



ICYF

ISLAMIC COOPERATION YOUTH FORUM

منتدى التعاون الإسلامي للشباب

FORUM DE LA JEUNESSE DE LA COOPÉRATION ISLAMIQUE

Foreword by President of ICYF

Serving as the President of the Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum is a profound honor, one that carries with it a solemn commitment to champion the aspirations and amplify the voices of the OIC youth and young people in Muslim minority states. Every year has brought unique opportunities and challenges for us to grow, evolve, and emerge even stronger as we strive to create a platform where the dreams of our youth can flourish.

H.E. Taha Ayhan



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ICYF in Brief

The Islamic Conference Youth Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation (ICYF-DC) was established at its Founding General Assembly held in Baku, Azerbaijan, on 01-03 December 2004, in accordance with Resolution No. 15/31-C adopted by the 31st Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, which took place on 14-16 June 2004 in Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye. The last presidential elections of the ICYF-DC were held at the 3rd General Assembly on 22-24 October 2018 in Istanbul. Delegates from ICYF-DC member institutions voted for the presidential and other statutory bodies' candidates.



According to the voting results, H.E. Mr. Taha Ayhan was unanimously elected as the new President of ICYF-DC and assumed office on 1st December 2018 for a four-year mandate. The same gathering voted for the institution to be renamed the Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF).

The Forum was granted the status of an institution affiliated with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) by virtue of Resolution No. 3/32-C adopted by the 32nd Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (CFM) held in Sana'a, Yemen, on 28-30 June 2005. According to the Special Host Country Agreement with the Government of the Republic of Türkiye in 2008, ICYF-DC is a diplomatic mission accredited in Türkiye with headquarters in Istanbul and is the main partner of OIC in youth-related matters.







THE 5TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
LA 5ÈME ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE
الاجتماع الخامس للجمعية العامة

I extend a warm welcome to our esteemed guests
from various parts of the Muslim world

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Our Work & Impact

ICYF consists of member institutions comprising leading national and international youth organizations from OIC Member States and Muslim minorities in non-Muslim countries. The Forum's primary objectives include:

- Addressing challenges faced by Muslim youth.
- Advocating for youth interests.
- Promoting sustainable development.
- Enhancing formal and informal education.
- Strengthening moral values.
- Fostering dialogue among cultures and civilizations.

The Forum, led by President H.E. Mr. Taha Ayhan since December 2018, is dedicated to implementing initiatives that empower Muslim youth to embrace their cultural roots and become productive members of their communities. This commitment extends to fostering optimism, constructive engagement, and a sense of responsibility towards the ummah and humanity at large.

The impact of ICYF is evident in its role as an advocate for youth, tirelessly working to overcome challenges faced by Muslim youth globally. Its initiatives aim to empower younger generations, contribute to their moral and educational development, and promote dialogue and cooperation among diverse cultures and civilizations. The success of ICYF relies on the solid support of the OIC Member States to fulfill its noble mission and effectively address the needs and aspirations of Muslim youth.





Our Strength in Numbers

The Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF) has spearheaded the establishment of a transformative global digital network, known as the ICYF Digital Network, fostering connectivity around **70,000** users. This inclusive platform transcends borders, uniting **30,707** males and **24,668** females from **122** diverse countries within and beyond the OIC region.

474,41

Number of Received Applications

4,868

Number of Trained and Certificated Young People

86

Number of Implemented Youth Activities;

