



January 18, 2010

Ms. Johanna Seibt
Mr. Jesper Garsdal
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Department of Philosophy and the History of Ideas
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Dear Madame/Sir:

I am delighted that Dr Darius Shayegan has been nominated as a recipient of the 2009 The Global Dialogue Prize by the Interculturality, Conflict, and Value Studies at Aarhus University in Denmark.

The importance of the idea of dialogue among civilizations was the main vision underlying the founding of a research center under my patronage in August 1976 in Tehran for the promotion of dialogue among civilizations, where Dr. Shayegan served as its' first Director. Originally named Center for Dialogue Among Civilizations, it later came to be known as the "Iranian Center for the Study of Civilizations." The focus placed on the Center's activities was the promotion of real and meaningful dialogue among civilizations, especially between the West (the developed world) and the East (the developing world), best exemplified by Iran of that era which was then rapidly progressing not only in technology but in humanistic endeavor as well. We intended to promote peace based on genuine understanding that would be expressed in dialogue, and also to avoid clash and conflict. A first international symposium aimed at the promotion of dialogue to avoid clash and conflict was held in Tehran in 1978 with the title "*L'impact planétaire de la pensée occidentale rend-t'il possible une dialogue réelle entre les civilisations*". The acts were published a year later in Paris. Following the same vision of dialogue, my husband and I inaugurated the first ever exhibition organized by the Center on Black Africa. I believe the core of the idea of dialogue was firmly established. As a result, The Center, in spite of its brief life, was successful in achieving its' goal.

Allow me to conclude by reiterating my pleasure that the old "Center for Dialogue" is now being recognized in the prize given to its first director. My hope is to see scholars from my homeland partake in this global endeavor, and for the vision of dialogue among civilizations to take hold.

With best wishes,
Farah Pahlavi