

## 8th CONFERENCE ON IBADI STUDIES



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## 8th CONFERENCE ON IBADI STUDIES

*Local and Global identities. Social Change and Diaspora in the Ibad Communities*

*The University of Tokyo, Center for Middle Eastern Studies (UTCMES),*

*Sultan Qaboos Chair in Middle Eastern Studies*

TOKYO, 20-23 May 2017

<http://ibadistudies.org>

The 8th International Conference on Ibadism and Ibadism Studies will take place from May 20 to 23 at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies (UTCMES) at the Tokyo University, Japan. This important initiative is part of the series of conferences held since 2009 in several universities throughout Europe and Russia, bringing together renowned scholars in Arabic and Islamic studies. Each of these conferences addressed a wide range of interdisciplinary research on Ibadism through historical, religious, anthropological, political and ethno-archaeological approaches, as well as the examination of the theology and jurisprudence of the Ibadism from its origins until our days.

Ibadism is one of the oldest currents in Islam. Throughout their history, the ibadites developed Islamic studies and those of the Arabic language, spreading from the end of the seventh century in Oman, Zanzibar, Egypt and the Maghreb. Though few in number, the ibadites are still found today in several parts of the Muslim world, mainly in Oman.

This remarkable school of Islam, testifying to a great tolerance compatible with a secular Islamic tradition of cooperation with all peoples, is attracting more and more attention from researchers because of its rich history as a branch of a moderate Muslim community and an independent Islamic school.

The efforts of the researchers also enjoy the unwavering support of HE Sheikh Abdullah Bin Mohammed Bin Abdullah Al Salmi, Minister of Awqaf and Religious Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman. In charge of the ministry since 1997, this indefatigable defender of the values, the rich heritage and the communities of Ibadism, seeks above all to make known to the whole world a current of Islamic thought characterized by tolerance and openness.

Through his many writings and speeches, HE Sheikh Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Salmi has always striven to promote understanding among peoples, constantly recalling the pacifist spirit of Islam and expressing the role of politics and religion in the era of globalization.

The Tokyo Conference will provide a new opportunity to study and evaluate the richness of this school during several sessions devoted to identity, the role of the Diaspora and the development of Ibadism from the origins to the present day. Organized by the Center for Middle Eastern Studies (UTCMES) and the Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman, this first meeting to take place outside Europe testifies to the growing interest in the Far East and in Japan for this specific stream of Islamic thought.

The unwavering commitment to religious tolerance and mutual understanding, challenging the religious and political stereotypes of the Islamic world and its relations with the West and

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even the Far East, is an example to be followed at a time when the need of positive models for humanity is greater than ever.

**According to Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Salmi :** « *Through knowledge, learning, acquisition and research, we are always capable of growth and of putting things in their right places.* »

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