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CENTRE ACTIVITIES****THE TWENTY-SIXTH MEETING OF THE BOARD
OF DIRECTORS REVIEWS THE CENTRE'S
ACTIVITIES AND ENDORSES ITS PROPOSED
BUDGET AND WORK PROGRAMME FOR
2004/2005**

The Board of Directors of the Centre held its 26th Ordinary Session in Istanbul on 6-7 October 2003. The Meeting was attended by delegates from Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Turkey, UAE and Yemen. Their Excellencies Messrs. Fouad Yassin, Ambassador of the State of Palestine and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, George Habib, Ambassador of Lebanon, and Khalaf Abbas Al-Foudhari, Ambassador of the State of Kuwait, attended the inaugural session of the meeting as guests. Mr. Mohamed Riaz, and Mr. Omar Othmani, respectively, Consuls General of Pakistan and Algeria in Istanbul also attended the inaugural session.

The Board Members deliberated on the activities of the Centre during the elapsed year and considered and endorsed its proposed budget and work programme for the year 2004/2005. The Board also sent a message of congratulation to H.E. the Secretary General of the OIC on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Centre in which they expressed their full satisfaction with the Centre's performance and their encouragement and support to its Director General, H.E. Ambassador Erdinç Erdün, and staff.

MESSAGE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON THE OCCASION OF THE CENTRE'S 25th ANNIVERSARY

The Members of the Board of Directors of the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (Ankara Centre), while concluding their 26th ordinary session held in Istanbul on 6-7 October 2003, which happily coincides with the celebration of 25 years of valuable and useful services rendered by the Centre to the OIC and its member countries, hereby express to your Excellency their full satisfaction and high appreciation of the activities and assignments carried out by the Centre, and reaffirm the importance of the role it plays in enhancing the cooperation among the member countries in the multifaceted fields of its activities.

The Ankara Centre has during the recent years confirmed and further enhanced its position as a leading OIC subsidiary organ that is undeniably contributing a great deal to the realisation of the noble objectives of the OIC through the collection, processing and dissemination of the most updated and dependable statistical data and information on virtually all the socio-economic sectors in the member countries; presenting useful and enlightening studies and reports to various OIC meetings and conferences; and organising successful training courses and

seminars in subjects of current interest to help endow the Islamic Ummah with the required trained and qualified staff that would be instrumental in successfully meeting the challenges of the modern world.

The Board Members, while congratulating the OIC on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of this prominent subsidiary organ, kindly request your Excellency to convey their high appreciation and warm thanks to all the member countries who have been providing their support and encouragement to the Centre all along the past twenty-five years. The Board Members would also like to pay high tribute to the Director General of the Centre, Ambassador Erdinç Erdün, for his brilliant success in increasing the efficiency of this Centre and for the relentless efforts he is making towards bringing it to the forefront of the OIC organs. They wish him further success during the coming three years that remain in his term at the helm of the Centre and assure him of their full support and encouragement in all his endeavours.

The Members of the Board would also like to laud the staff of the Centre for their high professionalism and for the tremendous efforts they are making to carry out to the highest possible level the ever-increasing assignments of the Centre and exhort them to keep pace with their outstanding output and excellent performance.

ENVIRONMENT, AGRICULTURE AND WATER EXPERTS DISCUSS INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT IN THE NEAR EAST REGION

A Regional Conference on "Water Demand Management and Pollution Control" was held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, on 14-17 December 2003. The Conference was organised by the FAO, WHO, UNEP, ESCWA and UNESCO-Cairo Office and hosted by the Egyptian Ministries of Water

Resources and Irrigation, Agriculture and

Land Reclamation, Environment Affairs, and Health and Population.

The Ankara Centre co-sponsored the event and was represented therein by Mr. Enver

Hakan Konaç, Acting Director of the Technical Cooperation Department, who delivered a speech during the opening

session in which he gave a brief description of the Centre's activities as a subsidiary organ of the OIC and its focal point for technical cooperation. He also depicted the role played by the Centre in providing training opportunities to experts from the member countries.

