



*Tashkent ~Tashkent's 2,200th Anniversary:
Harmony of Past and Present~*

Cover Photo: Hazrat Imam Mosque

*Greetings from the Mayors of
New Member Cities*

Odessa (Ukraine), Osmangazi (Turkey), Lutsk (Ukraine), Sheki (Azerbaijan)

Accra	Katmandu
Alexandria	Kazan
Algiers	Kiev
Amsterdam	Konya
Andong	Kyoto
Athens	Lahore
Baghdad	Lisbon
Ballerat	Lutsk
Barcelona	Lviv
Bordeaux	Melbourne
Boston	Mexico City
Bratislava	Minsk
Brussels	Montpellier
Budapest	Montreal
Buyeo	Nanjing
Chengdu	Nara
Chiang Mai	Nicosia
Cologne	Norwich
Cordoba	Norwood Payneham & St Peters
Cracow	Odessa
Cusco	Osmangazi
Dijon	Paris
Dublin	Prague
Edinburgh	Quebec
Fez	Riga
Florence	Rome
Geneva	Santiago de Compostela
Gangju	Sheki
Guadalajara	Tashkent
Gyeongju	Tunis
The Hague	Ulan Bator
Hanoi	Varanasi
Helsingborg	Vienna
Hue	Xian
Iasi	Yangon
Istahen	Yogyakarta
Istanbul	Zagreb
Jerusalem	Zhengzhou
Kaesong	Zurich



WORLD HISTORICAL CITIES

The League of Historical Cities Bulletin
No.50: March 2009

Tashkent's 2,200th Anniversary: Harmony of Past and Present

City of Tashkent, Press Service Department

Tashkent is the capital of the Republic of Uzbekistan, which is regarded as one of the largest cities of the Central Asia with almost 3 million people in 320 square kilometers territory. Today the city is on the threshold to celebrate its 2200 years anniversary.

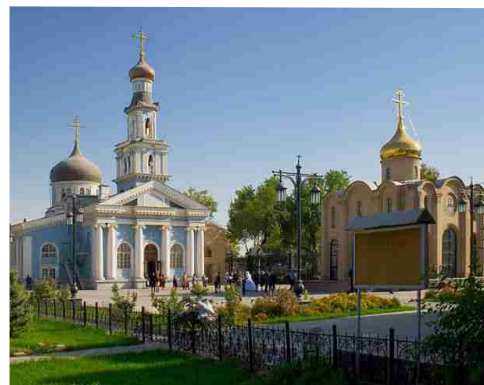
The city has an unique history, whose ancient pages we read today on magnificent architectural monuments amazing by beauty and harmony of medieval architects' skills. Tashkent has a great role in the history of national statehood and socio-political life of the country which made a weighty contribution to the development of the world civilization, one of whose parts was ancient Uzbekistan. Its area conserved ten thousand monuments of archeology and architecture, and museums have a great number of manuscripts, objects of material culture witnessing the centuries - old history of Uzbek people.

History of Tashkent

Tashkent was firstly mentioned in "Avesta" and in ancient Chinese manuscripts. And this place proved to be a happy choice, because the city managed to survive in spite of all trials - wars, sieges and invasions. In the ancient chronicles the city was known under such names as Yuni, Chach, Shash. Scientists confirm that modern name of Tashkent appeared in the early 11th century, even may be earlier, but it does not mean that other ancient names of the city such as Binkent and Chach were not in use. For instance, all the three names of the city - Binkent, Tashkent and Shash were fixed on the Jagataid coins. However, gradually the name of Tashkent superseded the rest ones. There are numerous antique and medieval sites of ancient settlements and architectural monuments, material evidence of Tashkent's long historical way of evolution from a small settlement in the first thousand years BC of Shashtepa to a modern city in various parts of a huge area, which the Uzbek capital covers today.

In support of this suggestion by archeologists of Uzbekistan in the south part of modern Tashkent, irrigated by the Jun River, were found remains of the settling of city type - Shashtepa. Ruins of defensive armed wall, round citadel with building from the moisture bricks and pahsa inside it were discovered. Outside defensive wall of citadel included inside vaulted corridor and was designed outside with tower shape ledges, which means it was built taking into consideration fortification motion of its time. Already in the ancient times advantageous geographical location and favorable climate made Tashkent a link between the countries in the East and the West, in the North and the South, one of the main points at the trade road of the Great Silk Road.

