

# WORLD HISTORICAL CITIES



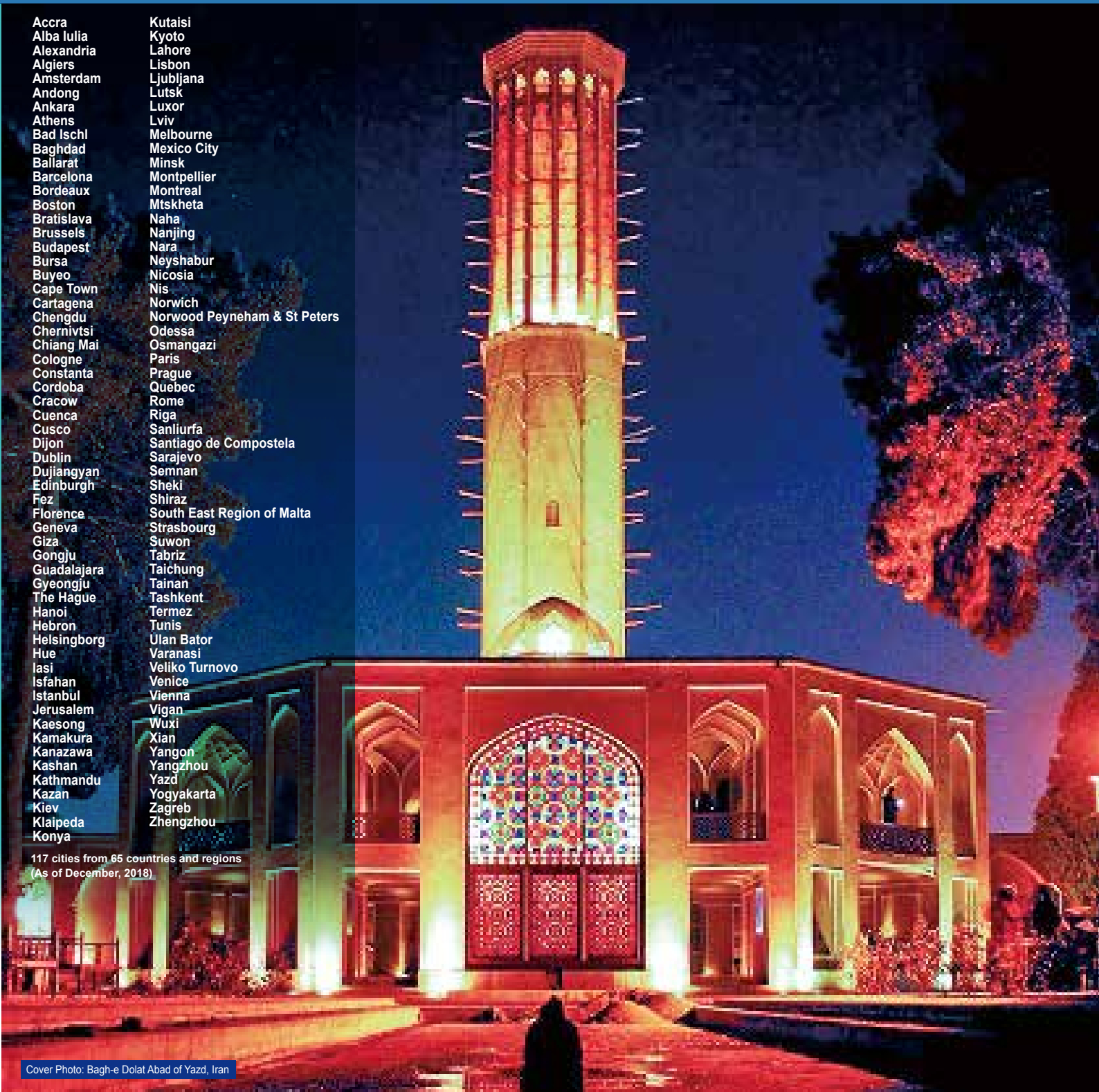
The League of Historical Cities Bulletin

