



Civilizations Exchange & Cooperation Foundation

October 17, 2012

Happy Eid ul-Adha and Happy Thanksgiving

CECF wishes all the students and their host families a Happy Eid ul-Adha and a Happy Thanksgiving.

Eid ul-Adha (Feast of Sacrifice) will take place on Friday, October 26, 2012. This holiday can be traced back to the story of Prophet Abraham, the founding father of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. He was tested with a dream to see, if he would offer his beloved son, Ismail, in sacrifice to God, Almighty Allah. As Prophet Abraham demonstrated his sincere and complete willingness to do so, the Merciful and Compassionate Lord sent the Archangel Gabriel with a lamb for Prophet Abraham to offer in sacrifice and gratitude instead. That tradition of offering a sheep to feed the poor and the needy continues to be celebrated by Muslims all over the world. This holiday commemorates Prophet Abraham's unconditional love, obedience and offering to Almighty Allah as it does in Judaism and Christianity.

Following Eid ul-Adha there will be another very important occasion here in America called Thanksgiving. The concept of offering in gratitude and giving in thanks is something to be remembered and acted upon every day. "*Alhamdulillah, Praise the Lord*" is a phrase that Muslims repeat more than 20 times daily in prayers for the many blessings that we cannot even begin to count in light of the ocean of endless bounties, graces and blessings, in which we live.

One of these many blessings that you can thank God for is your nomination to receive a scholarship for the YES Program in the U.S. You are living with an American host family who has generously opened their home to you and taken you in as one of their own children. You are also being cared for by organizations which follow your progress step by step. This opportunity to experience another culture and life style other than your own can be a turning point in your life.

Without doubt, the similar meanings of Eid ul-Adha and of Thanksgiving, celebrated on November 22nd, provide us with occasions for reflection. Remember to take a moment and share the similarities with your host family.

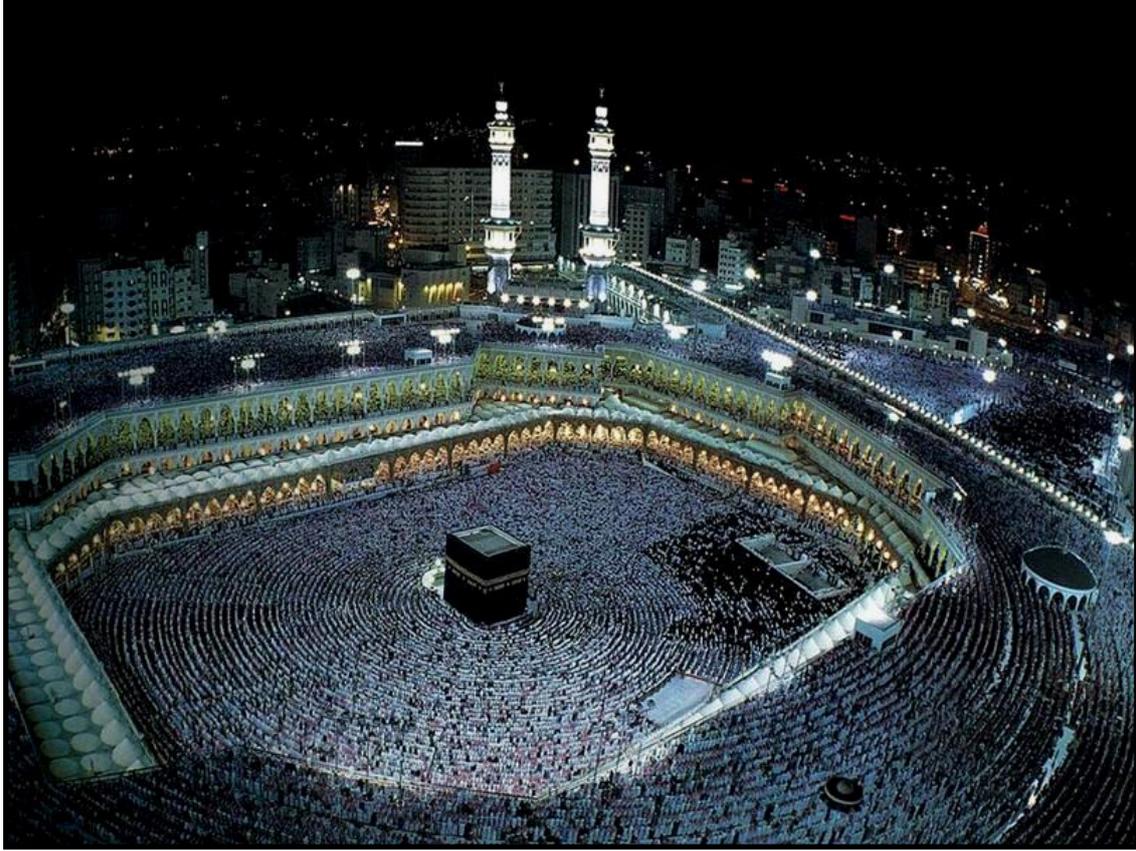
Again, we would like to wish you Eid Mubarak, Happy Thanksgiving and a successful stay in America.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Imam Mohamad Bashar Arafat', with a long horizontal line extending to the left.

Imam Mohamad Bashar Arafat
President

Eid Mubarak!



We wish you, your families and your colleagues a safe and joyous Eid Ul Adha, full of ease, forgiveness, happiness and increased caring for others.

Eid ul Adha Mubarak!

Imam Mohamad Bashir Arafat



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(CECF)*