The city was a brisk trade center. The



The Main Orthodox Church

testimonies of it are coins of the states, which were found from Bizance in the West and up to China in the East. During the period of its existence, the city survived ups and downs, however, it always remained the crossroads of international trade, center of culture and art.

In the Middle Ages, Tashkent became the center of an agricultural oasis, a town of handicraft and arts, amighty fortress on the northern border with nomadic tribes. Ancient buildings such as the Barak-Khana (the residence of the Mufti - the Father of the Central Asian Muslims is situated there now), the Kukeldash Madrasah, the Djami mosque and the Kaffal-Shashi mausoleum still remain in the city.

X-XII centuries are the era of prospering industry, trade and culture of the city. This period is called the golden Muslim Renaissance in the history of economic and cultural development of Movarounnahr, where Tashkent played one of the key roles.

Modern Times of Tashkent

The new historical period of Tashkent begins in September 1991, after Uzbekistan gained the national independence. Today Tashkent has become large economic, educational, cultural and industrial center with about 300 companies covering various spheres of economy and social life: from air craft and tractors to TVsets and toys for children. Historical images of the city with modern skyscrapers made of glass and metal, multilevel over bridges, parks, museums, fountains are distinctively decorating the city.

Contemporaries call the Uzbek capital "the Star of the East", "Gates of the Orient". and "the Ambassador of the World" and these names are harmoniously combined with the essence of Tashkent, which has symbolically lit up life of its people and way of travelers for more than twenty centuries.

Tashkent is also distinguished with its modern sport facilities. Within the last ten years a number of sport complexes, tennis courts, and swimming pools have been constructed. The townspeople may spend



Roman Catholic Church

their weekend in the Golf club by the "Rokhat" lake; they can enjoy a fabulous time in the "Aqua Park", or to have a rest in one of the comfortable hotels, situated in the picturesque Chimgan foothills or on the bank of the Charvak reservoir.

Only Tashkent enjoys the subway transportation system among the Central Asian countries. The subway stations of the city are famous with its decoration and design which illustrates the history and literature of the nation. Tashkent International Airport has already become the bridge between Asia and Europe and the American continents as well.

Tashkent is successfully cooperating with other developed countries of the world, for instance, it has already been established Sister City relations with Istanbul, Seattle, Karachi, Berlin, Shanghai, Marrakech and Seoul.

Tashkent has been for many centuries the residence for people, who made it a huge scientific and cultural center and a symbol of peace and friendship between nations, contributed to the development of human civilization and won recognition of the world community. Uzbekistan is a home to over 10 thousand historical architectural monuments.

All these conditions predetermined the proclamation of Tashkent a capital of the Islamic culture in 2007 as a fact of great international value. The decision of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) was a high appreciation of the policy followed by President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov for restoring the cultural monuments and sacred places of worship, preserving and propagating the rich spiritual heritage, invaluable merits of Maverannahr thinkers and the role of one of the most ancient and biggest cities of Central Asia, Tashkent, in the world history.

Tashkent's 2,200 Anniversary

Another clear example of the world recognition is a resolution of General Conference's 34th session of UNESCO on November 2, 2007 on celebration of the 2,200th anniversary of Tashkent city and participation of UNESCO in the celebrations.

The scientifically proved facts state that the roots of the Uzbek statehood started deep in the history. An important factor of its overall study is President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov's decree of April 2, 2008 "On preparing for and celebrating the 2,200th anniversary of the Tashkent city" that is a basic document for the country to prepare for worthy celebration of the Uzbek capital's anniversary.

