Sadullayev.



During the meeting, the parties presented their recent and ongoing projects implemented both on the local and international levels as well as expressed their views about the future of cooperation in the youth sector. The ICYF-ERC's Acting Director General, Mr. Vusal Gurbanov informed the delegation about the Eurasian Regional Center's efforts and future plans toward strengthening the relations among the Youth of OIC region. H.E. Mr. Alisher Sadullayev also showed interest in cooperating on different fields such as innovation, startup and research. Both sides mentioned the importance of decreasing the unemployment rate among youth through capacity-building projects.

The meeting was then followed by the signing ceremony of the Protocol of Intent between the Eurasian Regional Center of ICYF (ICYF-ERC) and Youth Affairs Agency of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The delegation was also accompanied by the Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan, H.E. Mr. Bakhrom Ashrafkhanov. Mr. Gurbanov also thanked His Excellency the Ambassador for his valuable time and efforts to honor us with their presence during the meeting.

## REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS ACCREDITED IN AZERBAIJAN TOOK PART IN THE TRIP TO DE-OCCUPIED KALBAJAR

May 31th, 2022

On May 31, 2022, representatives of the diplomatic corps accredited in Azerbaijan took part in a trip to de-occupied Kalbajar to see the aftermath of Armenian occupation. More than 80 diplomats and military attaches from more than 50 countries and ten international organizations participated in the trip.

Foreign diplomats visited the site of the tragedy in the Kalbajar-Lachin road tunnel. H.E. Mr. Hikmat Hajiyev, Assistant to the President of Azerbaijan – Head of the Foreign Policy Department of the Presidential Administration, told diplomats about the tragedy that occurred there when many Azerbaijanis were killed by Armenians while trying to leave Kalbajar.

During the trip, the diplomats got familiar with the work on the construction of a tunnel through the Murovdagh mountain range.

The visitors were informed about the process of construction of the tunnel, as well as the Toghanali-Kalbajar-Istisu highway. Besides, they were informed that the construction of the highway is planned to be completed in 2024-2025, and after its commissioning, the travel time will take no more than an hour.

Later, the guests were familiarized with the work on the restoration of hydropower plants. The

visitors were informed about the beginning of the restoration of two hydropower plants, which were completely destroyed during the Armenian occupation, in the Kalbajar and Lachin regions and viewed a hydropower plant in Kalbajar.

The purpose of the visit was to familiarize the foreign diplomats with the aftermath of the destruction caused by the Armenian occupation and with the restoration process in the liberated territories.

The ambassadors and military attaches also listened to Ramil Huseynov, a witness to the tragedy in the Kalbajar - Lachin tunnel, who provided information about those events.

## ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ICYF-ERC MET WITH H.E. AMBASSADOR OF EGYPT TO AZERBAIJAN

June 9th, 2022

ICYF-ERC Acting Director General, Mr. Vusal Gurbanov, accompanied by a student intern from Egypt, Ehab Ismael paid a courtesy visit to H.E. Mr. Hisham Mohamed Nagi Abdel Hamid, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the Republic of Azerbaijan, on June 9 2022.



During the meeting held in the Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Baku, Mr. Vusal Gurbanov, briefed H.E. Ambassador on the activities of ICYF, in particular its Eurasian Regional Center (ICYF-ERC) aimed at enhancing friendship and solidarity among the youth of the OIC Member States.

The parties agreed to enhance the joint work to enlarge the participation of youth from Egypt in the activities of ICYF and its Eurasian Regional Center and to support the promotion and development of regional cooperation.

## **THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WAS SIGNED BETWEEN THE ICYF-ERC AND PUBLIC ASSOCIATION: SUPPORTING WOMEN IN TECH – “FEMMES DIGITALES”**

June 14th, 2022

The Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Eurasian Regional Center of ICYF and Public Association: Supporting Women in TECH - “FEMMES DIGITALES”.

The memorandum reflects cooperation in such areas as information and communication technologies (ICT), women's leadership, women's activism in ICT, promotion of entrepreneurship



among women from Azerbaijan and the OIC at large, as well as science, technology, engineering, math (STEM) related educational programs.



As it is known, one of the main activity directions of ICYF-ERC is to support youth entrepreneurship within the OIC, especially, the Eurasian region. For more than 10 years, ICYF-ERC and the Government of the Republic of Tatarstan have annually co-organized the Kazan OIC Youth Entrepreneurship Forum. At this forum, Muslim young entrepreneurs from OIC countries and non-OIC member states are coming up with startup projects and getting opportunities for financing by investors in the future. The signed memorandum reflects the use of the experience gained within the framework of the Kazan Forum.

The main objective of Public Association: Supporting Women in TECH - “FEMMES DIGITALES”, which operates in Azerbaijan and cooperates with a number of European countries, is to support women activities in the field of business, especially ICT. Over the last eight years, the Public Association: Supporting Women in TECH—“FEMMES DIGITALES” has organized over 100 events with over 5000 girls, women, and young people who

have been motivated, inspired, and encouraged.

It should be noted that the Memorandum of Understanding was signed by Acting Director General of ICYF-ERC Mr. Vusal Gurbanov and Founder and Chairwoman of Public Association: Supporting Women in TECH – “FEMMES DIGITALES” Ms. Jana Krimpe. According to the MoU, selected group of Muslim young women from the Eurasian region will be involved in mentoring and training courses.



# PHOTO GALLERY





# PHOTO GALLERY





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**FOR YOUTH EMPOWERMENT  
FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION  
FOR MUSLIM SOLIDARITY**



**ICYF-ERC**  
ISLAMIC COOPERATION YOUTH FORUM  
EURASIAN REGIONAL CENTER