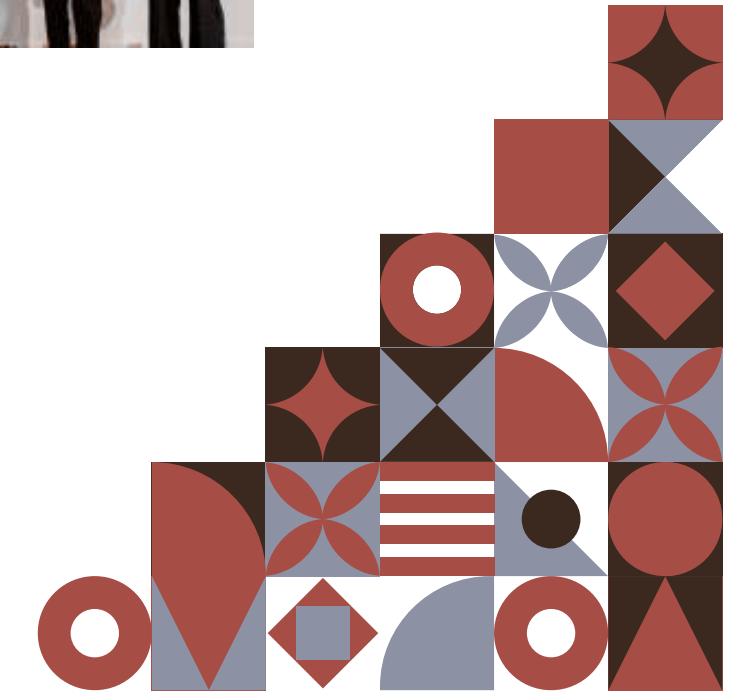
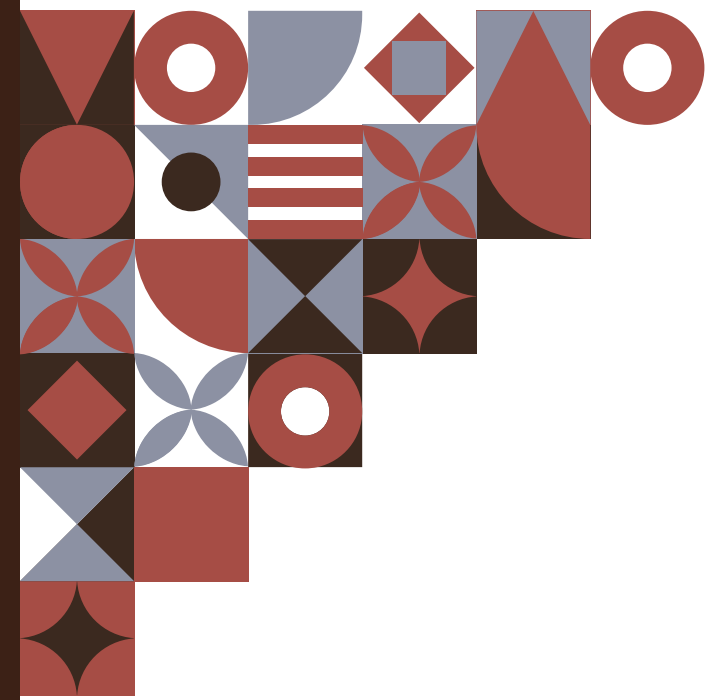
399,677