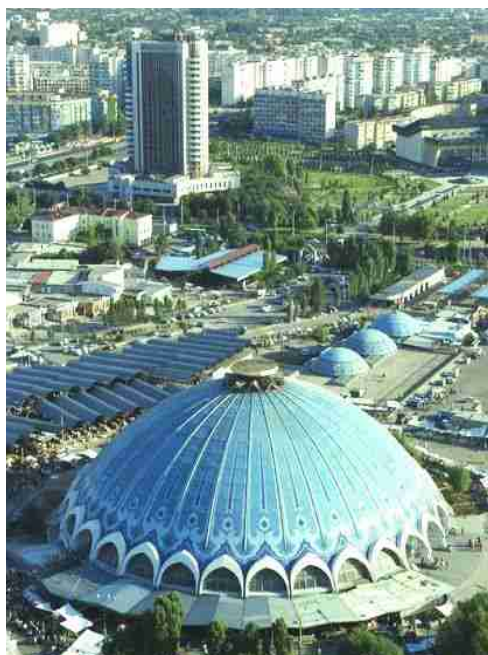
The document is aimed at worthily

celebrating the 2,200th anniversary of Uzbekistan's capital in September 2009, envisages the reconstruction of historical monuments and sites of workshop, as well as accomplishment of works on improvement and betterment of new facilities with further development of the capital's infrastructure.

In this connection, a special attention is paid to the restoration and renovation of historical monuments, to construction of new and modern buildings and to further development of the city's social infrastructure.

A whole list of works has been worked out during preparation to the anniversary celebrations. In particular, reconstruction of some streets has already begun. The city was supplied with 200 buses of Mercedes-Benz and 30 new trams in order to improve transport services and comfort of the population. The reconstruction of the Pahtakor stadium and neighboring Yoshlik sports complex is already finished. New beautiful Palace of Youth's Creativity was opened its doors to the Independence Day. Ming-Urik city, Kukeldosh madrasah and other objects are under reconstruction. Construction of National Library of Navoi has been started.

The work carried out under supervision of President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov radically changed the capital city - Tashkent. Modern buildings are constructed, its streets and parks are restored and new art galleries, and museums and sports complexes are built. Tashkent's main square of Independence (Mustaqillik) was reconstructed and Monument of Independence, Memory Avenue, building of the Senate, Arch of Humanism, State Museum of History of Temurids, Gallery of Fine Arts, Business Center and modern fountains were built in Tashkent.



Chorsu Market



Winter View of TV-Tower



State Academic Theatre Navoi



New apartments



View from Tashkent Tower

For further information

Mr. H. I. Mukhamedov
Head of Press Service dept.
City of Tashkent
3 Amir Temur Street
Tashkent, Uzbekistan
700000
TEL: +998 71 239 04 37
FAX: +998 71 233 65 88
Email: hokimiat@rambler.ru

"LAUD intensities: LAUD in ten cities...Third Millennium - Fourth Dimension"

Aysegul Tokol, Kumru Arapgirlioglu, Deniz Altay, Hatice Karaca from Bilkent University, Ankara

In this presentation we propose an interdisciplinary understanding of historical cities in the process of design education. We demonstrate this intense process in ten cities of Turkey all of which we have used as cases through our teaching experience of eight years between 2000 and 2008 at the Department of Urban Design and Landscape Architecture (LAUD), Bilkent University of Ankara.

All those subjected historical cities are reconsidered and represented in three main streams: conceptual, contextual and formal. We argue that interpretation of living historical cities and their projection for the future require multiple readings, and that of the urban milieu needs to be conceptualized not only as a factual and concrete action but also in terms of perceptive and cognitive aspects. Understanding historical cities involves a set of mutual relationships between the LAUD and the city; between the design studio and the students; and between the proposals and the projects. We conceptualize ten cities in association with their most known and significant intangible and tangible aspects, i.e., historical heritage; previous names; emotive features; characteristics; certain symbols; properties; and LAUD future prospects.

LAUD presents ten cities:



<Ankara>

heritage: republican
 known as: ankyra (phrygian), engürü (persian)
 metaphor: seat of the republic
 mood: formal
 color: pinkish grey
 geography: central anatolia
 outline: bowl
 open space: boulevard, park, citadel, atatürk farm of forestry (aoç), square, valley
 memory sign: atatürk mosoleum, the citadel, parliament house, atakule, ulus square, universities, opera, hittite sun-disk, Ob ...
 material culture: ankara stone, pear, simit, pickles, aoç ice cream, tekel beer



<Izmir>

heritage: levantine
 known as: smyrna (greek)
 metaphor: pearl of the aegean
 mood: open
 color: blue
 geography: aegean
 outline: bay
 open space: promenade, square, parks, waterfront, harbor
 memory sign: kordon, konak square, pier, 35, karsiyaka (35.5), izmir fair, kemaltı, the elevator ...
 material culture: herbs, kumru sandwich, mussel, iced almond, food



