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Press Release

JMI organises National Conference on India-Arab Relations

The India Arab Cultural Centre, Jamia Millia Islamia(JMI) has organised a two-day National conference on 'India-Arab Relations: Understanding the Old and New Trajectories' on the 14th and 15th December 2022.

The inaugural-cum plenary session was held on 14th December 2022 at FTK Centre for Information and Technology (CIT) of the university. The session was chaired by Prof. Najma Akhtar, Vice Chancellor, JMI. The chief guest was Dr. Ausaf Sayeed, Secretary (CPV & OIA), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. The guests of honour were Prof. Khalid Yousef A. Bargawi, (Cultural Attache' Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia) and Prof. Nazim Husain Jafri, Registrar, JMI.

Prof. Mohammad Ayub Nadwi, the Hony. Director of the Indi-Arab Cultural Centre officially welcomed the guests. He highlighted the history of the centre and the important it has played in nurturing contacts with the Arab world. He thanked the participants for their keen interest in the subject and coming to JMI to present their research.

The program began with a welcome address by the convenor of the conference Prof. Nasir Raza Khan where he explained the relevance of the theme of the conference. He spoke about the need to bring academics together to discuss the old and new trajectories of the contact between India and the Arab world.

Prof. Khan thanked the Vice-Chancellor for her support in organising the conference and delivering the Presidential remarks. He extended his gratitude to Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) and Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), co-funding organisations, for their support.

Prof. Najma Akhtar, Vice Chancellor, JMI appreciated the Centre's efforts to deliberate on the relations between India and the Arab world. She stressed on the need for academic engagements with issues of the History, and contemporary relevance of this theme. Prof. Akhtar, spoke about the long-standing association JMI has had with the Arab world by supporting many different causes and by hosting a series of scholars from the Arab world at the University.

Dr. Ausaf Sayeed, Secretary (CPV/OIA), Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India spoke of the longstanding relations between India and the Arab world from the spice trade of the early decades to the movement of intellectuals between these two cultural zones. The Indian diaspora in the Arab world has been an important link between the two regions. Dr. Sayeed reminded the audience of the extensive intellectual exchange by means of Madrasahs established in the Arab region by people of Indian origin.

Dr. Sayeed also spoke about the pillars on which contemporary relations between India and the Arab world are structured. These include, trade, investment, energy security and education. He pointed to the increasing relevance of the Arab world, in particular the GCC, in the economic structures of growth in India. He also talked about the potentials of a meaningful collaboration between the two regions and promised to extend his full support to make this a successful endeavour.

Prof. Khalid Yousef A Bargawi, Guest of Honour, Cultural Attache' Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia congratulated the India-Arab Cultural Centre for organising a conference on this theme. He also stressed on the ancient contacts India and the Arab world has had and stressed further on the need to strengthen these contacts by encouraging people to people relations, harnessing the soft cultural power of the two cultures and by encouraging an academic exchange.

Prof. Nazim Husain Al-Jafri, Registrar, Jamia Millia Islamia, talked about the Indian proclivity to establish cultural contacts with the outside world. As a historian, he spoke about the antiquity of these contacts and their continued relevance in today's world.

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