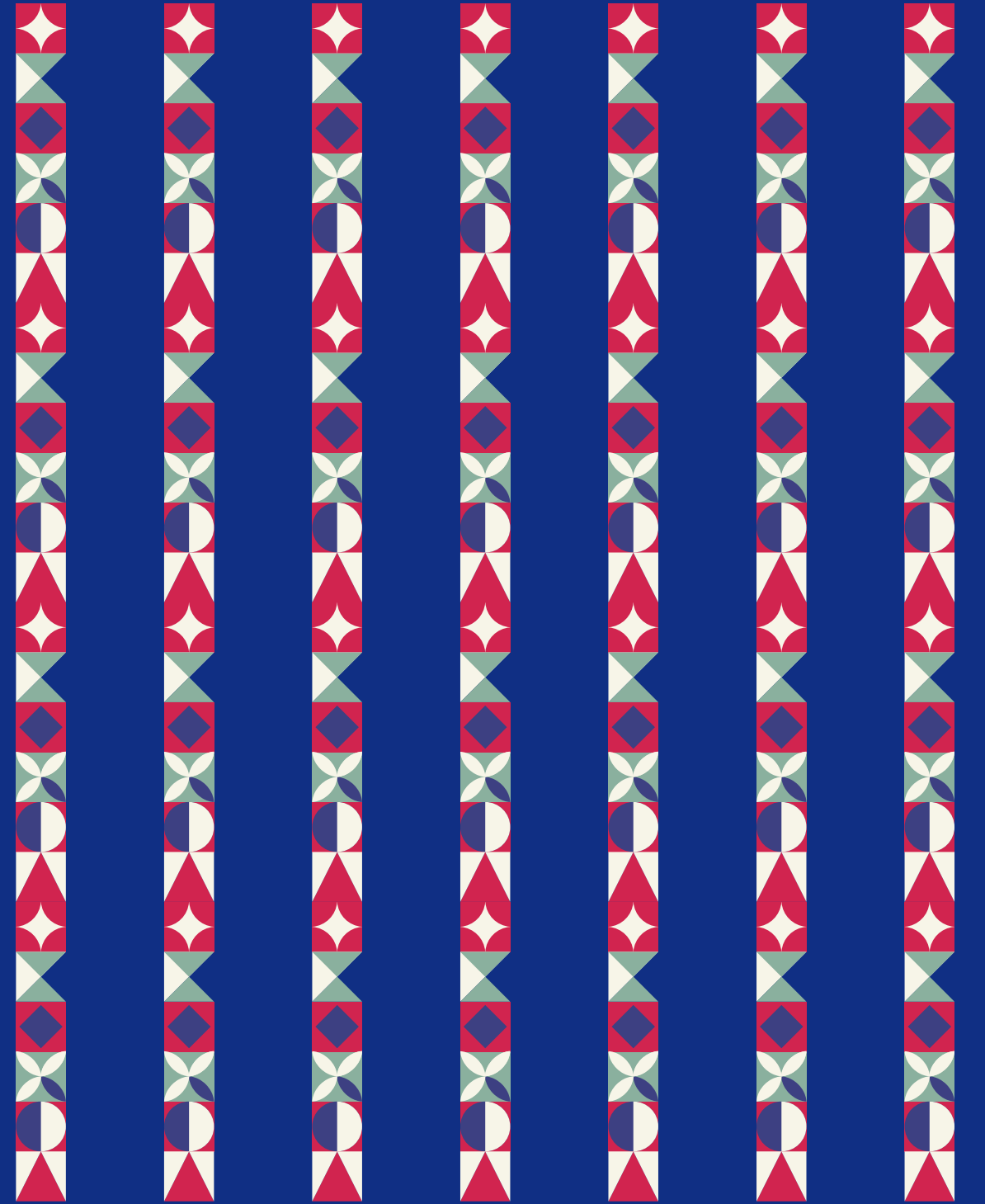
Number of Engaged Youth



Preparing the Youth with Skills for the Future

ICYF empowers the youth with essential future skills through innovative programs nurturing knowledge, entrepreneurship, and media literacy. The ICYF Diplomacy Academy epitomizes this commitment, offering aspiring diplomats a platform to refine skills, engage in international affairs, and contribute to global diplomacy. The International Incubation Center (IIC), a collaborative initiative involving the Investment Office of the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye, IT Valley of Türkiye, and ICYF, is devoted to cultivating high-quality, competitive entrepreneurs. By fostering global trend creation and establishing a presence in the digital-based global economy, IIC molds a new generation of forward-thinking business leaders. Our media training camp equip aspiring journalists with skills and experience in a rapidly evolving media landscape, empowering them to contribute meaningfully to public discourse and storytelling. These initiatives collectively underscore ICYF's dedication to preparing youth for future challenges and opportunities.





Priority Impact Areas ICYF 7 Pillars

ICYF operates on a foundation built upon seven essential pillars: Culture, Networking, Environment, Youth Development, Art, Economic Empowerment, and Social Awareness. These pillars are strategically aligned with the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), providing a comprehensive blueprint that guides ICYF's diverse activities, projects, and initiatives for the youth. Each pillar signifies a crucial aspect of holistic development, reflecting a commitment to cultural preservation, fostering meaningful connections, environmental stewardship, youth empowerment, artistic expression, economic advancement, and social consciousness. By aligning with the SDGs, ICYF ensures its endeavors contribute significantly to the broader global agenda of sustainable and inclusive development. This strategic alignment underscores ICYF's dedication to creating a positive impact on the lives of young people, leveraging these pillars as a framework for transformative initiatives that address the multifaceted challenges and opportunities faced by the youth on a global scale.



The OIC region is home to rich and diverse cultures spanning thousands of years. Our shared Muslim culture unites us, regardless of being one ummah, to serve a common purpose and to help each other in our pursuit to make our communities hospitable to young and fresh ideas created by our youth.

Under this pillar, several ICYF events and projects have been carried out, including the annual ICYF Ramadan Contest, Uncovered by Youth, the Islamic Heritage Contest, and My Country Our Voice.

Islamic Heritage Photo Contest

The contest aims to spark imagination so that it can illuminate the aesthetic of Islamic architectural heritage. Through this initiative, young people will have the chance to contribute and encourage cultural preservation. It also seeks to raise youth knowledge of Muslim intellectual achievements and their significance to Islamic heritage, particularly in science, cultural exchange, and the growth of world civilizations.

My Country Our Voice

On 29-30 May 2021, the ICYF held the 1st edition of its international competition, "My Country Our Voice," where MOIC representatives from seven OIC countries presented their country's historical and cultural background under three categories. The event was live streamed across ICYF's social media channels and followed by more than 250 MOIC representatives. This initiative highlighted the cultural and historical diversity and civilization of the OIC Member States.

