On October 8, 2012, the International University of Sarajevo held the Opening Ceremony for 2012-2013 Academic Year. On this special occasion, IUS also celebrated its 9th anniversary, during which many distinguished guests, academicians and students were given presentations about the significant achievements of our University.

The program started with the Welcoming Speech by IUS Rector Prof. Dr. Özer Çınar. In his speech, Professor Çınar gave academic and fatherly guidance to future and current students in terms of respect and passion for knowledge. New students were ensured that IUS provides excellent education infrastructure and a holistic environment, which are indispensable for a balanced education development.

The President of Foundation for Education Development Sarajevo, Mr. Hasan Topaloğlu and His Excellency Mr. Ahmet Yıldız, Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to Bosnia-Herzegovina also delivered informative and illuminative speeches. Mr. Topaloğlu has repeatedly stated that The multiple dimensions of the IUS project include education, culture, diplomacy and economy.

Finally, Justice and Development Party Deputy Chairman Prof. Dr. Numan Kurtulmuş gave a motivational and illuminative speech that was received by loud applause from staff and students. In addition to encouraging students to seek knowledge and to turn challenges into opportunities, Professor Kurtulmuş made numerous references to late President of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Alija Izetbegovic and his historical legacies. He rightly articulated historical ties between Turkey and Bosnia-Herzegovina in terms of shared history, culture and traditions.
Rector’s Opening Speech for Academic Year 2012 / 2013

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all at the official opening ceremony of academic year of 2012/2013. It is a day for celebration and an occasion which gives us an opportunity to pay tribute to the wealth of knowledge, talent and high potential gathered here today.

I hope from my heart that you all feel welcome here, both the students who are continuing their studies and those who are attending the IUS for the first time, our employees and honorable guests.

I am pleased to experience that the International University of Sarajevo is attractive to students. In addition to students continuing their studies, new students have arrived at our University and our co-workers are working full speed to ensure the best conditions of studying.

For our distinguished quests and new coming students, I would like to briefly share some information about the IUS. As Rector of this prestigious Institution, let me reflect a bit on what has been done at the IUS, celebrating our past achievements and identifying priority of growth and development looking at our future.

Being the first private university in Bosnia and Herzegovina, recognized as higher education institution since its establishment, back in the year of 2003, we are committed to invest in future generations in which this academic institution takes the lead in long term investments, human potential, research and education. An international environment that promotes cross border cooperation and diversity, quality of education and excellence in research essential for future progress that enables us to compete at the international forefront of fundamental science.

Well educated people with knowledge are considered the engine of growth and economic development. Following that taught, the Foundation for Development of Education Sarajevo (SEDEF) and the IUS Board of Trustees have invested in establishment of three IUS faculties; the Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and the Faculty of Business and Administration. Over the years we have opened 14 study programs that attracted more than 1200 undergraduate and graduate students using English language as main tools that allow students to meet international standards.

IUS has highly qualified academic staff coming from different countries giving this institution an international character.

I am also using this opportunity to give my special thanks to the Foundation for Development of Education Sarajevo (SEDEF) and the IUS Board of Trustees for building additional facilities of the campus such as Sarajevo Research Center, male and female dorms, new stadium and sport complex as well as additional faculty building still in construction but in hopes of an early completion.

To all IUS students I want to tell I wish you faith, success and perseverance in this great mission. I hope that IUS is a place where you can find integrity, support, and hope on your path that will mark your future.

Thank you.
On September 15, 2012 as a part of the Prime Minister's two-day visit to Bosnia-Herzegovina, IUS was privileged to host the delegation of the Prime Minister of Turkey Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. Other distinguished guests from the delegation included the Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Bekir Bozdağ, Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Ahmet Davutoğlu, Minister of Economy Mr. Zafer Çağlayan, Justice and Development Party Deputy Chairman Mr. Ömer Çelik, and Mr. Erdoğan's wife Mrs. Emine Erdoğan with their daughter Sumeyye Erdoğan.

Several hundred students, professors and distinguished guests made a grand welcome to the delegation. Then, Prime Minister and his delegation were warmly welcomed by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of IUS, Prof. Dr. Hasan Zuhuri Sarıkaya, IUS Rector, Prof. Dr. Özer Çınar and President of the SEDEF, Mr. Hasan Topaloğlu. On the occasion of Prime Minister's visit to the International University of Sarajevo, an exhibition of photographs of the late, former President of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Mr. Alija Izetbegović was organized by the Anadolu Agency (AA) and the Museum "Alija Izetbegović". Besides many distinguished guests from home and abroad the opening ceremony of the exhibition was also attended by the officials of the Embassy of Republic of Turkey, TIKA, Turkish Ziraat Bank, Turkish Airlines and Cultural Center "Yunus Emre."

