

EDUCATION



Photo: AKDN/ Gary Otte

A strong commitment to learning has been at the very root of Ismaili and Islamic culture, going back to the first Imam of the Shia Muslims, the fourth Caliph, Hazrat Ali ibn Abi Talib, and his emphasis on knowledge. The tradition was renewed over many centuries in many places by the Abbasids, the Fatimids, the Safavids, the Mughals, the Uzbeks and the Ottomans. During his Imamat, my late Grandfather started some 300 schools in this region. The Academies Programme is thus planted in rich historic soil.

Mawlana Hazar Imam
Foundation Ceremony of the Aga Khan Academy
Kampala, Uganda, August 22, 2007

Speech at [AKDN](#)

This is a core principle of my own faith – Islam – that learning is ennobling, regardless of the geographic or cultural origin of the knowledge we acquire.

Mawlana Hazar Imam, American University of Beirut, Lebanon, June 25, 2005
Speech at [AKDN](#)

A thousand years ago, my forefathers, the Fatimid Imam-Caliphs of Egypt, founded Al-Azhar University and the Academy of Knowledge in Cairo. In the Islamic tradition, they viewed the discovery of knowledge as a way to understand, so as to serve better God's creation, to apply knowledge and reason to build society and shape human aspirations.

The Academies are, therefore, a continuing articulation of this vision, a statement of great hope in the power of good education, and an investment in the development of the best minds who will enable future generations to take charge of their own destinies.

Mawlana Hazar Imam
Foundation Ceremony of
Aga Khan Academy
Maputo, Mozambique
June 25, 2004

Speech at [AKDN](#)



Photo: AKDN

The most important thing we can learn - or teach - at any School - in a world of perpetual change - is the ability to go on learning.

Mawlana Hazar Imam
Foundation Ceremony for the AKU
Graduate School of Media and
Communications (Nairobi, Kenya)
27 July 2011

Speech at [AKDN](#)

From the seventh century to the thirteenth century, the Muslim civilisations dominated world culture, accepting, adopting, using and preserving all preceding study of mathematics, philosophy, medicine and astronomy, among other areas of learning. The Islamic field of thought and knowledge included and added to much of the information on which all civilisations are founded.

Mawlana Hazar Imam
Baccalaureate address at
Brown University
May 26, 1996

Speech at [AKDN](#)

"The Aga Khan University is to be an Islamic Institution. It will draw upon the great historical tradition of Muslim learning, the heritage of such scholars and scientists as al-Razi, al-Biruni, Ibn Sina and Ibn Rushd."

Mawlana Hazar Imam
Inauguration of the Aga Khan University
Karachi, Pakistan
November 11, 1985

.....you can have nothing in your pocket, and only the clothes and the shoes you wear, but if you have a well educated mind, you will be able to seize the opportunities life offers you, and start all over again.

Mawlana Hazar Imam, "The Peterson Lecture," Atlanta, Georgia, USA, April 18, 2008
Speech at [AKDN](#)