<Alanya>

heritage: archeological
 known as: alaiye (seljukid), korakesion (greek), kalonoros (byzantian)
 metaphor: the rock
 mood: tranquil
 color: orange
 geography: mediterranean
 outline: peninsula
 open space: shipyard, beach, port, garden, citadel
 memory sign: red tower, shipyard, citadel, cleopatra beach, pirates inn
 material culture: gourd, sour orange, citrus



<Mardin>

heritage: architectural
 known as: marida (antiquity), merdo (syriac)
 metaphor: the sea
 mood: hidden
 color: saffron
 geography: mesopotamia
 outline: hill side
 open space: terrace, narrow street, abbara, stepped street, mesopotamia plain
 memory sign: single urban facade, fortress, deyrülzafaran monastery, zinciriye madrasah, kasimiye madrasah, mor behnam church
 material culture: filigree (telkari), mahaleb wine, fabric root painting



Presentation in the 11th Conference

Review of the 11th Conference held in Konya, June 10-13, 2008

by the team from Bilkent University headed by Academic Advisor of the Conference



<Amasra>

heritage: coastal

known as: sesamos (antique greek)
amastris (pontos)

metaphor: land of waves

mood: vivid

color: dark green

geography: black sea

outline: coves

open space: waterfront, head land, garden,
passage, street

memory sign: kemere bridge, peucia silva
forest, breakwater

material culture: box wood craft, mackarel,
red mullet, turbot, berries



<Antakya>

heritage: cultural

known as: antioch (hellenistic)

metaphor: queen of the east

mood: chatty

color: burgundy

geography: mediterranean

outline: radiant

open space: courtyard, bazaar, narrow street,

memory sign: asi (orontes), mosaics,
st.pierre monastery, harbiye waterfall,
habib-i neccar mosque, st.paul church,
titus tunnel

material culture: daphne, humus, spicy cheese
wild thyme (zahter), wire kadaif with
melt cheese(künefe)



<Ayvalik>

heritage: agricultural

known as: kydonies (cretean)
ayvalı (hellenistic)

metaphor: city of islands

mood: mad

color: olive green

geography: aegean

outline: waterscape

open space: street, seafront, backyard

memory sign: cunda, taşkahve, tea garden
devil's foot (şeytan sofrası),
taksiyarkhis church, chimneys

material culture: olive, olive oil, soap,
sarımsaklı stone, papalina,
ayvalık toast



<Eskisehir>

heritage: industrial

known as: dorylaion (phrygian)

metaphor: locomotive of step

mood: live

color: terracotta

geography: central anatolia

outline: plain

open space: riverfront, promenade, square,
market place

memory sign: porsuk (thymbrios) river,
railway, bridges, factories,
old porsuk hotel, baths

material culture: meerschaum, poppy seed,
çığbök, roof tiles,
sugar beet



<Urgup>

heritage: natural

known as: prokopion (byzantian)
assiana (antique greek)

metaphor: heart of cappadoccia

mood: dreamy

color: tufa beige

geography: central anatolia

outline: caves

open space: volcano, courtyard, ramp street,
damsa creek

memory sign: fairy chimney, temenni hill,
kayakapı, pigeon nest

material culture: wine, tufa, pottery,
ürgüp doll



<Istanbul>

heritage: world

known as: constantinopolis (byzantian)
stinpoli (greek, ottoman)
konstantiniyye (ottoman)

metaphor: city with seven hills

mood: passionate

color: white

geography: marmara

outline: strait

open space: bosphorus, palace garden, hill,
bridge, street, square,
prince islands

memory sign: bosphorus, bridges, pera, 34,
sultan ahmet square, kız kulesi,
galata tower, grand bazaar,
mosque silhouette, palaces,
çiçek passage, taksim square ...

material culture: art, industry, finance,
fish, kanlıca yoghurt, food



Greetings from the mayors of
new member cities
Odessa (Ukraine), Osmangazi (Turkey), Lutsk (Ukraine) and Sheki (Azerbaijan)

The Secretariat is pleased to announce that two cities have become new member cities of the League of Historical Cities namely Lutsk (Ukraine) and Sheki (Azerbaijan). The Secretariat asked the Board members to evaluate their membership via internet and they were approved in December 2008. In this issue, the Secretariat would like to introduce the greetings from the Mayors of the above cities as well as Odessa and Osmangazi which were approved in May and June 2008. The League enlarged membership of 78 cities from 52 countries.

