Memories
Volume II

Golden Jubilee
of
Mawlana Hazar Imam

Shah Karim Al Hussaini

July 11, 2008
to
December 13, 2008
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

Journey to The Light
By Nasir Khusraw

...Time had countless ruses and pretexts to entrap me;
I became caught in such a pretext, such a deception

I found help against the devil's persecution and cunning
When I entered the sanctuary of the Imam of mankind.

When the light of the Imam shone upon my soul, even though
I was black as night, I became the shining sun.

The Supreme Name is the Imam of the time, through him,
Venus-like, I ascended to the heavens.

Shimmering Light, translated by F.M. Hunzai
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Memories II is a continuation of a personal initiative that I embarked upon in Memories I to collate and organize the historic trips and events of Mawlana Hazar Imam's Golden Jubilee Year. This edition continues the Imam's Golden Jubilee Journey from July 11th to December 13th 2008.

Many readers of the first edition have forwarded kind words of congratulations and prayers, often concluding with inquiries about 'Volume 2' of the Golden Jubilee Journey.

I thank you for your warm messages and personal notes of encouragement. As the extended celebrations reached their conclusion this year, I have endeavoured to capture the milestones in this second volume to meet the objective that I had set for myself several months ago.

I hope this publication, today and for many years in the future, evokes the warmth and heartfelt emotions that you, your family, and your friends experienced during the Imam's Golden Jubilee Year. It has been a momentous year for me personally: an inspiring Darbar, several new friendships forged, and fond memories etched in my heart and mind. What a ride!

I wish to, once again acknowledge my family, Almoonir, Ruhee, and Nafeesa, for their love and unwavering support in all my endeavours. My sincere gratitude to my dear friend Fiaz Merani, who has provided suggestions which I believe have resulted in a significantly improved text. I call upon Fiaz frequently for assistance. Despite his family and career commitments, Fiaz has come through each time that I have called upon him. I am blessed to have a loving family and a true friend.

On behalf of my family, I, once again, wish you and your families, a warm Golden Jubilee Mubarak.

Nimira Dewji
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
December 13, 2008

nimira@shaw.ca
THE GLOBAL JOURNEY CONTINUES …

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.

- 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.

- 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.

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

- 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.
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.

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.

July 16, 2008

- Mawlana Hazar Imam attended the launch of the Louvre Museum’s Islamic Art Department in Paris, France.
**July 17, 2008**

- In commemoration of Mawlana Hazar Imam's Golden Jubilee, The Institute of Ismaili Studies launched the book titled *The Ismailis: An Illustrated History*, in Vancouver, British Columbia, 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, Alberta, Canada.

- Dr. Zulfiqar Hirji launched the book *The Ismailis: An Illustrated History*, at Scarborough Jamatkhana, Ontario, 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, California, 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 Imamat 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*  
www.theismaili.org/cms/358/Ali-to-Karim

![Ali to Karim: A Tribute to the Ismaili Imams](https://www.theismaili.org/cms/358/Ali-to-Karim)
July 20, 2008

- Professor Azim Nanji launched the book *The Ismailis: An Illustrated History*, at the Headquarters Jamatkhana in Toronto, Ontario, 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.”

Excerpt from transcript of interview
Lisbon, Portugal
July 23, 2008

July 25, 2008


  - 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 very first time.

Excerpt from transcript of interview
Lisbon, Portugal
July 23, 2008
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.

  The week-long programme was held in each of the twenty seven Jamatkhanas of Karachi, Pakistan.

  Photo: Ismaili Mail
  www.ismailimail.wordpress.com

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

Mawlana Hazar Imam with His Excellency Dr. Bashar Al-Assad

Photo: Gary Otte/The Ismaili
www.theismaili.org/?id=512

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

Mawlana Hazar Imam is welcomed with flowers and affection upon his arrival in Damascus

Photo: Gary Otte/The Ismaili
www.theismaili.org/?id=512
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.

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 Press Release

- 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.

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.

In his remarks to the media, Mawlana 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.

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.

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.

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.
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.

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 Amyn, 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."

