

## DECR secretary for interreligious relations attends conference held by Iranian Embassy and Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences



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On December 18, the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences hosted a conference themed 'Clarifying and Promoting the Discourse of Progress and the New Islamic Civilization,' dedicated to the establishment of the Imam Khomeini World Award by the Iranian government. The conference was organized by the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences and the Iranian Embassy in Russia with the participation of the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization, Iran.

Among the participants were Ayatollah Morteza Javadi Amoli; H.E. Kazem Jalali, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Russian Federation; Dr. Alikber Alikberov, Director of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences; Professors of the University of Tehran Dr. Mohammad Baqer Khorramshad and Dr. Mahmoud Vaezi; Prof. Tawfiq Ibrahim of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences; Prof. Nur Kirabayev of the Peoples' Friendship University, Russia; Dr. Massoud Ahmadvand, cultural attaché of the Iranian

Embassy; scholars of oriental studies and theologians from Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, and Russia.

Attending the conference with the blessing of Metropolitan Anthony of Volokolamsk, chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate's Department for External Church Relations, was priest Iliya Kashitsyn, DECR secretary for interreligious relations. He greeted the participants on behalf of the DECR chairman and presented a report on the history and activities of the Joint Russian-Iranian Commission for 'Orthodoxy-Islam' Dialogue.

The participants exchanged views on fundamental issues of religious consciousness in society, religious life in Russia and Iran, interreligious relations, and problems and prospects of Islamic studies and Iranology in Russia. The Iranian participants presented the concept of the Imam Khomeini World Award, which will be granted for notable and distinguished contribution to Islamic theology and philosophy and interreligious and international relations, as well as for scientific breakthroughs pertaining to the humanities.

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