**City of Odessa
(Ukraine)**

*Eduard Gurvits
Mayor*



Odessa is one of the most amazing cities of the world. Various nations and peoples mingled and intertwined in this city. Mixture of ethnic cultures determined its unique habitus and formed urban cultural surrounding, which differs by its respect for traditions of different peoples, openness to cultural initiatives from Western and Eastern partners. All these facts specify inexhaustible city's interest in international cultural programmes, international festivals of art and other instruments for cooperation. Special mutual interest in cultural peculiarities of each nation and respect for national traditions unite the citizens of our city.

Odessa was founded by the end of XVIII century after joining the Black-Sea Region territories to Russia as a result of wars between Russia and Turkey. Development of the city of Odessa was so impetuous that during only one century the city turned from small settling into the 4th city of Russian Empire due to its size (after St.



**City of Osmangazi
(Turkey)**

*Recep Altepe
Mayor*



Osmangazi has a special place among the cities where history makes itself felt in every step taken. The people who lived in Anatolia have a history built upon honor together with sorrow and happiness and it has taken its shape here, on these lands. City of Osmangazi, where you feel the heartbeats of a civilization from Rome to Byzantium, from Seljukians to Ottomans every single moment, is a city center which accommodates, preserves and keeps alive the historical and the cultural heritage for centuries. We will build the future, full of hope and welfare, on the basis of the values we have inherited from our ancestors. Bursa is such a city. And Bursa means Osmangazi; Osmangazi means Bursa. The heart of Bursa beats in Osmangazi.

Petersburg, Moscow and Warsaw). At the end of the XIX - beginning of the XX centuries Odessa was one of the largest cities, economic centre, maritime gates of the Russian Empire. In the period of Russian revolutions of 1905, 1917-1919 important events took place in Odessa. For heroic defence during the Second World War Odessa was awarded the honourable title of the Hero-City.

Odessa can be easily called "the museum in the open air". Its variety of palaces, monuments, bridges and parks were created by the best modern architects, using the experience of antique Mediterranean culture, experience of Lebanon East with its generosity and abundance. The houses of the old part of Odessa were built according to the various architectural styles from Renaissance to Art Nuvo.

Architecture of Odessa is music petrified. The city possesses a lot of historical sights, numerous historical and cultural monuments, museums, art exhibitions, salons and galleries.

Odessa is known to the world as a city which fostered a lot of famous writers, musicians, theatre persons, artists. At the present time Odessa is an important scientific, industrial, educational and cultural, resort and health centre.

Official Website: <http://www.odessa.ua/>



Osmangazi is just like a living museum with its historical places.

Osmangazi is the biggest central administration body of Bursa and 8th biggest city of Turkey with a population of 750,000 (2007) inhabitants. Within the boundaries of Osmangazi, where has the greatest part of Ottoman city features and is on the point of conveying past to future with "The Project of Enlivening Osmangazi (Bursa) Road of History and Culture", there are approximately 1,800 registered historical buildings. Bursa is known as "The City of The Sultans", the first six Sultans lived here as well as "The First Capital of the Ottomans". The city is not about the tombs, the mosques, the Turkish baths, the bridges, the fountains, the madrasahs or the ruins but also about the legends, the tales and what had experienced here."

Within that scope the historical and cultural works within boundaries of Osmangazi which forms the city center of Bursa are protected and restored with "Bursa History and culture Road Main Way" project designed by Osmangazi



municipality and thus strived to make them survive. Our vision is to keep the past and the future alive and give the identity which has begun to perish back to Bursa and to inhabitants of Bursa today and tomorrow.

Osmangazi is also member of the Union of Historical Cities in Turkey and IULA (International Union of Local Authorities), EUROCITIES and Walled Towns Friendship Circle. With the unique history and culture,

**City of Lutsk
(Ukraine)**

**Bogdan Shyba
Mayor**



Let me present you ancient and at the same time modern city of Lutsk.

As a city, Lutsk was first mentioned in the Ipatiiivskiyi Chronicles, which dates back to 1085. In 1340-1385 here was erected Lutsk castle, known also as Lubart castle, named after the Lithuanian prince who built it. In 1429 the first European Summit of most powerful sovereigns took place here. After that event the city of Lutsk was marked on all European maps and in 1432 was granted with Magdeburg right.