On October 01, 2012, the International University of Sarajevo (IUS) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Karabük University from Karabük, Turkey. The Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the Rector of International University of Sarajevo, Prof. Dr. Özer Çınar, and the Rector of the University of Karabük, Prof. Dr. Burhanettin Uysal. Both universities agreed upon greater partnership and collaboration with regard to staff and students exchange and working on joint conferences and projects.
On Thursday, October 11, 2012, as part of his visit to Bosnia-Herzegovina, Dr. John L. Esposito, a Professor from George-town University (USA), visited the International University of Sarajevo (IUS). This visit was organized in collaboration with the Embassy of United States of America.

Prof. John Esposito is Professor of Religion & International Aff airs and Founding Director of the Alwaleed Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding at Georgetown University. Professor Esposito has served as President of the Middle East Studies Association of North America and the American Council for the Study of Islamic Societies. Professor Esposito is currently Vice-President and President-Elect of the American Academy of Religion. Professor Esposito has authored and contributed to a wide range of publications.


At IUS Dr. Esposito gave a lecture entitled: “US Policy in the Muslim World: From George W. Bush to Barack Obama.” Prior to the beginning of the lecture IUS Rector, Prof. Dr. Özer Çınar gave a welcoming speech and extended his deepest appreciation to Professor Esposito for delivering a lecture. Professor Çınar affirmed The Wall Street Journal idea that Professor Esposito is the “America’s foremost authority and interpreter of Islam.” Therefore, considering Esposito’s international reputation and his authority on the religion of Islam and the Middle East, Mr. Ahmed Kulanić presented his brief biographical account to the audience.

In the framework of international student exchange organization called “International Association for Exchange of Students for Technical Experience (IAESTE)”, the International University of Sarajevo has received three students, Ms. Patricia Jacquier from Zurich (Switzerland), Ms. Lavinia Matkovic from Osijek (Croatia) and Ms. Edyta Flis from Krakow (Poland).

These students are pharmacy and biology majors in the second and third cycle of studies at the prestigious technical universities. They will spend two months for the completion of their internship in the Genetics and Bioengineering Program, the International University of Sarajevo. Ms. Matkovic is studying at the University of Josip Juraj Strossmayer in Osijek, Ms. Flis at the famous AGH University of Science and Technology in Krakow and Ms. Jacquier comes from the prestigious ETH University in Zurich, which is one of the world’s leading universities in the field of technology and natural sciences.

The Genetics and Bioengineering Program professors including Assist. Prof. Dr. Mohamed Ragab Abdel-Gawwad, Assoc. Prof. Dr Haris Gavranovic and Assistant Mr. Jasmin Sutkovic plan to extend their expertise and hospitality to these students as to facilitate smooth completion of their internship and research projects.

On October, 18, 2012 a humanitarian aid organization Together Today with a group of Turkish-Dutch young volunteers, visited the International University of Sarajevo. As a part of the reception at IUS, Mrs. Dzevada Suško gave a lecture entitled “The history of the Balkans: President of Together Today.” Together Today made a campaign for the collection of books for the International University of Sarajevo library. IUS Rector, Prof. Dr. Özer Çınar was privileged to officially open the Book Campaign. It is worth mentioning that there are already 12 book-collecting points in the Netherlands.
A delegation composed of representatives of leading universities in Bosnia-Herzegovina, including IUS Rector Prof. Dr. Özer Çınar, paid a visit to the Higher Education Commission (HEC) in Islamabad, Pakistan. The main objective of the visit was to explore the possibilities of academic cooperation in higher education sector between the two countries. The Executive Director HEC, Prof. Dr. S Sohai H Naqvi welcomed the delegation from Bosnia-Herzegovina and introduced them about the working conditions, functions and role of HEC for strengthening higher education sector in Pakistan.

He also stated that, due to revolutionary reforms in this sector, Pakistani universities are gradually progressing towards the level of top world and Asian universities with some other countries following the Pakistani higher education model.

The Bosnian delegation have stated their appreciation of the role of HEC in bringing about the vibrant and effective changes in the higher education sector. They also showed a keen interest for collaboration with HEC and Pakistani higher education institutions. A series of meetings were attended by the Vice Chancellors, Registrars, Deans and Directors of leading public and private universities of twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad, who discussed various avenues of possible cooperation among the universities of both countries.

The participants have consensus that student & faculty exchange, joint seminar/conferences would be greatly helpful in bringing the academicians and youth of both countries closer to each other.