127 participants from Ministries responsible for water resources, environment, agriculture and public health issues attended the Conference including resource persons from regional and international organisations and governmental agencies.

The Conference put special emphasis on "efficiency" and "equity" as the two most relevant issues to any successful demand management policy, yet probably the least understood and the most controversial. The main specific themes of the Conference were as follows:

- Water demand management: Concept and applications
- Efficient allocation of water resources: Priorities and options
- Water demand management in the municipal sector
- Water demand management in the agriculture sector
- Water demand management in the industry sector
- Efficient pollution control: Efficient waste management and recycling

Keynote presentations, working papers and background documents were circulated during the Conference which raised awareness among water stakeholders of the importance of demand management for sustainable water management and conservation.

OIC NEWS

**THE TENTH SESSION OF THE ISLAMIC SUMMIT CONFERENCE
REAFFIRMS THE NEED FOR CONCERTED ISLAMIC ACTION AND COMMON
STAND ON GLOBAL ISSUES**

The 10th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference (Session of Knowledge and Morality for the Progress of the Ummah) was held in Putrajaya, Malaysia, on 16-18 October 2003. It was preceded by a Senior Officials Meeting on 11 October 2003 and a Ministerial Preparatory Meeting on 13-14 October 2003. The Summit was attended by all OIC Member States, observer States, OIC subsidiary, affiliated and specialised organs as well as international and regional organisations. A number of guests and personalities interested in the activities of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference also attended the Summit. The Centre was represented thereto by H. E. Ambassador Erdiņ Erdün, Director General, Mr. Oker Gürler, Coordinator of Technical Activities

and Director of Economic and Social Research Department, and Mr. Jalel Chouchane, Coordinator of Administrative and Financial Affairs and Director of Publications Department.

Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia, delivered an inaugural speech in which he welcomed the leaders and representatives of the OIC Member States and the guests. He also addressed the challenges facing the Ummah and outlined its major shortcomings and the way out.

Then, the OIC Secretary General, H.E. Dr. Abdelouahed Belkeziz, addressed the assembly. He depicted the situation prevailing in different regions of the Islamic world pointing to the major problems facing the member countries, and explained the Organisation's approach to all those challenges and problems.

Afterwards, the floor was given to the Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement Summit, the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States and the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General. They all commended the role played by the OIC and reaffirmed the determination of their organisations to boost and develop cooperation with it in all fields.

The Conference welcomed the participation of H.E. Mr. Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, in the Opening Session of the Tenth Islamic Summit Conference and expressed its appreciation of the desire of the Russian Federation to establish strong relations with the OIC as indicated by President Putin in his speech.

The Conference unanimously elected H.E. Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia, as the Chairman of the Tenth Session.

Upon the endorsement of the report submitted by the Preparatory Ministerial Meeting and the approval of the Agenda

and Programme of Work, the Summit distributed its proceedings among three committees:

- Committee on Political, Legal, Information, Muslim Communities and Minority and Islamic Boycott of Israel Affairs
- Committee on Economic, Administrative, Financial and Science and Technology Affairs
- Committee on Cultural and Islamic Affairs

At the closing session, the Conference adopted the draft resolutions presented by the three above-mentioned committees,

together with the Final Communiqué and a 12-point work programme called the Putrajaya Declaration on Knowledge and Morality for the Unity, Dignity and Progress of the Ummah.

The Conference unanimously agreed to award the Honourable Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia, the Certificate of Merit in recognition of his support, ideas and outstanding contribution to further the causes of the Ummah and welcomed the offer of the Republic of Senegal to host the Eleventh Session of the Summit.

THE NINETEENTH SESSION OF THE COMCEC STRESSES THE NEED FOR STRENGTHENING ECONOMIC COOPERATION AMONG THE MEMBER STATES

The Nineteenth Session of the COMCEC was held on 22-23 October 2003 in Istanbul, Turkey. It was preceded by a Meeting of Senior Officials on 20-21 October 2003.

Delegations from 40 OIC Member States attended the Session. The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and Bosnia-Herzegovina participated as observers and the Republic of Macedonia as guest.