Thanks to its boundary position modern Lutsk plays an important eurointergational role for Ukraine. City has close partnership ties with 8 twin-cities in Poland, Belarus, China and Georgia. Lutsk fruitfully cooperates with different countries of the world in the sphere of culture. Thus, the international Festival "Polesian summer with folklore" can be considered as a business card of the city. During the years of the festival the participants of more than 40 countries of the world took place in it. Every day Lutsk wonders its visitors by its

**City of Sheki
(Azerbaijan)**

**Gulnaz Salamova
Mayor**



We highly appreciate the work of the League of Historical Cities for preservation and promotion of world cultural heritage and have an honor to be a part of this organization.

Sheki, one of the ancient settlements of Azerbaijan, always has been very attractive for visitors and guests. The history, cultural wealth and interesting human traditions of Sheki - all played an outstanding role in making this city as a unique place of the world. The city was founded more than 2700 years ago along the southern slopes of the Greater Caucasus Mountains. Medieval European, Arabic, Persian, Turkish, Georgian and Russian scholars have all written about Sheki. Sheki owns a unique collection of architectural and historical monuments from Christian and Islamic culture. The church in Kish village dedicated to St. Eliseus is situated on the high bank of the Kish

Osmangazi Municipality is happy and has a passion to be part of the League of Historical Cities as a member after 11 th World Conference of Historical Cities in Konya on 10-13 th JUNE, 2008.

Osmangazi, as a capital for culture, feels a pleasure having an important legacy and a number of projects to share with the partners of the League of Historical Cities.

Official Website: <http://www.osmangazi.bel.tr/>

variety. Here you can find a number of historical and architectural monuments, the witnesses of the rich historic past of Volyn. The most famous of them are the monuments of XIII-XIV centuries, religious buildings erected in the neogothic, barocco and classical styles. Over 600 icons of XVI-XIX centuries are presented in the museum of Volyn icon, priceless pearl of collection is the Kholmska miraculous icon of Divine Mother, the unique monument of Byzantine art of XI-XII centuries, one of the most honourable Christian sacred objects.

According the results of the 2008 year, Lutsk entered top-10 cities of Ukraine with the most favorable social and economic index of the city development. So as the head of the city I sincerely invite you to visit our comfortable, hospitable and multicultural, ancient and modern city over the banks of the Styr river - ancient Lutchesk!

I hope that thanks to the membership of Lutsk in The League of Historical Cities, the citizens of Lutsk will find out more about the other beautiful cities of other countries and will have a possibility to invite foreign guests to our city. We want The League of Historical Cities to help us to develop, share the best practices of preserving historical and cultural heritage.

Welcome to Lutsk!

Official Website: <http://www.lutsk.ua/>

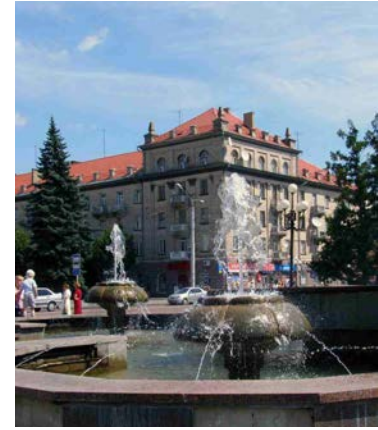
River and is one of the major Christian architectural monuments of Caucasian Albania. The most outstanding and valuable monument of the 18th century Azerbaijan - Sheki Khans' palace is considered as a symbol of the city. The Upper and the Lower Caravanserais of 18th century were used to host merchants and traders from the countries of the Great Silk Way.

In all historical periods silk industry played a great role in the economic life of Sheki. Many foreign merchants from Russia, France, Italy, Iran, Turkey, China, India, and Greece came to Sheki to purchase silk. In 1829 Silk Factory started working. Currently the silk factory of Sheki continues these traditions.

Sheki is the town of craftsmen. Dozens of crafts, originating from ancient times, such as, blacksmith's work, copper-smith's work, tinsmith's work, jeweler's art, pottery, hatters, tailor, carpentry, stained-glass (shabaka), wood carving, embroidery (takalduz), confectionery and etc. are very popular.