Uncovered by Youth

The Uncovered by Youth project is here to establish a new era of digital storytelling among the youth of the OIC region. Uncovered by Youth is a newly established digital media platform by ICYF that seeks to amplify the voices of the youth and the stories of their communities. Through storytelling and sharing life-changing stories on the platform, we aim to empower and inspire the next generation of movers and shakers by bringing them closer to the action.



ICYF acts as a bridge between cultures and civilizations. Through numerous initiatives aimed at widening the networks of Muslim youth, the forum has managed to connect thousands of youth from across the OIC region by promoting collaboration and fostering unity within the ummah.

Under this pillar, ICYF organizes diverse youth activities such as the Model OIC Program, OIC Youth Day Celebrations, Youth CFM Virtual Summit, Young Muslim Women Summit, ICYF Diplomacy Academy, Online Special Edition Talks, Debate Contests, and the Future Leaders Executive Program (FLEP)

Future Leaders Executive Program (FLEP)

The Future Leaders Executive Program (FLEP), organized by the Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum in collaboration with Istanbul Medeniyet University, was held in Istanbul, Turkey, between February and June 2023. Thirty young professionals from different countries participated in the program. The program's primary goal was to equip young future leaders with the necessary theoretical and practical knowledge to tackle the challenges they will face. Through 10 sessions featuring distinguished high-level speakers, including former ministers of European countries and former heads of reputable international organizations, participants were able to develop further insight into the areas of diplomacy, global affairs, politics, and various industries first-hand. The final session of the program hosted the Prime Minister of Montenegro in Istanbul. The total list of guests of honor includes H.E. Heinz Fischer, former Austrian President; H.E. Geoffrey William Hoon, former Defence Minister of the United Kingdom; H.E. Yves Leterme, former Prime Minister of Belgium; H.E. Lamberto Zannier, former OSCE Secretary-General; H.E. Adnan Shibab Eldin, former Secretary-General of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC); H.E. Franz Fischler, former EU Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries; H.E. Kjell Magne Bondevik, former President of Norway; H.E. Danilo Turk, former President of the Republic of Slovenia; H.E. Dritan Abazović, the Prime Minister of Montenegro; and H.E. Yousef El Khalawi, the General Secretary of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce.

Model OIC

Model OIC (MOIC) is an academic simulation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) designed

to educate youth on current developments in the theory and practice of international relations, effective communication, and multilateral diplomacy. The Model OIC is a brainchild of the Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF), which collaborates with universities and high schools in member states to implement and establish a wholesome Model OIC experience by providing technical and organizational assistance. So far, over 400 MOIC university representatives and their almost 600 team members from 64 different countries are actively engaged in this program. From 2019 to 2023, 11 different MOIC programs have been organized by ICYF in 7 different countries namely Indonesia, Iran, Pakistan, Somalia, Türkiye, Uganda and Uzbekistan. Additionally, 6 MOIC programs have been conducted at the high school level by ICYF with local partners.



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Young Women in The Green Economy

The Young Women in the Green Economy was organized by ICYF on March 8, 2022, as an online panel discussion in celebration of International Women’s Day. The challenges and prospects for women pursuing this emerging field were examined during a 90-minute online debate on the Zoom platform, featuring specialists and young women panelists. The participants included Dr. Amy Townsend-Small, Senior Science Advisor at the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs of the United States Department of State; Ms. Rafif Alam, Gender Specialist at the Islamic Development Bank; Ms. Esmâ Kaan Yıldız, Sustainable Life Advisory, Founder of Education for All Children (HERCEV); Dr. Kaouther Maaroufi, Expert on Healthcare Waste Management and Municipal Waste Management; Ms. Seydou Sankara, Founder of the Green Industry Company; Ms. Aisha Al Maadeed, Founder of Greener Future, and Ms. Aïcha-Hanna Agrane from ICYF MOIC Clubs Project. The session was moderated by Mr. Yunus Çolak, ICYF MOIC Student Clubs Project Coordinator.

Faith for Earth

The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), following the Faith for Earth Strategy (2018) has embraced an integrated approach in collaboration with faith-based organizations. This partnership incorporates religious and cultural values into UNEP’s initiatives to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of Agenda 2030. The Faith for Earth Coalition serves as a mechanism to actualize this shared vision, fostering a multistakeholder partnership to engage faith leaders and organizations globally, regionally, and locally. The goal is to inspire, empower, and drive actions and behavioral changes aligned with the SDGs and UNEP’s program of work. Within the Faith for Earth Coalition, the “Youth Council” is one of four councils established in September 2022. This council serves as a global platform to mobilize young individuals for environmental protection and against



climate change. Young leaders involved in the council aim to promote innovation and drive actions, particularly at the local level. The ICYF is a member of the “Advisory Committee” of the Youth Council, actively participating in the entire process, including the formation of council members, the council charter, and working methodologies.



