

ACTIVITY OF THE INSTITUTE OF TURKISH AND CENTRAL-ASIAN STUDIES

Inaugurated on October 30th, 2009, the *Institute of Turkish and Central-Asian Studies (ITCAS)* has deployed a series of activities both consistent and varied that were subsumed to its fundamental objective, *the approach through knowledge of the values and realities of the Turkic world, with a view to cultivating the multi-level cooperation relations of Romania with the countries, peoples and communities that compose this vast and complex world.*

We gratefully reveal the fact that ITCAS has benefitted since the very beginning from the support of the Babeş-Bolyai University management, personally of Rector Andrei MARGA, as well as from the endorsement of the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Bucharest, personally of H.E. Ambassador Eldar HASANOV.

From its inauguration until the present, ITCAS has initiated, organized and developed the following actions:

1. Courses and seminars

Academic year 2009-2010

- Modern Turkish language – Prof. Dr. Tasin GEMIL
- Introduction to the history and civilization of Central Asia – Prof. Dr. Tasin GEMIL
- Introduction to the history and culture of classical Islam – Prof. Dr. Tasin GEMIL
- Introduction to the history of the Ottoman Empire – Prof. Dr. Călin FELEZEU

Academic year 2010-2011

- Modern Turkish language – Dr. Margareta ASLAN
- Azerbaijan language – Dr. Fakhri KARIMLI
- History and culture of Azerbaijan – Prof. Dr. Tasin GEMIL
- Reevaluation of the history and civilization of Asia – Prof. Dr. Tasin GEMIL
- Ottoman history – Prof. Dr. Călin FELEZEU

2. Scientific and cultural events

- 30 October 2009, BBU, Cluj-Napoca, Ceremony for the opening of the *Institute of Turkish and Central-Asian Studies* with the participation of the academic community, representatives of the Diplomatic Corps, media and

business environment. Speeches were delivered by: Prof.Dr. Andrei MARGA, Rector of Babeş-Bolyai University, H.E. Dr. Eldar HASANOV, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Bucharest, Prof. Dr. Călin FELEZEU, Dean of the BBU Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences, Prof. Dr. Tasin GEMIL, Director of ITCAS.

- 13 April 2010, BBU, Cluj-Napoca. Launching the volumes: Tasin GEMIL, *Românii și otomanii în sec. XIV-XVI*, Ovidius University Press, Constanța, 2008; Tasin GEMIL, *Romanians and Ottomans in 14th-16th Centuries*, Encyclopaedia Publishing House, Bucharest, 2009; Tasin GEMIL, Nagy PIENARU (coord.), *Moștenirea istorică a tătarilor, (Historical Heritage of the Tatars)* vol.I, Bucharest, 2010. The last two volumes appeared under the aegis of the ITCAS. The books were presented by: Prof.Dr. Andrei MARGA, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ovidiu GHITA and Prof. Dr. Călin FELEZEU.
- 05 May 2010, BBU, Cluj-Napoca. *European Integration of Turkey*, conference held by Prof.Dr. Andrei MARGA.
- 18 May 2010, BBU Auditorium Maximum, Cluj-Napoca. Dance spectacle *A Piece of Anatolian Legend*, performed by the Ensemble of folklore dances of the Karatekin University, Çankırı, Turkey.
- 17-18 June 2010, BBU, Cluj-Napoca. I. International Conference "*The Dialogue between East and West*", organized in cooperation with the Institute of Oriental Studies "Acad. Ziya Bunyadov" of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Azerbaijan.
- 17 June 2010, BBU Cluj-Napoca. Launching the volumes: Iqbal HAJIYEV, *Relațiile Republicii Azerbaidjan cu statele din Asia Centrală. Geopolitica spațiului caspic și central-asiatic (1991-2003)/ The Relation of the Republic of Azerbaijan with the states of Central Asia. Geopolitics of the Caspian and Central-Asian space (1991-2003)*, Top Form Publishing House, Bucharest, 2010; Fakhri KARIMLI, *Relațiile dintre Republica Azerbaidjan și România (1993-2004)/ Relations between the Azerbaijan Republic and Romania (1993-2004)*, Top Form Publishing House, Bucharest, 2010. The volumes appeared under the aegis of ITCAS. The books were presented by: Prof. Dr. Călin FELEZEU and Dr. Vasile SIMILEANU.
- 06-09 October 2010, Mamaia-Constața. The 2nd international Scientific Session of "*The Historical heritage of the Tatars*", in cooperation with the Democratic Union of the Turkish-Muslim Tatars in Romania.