No.78: December 2018

Accra  
Alba Iulia  
Alexandria  
Algiers  
Amsterdam  
Andong  
Ankara  
Athens  
Bad Ischl  
Baghdad  
Ballarat  
Barcelona  
Bordeaux  
Boston  
Bratislava  
Brussels  
Budapest  
Bursa  
Buyeo  
Cape Town  
Cartagena  
Chengdu  
Chernivtsi  
Chiang Mai  
Cologne  
Constanta  
Cordoba  
Cracow  
Cuenca  
Cusco  
Dijon  
Dublin  
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Edinburgh  
Fez  
Florence  
Geneva  
Giza  
Gongju  
Guadalajara  
Gyeongju  
The Hague  
Hanoi  
Hebron  
Helsingborg  
Hue  
Iasi  
Isfahan  
Istanbul  
Jerusalem  
Kaesong  
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Kanazawa  
Kashan  
Kathmandu  
Kazan  
Kiev  
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Konya

Kutaisi  
Kyoto  
Lahore  
Lisbon  
Ljubljana  
Lutsk  
Luxor  
Lviv  
Melbourne  
Mexico City  
Minsk  
Montpellier  
Montreal  
Mtskheta  
Naha  
Nanjing  
Nara  
Neyshabur  
Nicosia  
Nis  
Norwich  
Norwood Peyneham & St Peters  
Odessa  
Osmangazi  
Paris  
Prague  
Quebec  
Rome  
Riga  
Sanliurfa  
Santiago de Compostela  
Sarajevo  
Semnan  
Sheki  
Shiraz  
South East Region of Malta  
Strasbourg  
Suwon  
Tabriz  
Tai Chung  
Tainan  
Tashkent  
Termez  
Tunis  
Ulan Bator  
Varanasi  
Veliko Turnovo  
Venice  
Vienna  
Vigan  
Wuxi  
Xian  
Yangon  
Yangzhou  
Yazd  
Yogyakarta  
Zagreb  
Zhengzhou

117 cities from 65 countries and regions  
(As of December, 2018)



# Review of the 16th World Conference of Historical Cities held in Bursa, Turkey from September 7 to 9, 2018.

*The secretariat is pleased to announce that the 16th World Conference of Historical Cities was held successfully from September 7 to 9 in Bursa, Turkey.*

*Owing to the great effort of the host city of Bursa, more than 250 people gathered from 38 cities from all over the world and had meaningful discussions on the future of historical cities under the theme of “The impact of globalization on culture and way of living”.*

*In the General Assembly held on September 9, the Bursa Declaration was adopted. Please view the following for details:*

## **Bursa Declaration**

signed at the 16th World Conference of Historical Cities 2018

It has been 40 years since the first transmission of Declaration of Kyoto as a City Open to the Free Exchange of World Cultures, which targets at an ideal city towards realization of world peace regardless of race, creed or social system, from the City of Kyoto where have over 1200 years' history, then the announcement of ideal made towards the establishment of the World Conference of the Historical Cities based on the philosophy of the declaration.

We, the mayors and political leaders of historical cities and regions gathered at the 16th World Conference of the Historical Cities on 7-9 September 2018, reconfirm our belief that Historical Cities are the common heritage of humanity, and declare the following;

Due to the progress of globalization, our environment has remarkably changed and the convenience of life has dramatically increased. On the other hand, cultural uniformity is achieving in historical cities and it has been difficult for those cities to maintain identities in local cultures, structures and ways of life.

Globalization itself is not to be denied nor to be halted. We must not only look on the negative aspects of mass tourism etc., but to share authentic values of cultural heritages which historical cities have with the rest of the world as common heritage of humanity, as well as to show its diversity as leaders.