From September 6 to September 9, 2012, the first Sarajevo Urbanism World Forum was held in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina. During the four-day forum, the city of Sarajevo hosted distinguished professionals working in the field of urbanism and town and country planning. In addition, the forum hosted many reputable scholars, politicians and artists from the fields of culture, economics and politics from Bosnia-Herzegovina, France and other countries. IUS professors and students from the Architecture Program participated in this prestigious event.

The central topic of Forum was the project of ‘Greater Paris’ (Grand Paris), which considers reorganization and increase of quality of urban life in the region of Paris, known as the economically strongest European area. One of the most important invitees and speakers on the Forum was the French Minister Mr. François Lamy, who emphasized that these kinds of events serve the purpose of having architects and planners working together on developing new visions of urban areas where politicians and high authorities are required to take part during the process of development and decision making.

The great aim of the Sarajevo Urbanism World Forum is to become a biennial event and a global center of urbanism and architecture, where world’s experts will discuss statistical parameters and actual topics.
The European program Cost of Supporting Technology Services (COST) nominated Assist. Prof. Dr. Mohamed Ragab Abdel-Gawwad, a Professor from Genetics and Bioengineering Program, as Bosnia-Herzegovina representative on three projects namely: COST Action FA0905: Mineral-improved crop production for healthy food and feed; COST Action FA1106: An integrated systems approach to determine the developmental mechanisms controlling fleshy fruit quality in tomato and grapevine and COST Action FA1103 Endophytes in biotechnology and agriculture.

IUS students continuously achieve great success, and therefore contribute in many aspects to their own academic development. It is worth mentioning Mr. Senad Alibegović, a third year student of Architecture at the Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences (FENS) who completed his internship in Poland. His internship was organized by IAESTE, the International Association for the Exchange of Students of the Faculty of Sciences and Engineering.

IAESTE is the world's largest organization for exchange of students. Since its establishment in 1948 at Imperial College in London, more than 300,000 students in the faculties of natural and technical sciences received the opportunity to gain practical experience abroad in as many as 83 countries where IAESTE has its local branches. Since last year, the students of the International University of Sarajevo have been provided with this opportunity, and Senad was the first IUS student to use the opportunity for an internship.

Mr. Alibegović worked for six weeks as an Architect - Assistant Designer at the Architectural Office Buir Projektow Jerzy Lukomski, Poland. He was pleased to share his experience with our readers by stating:

"After returning home, I realized how much this area was important for my further professional development, as well as the influence it caused on my view of the world and on my personal views. A young man who gets a chance to learn, work and is being introduced to a whole new culture, language and environment, cannot do away with being positively affected about current perceptions of the world. I am thrilled with Poland and its people, but also practical knowledge and I also heartily recommend all students to apply at the IAESTE and look for their own internship place, because after completing their practice they will get the benefit of an immense experience. As the old Latins say: Usus magister est optimus! / Experience is the best teacher."
The Role of “Ahilik” in Establishing Social Peace in the Balkans

The International Symposium The Role of “Ahilik” in Establishing Social Peace in the Balkans was held at the International University of Sarajevo on September 19-20, 2012. This Symposium aimed to discuss ideas regarding the socio-economic and political life of our time based on Ahilik experience. The symposium was organized jointly by the International University of Sarajevo (IUS), the Trade University in Istanbul, the International Balkan University, the Turkish Agency for Cooperation and Coordination (TIKA) and the Organization of Entrepreneurs and Artisans (ESDER) from Turkey.

The opening ceremony was attended by the IUS Rector, Prof. Dr. Özer Çınar, the Director of TIKA for Bosnia-Herzegovina, Mr. Zülküf Oruç, the Member of the Board of the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce Mr. Israfil Kuralay, and the Vice-Rector of Istanbul Ticaret University Prof. Dr. Yucel Oğurlu and other honorable guests.

In his opening speech IUS Rector, Prof. Dr. Çınar stated that the Symposium was organized with the support of a large number of universities in the region and Turkey. “Ahilik, as the term is known both in Turkey and in the Balkans region, represents the business solidarity and the mutual help. Prof. Dr. Çınar stated that the purpose of this Symposium is to show that Ahilik represents an embodiment of economic and ethical characteristics.”

On October 2, 2012 the 19th General Bosnia-Herzegovina Trade Fair called ‘ZEPS’ was officiated at Kamberovića field in Zenica. The fair lasted until October 6, 2012 and it was attended by 405 exhibitors from 27 countries worldwide. The International University of Sarajevo (IUS) was present at a special promotional stand, during the entire duration of this renowned event.

