

IQBAL DAY— SINGAPORE

23RD FEBRUARY 2000

TOHEED AHMAD

Ambassador

Prof. Schimmel spoke on “Dr. Muhammad Iqbal: Poet-Philosopher of the East” in the auditorium of the RELC International Hotel on 23rd February. Her talk was preceded by a 12-minute musical recitation of passages from the poem *Masjid-i-Qurtuba* by Tina Sani, with reading of English translation. This item thrilled the audience. Prof. Obaid-ul-Haq made a brief introduction of the speaker and spoke about the importance of Allama Iqbal for Pakistan in particular, and the Indian Muslims in general. Prof. Schimmel’s talk was introductory; she went over the major themes in Allama’s poetry and quoted the original verses. About 200 persons listened to her with rapt attention. This was the first public lecture on the Allama in Singapore. Because of the effort and encouragement of this High Commission, from this year, the Sociology Department of the National University of Singapore has introduced Iqbal Studies in their curriculum. Dr. Farid al-Attas is the coordinator. Copies of Sharif al-Mujahid’s introductory monograph on the Allama and Schimmel’s autobiographical essay *A Life of Learning* was distributed among the audience. The Iqbal Academy Pakistan collaborated with the Embassy for the event. An exhibition of photographs on Allama was also arranged by the Academy at the venue. After the talk, all guests were served light refreshments. A report from the daily *Berita Harian* (Malay Language Daily of Singapore) is given in the following pages.