



Head of Tatarstan Metropolis meets with President of Islamic Culture and Relations Organization of Iran



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On May 16, Metropolitan Kirill of Kazan and Tatarstan received Hojat-ul-Islam Dr. Mohammad Mahdi Imanipour, President of the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization of Iran and co-chairman of the Joint Russian-Iranian Commission for Orthodoxy-Islam Dialogue. The meeting took place at the 'Pilgrim' Pilgrimage Center of the Kazan Diocese as part of the 16th International Economic Forum "Russia - Islamic World: KazanForum", the website of the Tatarstan Metropolis reports.

The meeting was also attended by H.E. Kazem Jalali, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Russian Federation; Dr. Abdolreza Rashed, deputy for the development of international relations of the Organization; Dr. Masoud Ahmadvand, cultural counsellor of the Iranian Embassy in Moscow; Mr. Kobulsho Idrisov, an official of the Embassy; and Mr. Mohsen Roustas, assistant to the Ambassador of Iran in Russia. The Russian Orthodox Church was represented

by priest Iliya Kashitsyn, DECR secretary for interreligious relations, hieromonk Kirill (Korytko), secretary of the Tatarstan Metropolia; and Priest Nikita Kuznetsov, rector of the Kazan theological seminary.

Metropolitan Kirill warmly welcomed representatives of the Iranian delegation and told them about the history and current state of interreligious relations in Tatarstan. The participants of the meeting exchanged views on the place and role of religion in the life of society, education of spiritual and moral values among young people and maintenance of traditions, as well as the activities of the Joint Russian-Iranian Commission for Orthodoxy-Islam Dialogue.

Priest Nikita Kuznetsov shared his impressions of the visit of the Kazan theological seminary delegation to Iran at the invitation of Al-Mustafa International University and noted high mutual interest shown by representatives of theological and academic schools of both countries.

Dr. Imanipour thanked the archpastor for his hospitality; souvenirs were exchanged.

After that, representatives of the Iranian delegation, accompanied by Metropolitan Kirill, visited the reconstructed Cathedral of the Kazan Icon of the Mother of God located on the territory of the Monastery of the same name. The high guests were met by the abbot, hegumen Mark (Vilensky).