To make the best use of our discussions at this conference for our future, historical cities need to accept changes by external factors such as cultural globalization, uniformity, environmental changes, and natural disasters, as well as to persistently preserve the unique cultures, structures and ways of life to promote building of sustainable and creative cities. We will implement initiatives as follows to pursue our obligations;

1. We will enhance initiatives for restoring and preserving our rich historical heritages.
2. We will increase awareness of residents, tourists and visitors on cultural and historical values of tangible and intangible heritages in order to make our initiatives for restoration and preservation sustainable.
3. We, tied together by the very fact of being historical cities which we take pride in, pursue endeavor to constantly promote our friendship beyond national frontiers and cooperate in daily exchanges to make our pride in local communities more sustainable and strengthened, and to develop initiatives to realize world peace for all human beings.



<Period> September 7-9, 2018

<Theme> The impact of globalization on culture and way of living

<Program>

### Day1 (September 7-Friday)

- 10:00 Opening– Karagöz Shadow Theater  
(UNESCO Intangible Heritage of Humanity)
- 10:20 Opening Remarks (Bursa Mayor, Governor of Bursa)
- 10:40 Keynote Speeches (Kyoto Mayor, Bursa UNESCO Site Manager)
- 11:40 Opening of the International “Colorful Touch to History”  
Children’s Painting Exhibition
- 15:00 Session 1-2 (Presentations by 6 city representatives)
- 19:00 Welcome Dinner

### Day2 (September 8-Saturday)

- 9:00 Session3 (Presentations by 6 city representatives)
- 11:30 General Evaluation and Discussion Session
- 13:30 Excursion (Bursa City Museum, Grand Mosque etc.)
- 17:30 Mayors Meeting
- 19:00 Painting Competition Award Ceremony

### Day3 (September 9-Sunday)

- 9:00 Board Meeting of the LHC Directors
- 15:15 General Assembly of LHC 2018  
Election of new LHC Directors  
Closing Ceremony with signing of Bursa Declaration
- 20:00 Farewell Dinner



### <Participants>

38 cities (21 countries and regions)

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|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Alba Iulia (Romania)</li><li>• Antalya (Turkey)*</li><li>• Ardahan (Turkey)*</li><li>• Bad Ischl (Austria)</li><li>• Ballarat (Australia)</li><li>• Bursa (Turkey)</li><li>• Ceadir-Lunga (Moldova) *</li><li>• Chengdu (China)</li><li>• Chiang Mai (Thailand)</li><li>• Dujiangyan (China)</li><li>• Gyeongju (Republic of Korea)</li><li>• Hebron (Palestine)</li><li>• Hue (Vietnam)</li><li>• Istanbul (Turkey)</li><li>• Kars (Turkey)*</li><li>• Kars Arpacay (Turkey)*</li><li>• Kazan (Russian Federation)</li><li>• Kirsehir Akpınar (Turkey)*</li><li>• Klaipeda (Lithuania)</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Konya (Turkey)</li><li>• Kutahya (Turkey) *</li><li>• Kyoto (Japan)</li><li>• Ljubljana (Slovenia)</li><li>• Montreal (Canada)</li><li>• Mus (Turkey) *</li><li>• Odessa (Ukraine)</li><li>• Riga (Latvia)</li><li>• Shiraz (Iran)</li><li>• Siirt Tillo (Turkey)*</li><li>• Sanliurfa (Turkey)*</li><li>• Tainan (Chinese Taipei)</li><li>• Tokat Niksar (Turkey)*</li><li>• Tokat Turhal (Turkey) *</li><li>• Veliko Tarnovo (Bulgaria)</li><li>• Vigan (Philippines)</li><li>• Wuxi (China)</li><li>• Yazd (Iran)</li><li>• Zhengzhou (China)</li></ul> |
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\* Non Member Cities



