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**UPDATE ON ANKARA CENTRE ACTIVITIES****THE CENTRE CELEBRATES ITS 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

On the occasion of its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the efforts rendered by the Ankara Centre was acknowledged by messages of the Secretary General of the OIC and the Director General of the Centre.

**MESSAGE OF H.E. THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANISATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE ON THE OCCASION OF THE 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF SESRTCIC**

It is gratifying to note that the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC) is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. SESRTCIC was established to cater for the research needs of the OIC and its Member States in the economic and social fields.

Since its inception, SESRTCIC has been rendering commendable service providing statistical data on social and economic matters in Member States through its regular publications, engaging in socio-economic research on subjects of concern to Member States, providing background documents for conferences under the auspices of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference and bringing out regular periodicals and publications.

It is worth mentioning in this respect that the high quality training courses that SESRTCIC organises every year in various subjects of interest to the Member States contribute to a large extent in upgrading the skills of experts from the

Member States enabling our Ummah to work towards meeting successfully the challenges of the modern world.

Indeed, SESRTCIC with its qualified staff under the guidance of its Director General has been able to turn SESRTCIC into an OIC institution occupying an important position rendering valuable services to the OIC and its Member States.

I wish the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre continued success in its sphere of activity.

**Dr. Abdelouahed Belkeziz**  
**Secretary General**

**THE DIRECTOR GENERAL PAYS  
TRIBUTE TO THE CENTRE STAFF  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE SILVER  
ANNIVERSARY**

**Message of the Director General  
On the Occasion of the Centre's 25<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary**

When, 25 years ago, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the OIC member countries agreed during their eighth Conference to establish the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries, or the Ankara Centre, they rightly endowed the OIC system with the appropriate tool to enhance the effectiveness of economic and technical cooperation among the Islamic countries. Since its inception, the Centre has been studiously pursuing that objective and, in the process, acquired the tools and the experience necessary for carrying out the tasks assigned to it by the various OIC fora. It has also gained the support and trust of an increasing number of OIC countries and institutions as well as the recognition and cooperation of many regional and international organizations. Anniversaries are landmarks in the history of institutions. They provide opportunities to assess past activities, revise existing strategies, and

plan for the future. On this occasion, it gives me great pleasure and much pride to state that the Ankara Centre has developed itself into a centre of renown that is contributing to a large extent, within the sphere of its mandate, to the achievement of the noble objectives of the OIC. The wide range of its output, whether in the form of technical reports and background documents, statistical databases and publications, or training courses and workshops, has become a very much sought-after source of related information and knowledge for the whole OIC community and other interested circles.

During the course of all these years, the Ankara Centre has become an effective and productive international research Centre. Its success is that of all the member countries of the OIC. As a group of developing countries, they have created such a unique example to meet their collective needs and developed this Centre into a full-fledged institution in its field by providing it their full support and unflinching backing.

The vast accumulated experience and great achievements accomplished notwithstanding, there certainly remains room for improvement and scope for refinement. The management and staff of the Centre are fully aware of the heavy responsibility entrusted to them and are determined not to spare any effort to make this 25th anniversary a springboard towards further boosting the image of the Centre and expanding its activities to the benefit of our member States.

That determination towards success and commitment to distinction have been indeed a constant feature of the Centre's staff throughout the past years. I had the opportunity to appraise and acknowledge their devotion since the first days of my tenure as the Chief Executive of this Centre. I cannot but express to them my heartfelt thanks and appreciation for all their efforts. My deep thanks go also to H.E. Dr. Abdelouahed Belkeziz, the

Secretary General of the OIC, for the renewed confidence he placed in me last year by renewing my contract for a second term of four years and giving me, thus, the privilege of remaining until 2006 at the service of the OIC and associated to this

wonderful and efficient team at the Ankara Centre.

**Erdinç Erdün**  
**Ambassador**  
**Director General**

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### **ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE EXPERTS MEET IN DAMASCUS**

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An Experts Group Meeting on “Land Degradation and Plant, Animal and Human Nutrition” was held in Damascus, Syria, on 20-23 September 2003. The Meeting was organised jointly by the Centre, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations and its Regional Office for the Near East.

