

ACTIVITY OF THE INSTITUTE OF TURKOLOGY AND CENTRAL-ASIAN STUDIES

(Academic years 2009-2012)

Inaugurated on October 30th, 2009, the *Institute of Turkology 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, as well as from the endorsement of the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Romania. The rich and efficient activity of ITCAS in the scientific and cultural directions and the promotion of Babeş-Bolyai University international cooperation, particularly with countries of the Turkic world, has subsequently attracted the appreciation and support (so far rather moral than material) of the embassies of Turkey, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan in Bucharest, also of several academic institutions from these countries. As a result of the perseverant promotion of its image, ITCAS is already known in the political spheres of the Turkic world, its creation being also considered a gesture of good will and respect for these countries. BBU is the first, and for now the only higher education institution in Romania with wide opening towards the Turkic world, a world that is in train of making considerable and profound changes.

Since its inauguration, ITCAS initiated, organized and conducted the following activities:

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 (1st and 2nd year of study) – Dr. Margareta ASLAN
- Azerbaijan language – Dr. Fakhri KARIMLI
- History and culture of Azerbaijan – Prof. Dr. Tasin GEMIL
- Re-evaluation of the history and civilization of Asia – Prof. Dr. Tasin GEMIL
- The Ottoman history – Prof. Dr. Călin FELEZEU

Academic year 2011-2012

- Modern Turkish language (1st and 2nd year of study) – Dr. Margareta ASLAN
- The History of the Ottoman Empire – Prof. Dr. Călin FELEZEU

- The Azerbaijani language – Dr. Fahri KARIMLI (course suspended because of Dr. Karimli's diplomatic appointment in Sarajevo)
- Ottoman Imperial Institutions – Prof. Dr. Tasin GEMIL
- The History and culture of Azerbaijan – Prof. Dr. Tasin GEMIL
- Turkey and Central Asia – Prof. Dr. Tasin GEMIL
- Turkey and the European Union. Between integration and strategic partnership – Lect. Dr. Radu ALBU-COMĂNESCU
- Identities in the Ottoman Empire and the Republic of Turkey - Lect. Dr. Giordano ALTAROZZI
- Islamic thought and spirituality – Lect. Marius LAZĂR
- The Geopolitics of contemporary Islam. Confessional resurrections, political ideologies and activisms, new identity constructions – Lect. Marius LAZĂR
- The image of the Turks and the Tatars in the Romanian Chronicles - Dr. Margareta ASLAN and Adina FODOR, PhD candidate
- Elements of Oriental gastronomy - Prof. Dr. Călin FELEZEU

2. Scientific and cultural events

- 30 October 2009, BBU, Cluj-Napoca. Ceremony for the opening of the Institute of Turkology 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 performance “**A Piece of Anatolian Legend**”, presented 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-Constanța. The 2nd International Scientific Session of "**The Historical Heritage of the Tatars**", organized by ITCAS 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 Atatürk Cultural Center 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;
- 7-9 April 2011, Baku. International Conference "**World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue**". Paper presented: "Dialog Valences of the Multiculturalism: Babeș-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, Romania" - Prof. Dr. Tasin GEMIL;
- 01-03 May 2011, Simferopol, Ukraine. The International Scientific Conference "**The Relations of the Crimean Khanate with the Romanian Principalities (15th-18th centuries)**", organized in cooperation with the State University of Engineering and Pedagogy of Simferopol, at Bağcesaray, Feodosia (Kafa), Eski Kırım (Solhat), Ukraine with the participation of about 20 historians from Romania;
- 31 May 2011, Baku. Awarding of the Doctor Honoris Causa Title to Prof. Dr. Andrei Marga by the State Pedagogical University of Baku;
- 01-02 June 2011, Baku. International Scientific Conference "**Problems of Modern Oriental Studies**", organized in collaboration with the Institute of Oriental Studies "Acad. Ziya Bunyadov" of the National Academy of Science of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- 26-30 September 2011, International Conference "**Evliya Çelebi and his Seyahatname**", Istanbul – Bursa – Kutahya. Paper presented: "Evliya Çelebi's Impressions on Romanians" – Prof. Dr. Tasin GEMIL;
- 20 October 2011, Cluj-Napoca. The Conference „Turkey and the New Evolutions in the Middle East and Northern Africa” held at Babeș-Bolyai University by H.E. Ömür ŞÖLENDİL, Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey in Romania;
- 3 November 2011, Cluj-Napoca. The conference "Genovese Presence in the Crimean Khanate. Genovese traces: travel notes" held by Prof.dr. Călin FELEZEU, Vice-President of the IAB of ITCAS. Event organized by the Italo-Romanian Institute and the Faculty of History and Philosophy of Babeș-Bolyai University;