# Review of the Board of Directors' Meeting & General Assembly of LHC 2018 held in Bursa on September 9, 2018.

## Outline of the Board of Directors' Meeting

Date and Time: 9:00-12:00, September 9

Venue: Tayyare Culture Center

### <Board Members>

Chairperson: Kyoto (Japan)

Directors: Ballarat (Australia), Gyeongju (Republic of Korea),  
Konya (Turkey), Ljubljana (Slovenia)  
(Baghdad (Iraq), Vienna (Austria), Xi'an (China) \* Absent)

### <Host City of the 17th World Conference in 2020>

At the Board of Directors' Meeting, eight cities each made a final presentation to express their city's desire to hold, and merits of holding, the conference in their city. As a result of voting, the board members approved the City of Kazan to host the 17th conference in 2020.

## Outline of the General Assembly

Date and Time: 15:15-16:00, September 9

Venue: Tayyare Culture Center

### <Report of the Results of Deliberation at the Board of Directors' Meeting>

Mr. Shigenori Shibata, the Secretary General of the LHC, announced the results of deliberation at the General Assembly.

### <New Board Members>

At the General Assembly, new board members were elected as follows:

Chairperson: Kyoto (Japan)

Vice Chairpersons: Konya (Turkey), Xi'an (China)

Directors: Bad Ischl (Austria), Ballarat (Australia),  
Gyeongju (Republic of Korea), Ljubljana (Slovenia), Shiraz (Iran)

Auditor: Kanazawa (Japan)

### <Bursa Declaration>

The city of Bursa proposed the Bursa Declaration as the outcome of the 16th World Conference. Mr. Alinur Aktas, Mayor of Bursa, explained the Declaration, and the Chairperson of the League, Mr. Daisaku Kadokawa, Mayor of Kyoto, who took the chair of the General Assembly, confirmed its approval to the applause of the attendees.

### <Signing of the Bursa Declaration>

All representatives of member cities who attended the General Assembly went up to the stage and signed the Declaration one by one.



# The World Heritage City of Yazd, Iran

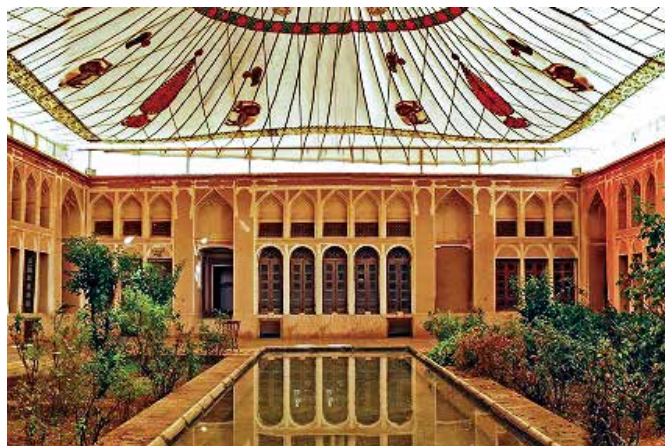
Yazd is the capital city of Yazd Province, in central Iran, in the middle of the Iranian Plateau, 270 km southeast of Isfahan, close to the Spice and Silk Roads. The city dates from the 5th century CE and was described as the “noble city of Yazd” by Marco Polo. It stands on a mostly barren sand-ridden plain about 4,000ft (1,200m) above sea level. The climate is completely arid. A network of qanats (tunnels dug to carry water) links Yazd with the edge of the nearby mountain *Shirkuh*. Historically, Yazd has been the link between Fars and Khorassan, and it was situated at the intersection of the trade routes from central Asia and India. It served as a provincial capital and earned the title of *Dār al-ibada* (Home of Piety), because of its many religious buildings. Yazd is now the last centre of Zoroastrianism in Iran.

The earthen architecture of Yazd has escaped the modernization that destroyed many traditional earthen towns, retaining its traditional districts, the qanat system, traditional houses, bazars, *hammams*, mosques, synagogues, Zoroastrian temples and the historic garden of *Dolat-abad*.