Artistic expression is embedded in our DNA, and as ICYF, we support creativity and those who make ideas come alive. Under art, ICYF organizes international film, photo, animation, cartoon, graphic design, and visual design art competitions to serve as creative cultural platforms for young people.

Experience Our Youth Art Festivals

The ICYF organizes various youth art festivals every year and is ready to welcome young artists to showcase their invaluable creative art and establish a common understanding of the substantial reflections of the unique colors of the OIC geography and beyond.

International Youth Festival of Modern Muslim Culture

The International Youth Festival of Modern Muslim Culture took place as part of the events featured within the Kazan OIC Youth Capital 2022 framework between 27 and 30 October 2022. The Festival brought together 80 young artists from 10 OIC Member States. The Festival was projected to be a space of opportunities where participants could gain unique knowledge and recommendations from experts through creative master classes to participate in the cultural program and build intercultural communications with other participants and experts. The Festival aimed to gather creative and talented youth by providing an interactive and cohesive atmosphere in the modern Muslim culture. Furthermore, the Festival created a favorable perception of “Islamic culture” and a positive environment for developing multilateral cooperation.







The development of youth is as crucial as the development of any economy. Investing in youth and their education is the most significant investment any community seeking prosperity can make. ICYF's engagement with youth from diverse backgrounds and key players in youth development aims to provide more opportunities for them to develop and prosper. Under the youth development pillar, ICYF has conducted various initiatives, including the Doha Muslim Youth Forum, OIC Young Volunteers Camp, ICYF International Media Training, International Muslim Intellectual Forum, Ideation Challenge, Documentary Filmmaking Workshop, Dhaka OIC Youth Capital Quran Recitation, Africa MOIC Diplomacy Conference, MOIC Türkiye Summit, Somalia Workshop on the 'Role of Youth in Diplomatic Action,' Diplomacy as a Career Goal: Opportunities and Challenges, International Human Rights Youth Forum, and ICYF Conflict Resolution Camp. In partnership with a wide array of international collaborators, ICYF continues to organize regional youth forums, summits, seminars, and competitions to better serve Muslim youth.

ICYF International Media Training Camp

The ICYF International Media Training Camp is a two-week intensive training program organized in partnership with the Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum and the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Turkey, collaborating with many international media agencies, media experts, and journalists. The camp offers a unique opportunity for media enthusiasts and aspiring content creators to understand the media sector and how crucial it is to be media literate in the age of fake news and misinformation. The training program covers practical and theoretical knowledge of digital media under the guidance of media experts

Somalia Workshop on the "Role of Youth in Diplomatic Action"

The 'Role of Youth in the Field of Diplomacy' Training, organized in collaboration with ICYF, the Somali Youth Council, the Somali Ministry of Youth and Sports, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Somalia, took place in Mogadishu, Somalia, from August 22 to 25, 2022. Over the three days, workshops on diplomacy were conducted with 35 local participants.