The OIC General Secretariat, the Ankara Centre, the Islamic Centre for Development

of Trade, the Islamic University of Technology, the Islamic Development Bank, Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit and the Association of National Development Financing Institutions also attended the Meeting.

Representatives from the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Federation of Consultants from Islamic Countries, the Federation of Islamic Countries' Contractors, the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation, the Developing Eight (D-8), the World Trade Organisation and the World Bank-IFC were also present at the Session. H.E. Ambassador Erdinç Erdün, Director General, Mr. Oker Gürler, Coordinator of Technical Activities and Director of the Research Department, and Mr. Kamuran Malatyalı, Senior Economist, represented the Centre thereat.

The Opening Ceremony was held under the Chairmanship of H.E. Ahmet Necdet Sezer, President of the Republic of Turkey

and Chairman of the COMCEC. President Sezer delivered a keynote in which he highlighted the importance of the role played by the Committee in further developing and promoting the economic and commercial cooperation between the OIC member countries.

The Chairman of the Senior Officials Meeting made a presentation summarising the outcome of the deliberations of the Senior Officials on the Agenda Items of the Meeting. Thereafter, the heads of various delegations presented their country reports during the Exchange of Views Session on “Impact of Electronic Commerce and Use of Information Technology in the Promotion and Development of Intra-OIC Trade”.

The Ministers subsequently adopted the Resolutions relating to their deliberations on the agenda items discussed during the Session. They also decided, inter alia, that “Trade and Transport Facilitation Among the OIC Member States” would be the

theme for the exchange of views at the next session of the COMCEC. In this connection, they requested ICDT, ICCI and OISA in collaboration with the related OIC institutions, including the SESRTCIC, and other international organisations, to organise a workshop on the topic and submit its report to the next session.

The Ministers also expressed their thanks and appreciation to the Ankara Centre for the valuable reports it prepared and presented to the Session particularly on the economic developments in the member countries and the international financial architecture and entrusted the Centre to continue to follow up and study the developments and the implications of the said subjects.

The Session also listened to a statement made by H.E. Ambassador Erdinç Erdün, the Director General of the Centre, in which he conveyed, inter alia, his thanks and appreciation to all the member countries for their unfailing support of and encouragement to the Ankara Centre.

The Session congratulated the Centre for its 25th anniversary, being celebrated this year, and expressed its satisfaction and appreciation of its activities. It also reaffirmed the importance of the role it plays in enhancing cooperation among the Member States.

The Session agreed that the 20th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee be convened on 11-13 May 2004, and the 20th Session of the COMCEC be held on 23-26 November 2004 in Istanbul.

OTHER MEETINGS

20th MEETING OF ICDT'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Twentieth Session of the Board of Directors of the Islamic Centre for the

Development of Trade (ICDT) convened in Casablanca, Morocco, on 17-18 December 2003. Ambassador Erdiñ Erdün, Director General of the Ankara Centre, attended the Session as guest. He made use of that opportunity to investigate with his counterpart at the said Centre the ways and means of better coordinating the 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 the OIC and its subsidiary organs. Ambassador Erdün also exchanged views with ICDT's management on the ongoing preparations for the OIC's participation in Expo 2005 to be organised in Aichi, Japan.

CENTRE'S AGENDA FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2004

JANUARY

17-19 January 2004, Workshop on 'National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans in Arab Countries', Damascus, Syria

FEBRUARY

11-13 February 2004, Fourth Meeting of the Heads of the National Statistical Organisations of the OIC Member States (SH4), Lahore, Pakistan

28 February-3 March 2004, Twenty-seventh Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

MARCH

2-5 March 2004, Thirty-fifth Session of the Statistical Commission, New York, USA

28-31 March 2004, Thirty-second Session of the Permanent Finance Committee, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

ANKARA CENTRE PUBLICATIONS

Latest Publications

InfoReport, vol. 15 no. 55, Arabic, English and French editions.

Journal of Economic Cooperation Among Islamic Countries, English, vol. 24, issue no. 4, 2003.

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JULY-SEPTEMBER 2003

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

ISSN: 0257-9480

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