In the presence of numerous participants, visitors, and guests from abroad, the fair was opened by the Federal Prime Minister Mr. Nermin Niksic, who expressed his sincere pleasure of being present at the fair. Prime Minister Niksic said that 27 countries confirmed their attendance to this year’s ZEPS fair, which once again confirms the confidence in the Bosnia-Herzegovina economy. During the past 18 ZEPS General Fairs of Economy in Bosnia-Herzegovina, 9008 exhibitors have participated in the fair with 1,236,581 visitors. According to the organizers, last year’s fair was attended by 60,000 visitors.

Apart from the Federal Prime Minister of BiH, the opening ceremony of the event was attended by many other officials: Federal Minister of Energetic Mr. Erdal Trhluj, Prime Minister of Zenica-Doboj Canton, Mr. Fikret Plevljak and Mayor of Zenica, Mr. Husein Smajlovic. The participants of this event wished a pleasant stay to everyone at the fair, and invited investors to invest in Bosnia-Herzegovina and in particular in Zenica. The opening of the fair presented Bosnia-Herzegovina to the entrepreneurs as a capable and stable country that can effectively respond to the challenges of the economic crisis. The grand opening of the fair was also attended by IUS Rector, Prof. Dr. Özer Çınar, Vice Rector, Prof. Dr. Ismail Kocayusufoglu and other IUS professors.

The participation of IUS in the ZEPS fair aimed to establish contacts with other businesses parties. This was a great opportunity as well to strengthen cooperation between science and industry, especially in terms of knowledge and technology transfer, and faster application of scientific achievements in practice, which is an essential prerequisite of social and economic development of any country. In this regard, during the ZEPS fair, IUS Research Committee made contacts with other attendees of the fair, which certainly contributed to further development and promotion of the research and development activities of IUS.
Signing of Memorandums with Turkish Universities

On Thursday, September 20, 2012, IUS signed the Memorandum of Cooperation with the Fatih Sultan Mehmet University from Istanbul, Turkey. Then, the Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the Rector of the International University of Sarajevo, Prof. Dr. Özer Çınar, and the Rector of the University of Fatih Sultan Mehmet, Prof. Dr. Hikmet Özdemir.

By signing the Memorandum of Collaboration, the partners of these two respectable universities have pledged to work jointly on the promotion of higher education, exchange of students, professors, language instructors and visiting lecturers and organization of joint conferences, symposia, short courses and seminars.

Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the International University of Sarajevo and Fatih Sultan Mehmet University from Istanbul (Turkey) is another proof of successful cooperation of IUS with Turkish universities. The Memorandum of Cooperation was signed for a period of five years with the possibility of an extension.

During his stay in Bosnia-Herzegovina, on September 15, 2012, the distinguished Rector of the Fatih Sultan Mehmet University, Prof. Dr. Hikmet Özdemir attended the welcoming reception of the Turkish Prime Minister Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan at the International University of Sarajevo.

The Third Scholarships Fair

On October 17, 2012 IUS participated in the 3rd Scholarships Fair at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering of the University of Sarajevo. The fair was opened by Prof. Dr. Muharem Avdispahić, the Rector of the University of Sarajevo.

This third in row scholarships fair was realized thanks to a very successful organization in previous years. The fair has gained the status of scholarship event promoting the expansion and encouraging the mobility of students, teachers and associates in both within Bosnia-Herzegovina and beyond. The fair gathered 25 exhibitors. Through informative communication, the exhibitors informed all interested parties about scholarships to study in Bosnia-Herzegovina in addition to presenting study abroad scholarship awards, and other types of funding for further education.

The Third Scholarship Fair was organized by the Department for International Cooperation of the University of Sarajevo, in cooperation with the Belgian King Baudouin Foundation (KBF), Student Parliament, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, the Association "Spajalica" and the internet portal Stipendije.ba as a media partner.

Palestinian Ambassador Visited IUS

HE Mr. Khaled Allatrash, Palestinian Ambassador in Bosnia-Herzegovina visited the International University of Sarajevo. He was welcomed by the Rector of IUS, Prof. Dr. Özer Çınar and the Palestinian students. His Excellency, Mr. Khaled Allatrash stressed that there is an increased number of Palestinian students in Bosnia-Herzegovina. In this regard, considering the success of the previous cooperation with the International University of Sarajevo, a possibility for more scholarships for Palestinian students at IUS was discussed as well. After a short tour of the University, both sides agreed that IUS is an excellent choice for students and that the Palestinian Embassy in Bosnia-Herzegovina will definitely recommend this institution to potential Palestinian students.