ICYF Diplomacy Academy

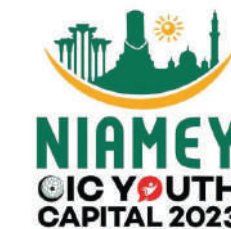
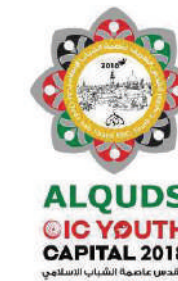
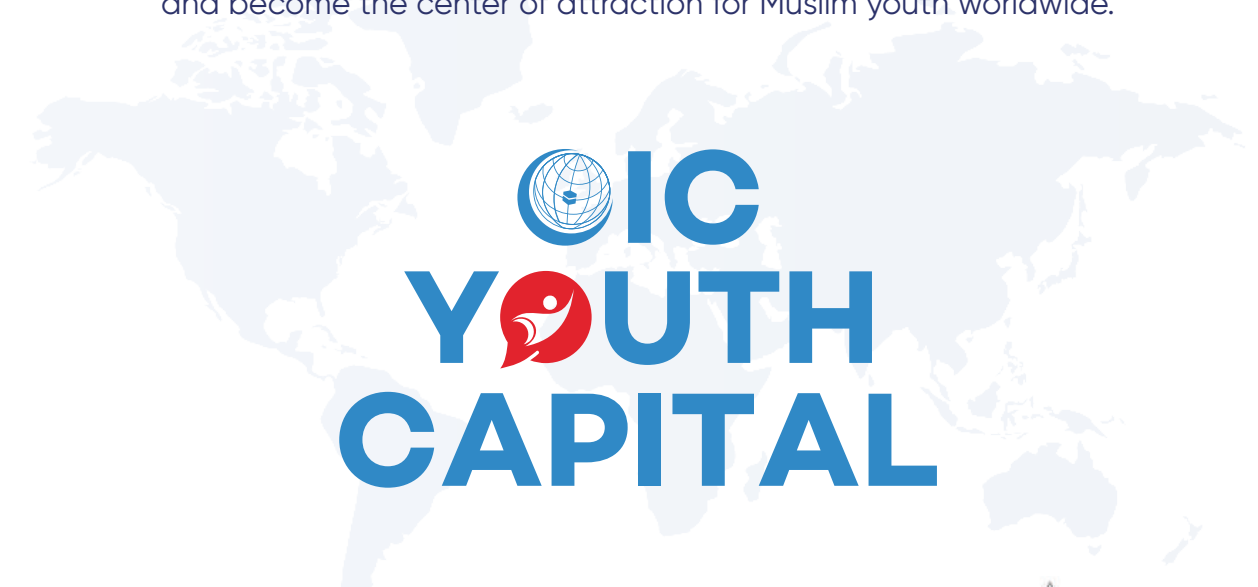
The 6-week ICYF Diplomacy Academy aims to train the next generation of young diplomats and prospective leaders in diplomacy, statesmanship, and leadership. By 2024, the ICYF had conducted seven editions of the program. The ICYF Diplomacy Academy Program received more than 7,000 applications, featured over 40 speakers, and engaged with 1,000 active participants.





The OIC Youth Capital International Programme

Since its inception in 2014, the OIC Youth Capital has provided Muslim youth with a year-long platform on which various activities, conferences, conventions, festivals, and special events are held for the benefit of the youth. Each year, a new OIC Youth Capital is selected, allowing OIC Member States to highlight their culture and rich traditions and become the center of attraction for Muslim youth worldwide.







There has never been a better time for technological innovation. As the world embraces intelligent and sustainable technology, there is tremendous demand not just for the consumption of this innovation but also for its production in the OIC geography. Under this pillar, ICYF established one of its main initiatives Young Business Hub (YBH) which aimed to help youth overcome significant economic problems through a multi-level strategic approach comprising several layers. Young Business Hub (YBH) organizes programs such as Startup Competitions, Investment Summits & Entrepreneurship Forums, Bootcamps, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), as well as Resource Mobilization programs support and empower young people from OIC countries and beyond. Young Business Hub (YBH) prioritizes training potential entrepreneurs and a skilled workforce who will contribute to their country and region's economic development. Another main initiative of ICYF in the field of economic empowerment is recently established International Incubation Center (IIC) which aims to serve the OIC geography as an innovation hub.

International Incubation Center (IIC)

The International Incubation Center (IIC) was established in 2021 through a trilateral agreement involving the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye Investment Office, IT Valley of Türkiye, and the Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF). As a pilot initiative of ICYF, IIC serves as a model for inspiring other OIC countries to establish similar centers, fostering innovative entrepreneurship among their youth. ICYF envisions bridging the economic gap between developed and developing nations through innovative startups, trusting in the motivation, capacity, capability, and intellect of OIC youth. Operating on these principles, IIC focuses on cultivating competitive entrepreneurs by aligning with global trends and adapting to the digital age, emphasizing youth empowerment, innovation, training, startup opportunities, and engagement in building the startup ecosystem within the OIC and beyond. Currently in its 5th term, so far IIC has welcomed and trained 46 startups from 20 OIC countries.



Entrepreneurship Summits and Forums

The ICYF has embarked on a path to assist young entrepreneurs by creating platforms to connect investors and innovators to support better youth-led initiatives and the growing number of startups in the OIC geography. Entrepreneurs at different stages across the OIC region have benefitted mainly from ICYF investment summits/forums aimed at helping young entrepreneurs secure funding and pitch their ideas globally. ICYF has conducted several milestone summits and forums such as Azerbaijan Culture and Investment Summit, Kazan OIC Youth Entrepreneurship Forum, Azerbaijan Investment & Youth Entrepreneurship Forum, Take Off Startup Summit, World Entrepreneurs' Investment Forum (WEIF) as the main organizer and/or partner. Through these events ICYF has reached almost 2000 young entrepreneurs and 300 investors, over 10,000 audience from over 82 countries.

