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**UPDATE ON ANKARA CENTRE  
ACTIVITIES****A PROSPECT FOR ENHANCING  
COORDINATION AMONG THE NSOs OF THE  
OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES**

The Fourth Meeting of the Heads of the National Statistical Organisations of the Member Countries of the OIC was held in Lahore, Pakistan, on 11-13 February 2004. It was hosted by the Government of Pakistan and jointly organised by the SESRTCIC and the Islamic Society of Statistical Sciences (ISOSS). The National Statistical Organisations (NSOs) in all OIC member countries as well as the relevant regional and international organisations were invited to attend the Meeting. The Centre was represented thereat by H.E. Ambassador Erdinç Erdün, Director General, Dr. M. Qamarul Islam, Acting Director of Statistics and Information Department, and Ms. Aslı Karatekin, Deputy Director of the same Department.

In his opening speech, Ambassador Erdün expressed his thanks to the Government of Pakistan and the ISOSS for their cooperation in providing the opportunity to the highest statistical authorities in the member countries to meet and share experiences and views on the recent developments and emerging challenges in the field of statistical sciences. He then highlighted the role played by the SESRTCIC as the main technical subsidiary organ of the OIC and explained how the Centre managed, thanks to the accumulated experience of twenty-five years of existence, to become the connecting link between the statistical organisations in the member countries and the focal point for their cooperation and exchange of expertise.

The Meeting reviewed the recent developments and innovations in the statistical area, particularly those stemming from the successive breakthroughs in the field of Information Technology. It also investigated the best possible ways of enabling the NSOs in the member countries to utilise those innovations in enhancing their activities and refining their output. The Centre actively contributed to the discussions by presenting technical papers. The participants also discussed a number of

other relevant issues, including their mutual experiences in statistical data analysis and statistical capacity building, and adopted a set of recommendations that would help promote their cooperation and institutional coordination. They entrusted the Centre with the task of following up the implementation of those recommendations and reporting thereon to the next meeting (the full text of the recommendations can be viewed on the Centre's relevant web page).

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### **HARMONISING BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES IN ARAB COUNTRIES**

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Within the framework of enhancing and expanding its cooperation activities with the related regional and international organisations, the SESRTCIC organised in collaboration with the Arab Centre for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD) a workshop on "National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans in Arab Countries". The Workshop took place in Damascus, Syria, on 17-19 January 2004 and was attended by a large number of experts and resource persons from the Arab countries and the concerned regional and international organisations. The Centre was represented thereat by the Director General H.E. Ambassador Erdinç Erdün.

The Workshop aimed at providing an opportunity to exchange experiences among the Arab countries in the field of designing and implementing biodiversity strategies; review and share views on the scientific, technical and technological aspects of the biodiversity issues; and

discuss the proposed agenda items of the Seventh Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP7) and the First Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Biosafety, such as the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources and marine and coastal biological diversity, with a view to adopting a common stand on those important issues.

On the sidelines of the Workshop, Ambassador Erdün met with the Director of the Department of International Organisations and Conferences at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic and the Director of the Syrian Central Bureau of Statistics. He reviewed with both officials the good relations that exist between the Centre and the relevant institutions in the Syrian Arab Republic and investigated with them the best ways and means of further promoting those relations and expanding the scope of services provided by the Centre to Syria.

## **OIC NEWS**

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### **GENERAL ASSEMBLY PRAISES DIRECTOR GENERAL AND STAFF**

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The Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs held its twenty-

seventh session in Jeddah on 28 February-3 March 2004. The Session was attended by

representatives from thirty-three Member States, the OIC General Secretariat and its subsidiary, specialised and affiliated organs. H.E. Ambassador Erdiñç Erdün, Director General, Mr. Jalel Chouchane, Director of Publications Department and Coordinator of Administrative and Financial Affairs, and Mr. Kamuran Malatyali, Senior Economist and Coordinator of Technical Activities, represented the Centre at the meetings of the Session.

The Commission convened first in its capacity as the Joint General Assembly of the OIC subsidiary organs. As such, it reviewed the activities of the said organs during the elapsed year and considered their audited final accounts for the financial year 2002/2003 as well as their proposed budgets and work programmes for 2004/2005, as adopted by their respective Boards of Directors, and recommended their approval by the higher relevant fora.

The Commission took note with satisfaction that in June 2003 the Centre accomplished twenty-five years of useful and commendable services to the OIC and its Member States, and all participating delegates were unanimous in expressing their appreciation of the unrelenting efforts being carried out in this respect by the Centre's Director General, H.E. Ambassador Erdiñç Erdün, and its staff.

On the technical front, the Commission studied, among others, the eight technical papers presented by the Centre and adopted a set of related recommendations to be presented to the forthcoming Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers to be held in Istanbul in June 2004. The Commission also expressed its appreciation of the work accomplished by the Centre and the successful activities it carries out in its capacity as the focal point for technical cooperation activities among the OIC organs and the related United Nations agencies.