- 26-27 October 2010, BBU Cluj-Napoca. I. International conference "*New Perspectives on Cultural Interactions between Romania and Turkey*", in cooperation with the Culture Center Atatürk in Ankara.
- 30 November 2010, Humboldt University Berlin. Paper presented with the title "*The History of Azerbaijan from a European Perspective*" (Prof. Dr. Tasin GEMIL)
- 21 December 2010, State University of Pedagogy and Engineering in Simferopol, (Crimea-Ukraine). Paper presented with the title "*Fundamental Problems in the Research of Tatar History*" (Prof. Dr. Tasin GEMIL)

3. Initiation and organization of international inter-university contacts

- 05-11 May 2010. Visit in Turkey of a Babeş-Bolyai University delegation (15 persons) headed by Prof. Dr. Andrei MARGA, Rector. Meeting took place with the representatives of the Universities: "Trakya" in Edirne, "Boğaziçi" and "Sabancı" in Istanbul with a view to establishing cooperation agreements.
- 17 June 2010, BBU Cluj-Napoca. Signing of the memorandum of understanding between Institute of Turkish and Central-Asian Studies, Babeş-Bolyai University and the Institute of Oriental Studies "Acad. Ziya Bunyadov" of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Azerbaijan.
- 18 June 2010, BBU Cluj-Napoca. Signing of an Erasmus protocol of cooperation between Babeş-Bolyai University and Karatekin University, Çankırı, Turkey.
- 18-25 August 2010. Visit in Kazakhstan of a BBU delegation (6 persons) headed by Rector Andrei MARGA. It was the first Romanian academic delegation visiting the country. Meetings took place with the representatives of the Universities: "Lev N. Gumilyov" and "Nursultan Nazarbayev" in Astana, "Acad. E.Buketov" in Karaganda, "Kazakh Ablai Khan University" and "Kazakh-British Technical University" in Almaty.
- 28 November – 3 December 2010. Participation of the ITCAS Director, Prof.Dr. Tasin GEMIL at the "Week of the Azerbaijani History and Culture" organized by the Humboldt University in Berlin on the occasion of the inauguration of the *Department of Azerbaijani History*. Scientific personalities from various countries participated. The opportunity was used to promote BBU and ITCAS and to achieve contacts with similar universities from Germany, Sweden, USA, UK, etc.

- 19-23 December 2010. Visit in Crimea (Ukraine) of Prof.Dr. Tasin GEMIL, the ITCAS Director and the opening of the cooperation between Babeş-Bolyai University and the State University of Pedagogy and Engineering and the "Tavrida" University in Simferopol.
- 09-14 January 2011. Visit to BBU of a delegation from "Lev N. Gumilyov" National Eurasian University in Astana (5 persons). It was the first Kazakh university delegation to visit Romania.
- 10 January 2011, BBU Cluj-Napoca. Signing of the agreement of cooperation between Babeş-Bolyai University and the "Lev N. Gumilyov" National Eurasian University in Astana. The establishment of a *Center of Kazakh Studies* within ITCAS is also provisioned.

In the following period, ITCAS will continue its programmed academic activities and, at the same time, it will organize new national and international scientific and cultural meetings, some of which have already been established with foreign partners. A few of these actions will take place outside Romania. Furthermore, an important preoccupation is issuing an international scientific journal for which we appeal to the specialists in the country and abroad. We continue the effort of creating a specialized library within ITCAS (we already have around 500 volumes). We are open to donation of specialty books from national and international scientific institutions and personalities.

24 January 2011

DIRECTOR

Prof.Dr.Tasin Gemil