Mawlana Hazar Imam
AKDN Press Release
www.akdn.org/press_release.asp?id=688
Mawlana Hazar Imam also announced the creation of a $15 million urban park in Aleppo. The Park at Bab Qinnnesrine, 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 Qinnnesrine, selected for the development of Aleppo’s urban park

Photo: Gary Otte/The Ismaili

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

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: Gary Otte/AKDN

Mawlana Hazar Imam walks through the Bab Qinnnesrine, selected for the development of Aleppo’s urban park

Photo: Gary Otte/AKDN

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: Gary Otte/AKDN

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.

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

www.theismaili.org/cms/535/AKDN-Speaker-Series
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.
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.

October 29, 2008

- In the morning, Mawlana 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 Mарат Tazhin 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. 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."

www.theismaili.org/cms/563/Central-Asia-visit

Mawlana Hazar Imam is greeted with a traditional Kazakh welcome as government officials look on

Photo: Gary Otte/The Ismaili
www.theismaili.org/?ID=579

Mawlana Hazar Imam is greeted by Kazakhstan’s Prime Minister, Karim Massimov

Photo: Gary Otte/The Ismaili
www.theismaili.org/?ID=579
The Minister of Education and Science, Dr. Zhanseit 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: Ismaili Mail
www.ismailimail.wordpress.com

Following his meeting with the President of Kazakhstan, Mawlana Hazar Imam addresses the media gathered at the Presidential Palace

Photo: Gary Otte/The Ismaili
www.theismaili.org/?ID=579

Mawlana Hazar Imam and the Minister of Education and Science, Dr Zhanseit Tuimebayev

Photo: Gary Otte/AKDN
www.akdn.org
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.

- 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.
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.

- 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.

A five-year-old girl from the Tajikistan Jamat welcomes Mawlana Hazar Imam upon his arrival in Dushanbe

Photo: Moez Visram/The Ismaili 
www.theismaili.org/?id=582

Leaders of AKDN and the Jamat welcome Mawlana Hazar Imam on his arrival in Dushanbe

Photo: Gary Otte/The Ismaili 
www.theismaili.org/?id=582

Mawlana Hazar Imam and the President of Tajikistan, His Excellency Emomali Rahmon, meet at the President’s Office

Photo: Gary Otte/The Ismaili 
www.theismaili.org/?id=582

Mawlana Hazar Imam addresses members of the press

Photo: Gary Otte/The Ismaili 
www.theismaili.org/?id=582
November 1, 2008

- In the morning, Mawlana Hazar Imam reviewed the progress of the Ismaili Center 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.

- 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.
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.
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 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 Imamat. I can think of few events in this year which will have given me the happiness which this one today will bring me and insallah 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 Speech made by Mawlana Hazar Imam at the Foundation Ceremony of the Ismaili Jamatkhana and Centre Khorog, Tajikistan 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 pursing carpentry, stone cladding and plaster construction. One hundred eight students are currently enrolled at the Training Centre, which was inaugurated in May 2008.

Thereafter, Mawlana 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.
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.

Standing at the river’s edge in Khorog Park, Mawlana Hazar Imam waves at the Jamat gathered on the opposite bank.

Photo: Gary Otte/The Ismaili
www.theismaili.org/?id=582

- 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.

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.

Kyrgyzstan

- 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, Mawlana Hazar Imam is greeted with a traditional welcome

Photo: Gary Otte/The Ismaili
www.theismaili.org/?ID=586
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 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

Students from the UCA’s School of Professional and Continuing Education welcome Mawlana Hazar Imam

Mawlana Hazar Imam reviews plans for the UCA’s new campus at Naryn

Mawlana Hazar Imam addresses members of the press in Naryn
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.
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

www.theismaili.org/cms/535/AKDN-Speaker-Series

November 16, 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.

“…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 Speech by Mawlana Hazar Imam  
at the Avignon Forum  
Avignon, France  
November 16, 2008

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.

