



Press release  
The Hague, 15 March 2007

## PRINCE CLAUS FUND LIBRARY HOLDS BOOK LAUNCH AT NIEUWE KERK

The Prince Claus Fund Library is proud to announce its new publication: *The Turkic Speaking Peoples, 2,000 Years Art and Culture from Inner Asia to the Balkans*, edited by Ergun Çağatay and Doğan Kuban. On 21 March a special book launch for this publication will be held in the Nieuwe Kerk, Amsterdam.

Around 2000 years ago, Turkic speaking people began migrating from the heart of Asia westward towards the Mediterranean. On the way, they founded several empires and their cultures still exist today, spread over a vast region. This richly illustrated collection of essays and articles offers a comprehensive look at the history and importance of Turkish culture, from the classification of Turkic languages to art and architecture, from pre-Islamic nomadic life to Chinese historical connections, to the Turco-Arab symbiosis and right up to modern times.

### 21 March, the Nieuwe Kerk in Amsterdam

To celebrate the launch of **Turkic Speaking Peoples**, The Prince Claus Fund in cooperation with the Nieuwe Kerk has organised a special lecture by historian **Isenbike Togan** on **Turkic Speaking Peoples and Islam, Variations on a Theme**, To be followed by a tour of the exhibition **Istanbul. The City and the Sultan** at the Nieuwe Kerk in Amsterdam, 21 March 7.30 p.m.

#### Program

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| 7.30 p.m.        | welcome and coffee  |
| 8.00 p.m.        | welcome by Ernst Veen, Director Stichting Nieuwe Kerk<br>and by Els van der Plas, Director Prince Claus Fund<br>lecture by Isenbike Togan: "Turkic speaking Peoples and Islam,<br>Variations on a Theme." |
| 9.00 –10.30 p.m. | visit of the exhibition and drinks  |

#### More information and registration:

Prince Claus Fund  
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## **Background information**

### **The Turkic Speaking Peoples**

#### **2,000 Years of Art and Culture from Inner Asia to the Balkans**

**Edited by Ergun Çagatay and Dogan Kuban**

Prestel Publishing, Prince Claus Fund Library

This book expands and enriches our image of Turkic culture and history. 2,000 years ago the migration of Turkic speaking people started in the heart of Asia and on their way to the western Mediterranean they founded several empires. Turkic speaking peoples and their cultures still exist today in a vast region, literally from Western China to the Balkans.

"This book is the best introduction to the world of the Turks, past and present ... Written by a group of eminent scholars, it covers subjects that range from the classification of Turkic languages to religion, literature, the arts, and general lifestyle ... this volume is certain to be welcomed with enthusiasm by the academic community, and it is also the best introduction to the world of the Turks, past and present, for the general reader." **Svat Soucek**

### **Istanbul. The City and the Sultan**

#### **Nieuwe Kerk, Amsterdam**

Till 15 April 2007 one of the most remarkable cities in the world takes centre stage in a major exhibition at the Nieuwe Kerk: ISTANBUL. Crossroads of world civilisations and cradle of culture. The Ottoman dynasty left its mark on this unusual city and gave it sumptuous palaces, mosques and collections. Nearly 300 treasures of the sultans from many museums in Istanbul are coming to Amsterdam, including those from the world-famous Topkapi Museum.

### **Prince Claus Fund**

The Prince Claus Fund is a platform for intercultural exchange. It works jointly with individuals and organisations mainly in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean on the realisation of activities and publications reflecting a contemporary approach to the themes of culture and development.

### **Prince Claus Fund Library**

The Prince Claus Fund Library supports books addressing culture and development, especially those areas that receive little attention and have been little explored. The Library produces publications that are visually rich and address a general audience. Topics covered among many others: African fashion, African contemporary art, Iranian photography and cinema, Pakistani visual design and Indonesian contemporary art.