

IN THIS ISSUE**ANKARA CENTRE UPDATE****Twenty-first Session of the Board of Directors of the ICDT****First Preparatory Meeting for the Workshop on the Role of Tourism in the Promotion of Economic Cooperation amongst the OIC Member Countries****Fourth Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism****OIC NEWS****Third Session of the Trade Negotiating Committee****Eleventh Private Sector Meeting for the Promotion of Trade and Joint Venture Investment among Islamic Countries****OTHER NEWS****Thirty-sixth Session of the UN Statistical Commission****UPCOMING EVENTS****CENTRE PUBLICATIONS****LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS****UPDATE ON ANKARA CENTRE ACTIVITIES****TOWARDS BETTER COORDINATION AMONGST OIC INSTITUTIONS**

The Islamic Centre for the Development of Trade (ICDT) held the twenty-first session of its Board of Directors in Casablanca, Morocco, on 12-13 January 2005. The agenda of the meeting included, among others, the work programme to be carried out by the Centre during the year 2005/2006 within the framework of the overall activities of the OIC. Ambassador Erdinç Erdün, Director General of the Ankara Centre, attended the meeting as guest. He made use of the opportunity to investigate with his counterpart at the said Centre the ways and means of better coordinating the annual work programmes and activities of the two institutions in such a way as to avoid any duplication of work and ensure the highest level of complementarity in their work programmes and ad-hoc projects in line with the much-stressed need for optimum efficiency of the overall activities of the OIC and its subsidiary organs.

SESRTCIC CONTRIBUTES TO THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS SESSION OF THE TWENTY-FIRST COMCEC

The Twentieth Session of the COMCEC, held in November 2004, decided that the theme of the exchange of views session during its twenty-first meeting be "The Role of Tourism in the Promotion of Economic Cooperation Amongst OIC Member Countries" and

entrusted the related OIC organs, including the SESRTCIC, with the task of organising a workshop on the subject in Casablanca, Morocco, on 14-15 June 2005, to provide the ministers with the necessary input and background information that would help them come out with the most appropriate recommendations and workable measures for the promotion of intra-OIC tourism activity.

The first preparatory meeting for the said Workshop was held at the ICDD headquarters in Casablanca on 23 February 2005. All concerned institutions, including particularly SESRTCIC, IDB, ICCI as well as the related local institutions in Morocco such as the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Foreign Trade and the National Federation of Tourism, were invited to the Meeting. Mr. Jalel Chouchane, General

Coordinator, represented the SESRTCIC thereat.

The agenda of the Meeting included several points pertaining to both the technical and logistic aspects of the Workshop such as the program components, the list of participants and invitees, the lecturers and the presentations, the financial support, the notification to the Member States, the promotional campaign etc.

Mr. Chouchane briefed the participants on the expected technical contribution of the SESRTCIC to the Workshop and outlined the working paper that was being prepared for the event. He also informed about the Centre's statistical activity involving the tourism sector and pointed out its successful contributions to all the OIC ministerial meetings already held on this sector.

OIC TOURISM MINISTERS REQUEST SESRTCIC TO FOLLOW-UP THE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SECTOR

The Fourth Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism was held in Dakar, Senegal, on 29-30 March 2005. It was preceded by a one-day Meeting of Senior Officials on 28 March. Representatives from 48 member countries, the World Tourism Organisation (WTO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the General Secretariat of the OIC and its subsidiary, specialised and affiliated institutions attended the Conference. Mr. Jalel Chouchane, General Coordinator, and Mr. Nabil Dabour, Chief of Social Research Section, represented the Centre thereat.

The Centre contributed to the Conference a major working paper on international tourism in the OIC region and the modalities for strengthening cooperation in this vital economic sector. It also circulated to the participants its most recent statistical publications on tourism as well as a questionnaire to collect the most recent data of the sector.

After the adoption of the Agenda and Work Programme, the Ministers considered the report of the Senior Officials and the report of the Follow-Up Committee of the 3rd Conference, held in Riyadh in October 2003. During the general debate, statements were made by the representatives of several member countries and the Conference took note of a number of issues and proposals raised during the discussion concerning the ways and means of strengthening cooperation among OIC countries in this vital field of economic and social activity.