- From the airport, Mawlana Hazar Imam proceeded to the Delegation of the Ismaili Imamat. 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: Gary Otte/The Ismaili
www.theismaili.org/?id=631

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: Gary Otte/The Ismaili
www.theismaili.org/?id=631

Mawlana Hazar Imam waves at the members of the Ottawa Jamat gathered to welcome him at Lansdowne Park

Photo: Safiq Devji/The Ismaili
www.theismaili.org/?id=631

Fumihiko Maki, architect of the Delegation of the Ismaili Imamat, greets Mawlana Hazar Imam at the new building in Ottawa

Photo: Gary Otte/The Ismaili
www.theismaili.org/?id=631
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.

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.
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.

“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.”

Excerpts from Speech by Mawlana Hazar Imam made at the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between McMaster University and the Aga Khan University

Toronto, Ontario November 22, 2008


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
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: Gary Otte/The Ismaili
www.theismaili.org/?id=631

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 24, 2008
www.canada.com/vancouversun/news/story.html?id=cf30111d-ada4-4837-9a02-17e0ba1250db
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.

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.

- Mawlana Hazar Imam is welcomed to Calgary by Jamati leaders

- Calgary Mayor David Bronconnier presents Mawlana Hazar Imam with a gift on behalf of the City

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

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

In his address, Mawlana Hazar Imam said:

“Thank you not only on behalf of the Aga Khan University, but thank you on behalf of the millions and millions of people in Asia and Africa who need to believe in hope. That only happens 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 to function in societies that are changing, and your help is helping us do that.”

Excerpts from Speech by Mawlana Hazar Imam quoted in the Calgary Herald
November 25, 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.

Upon his arrival in Vancouver, Mawlana Hazar Imam is received by the Honourable Steven L. Point, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia

Photo: Gary Otte/The Ismaili
www.theismaili.org/?id=631

Two children from the Jamat offer flowers to Mawlana Hazar Imam upon his arrival in Vancouver

Photo: Gary Otte/The Ismaili
www.theismaili.org/?id=631

The Canadian National Anthem and the Nashid al-Imamah are performed to welcome Mawlana Hazar Imam to Vancouver

Photo: Gary Otte/The Ismaili
www.theismaili.org/?id=631

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

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.

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 in 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.”

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.

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


www.theismaili.org/cms/634/Far-East-visit
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: Akbar Hakim/The Ismaili
www.theismaili.org/?id=643

Singapore’s Senior Minister, Goh Chok Tong, hosts a luncheon for Mawlana Hazar Imam

Photo: Akbar Hakim/The Ismaili
www.theismaili.org/?id=643

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: Akbar Hakim/The Ismaili
www.theismaili.org/?id=643

Mawlana Hazar Imam receives a guided tour of the Asian Civilisations Museum

Photo: Akbar Hakim/The Ismaili
www.theismaili.org/?id=643
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.

- 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

  www.theismaili.org/cms/555/AKDN-Speaker-Series
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 Amyn, Princess Zahra, Prince Rahim, Prince Hussain and Princess Khaliya.

Prince Amyn 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.
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 Amyn, 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.
In his address, Mawlana Hazar Imam said:

“This new Delegation of the Ismaili Imamat, 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.

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 irridescent 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 Speech by Mawlana Hazar Imam at the opening of the Delegation of the Ismaili Imamat

Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

December 6, 2008

THE DELEGATION OF THE ISMAILI IMAMAT

The foundation ceremony of the Delegation of the Ismaili Imamat took place on June 6, 2005, in the presence of then Governor General of Canada, Adrienne Clarkson. At the Ceremony, Mawlana Hazar Imam remarked:

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

The Delegation will serve a representational role for the Imamat 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 Imamat'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 Imamat 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 Speech by Mawlana Hazar Imam
at the Foundation Ceremony of the
Delegation of the Ismaili Imamat
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
June 6, 2005
www.akdn.org/speeches_detail.asp?ID=121
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.

www.ottawacitizen.com/essay+glass/1041260/story.html
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.

![](image1.jpg)

Mawlana Hazar Imam, Princess Zahra, Prince Hussain and others in the audience applaud the performance of *A Mystical Journey* in Paris

Photo: Gary Otte /The Ismaili

www.theismaili.org/?id=648

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.