- 17 November 2011, Cluj-Napoca. Awarding of the Profesor Honoris Causa title to H.E. Dr. Eldar Hasanov, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Romania;
- 17-19 November 2011, BBU, Cluj-Napoca. International Scientific Conference **“The Islamic Factor in the New Security and Geopolitics Strategy in the Balkans and Southern Caucasus”**, organized in cooperation with Eurasia Press;
- May 2012 – The second volume of *The Historical Heritage of Tatars* (804 pages), coordinated by Prof. Dr. Tasin GEMIL and Nagy PIENARU, handed over to the Romanian Academy Press. The book will be published under the auspices of ITCAS;
- 21-23 June 2012, Bucharest. The International Scientific Conference **“Silk Road. History and Perspectives”** organized together with the “Silk Road” Association;
- 01-16 July 2012, Turkey. Participation of 4 ITCAS members (two teachers and 2 students) to the summer courses organized by the government of the Republic of Turkey in Nevşehir and Ankara;
- 22-26 July 2012, BBU, Cluj-Napoca. The 55th edition of the **Permanent International Altaistic Conference (PIAC)**, co-organized by ITCAS.

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 Rector Prof. Dr. Andrei MARGA. Meetings were arranged 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, Cluj-Napoca. Signing of an Erasmus agreement between Babeş-Bolyai University and the Çankırı Karatekin University, 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 “Nazarbayev” in Astana, “Acad. E.Buketov” in Karaganda, “Kazakh Ablai Khan University of World Languages and International Relations” 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;
- 12 May 2011, Romanian Ministry of Education, Bucharest. Signing of the agreements initiated by ITCAS between the Romanian Academy and the National Academy of Sciences of Turkmenistan, between the Babes-Bolyai University and Magtymguly University (Turkmenistan) and an interdepartmental agreement between ITCAS and the Institute of History of the National Academy of Sciences of Turkmenistan;
- 31 May-03 June 2011, Baku. Visit of a BBU delegation led by Rector Andrei MARGA. Signing of an interuniversity agreement between BBU and the State Pedagogical University of Baku;
- 09-12 September 2011, Ashgabat. Participation of a BBU delegation (professors C. FELEZEU and V. CHIŞ) at the International Scientific Conference **„Harmony of National and International Values in the New Era of Renaissance”**, organized by the Institute of History of the National Academy of Sciences of Turkmenistan;
- 14-16 November 2011, Cluj-Napoca. Visit of a delegation of the Çankırı province of Turkey, led by the governor of the province and the city mayor together with the Rector and professors of Karatekin Çankırı University. Signing of an interuniversity agreement between Babeş-Bolyai University and Çankırı Karatekin University;
- 20-24 February 2012, visit to Çankırı of the ITCAS director, Prof. Tasin GEMIL, at the invitation of the local authorities, for a series of lectures and dialogues in the academic and socio-cultural environment of the province. Agreement of cooperation signed between ITCAS and the Institute of Turkology of the Karatekin Çankırı University;
- March 2012. Participation of Prof. Dr. Tasin Gemil, ITCAS Director to the Marmara Group Congress organized in Izmir, Turkey;
- 24-27 April 2012, Ashgabat. Participation of a BBU delegation led by Vice-Rector Anna Sóos at the International Conference **„Modern Methods of Improvement the Education System of Turkmenistan”**, organized by the Ministry of Education of Turkmenistan;
- 7 May 2012, Cluj-Napoca. Signing of a cooperation agreement between ITCAS and British Council Romania.

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. Several 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. The journal *STUDIA TURCOLOGICA ROMANIAE* endorsed by the BBU Rector Acad.Prof.Dr. Ioan-Aurel POP will be the first of its kind in Romania. It will be published in English, French and Turkish.

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.

01.08.2012

DIRECTOR
Prof.Dr.Tasin Gemil