Bootcamps

Bootcamp are intensive and focused training program designed to provide participants with a condensed and immersive learning experience. Typically short in duration, bootcamps aim to equip individuals with specific skills, often related to technology, entrepreneurship, or a particular industry. In this regard, ICYF has actively supported youth development through two notable programs. The Robotic Process Automation (RPA) Program, conducted between April 11 and May 9, 2022, engaged 100 participants through 907 applications from 70 countries, fully funded by ICYF. The RPA initiative aimed to create career opportunities in this field for youth in OIC countries, fostering employment and entrepreneurial ventures. Additionally, the Future Founders Fundamental Entrepreneurship Program, launched on May 22, 2022, over a 5-week duration, received 1947 applications from 39 countries. This program targeted university students, providing them with basic entrepreneurship training to establish sustainable businesses. Notably, 31 startups at the MVP level were formed, with 10 selected for an online Demo Day on August 12, 2022, where ICYF recognized and awarded three outstanding initiatives.

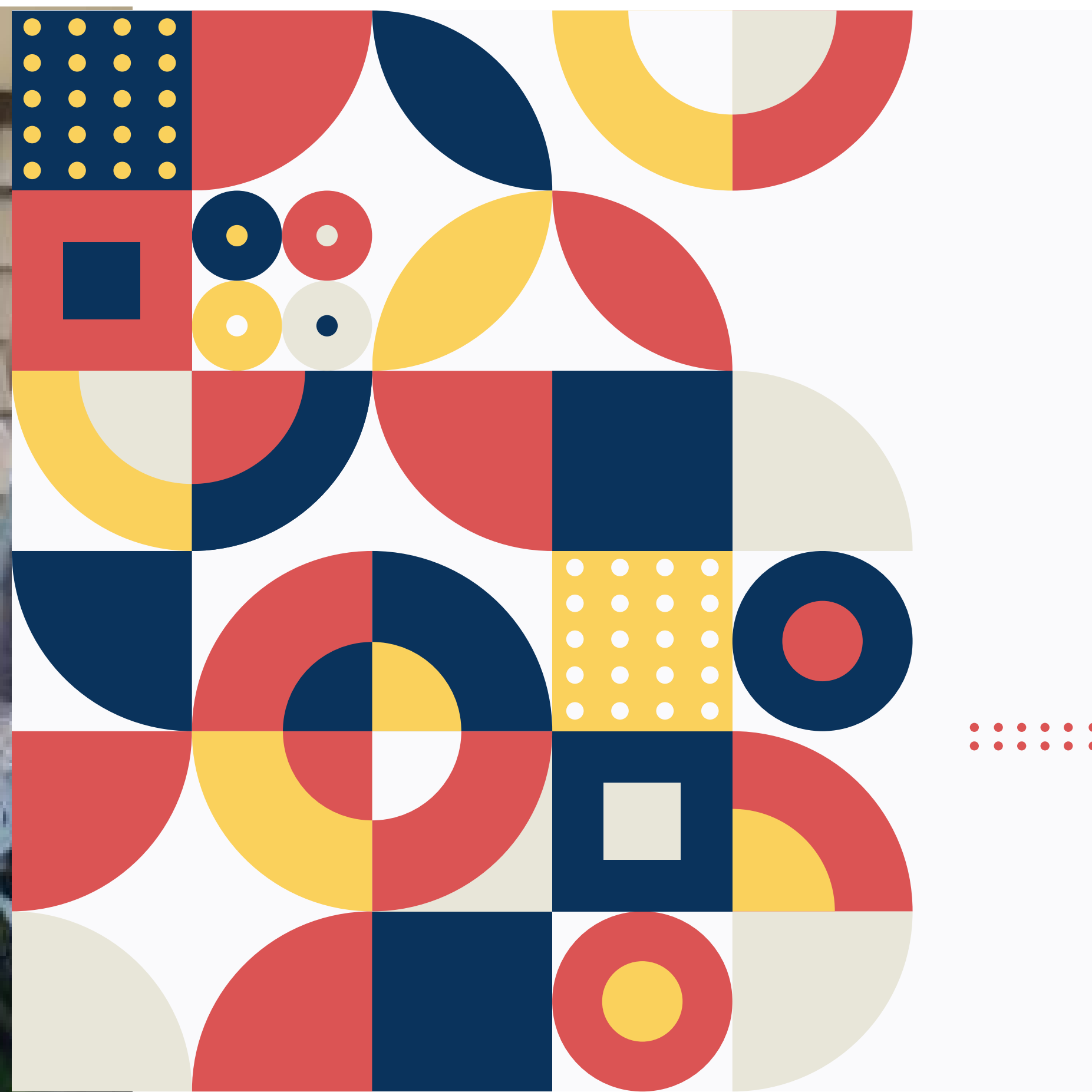
Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)

Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) plays a crucial role in equipping youth with practical skills for sustainable employment. By offering specialized training in various industries, TVET not only addresses the growing demand for skilled labor but also enhances the overall employability of individuals. ICYF has been actively involved in TVET initiatives, exemplified by the 'Agriculture for Youth-Training Program' in Lebanon, launched in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture of Lebanon and the Risala Islamic Scout Association. This program aims to empower and educate young individuals in agriculture and farming, contributing to the sustainability and resilience of future generations amidst economic challenges. In a similar vein, ICYF, in collaboration with the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) and Jeunesse Environnement Démocratie et Développement (JEDD), led the Torodi project in Niger in 2021. Focused on cultivating vegetables, fruits, and fish, this initiative addresses poverty by providing agricultural education and empowerment, with a goal of creating employment opportunities for 200 young people in Niger.



Resource Mobilization

Resource mobilisation is about engaging and mobilising people and organisations to secure old, and new resources, to support social change. Resource mobilization plays a pivotal role in supporting initiatives that foster innovation, peace, and economic empowerment. ICYF's active involvement in grant project applications, such as ICMPD's ENHANCER Project and the UNDEF project proposal, highlights the organization's dedication to these principles. Additionally, ICYF has applied for impactful projects, including 'Istka Techistanbul: Istanbul International Incubation and Acceleration Center for Technology-oriented Innovative Entrepreneurs', 'Promoting Women's Economic Empowerment in Palestine', 'Economic Empowerment of Rural Families In Uganda', and EU projects such as 'Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP): Innovative media for peace, social cohesion and reconciliation in Turkey, the Middle East and North Africa' and 'Structured Capacity-building of Civil Society Organizations in Türkiye' further contributing to its commitment to social and economic progress.





Social awareness is crucial for today's youth, particularly in light of the rise of extremism and the proliferation of fake news on digital platforms. Youth in the OIC region need to be both aware and actively engaged in the fact-checking process, moving beyond passive consumption of news and information.

Under the social awareness pillar, ICYF has undertaken initiatives such as the Call for Youth Global Action on Islamophobia, Youth Engagement with Religion and Faith, Dhaka Sheikh Hasina Youth Voluntary Awards, East Mediterranean Webinars, Essay Competition on Artificial Intelligence, Baku International Volunteers Forum of Islamic Countries, Doha Volunteering Youth Camp, and Online Volunteering Programs. These programs aim to foster a socially aware and informed youth community, addressing critical issues and encouraging proactive participation.

ICYF Young Volunteers Camp

ICYF Young Volunteers Camp is an annual two-week event jointly organized by the Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum and the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Türkiye to teach young and emerging leaders advanced methods of countering the rising social and humanitarian crises.

The ICYF International Young Volunteers Camp opens the avenues for promising and enthusiastic youth to participate in different projects while being part of this camp. It broadens their vision about overcoming a crisis and serving their communities in uncertain times. The Volunteers camp has a distinctive purpose: to raise awareness among the world's youth regarding emerging humanitarian crises and challenges within the OIC geography. Young leaders undergo thorough training in practical work and interactive skills to better prepare them for emergencies during natural disasters and other environmental crises.

East Mediterranean Webinars

From March 18 to April 29, 2021, the East Mediterranean Webinars were organized to broaden participants' understanding of the foreign policies of East Mediterranean countries. The four-week webinar series featured contributions from four distinguished experts in international security, international relations, and diplomacy.





Our Headline Achievements

OIC Young Journalists Network:

Since 2019, 505 young males and females completed the media programs by being entitled to receive certificates from the media programs. The Media Camp received 3,918 applications from 85 countries for each media program, with 1,655 applications from females and 2,263 from males.

OIC Young Volunteers Network:

Since 2019, a total of 674 young males and females have successfully completed the media programs, earning certificates through the volunteer programs. Notably, the Young Volunteers Camp attracted a significant interest with 12,394 applicants from 134 countries, including 5,559 applications from young females and 6,835 from young males.

OIC Young Scientists Network:

Today, ICYF boasts an extensive young scientific community spanning various scientific fields, offering essential platforms to cultivate a better and sustainable world.

OIC Young Artists Network:

Since 2019, within the framework of arts and culture programs, ICYF has brought together a unique and diverse group of young artists from the OIC Member States and Muslim minorities worldwide.

OIC Young Leaders Network:

ICYF is making substantial investments in young leaders' capacity and personal development, aiming to empower them to devise practical solutions for building peaceful communities.



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