We will be very pleased to see you in Sheki and share our historical and cultural values.

Official Website: <http://www.sheki.belediyye.name/>



Rehabilitating the Cultural Heritage after War
 Ph.D., Member of the City Council of Tripoli, Lebanon / President of the Heritage and Historical Monuments Sub-Committee in the Municipality of Tripoli: Khaled Tadmori



Member of City Council of Tripoli, Lebanon
 President of the Heritage and Historical Monuments Sub-Committee in the Municipality of Tripoli, Ph.D.

Khaled Tadmori

It was a great pleasure for me to attend the 11th World Conference of Historical Cities held in Konya, Turkey, on behalf of the Municipality of Tripoli City, Lebanon. In the second day of the conference I had the opportunity to present my paper titled "The Old City of Tripoli after the War: The Projects Held to Rehabilitate it and Restore its Monuments" which constitutes a rare example of rehabilitation and conservation of cultural and architectural heritage after a long destroyable war.

The architectural conservation has acquired an essential position in the connection between the past and the future and the continuity of the civilizations' heritage, because it is the result of the interaction of the man and the place through the time, whether this interaction was in the form of a symbolic abstract relation imposed by the features and the characteristics of the place, or practices and activities embraced by the site that became their theater so that they became a part of its personality, or the mark of the architectural civilization added through the passed generations. The divergent interaction adds to the site the power of the significance that reflects the peoples' civilizations and makes the architectural heritage one of the main components of the societies' identity.

The archeological and architectural monuments of Lebanon accompanied the man's history since the oldest ages. Lebanon is located in a worldwide unique archeological-historical region. Due to this importance, many of its archeological and historical sites were registered on the list of the universal patrimony at the UNESCO. However, because

these sites are located in the different cities and villages of Lebanon, as well as in inhabited and uninhabited regions, they were subject lately to destruction, damage and robbery more than they had been through in all their long history. Not long ago, Israeli bombs were falling from time to time on this site or that one, hitting the monuments of the Lebanese regions from the South to the North. Moreover, Israeli soldiers moved the Lebanese monuments to their country from any Lebanese regions they stepped on. With the continuation of the war, these sites were not only bombed, but also neglected and abused. However, these monuments, despite their importance, represent just a simple part of this country's cultural heritage which was meant to be destructed.

With the disappearance of the first Lebanese problems and misfortunes and the beginning of the reconstruction became an object of interest of the State resulting in attempts to develop the Lebanese legislations in this domain which accompanied the launching of the reconstruction projects.

The old city of Tripoli is on top of the historically rich cities of Lebanon. It's the second Mamelouk city after Cairo and the richest on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean as for the number of its historical monuments. Factors caused by 18 years of civil war have severely damaged the architectural structure of the old city of Tripoli and until a close period no plan to avoid or restrict such damage was made.

To change this situation, the Municipality of Tripoli made a plan to take care of the old city according to quick and practical steps divided in conformity with the priorities of execution. To realize its plan and projects, the Municipality of Tripoli has depended on its good relations and fruitful cooperation with international and official establishments, friendly municipalities all over the world, the participation and the support of some social and local authorities and establishments.

Finally, it was impressive that Mayor Dr. Tahir Akyurek and the citizens of Konya were truly proud of their city, and welcomed the large number of conference participants with friendly, kind and wonderful hospitality.

**The 12th World Conference of Historical Cities in 2010
 City of Nara, Japan**

Contact: Mr. Kiyohide Nishite
 Director, International Section,
 Tourism & Economy dept. of Nara Municipal Office
 1-1-1, Nijooji-Minami, Nara City, 630-8580, Japan
 Phone and Fax: +81-742-34-1965
 E-mail: kokusaikoryu@city.nara.lg.jp
<http://www.city.nara.nara.jp>



Yakushi-ji Temple and Wakakusayama Hill
 Photo : Courtesy of Nara City Tourist Association

**The League of
 Historical Cities
 Secretariat**

International Relations Office,
 City of Kyoto
 Teramachi Oike, Nakagyo-ku,
 Kyoto 604-8571, Japan
 Phone: +81-75-222-3072
 Fax: +81-75-222-3055
 E-mail: lhcs@city.kyoto.jp
 URL: <http://www.city.kyoto.jp/somu/kokusai/lhcs/>