



**1ST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON “PEACE IN DIVERSITY:
THE INTEGRATIVE APPROACH TO INTER-CULTURAL AND
CIVILIZATIONAL AFFAIRS”**

**AND THE LAUNCHING OF
“IBN BATUTA INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR INTER-CULTURAL
AND CIVILIZATIONAL STUDIES”**

DATE/DAY:

6-7 APRIL 2017 (THURSDAY & FRIDAY)

ORGANIZED BY:

**INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF AGADIR (UNIVERSIAPOLIS)
THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO**

IN COLLABORATION WITH

**UNITED NATIONS ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATION (UNAOC)
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, GOVERNMENT OF KERALA, INDIA
MA'DIN ACADEMY, KERALA, INDIA
CAMBRIAN INTERNATIONAL STUDY CENTRE, BANGLADESH**



1. CONFERENCE CONCEPT

Office of the International Relations and Cooperation & School/Faculty of Business Management of the International University of Agadir (Universiapolis), the Kingdom of Morocco and in collaboration with United Nations Alliance Of Civilization (UNAOC), the Department of Finance, Government of Kerala, India, Ma'din Academy, India and BSB & CAMBRIAN Group of Dhaka, Bangladesh is organizing **1st International Conference on "Peace in Diversity: The Integrative Approach to Inter-Cultural And Civilizational Affairs" and launching "Ibn Batuta International Center for Inter-cultural and Civilizational Studies"** on 6-7 April 2017 in the main campus of the International Relations and Cooperation, International University of Agadir (Universiapolis) in Agadir, Morocco.

1.1 Overview of the University:

The Universiapolis - Université Internationale D'agadir was established namely ISIAM-Agadir, Higher Institute of Management in 1989 in collaboration with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) & the pedagogical collaboration and institutional framework of the UQAR (the University of Quebec at Rimouski). Based on four fundamental principles: scalable programs, innovative pedagogies, international networking and actionable guidelines for scientific research the university is currently running Diploma, Bachelor, Master's and International collaborative degrees in the Schools of the Economics, Management, Engineering, Communication and Tourism & Hotel Management. The university is going to introduce Bachelor and Master's Programmes in Islamic Banking and Finance starting from September 2017. The Universiapolis is rapidly spreading its educational products nationally and globally. About more than 3000 students are currently studying from over 20 nationalities worldwide. To maintain the quality and excel of the education, the management of the University is more concerned in selecting and offering the programmes wisely. This is the reason why Universiapolis has become one of the top most 4 private Universities in Morocco specially and in African region generally where the graduates are easily given career opportunities priority.

Enhancing the internationalization policy of the university, the university management is organizing the international conference and launching Ibn Batuta International Center for intercultural and civilizational studies.

1.2 Conference background:

In the times past of entrenched relations between nations and states, the preservation of harmony, peace and stability has always been a major concern. But situations of conflict often arise in a complex setting of historical, social, cultural and political interaction between communities; accordingly, they must be dealt with in a multifaceted and integrative manner. "In order to "practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours", as the peoples of the United Nations proclaim in the Preamble to the Charter, we first have to understand each other, or appreciate each other's way of life and socio-cultural identity. This is only possible if we are knowledgeable about our distinct cultures, traditions and value systems. This truth is also reflected in the Constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)." (UN Chronicle).

In the interdependent world that includes great cultural, ethnic, racial, civilizational and religious diversity, it is authoritative that ways to come together as a human family while respecting and tolerating other diversities. The intercultural and civilizational communication and interreligious talk must provide essential methods to deal with all these diversities that increase understanding between people.

The initiative of the conference aims at bringing various integrative approaches, tactics and methods of global mindset up to a platform for effective discussion and negotiation towards a practical implementation. And the conference will be a discussion center to provide suggestions to resolve conflict issues, and to present exercises for understanding other cultures, negotiating styles, and religions which will prevent unnecessary misinterpretations of other people's behavior, which can aggravate conflicts that already happen.

The conference will surely be a platform for dialogue, cooperation and worldwide co-ordination between major scholars.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE

2.1 Consultation on the integration of unity of the mindset of people and to encourage of having more tolerance for the societal harmony and peace;

2.2 Coordinating and gathering the efforts of all groups and parties, doing the positive effective work with one focused theme which increases collective motion and eliminating redundancy.