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### **MORE IMPETUS TO CLOSER COOPERATION AMONG MEMBER STATES**

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On the sidelines of the Twenty-seventh Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs, the Seventh Consultative Meeting for Economic and Trade Cooperation Among the OIC Affiliated Organs was held on 1 March 2004 at the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Headquarters in Jeddah under the co-chairmanship of H.E. Nabika Diallo, Assistant Secretary General of the OIC for Economic Affairs, and H.E. Dr. Ahmed Mohamed Ali, President of the IDB.

The Meeting was attended by representatives of the Government of Malaysia, the Government of the Republic of Turkey, the COMCEC Coordination Office, the OIC General Secretariat, the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries

(SESRTCIC), the Islamic Centre for the Development of Trade (ICDT), the Islamic University of Technology (IUT), the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), and the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO).

The Meeting took up the following agenda items: 1) the supplementary mechanism for the implementation of the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among the Member Countries of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, 2) the first round of trade negotiations under the Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System Among the OIC Member States, and 3) the economic and trade aspects of the outcomes of the Tenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference.

The delegates assessed the current state of the project proposals/ideas submitted to the Expert Group Meetings and agreed that all projects be reviewed in terms of viability and relevance during the Sessional Committee meeting of the Twentieth Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC, scheduled for May 2004 in Istanbul, with the understanding that the distribution of those projects among the participating organs, in

terms of technical support and follow-up, be in line with the mandate and the field of specialisation of each organ.

The delegates were also informed that the Republic of Turkey will host an economic summit concurrently with the COMCEC Meeting to be held in November 2004 to commemorate the latter's twentieth anniversary.

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### **OIC PERMANENT FINANCE COMMITTEE APPROVES CENTRE'S BUDGET**

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The Thirty-second Session of the Permanent Finance Committee of the OIC held its meetings in Jeddah on 28-31 March 2004 with the participation of thirty-three member countries in addition to the General Secretariat of the OIC and its five subsidiary organs. The Ankara Centre was represented thereat by H.E. Ambassador Erdiñ Erdün, Director General, and Mr. Jalel Chouchane, Director of Publications and Coordinator of Administrative and Financial Affairs.

The Committee reviewed the audited final accounts of the OIC General Secretariat

and the subsidiary organs for the financial year 2002/2003, approved their budget proposals for the financial year 2004/2005 at the same ceiling of the previous year and recommended their adoption by the forthcoming session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers to be held in Istanbul in June 2004.

The Committee also exhorted the member countries to clear their outstanding arrears and pay their contributions on time in order to provide the adequate financial support to the OIC that enables it to carry out its mandate without impediments.

### **OTHER MEETINGS**

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#### **THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS STATISTICAL COMMISSION CONVENED IN NEW YORK**

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The Thirty-fifth Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission was held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 2-5 March 2004. It was attended by the Member States of the Commission, other United Nations organisations, specialised agencies and related organisations, non-United Nations international organisations active in international statistical work,

together with non-governmental organisations. H.E. Ambassador Erdiñ Erdün, Director General, represented the Ankara Centre thereat.

After the election of the officers and the adoption of the agenda, the Commission distributed its working sessions in two meetings each day where delegates

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 issues related particularly to Demographic and Social Statistics, Economic Statistics, and Natural Resources and Environment Statistics. The Commission also reviewed and assessed the recent developments with respect to several other related issues such as the implementation of the fundamental principles of official statistics, international

economic and social classification, statistical standards for indicators, and statistical capacity building, and decided on the actions to be taken on each. It also considered the proposed expert group meetings and workshops to be convened by the Commission in 2004.

The Commission adopted the provisional agenda of its Thirty-sixth Session and agreed that it be convened on 1-4 March 2005.

## **CENTRE'S AGENDA FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF 2004**

### **MAY**

11-13 May 2004, Twentieth Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC, Istanbul, Turkey

30 May-3 June 2004, Conference on "International Water Demand Management", Dead Sea, Jordan

### **JUNE**

14-16 June 2004, Thirty-first Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, Istanbul, Turkey

## **ANKARA CENTRE PUBLICATIONS**

### **Latest Publications**

*InfoReport*, vol. 16 no. 56, 2004 (Arabic, English and French editions).

*Journal of Economic Cooperation Among Islamic Countries*, English, vol. 25, issue no.1, 2004.

*Training Opportunities in the OIC Countries*, 2004 (Arabic and English-French editions).

### **Technical Documents**

- Annual Economic Report on the OIC Countries, 2003

- International Financial Architecture: Developments and Implications

- EU Enlargement and Implications for the OIC Countries

- Economic Problems of the Least-developed and Land-locked OIC Countries, 2003

- Human Resource Development and Poverty Eradication in the Least-developed Low-income OIC Member States

- External Debt Situation of African and Other OIC Member Countries

- Islamic Common Market in the Light of Intra-OIC Trade
- Stock Exchange Alliances and a Mechanism for Cooperation Among the OIC Member States in the Area of Financial Markets
- Follow-up Report on the Recommendations of the Third Meeting of the Heads of the National Statistical Organisations of the Member Countries of the OIC
- Identification and Accommodation of Outliers in Statistical Data Sets
- Mechanism for Coordination Between the SESRTCIC and the National Statistical Organisations of the Member Countries of the OIC
- Robust Methods and Resistant Techniques in Statistical Data Analysis
- Technical Cooperation Needs and Capacities in OIC Countries in the Field of Statistics and SESRTCIC's Activities in Statistical Training
- Web Usage in the National Statistical Organisations of the Member Countries of the OIC

## **WHAT'S NEW IN THE CENTRE LIBRARY**

### **OIC MEMBER COUNTRY SOURCES**

#### **ALGERIA**

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#### **LIBYA**

National Corporation for Information and Documentation. *Annual Report on External Trade Index*, 1998-2002.