![](image2.jpg)

Mawlana Hazar Imam in conversation with Minister Michèle Alliot-Marie

Photo: Gary Otte /The Ismaili

www.theismaili.org/?id=648

![](image3.jpg)

The Prime Minister of France, François Fillon, welcomes Mawlana Hazar Imam to his official residence in Paris

Photo: Gary Otte /The Ismaili

www.theismaili.org/?id=648
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
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 Amyn, 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 Imamat.

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

  ![Stamp Images](Aga Khan University Hospital, Nairobi, Aga Khan Academy, Mombasa, Madrassa Programme, Coastal Rural Support Programme)

  www.nation.co.ke/News/-/1056/501908/-/u0l6ac/-/ and issuu.com/ismailimail/docs/goldenjubileestampskenya

- 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.

  www.theismaili.org/cms/1/The-Ismaili-Home

- 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
from The Ismaili
www.theismaili.org/cms/497/Episode-Synopses

Ali to Karim: A Tribute to the Ismaili Imams, a Golden Jubilee initiative, recounts the story of our 49 Imams in seven episodes.

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 to 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, waking 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 Imamat 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 tajjyya (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
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
“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 His Royal Highness
The Prince of Wales at the inauguration of the Spirit and Life Exhibition
London, UK
July 12, 2007
www.akdn.org/speeches_detail.asp?ID=616

“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 and Commander-In-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Kenya, at the State Banquet in Honour of Mawlana Hazar Imam
State House, Nairobi, Kenya
August 13, 2007
www.akdn.org/speeches_detail.asp?ID=216

“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
www.akdn.org/speeches_detail.asp?ID=214
“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 Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete
President of the United Republic of Tanzania
at the dinner hosted in honour of Mawlana Hazar Imam
State House, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
August 18, 2007
www.tanzania.go.tz/hotuba1/hotuba/070818%20SPEECH%20H%5B1%5D.E.%20THE%20AGA%20KHAN.htm

“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
www.akdn.org/speeches_detail.asp?ID=613

“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 Laying of the Foundation Stone for the Aga Khan Academy
Dhaka, Bangladesh
May 20, 2008
www.akdn.org/speeches_detail.asp?ID=662
“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 communities ….

Allow 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 Yoweri Kaguta Museveni
President of the Republic of Uganda
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
www.akdn.org/speeches_detail.asp?ID=615

“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
www.akdn.org/speeches_detail.asp?ID=634
“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 governor.state.tx.us/news/speech/5156/

“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 the Right Honourable Stephen Harper Prime Minister of Canada at the opening of the Delegation of the Ismaili Imamat Ottawa, Ontario December 6, 2008 www.pm.gc.ca/eng/media.asp?category=1&id=2343
“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 International Baccalaureate Organisation at their annual meeting held in Atlanta, USA
April 18, 2008
www.theismaili.org/?id=294

“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.”

Excerpts from Citation by President John Hughes
at the National University of Ireland, Nui Maynooth, Ireland
June 30, 2008
www.akdn.org/speeches_detail.asp?ID=673

“Mr. Karim Thomas addressing the audience on his experience of the programme and the values that it inspires.

Gary Otte/The Ismaili
www.theismaili.org/?ID=292

“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

Mr. Karim Thomas addressing the audience on his experience of the programme and the values that it inspires.

Gary Otte/The Ismaili
www.theismaili.org/?ID=292
“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
www.akdn.org/speeches_detail.asp?ID=638

“...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
www.akdn.org/speeches_detail.asp?ID=663
“…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
www.akdn.org/speeches_detail.asp?ID=678

“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
beyondsg.typepad.com/beyondsg/2008/12/aga-khan.htm

“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
www.akdn.org/speeches_detail.asp?ID=681
“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.

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 
Fairmont Royal York Hotel, Toronto, Canada 
November 22, 2008 
www.akdn.org/speeches_detail.asp?ID=696
REFLECTIONS

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
CBC, Toronto, Canada
October 28, 2006
www.dmpibooks.com/author/douglas-mcintyre/752
/interview

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 Imamat. 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?