



## Invitation

Thursday, July 4th, 2013, 6 pm

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### **The Localization of the Transnational Tablighi Jama'at Network in Kyrgyzstan: Reconsidering Traditional and Islamic Practices**

#### Venue

Zentrum Moderner Orient  
Kirchweg 33

14129 Berlin

#### Lecture by Prof. Mukaram Toktogulova

The Tablighi Jama'at (TJ) transnational network that emerged in India and Pakistan in the early twentieth century began to expand its missionary activities to Central Asia in the 1990s. Its aim was to bring post-Soviet Muslim society back to Islam through a revival of religious practice by travelling lay missionary groups with a "davat" programme, a local term for "da'wa" (mission/invitation). Although the Tablighi Jama'at is currently banned in all Central Asian countries and Russia, with the exception of Kyrgyzstan, the movement has gradually increased its impact on the region. In particular, Tablighi activities have attracted the interest of Muslim youth in Kyrgyzstan. Indeed, 6242 "davatchys" (Tablighi activists) carried out 40-day journeys in the different regions of Kyrgyzstan in 2012. This presentation aims at examining the localization of Tablighi practices in Kyrgyzstan and the contested discourses around it. In so doing, the talk explores how TJ discourse and practice have been shaped by local socio-cultural experiences and how traditional cultural and religious practices are reconsidered in a new way.

GEFÖRDERT VOM



Bundesministerium  
für Bildung  
und Forschung

**Mukaram Toktogulova** is a visiting research fellow of the Crossroads Asia competence network, currently based at Zentrum Moderner Orient Berlin. She teaches cultural anthropology at the American University of Central Asia in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Her main research interests are Islam in Central Asia, sacred sites in Kyrgyzstan, language ideologies and oral tradition of Kyrgyz People in the post-Soviet period. Her current research focuses on the development of the transnational Tablighi Jama'at network in Kyrgyzstan. Together with Atpaeva, Egemberdieva, she published *Mazar Worship in Kyrgyzstan: Rituals and Practitioners in Talas* (Aigine Research Center, Bishkek, 2008).