2.3 Encouraging the relevant individuals, researchers, academicians and public to ensure peace and harmony in multi-religious and multi-cultural society.

3. LAUNCHING OF THE IBN BATUTA CENTER

3.1 Background and Early life & Career of Ibn Battuta:

Abu Abdullah Muhammad Ibn Battuta, was born in Tangier, Morocco, on the 24th of February 1304 C.E. (703 Hijra) during the time of the Marinid dynasty. He was commonly known as Shams ad-Din. His family was of Berber origin and had a tradition of service as judges. After receiving an education in Islamic law, he chose to travel. He left his house in June 1325, when he was twenty one years of age and set off from his hometown on a hajj (pilgrimage) to Mecca, a journey that took him 16 months. He did not come back to Morocco for at least 24 years after that. His journey was mostly by land. To reduce the risk of being attacked, he usually chose to join a caravan. In the town of Sfax, he got married. He survived wars, shipwrecks, and rebellions.

He first began his voyage by exploring the lands of the Middle East. Thereafter he sailed down the Red Sea to Mecca. He crossed the huge Arabian Desert and traveled to Iraq and Iran. In 1330, he set off again, down the Red Sea to Aden and then to Tanzania. Then in 1332, Ibn Battuta decided to go to India. He was greeted open heartedly by the Sultan of Delhi. There he was given the job of a judge. He stayed in India for a period of 8 years and then left for China. Ibn Battuta left for another adventure in 1352. He then went south, crossed the Sahara desert, and visited the African kingdom of Mali.

Finally, he returned home at Tangier in 1355. Those who were lodging Ibn Battuta's grave Western Orient lists could not believe that Ibn Battuta visited all the places that he described. They argued that in order to provide a comprehensive description of places in the Muslim world in such a short time, Ibn Battuta had to rely on hearsay evidence and make use of accounts by earlier travelers.

Ibn Battuta often experienced culture shock in regions he visited. The local customs of recently converted people did not fit his orthodox Muslim background. Among Turks and Mongols, he was astonished at the way women behaved. They were given freedom of speech. He also felt that the dress customs in the Maldives and some sub-Saharan regions in Africa were too revealing. After the completion of the Rihla in 1355, little is known about Ibn Battuta's life. He was appointed a judge in Morocco and died in 1368. Nevertheless, the Rihla provides an important account of many areas of the world in the 14th century.

3.2 Philosophy of the Center:

Accordingly, the International University of Agadir is planning to establish an international center through studies of "Religious, Cultural and Civilizational aspects" and related questions and issues. "Ibn Battuta International Center for intercultural and civilizational studies" will support the efforts of the university particularly and other institutions and communities generally in the areas of urban development culturally and scientifically. Its efforts will be through various actions and activities of the center scientifically, academically, cognitively, culturally and socially.

3.3 Mission of the Center:

- a) Promoting research and specialized studies and in-depth in the field of religious, cultural and civilizational aspects as well as in the adoption of all the practical and scientific works that will develop and strengthen the communities.
- b) Acting to bring the talent and expertise from around the world and encourage them to engage in issues that are in door of the development of the societies and unity of the cultural, civilizational, intellectual, social and economic aspects.

- c) To raise awareness on issues of cooperation and unity of the nations, to defend the nation's heritage and civilization among the people of the nation and people of other nations;
- d) Commencing new skylines for research and studies of the center, policy development, and to propose practical solutions to the concerns of development;
- e) Linking up channels of cultural, scientific and civilizational cooperation with international institutions UNAOC, ISESCO, UNESCO.

4. CONFERENCE THEME & SUB-THEMES

Topics could be covered but not limited to:

4.1 Cultural and Civilizational Diversity:

- Unity in inter-cultural and religious Diversity;
- Intercultural Relations and Cultural diplomacy;
- Education for intercultural understanding;
- Inter-civilizational conflict moderation;
- Multiculturalism;
- Intercultural and Civilizational dialogue;
- Cross cultural issues and challenges.

4.2 Diversity, Harmony and Peace:

- Religious coexistence and peace building;
- Religious harmony, tolerance and peace;
- Multicultural harmony and peace;
- Integrated approach to peace and harmony;
- Integrative theory of peace education;
- Social reform and peace building.