In the Conference's Resolution, the Ministers paid tribute to the SESRTCIC for its valuable contributions to the various meetings and workshops on tourism and entrusted it with the task of following up the developments in the sector and reporting thereon to their next Session. They also welcomed the offer of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the Experts Group Meeting on

Tourism on 21-24 July 2005 as well as the offer of the Republic of Azerbaijan to host

the fifth session of the conference.

OIC NEWS

THIRD MEETING OF THE TRADE NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE

The Third Meeting of the Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC), set up within the Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member Countries (TPS-OIC), convened in Antalya, Turkey, on 5-8 January 2005. Representatives from 13 member countries who ratified the Framework Agreement participated in the Meeting. 10 other member countries who have not signed or ratified the Agreement also attended the Meeting as observers.

The Meeting welcomed the ratification by Kuwait, Qatar, Syria and the United Arab Emirates of the Framework Agreement and expressed the hope that other member countries will follow suit very soon.

The Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) Secretariat made a presentation on the

recent developments in the trade negotiations for establishing the trade preferential system. The presentation focused on the developments since the second meeting in the light of the communications made by the various countries regarding their positions vis-a-vis the "Revised Proposed Tariff Reduction Modality Under the TPS-OIC" and the membership of the TNC.

After lengthy deliberations, the Committee agreed on the said revised version of the document and requested the Secretariat to prepare a draft protocol text based on it and circulate it among the participating countries before the convening of the Fourth Session in March 2005.

ELEVENTH PRIVATE SECTOR MEETING AND TENTH TRADE FAIR

The Ministry of Industry and Commerce of the Kingdom of Bahrain, in collaboration with the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the related OIC institutions, organised the Tenth Trade Fair of Islamic Countries on 5-9 February 2005 at the Bahrain International Exhibition Centre. The main theme of the event was the "Role of the Private Sector in the Economic Integration of Islamic Countries". About 500 enterprises from 41 member countries participated in the exhibition.

On the sidelines of the Fair, the Eleventh Private Sector Meeting for the Promotion of Trade and Joint Venture Investment Among Islamic Countries was also held on 5-7 February 2005. It was inaugurated by His Royal Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain, and attended by more than 400 delegates from 30 member countries and international/regional organisations.

After the inaugural function and the election of members of the bureau, the

delegates held three working sessions during which several presentations were made on issues related to the theme of the Meeting as well as on the experiences of some participating member countries in the field of private sector and investment promotion.

Bilateral meetings were also held among the businessmen, banks, financial institutions, project sponsors and investors where they discussed the possibilities of cooperation in areas of common interest.

OTHER NEWS

THIRTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE UN STATISTICAL COMMISSION

The Thirty-sixth Session of the UN Statistical Commission was held at the United Nations headquarters in New York on 1-4 March 2005. The Session was attended by representatives from 24 Member States of the Commission as well as observers from other Member States of the UN, representatives of organisations of the UN system and observers from inter-governmental, non-governmental and other organisations active in international statistical work.

After the election of the officers and the adoption of the agenda, the Commission discussed, in the light of the relevant reports presented by the Secretary-General and/or mandated groups and concerned bodies, the various agenda items which included particularly issues related to economic statistics, demographic and social statistics, natural resources and environment statistics. The Commission also reviewed and assessed the recent developments with respect to several other activities not classified by field, including the statistical capacity building, the international economic and social classification, the presentation of statistical data and metadata, the common standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata, and the information and communication technologies statistics.

On the other hand, the Commission took note of the work carried out by the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Indicators and reviewed the advancement made by the Group in compiling indicators for global monitoring. It also noted that many countries still lack the capacity to produce the necessary data and that a review of the indicators currently being produced at the national level was necessary. The Commission, therefore, requested that a report be prepared regularly, beginning with its thirty-seventh session, on the ability of countries to produce individual indicators and on how metadata should be presented to accompany MDG Indicators.

The meeting agreed to form a group of Friends of the Chair to define the modalities of the said report and develop suggestions on the processes that can be used to bridge the information gap between users and producers of MDG indicators and cope with the lack of adequate data sources. The Bureau of the Statistical Commission will approve the membership and terms of reference of the group.

The provisional agenda for the thirty-seventh session of the Commission was set at the end of the meeting and it was recommended that the said session be held on 7-10 March 2006.