#### **MALAYSIA**

Department of Statistics, Malaysia. *Monthly Statistical Bulletin*, January 2004.

#### **OMAN**

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- PRWP; 3136 / Beck, T. and Levine, R. (2003, Sep.). *Legal institutions and financial development.*
- PRWP; 3137 / Porto, G. (2003, Sep.). *Using survey data to assess the distributional effects of trade policy.*
- PRWP; 3139 / Agénor, P.R. and Bayraktar, N. (2003, Sep.). *Contracting models of the Phillips Curve: Empirical estimates for middle-income countries.*
- PRWP; 3140 / Nabeshima, K. (2003, Sep.). *Raising the quality of secondary education in East Asia.*
- PRWP; 3142 / Love, I. and Mylenko, N. (2003, Oct.). *Credit reporting and financing constraints.*
- PRWP; 3144 / Ranaweera, T. (2003, Oct.). *Market disequilibria and inflation in Uzbekistan, 1994-2000.*
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- PRWP; 3161 / Raddatz, C. (2003, Nov.). *Liquidity needs and vulnerability to financial underdevelopment.*
- PRWP; 3162 / Gradstein, M. (2003, Nov.). *The political economy of public spending on education, inequality, and growth.*
- PRWP; 3163 / Fay, M., Leipziger, D., Wodon, Q. and Yepes, T. (2003, Nov.). *Achieving the millennium development goals: The role of infrastructure.*
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- PRWP; 3192 / Calderón, C., Loayza, N. and Servén, L. (2004, Jan.). *Greenfield foreign direct investment and mergers and acquisitions: Feedback and macroeconomic effects.*
- PRWP; 3194 / Beck, T., Demirgüç-Kunt, A. and Levine, R. (2004, Jan.). *Law and firms' access to finance.*
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- PRWP; 3196 / Saggi, K. and Smarzynska, B. (2004, Jan.). *Technological asymmetry among foreign investors and mode of entry.*
- PRWP; 3200 / Kraay, A. and Nehru, V. (2004, Jan.). *When is external debt sustainable?*

- PRWP; 3202 / Caprio, G., Laeven, L. and Levine, R. (2004, Feb.). *Governance and bank valuation.*
- PRWP; 3203 / Honohan, P. (2004, Feb.). *Financial development, growth, and poverty: How close are the links?*
- PRWP; 3206 / Carrere, C. and Schiff, C. (2004, Feb.). *On the geography of trade: Distance is alive and well.*
- PRWP; 3207 / Estache, A. and Gómez-Lobo, A. (2004, Feb.). *The limits to competition in urban bus services in developing countries.*
- PRWP; 3209 / Mansuri, G. and Rao, V. (2004, Feb.). *Community-based (and driven) development: A critical review.*
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- PRWP; 3214 / Baroncelli, E., Krivonos, E. and Olarreaga, M. (2004, Feb.). *Trademark protection or protectionism?*
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- PRWP; 3219 / Emini, C.A. and Fofack, H. (2004, Feb.). *A financial social accounting matrix for the integrated macroeconomic model for poverty analysis: Application to Cameroon with a fixed-price multiplier analysis.*
- PRWP; 3220 / Khaleghian, P. and Das Gupta, M. (2004, Feb.). *Public management and essential public health functions.*
- PRWP; 3221 / Serebrisky, T. (2004, Feb.). *What do we know about competition agencies in emerging and transition countries?: Evidence on workload, personnel, priority sectors, and training needs.*
- PRWP; 3223 / Halonen-Akatwijuka, M. (2004, Feb.). *Coordination failure in foreign aid.*
- PRWP; 3225 / Kraay, A. (2004, Mar.). *When is growth pro-poor?: Cross-country evidence.*
- PRWP; 3226 / Diop, N., Beghin, J. and Sewadeh, M. (2004, Mar.). *Groundnut policies, global trade dynamics, and the impact of trade liberalization.*
- PRWP; 3227 / El-Hawary, D., Grais, W. and Iqbal, Z. (2004, Mar.). *Regulating Islamic financial institutions: The nature of the regulated.*
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#### **THE ECONOMIC RESEARCH FORUM WORKING PAPER SERIES**

Working Paper; 218 / Isik, I., Melek, U. and Isika, E. *Liberalization, ownership and productivity in Turkish Banking*.

Working Paper; 228 / Trabelsi, M. *Finance and growth: Empirical evidence from developing countries 1960-1990*.

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#### **BOOKS**

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### CD-ROMs

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no: 4

World Development Report, 2004.

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