4.3 Ibn Batuta and Cultural & Civilizational Studies:

- Studies on Ibn Battuta's travels and achievements;
- Cultural and civilizational significance of Ibn Battuta's travels;
- Ibn Battuta's travels and cultural and civilizational contributions;
- Reflection on tolerance and harmony in Ibn Battuta's travels;
- Ibn Battuta as a maker of cultural and civilizational harmony and peace;
- Ibn Battuta's travels and social and cultural integration;
- Ibn Battuta's travels and exploring cultural heritage.

5. THE EXPECTED OUTCOME

5.1 To identify the moral imperatives of all cultures, religions, convictions and beliefs call for peace, tolerance and mutual understanding.

5.2 To endorse the mutual understanding and inter-cultural and religious dialogue constitute important dimensions of a culture of peace and harmony.

5.3 To struggle forces of division that spread misunderstanding and mistrusts especially among people from different races, cultures, religions and nations.

6. CONCLUSION

The organizing committee and the management of the university and Ma'din Academy are sincerely believe that international universities, centers, academicians and professionals will surely participate in the conference and take a part of the Ibn Batuta International Center. The university management is very much positive to achieve the expected outcomes of the conference and the center. Hence, all interested individuals, universities, centers are cordially invited to join the conference to make it successful and run the center towards an ultimate mission.

7. TENTATIVE PROGRAM

PRE-CONFERENCE SESSION

5 April 2017/Wednesday

A	Welcoming and receiving guests and participants	
B	Registration	
C	Welcoming dinner and introductory session	
D	Disperse of the pre-conference session	

1ST DAY

6 April 2017/Thursday

09.00AM- 12.00PM	<u>OPENING CEREMONY:</u> -Arrival of Guests & Participants -Arrival of VIPs -Arrival of VVIPs -Recitation from the Holy Qur'an - WELCOMING SPEECH - SPECIAL SPEECHES - KEYNOTE SPEECH - LAUNCHING OF THE IBN BATUTA INTERNATIONAL CENTER - LIFETIME OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - HARMONY AWARD PRESENTATION -Souvenirs presentation -Disperse of the opening ceremony	
12.00PM-2.00PM	Lunch	

2:00PM-04.00 PM	<u>ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION- 1</u> Theme: “Social, Cultural and civilizational significance of Ibn Battuta’s travels and its’ reflection on harmony & tolerance to explore positive cultural heritage” Moderator: Panelists and Presenters:	
04.00PM-04.30 PM	TEA BREAK	
4.30 PM – 6.00 PM	<u>ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION- 2</u> Theme: “Integrative theories & approaches to multi-religious & interfaith communities for peace building and harmonious societies” Moderator: Panelists and Presenters:	
06.00 PM	Dinner & End of DAY 1	
<div>DAY 2</div> <div>7 APRIL 2017/FRIDAY</div>		
8:00AM – 9:00AM	BREAK FAST	
9:00AM – 11:00AM	<u>KEYNOTE SPEECH:</u> <u>ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION- 3</u> Theme: “Inter-civilizational Conflict: Exploring the Islamic Humanist Prospective for a Reconciliation of Concepts” Moderator:	

	Panelists and Presenters:	
11:00AM -11:30AM	TEA BREAK	
11:30AM – 1:00PM	<u>ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION- 4</u> Theme: “The institutional Role in ensuring harmony & peace in multi-cultural and multi-religious environment” Moderator: Panelists And Presenters:	
1:00PM – 2:00PM	LUNCH & ZUHR PRAYER	
2:00PM – 4:00PM	<u>ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION- 5</u> SUB: “How the Role of inter-cultural and civilizational integrative methods can solve the Ethnic & Religious conflicts” Moderator: Panelists and Presenters:	
4:00PM – 5:00PM	<u>CLOSING CEREMONY:</u> -SPEECHES -CONFERENCE RESULATION -SOUVENIRS PRESENTATION -END OF THE SEMINAR -PHOTO SESSION	
5:00PM	HI TEA & DISPERSE	

8. ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

PATRON

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The Kingdom of Morocco

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High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations

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Director, International Relations and Cooperation &
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