CENTRE'S AGENDA FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF 2005

MAY

3-5 May 2005, Twenty-eighth Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

7-11 May 2005, Thirty-third Session of the Permanent Finance Committee, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

10-12 May 2005, Twenty-first Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Co-operation (COMCEC), Istanbul, Turkey.

17 May 2005, Second Preparatory Meeting for the Workshop on the "Role of Tourism in the promotion of Economic Cooperation Among the OIC Member Countries", Casablanca, Morocco.

31 May - 3 June 2005, Fourteenth Session of the High level Committee on South-South Cooperation, New York, USA.

JUNE

8-10 June 2005, Experts Group Meeting on "Financing for Development", Beirut, Lebanon.

14-15 June 2005, Workshop on "the Role of Tourism in the Promotion of Economic Cooperation Among the OIC Member Countries", Casablanca, Morocco.

28-30 June 2005, Thirty-second Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, Sana'a, Yemen.

ANKARA CENTRE PUBLICATIONS

Latest Publications

InfoReport, vol. 17 no. 60, 2005 (Arabic, English and French editions).

Journal of Economic Cooperation Among Islamic Countries, English, vol. 26 no. 1, 2005.

WHAT'S NEW IN THE CENTRE LIBRARY

For a complete listing of the Library Acquisitions visit:
<http://www.sesrtcic.org/library/sesliacq.shtml>

OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES SOURCES

ALGERIA

Office National des Statistiques. *Bulletin Trimestriel des Statistiques*, no: 32, 2003.

Office National des Statistiques. *Données Statistiques*, no: 410, 2004.

Office National des Statistiques. *Indice des Prix à la Consommation*, no: 108, 2004.

EGYPT

Central Bank of Egypt. *Economic Bulletin*, 57 (2) 2004.

Central Bank of Egypt. *Economic Review*, 44 (2) 2003/2004.

GUYANA

Bank of Guyana. *Banking System Statistical Abstract*, October 2004.

Bank of Guyana. *Half Year Report and Statistical Bulletin*, 2004.

Bank of Guyana. *Statistical Bulletin*, September 2004.

IRAN

Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran. *Bulletin*, no: 187-188, 2003/2004.

Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran. *Economic Trends*, no: 37, 2004/2005.

KUWAIT

Central Bank of Kuwait. *Monthly Monetary Statistics*, 25 (12) 2004.

Central Bank of Kuwait. *Quarterly Statistical Bulletin*, 30 (3) 2004.

JORDAN

Department of Statistics. *Agricultural Statistics*, 2003.

Department of Statistics. *External Trade Statistics*, 2003.

LEBANON

Banque du Liban. *Monthly Bulletin*, no: 122, 2004.

Banque du Liban. *Quarterly Bulletin*, no: 101, 2004.

MALAYSIA

Department of Statistics. *Monthly Statistical Bulletin*, January 2005.

Department of Statistics. *Yearbook of Statistics*, 2004.

OMAN

Ministry of National Economy, Information and Publication Center. *Monthly Statistical Bulletin*, 15 (10) 2004.

PAKISTAN

State Bank of Pakistan. *Statistical Bulletin*, November 2004.

QATAR

Qatar Central Bank. *27th Annual Report*, 2003.

TUNISIA

Ministère du Développement et de la Coopération Internationale, Institut National de la Statistique. *Statistiques du Commerce Extérieur*, no: 34, 2003.

TURKEY

Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey. *Quarterly Bulletin*, July-September 2004.

Istanbul Chamber of Commerce. *Price Indices*, January 2005.

Prime Ministry, State Planning Organisation. *2000 Census of Population: Social and Economic Characteristics of Population*, 2003.

Prime Ministry, State Planning Organisation. *Main Economic Indicators*, January 2005.

WORLD BANK SOURCES

Aksoy, M.A. and Beghin, J.C. (2005). *Global agricultural trade and developing countries*.

Aw, D. and Diemer, G. (2005). *Making a large irrigation scheme work: A case study from Mali* (Directions in development).

Bouta, T., Frerks, G. and Bannon, I. (2005). *Gender, conflict, and development*.

Greuning, H. van. (2005). *International financial reporting standards: A practical guide*.

Improving health, nutrition, and population outcomes in Sub-Saharan Africa: The role of the World Bank. (2005).

Kochendörfer-Lucius, G. and Pleskovic, B. [Eds.]. (2005). *Investment climate, growth, and poverty*.

World Bank Green Mini Atlas, 2005.