The historic city of Yazd, which covers almost 196 hectares of core zone and 680 hectares of buffer zone, demonstrates the ongoing efforts of the hardworking people of the desert over the course of its long history. In order to overcome the harsh nature of the desert, locals have resorted to ingenious innovations resulting in the introduction of magnificent architectural and urban planning masterpieces to the world. Worthy of mention among them are *qanats* (underground water channels), *badgirs* (wind-catchers), *goudal-baqchehs* (sunken courtyards), *sabats* (covered passages), *gozars* (passageways), *abanbars* (water reservoirs), along with several other architectural marvels. The hardworking residents of Yazd have extracted water from the heart of the central desert of the Iranian plateau for irrigation, drinking, etc. and ultimately integrated it with the cheapest and most readily available material, that is soil, to artistically create the richest mud-brick architecture possible, such as portals erected high into the sky, wind catchers harnessing violent winds, turquoise-colored tiles shining in the *kahgel* (plaster of clay and straw), dome-like roofs, tall minarets, *ayvans* (verandas) and cupolas showing off against mountainous and desert landscapes, each manifesting the rich architectural identity of homes, mosques, *madraseh* (schools), *hammams* (bathhouses), and other historical urban structures.



Jame Mosque



Mahmoudiha House



Historic alleyway

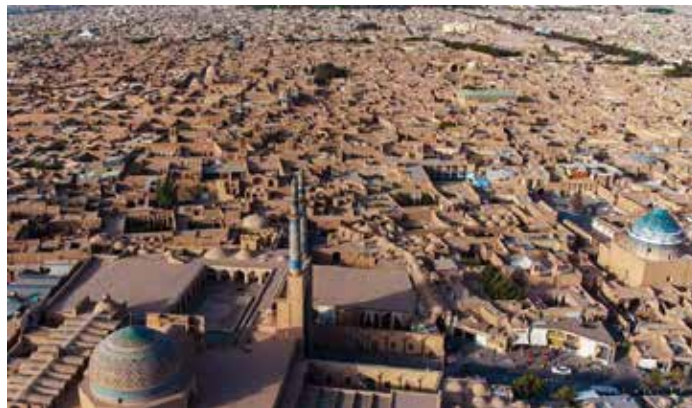
Photographer: Ali Jadidi

The Historic City of Yazd was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2017 for the following reasons:

1) The historic city of Yazd bears witness to an exceptionally elaborate construction system in earthen architecture and the adaption of the ways of living to hostile environment for several millennia. Yazd is associated with the continuity of traditions that cover social organization these include *Waqf* (endowment) benefitting public buildings, such as water cisterns, mosques, *hammams*, *qanats*, etc., as well as developed intangible and multi-cultural, commercial and handicrafts tradition, as one of the richest cities of the world entirely built of earthen material, which is a quality which contributes to the creation of an environment-friendly microclimate. It also reflects diverse cultures related to various religions in the city including Islam, Judaism and Zoroastrianism, which are still living peacefully together and having a combination of buildings including houses, mosques, fire temples, synagogues, mausoleums, *hammams*, water cisterns, *madraseshs*, and bazaars as can be seen in traditional crafts and festivities.

2) Yazd is an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement which is representative of the interaction of man and nature in a desert environment that results from the optimal use and clever management of the limited resources that are available in such an arid setting.

At present, all historical cities face common challenges, and in order to resolve the issues, Yazd would like to promote exchanges through the network of the League of Historical Cities. We are looking forward to meeting you all in Yazd.



Aerial View of Yazd City



## ***The 17th World Conference of Historical Cities in 2020, City of Kazan***

International Relations Department, City of Kazan

Address : Kazan Municipal Administration,

3 Kremlevskaya Street, 420014, Russia

TEL: +7 843 2991851 / +7 843 2991436

E-mail: [gorduma.kazan@tatar.ru](mailto:gorduma.kazan@tatar.ru)