WORLD BANK POLICY RESEARCH WORKING PAPERS (PRWP),

December 2004-February 2005

PRWP; 3464 / Haltiwanger, J.C., Bartelsman, E. and Scarpetta, S. (2004, Dec.). *Microeconomic evidence of creative destruction in industrial and developing countries*.

PRWP; 3468 / Briceno, C., Estache, A. and Shafik, N.T. (2004, Dec.). *Infrastructure services in developing countries: Access, quality, costs, and policy reform*.

PRWP; 3471 / Clarke, G. (Jan. 2005). *Do government policies that promote competition encourage or discourage new product and process development in low and middle-income countries?*

PRWP; 3477 / Deichmann, U., Kaiser, K., Lall, S.V. and Shalizi, Z. (Jan. 2005). *Agglomeration, transport, and regional development in Indonesia*.

PRWP; 3478 / Van de Walle, D. (Jan. 2005). *Do services and transfers reach*

Morocco's poor? Evidence from poverty and spending maps.

PRWP; 3481 / Claessens, S. and Laeven, L. (Jan. 2005). *Financial dependence, banking sector competition, and economic growth*.

PRWP; 3484 / Bravo-Ortega, C. and De Gregorio, J. (Jan. 2005). *The relative richness of the poor? Natural resources, human capital, and economic growth*.

PRWP; 3485 / Beck, T. ... [et al.]. (Jan. 2005). *Finance, firm size, and growth*.

PRWP; 3491 / McKernan, S.M., Moskowit, D. and Pitt, M.M. (Jan. 2005). *Use of the formal and informal financial sectors: Does gender matter? Empirical evidence from rural Bangladesh*.

PRWP; 3496 / Verner, D. (Jan. 2005). *What factors influence world literacy? Is Africa different?*

PRWP; 3497 / Pitigala, N. (Feb. 2005). *What does regional trade in South Asia reveal about future trade integration? Some empirical evidence*.

PRWP; 3500 / Zafar, A. (Feb. 2005). *Revenue and the fiscal impact of trade liberalization: The case of Niger*.

PRWP; 3506 / Bayraktar, N. and Moreira, E.P. (Feb. 2005). *A macroeconomic framework for quantifying growth and poverty reduction strategies in Niger*.

PRWP; 3511 / Beck, T., Cull, R. and Jerome, A. (Feb. 2005). *Bank privatization and performance: Empirical evidence from Nigeria*.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND OTHER SOURCES

Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (2004). *Fertilizer Yearbook*, vol. 53, 2003.

International Monetary Fund (2004). *Direction of Trade Statistics: Quarterly*, December.

International Monetary Fund (2004). *Government Finance Statistics Yearbook*, 2004.

International Monetary Fund (2005). *International Financial Statistics: Monthly*, February.

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Statistics Division (2004). *Central Product Classification (CPC): Version I.I.*

United Nations, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

(2004). *Bulletin on Asia-Pacific Perspectives, 2004/05: Asia-Pacific Economies: Living with High Oil Prices?*

United Nations, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (2003). *Compendium of Social Statistics and Indicators: Toward Achieving the Millennium Development Goals*, 6th issue.

United Nations, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (2004). *Bulletin on Vital Statistics in the ESCWA Region*, 7th issue.

United Nations, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (2003). *Statistical Abstract of the ESCWA Region*, 23rd issue.

Editor-in-Chief: Ambassador Erdiç Erdün
Director General
General Editor: Jalel Chouchane
Director of Publications Department
Managing Editor: Mrs. Zeynep Ersavcı
Assistant Editor

Editorial Office: Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC).
Address: Attar Sokak, No. 4, 06700 G.O.P., Ankara, Turkey.
Tel: (90-312) 468 61 72 **Fax:** (90-312) 467 34 58
E-mail: oicankara@sesrtcic.org

Inforeport İslam Ülkeleri İstatistiksel, Ekonomik ve Sosyal Araştırma ve Eğitim Merkezi tarafından yılda dört defa yayımlanır.

ISSN: 0257-9480

Postmaster: If undelivered, please return to

SESRTCIC
Attar Sokak, No. 4
06700 G.O.P.
Ankara, Turkey

**PRINTED MATTER
MATBUA
BY AIR MAIL
UÇAK İLE**

Visit our WEB Site at www.sesrtcic.org