Mr. Enver Hakan Konaç, Acting Director of the Technical Cooperation Department, represented the Centre at the Meeting, delivered a speech during the opening session and chaired a session during the proceedings.

26 participants from Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey and various international institutions attended the meeting.

The main purposes of the Meeting were to provide an overview of the preventive and curative remedial measures related to plant, animal and human nutrition and health; review the intricate inter-relationships existing in the human food chain, with a focus on common animal and human diseases such as Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE-Mad Cow) and others;

and look into the nutrient elements of current critical nature in the region with due focus on those which might cause problems in the future.

More specifically, the Meeting aimed to:

- promote an interchange of country experiences related to the inter-relationships of plant, animal and human nutrition, and
- encourage countries to develop their own national guidelines for “rules and regulations” necessary to organise the activities/procedures related to the above domains, including strengthening adherence to FAO Codex Alimentaris.

The discussion of subjects related to plant, animal and human nutrition and the presentation of specific country reports by country representatives and resource persons offered an opportunity for the participants to become more acquainted with updated information on these issues. This rendered participants in a better position to recommend appropriate national guidelines for applying the best agricultural practices in both crop and animal production.

### **OIC NEWS**

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### **TWENTY-FORTH SESSION OF THE FINANCE CONTROL ORGAN AUDITS CENTRE'S ACCOUNTS**

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The Twenty-fourth Session of the Finance

Control Organ was held in Jeddah, Saudi

Arabia, on 20-30 September 2003, to audit the Final Accounts of the General Secretariat of the OIC and its Subsidiary Organs i.e. SESRTCIC, ICDT, IUT, IRCICA for the Financial Year 2002/2003.

Auditors from Burkina Faso, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Kingdom of Morocco, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Sultanate of Oman, the State of Qatar, the Republic of Turkey and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia examined the accounts and financial operations of the mentioned institutions and made some observations and suggestions thereon. In this context, the

soundness of the financial records, documents and accounts of the Centre was carefully checked and ascertained by the auditors.

Mr. Jalel Chouchane, Director of Publications and Coordinator of Administrative and Financial Affairs, Mr. Coşkun Enginel, Director of Administration and Finance Department, and Mr. Turgay Kılıç, Chief of Finance Section, represented the Centre at the meetings of the Session.

## **CENTRE'S AGENDA FOR THE LAST QUARTER OF 2003**

### **OCTOBER**

6-7 October 2003, Twenty-sixth Meeting of the Board of Directors, Istanbul, Turkey

11-18 October 2003, Tenth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference, Putrajaya, Malaysia

20-23 October 2003, Nineteenth Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC), Istanbul, Turkey

### **DECEMBER**

14-17 December 2003, Regional Conference on Water Demand Management and Pollution Control, Sharm-El-Sheikh, Egypt

Experts Group Meeting on Islamic Common Market, Iran

## **ANKARA CENTRE PUBLICATIONS**

### **Latest Publications**

*InfoReport*, vol. 15 no. 54, Arabic, English and French editions.

*Journal of Economic Cooperation Among Islamic Countries*, English, vol. 24, issue no. 3, 2003.

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

### **MEMBER COUNTRIES SOURCES**

#### **ALBANIA**

INSTAT. *Statistical Yearbook*, 1993-2001.

**ALGERIA**

Office National des Statistiques. *Bulletin Trimestriel des Statistiques*, numéro 24, 2001.

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### **SAUDI ARABIA**

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### **SYRIA**

Central Bank of Syria. *Quarterly Bulletin*, 40 (1 & 2) 2002.

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### **TUNISIA**

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### **TURKEY**

The Banks Association of Turkey. *Banks in Turkey*, 2002.

The Chamber of Commerce. *Price Indices*, July 2003.

State Institute of Statistics, Prime Ministry, Republic of Turkey. *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics*, April 2003.

T.R., Prime Ministry, State Planning Organization. *Main Economic Indicators*, June 2003.

### **YEMEN**

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### **WORLD BANK SOURCES**

Fretes Cibils, Vicente, Marcelo M. Giugale, José Roberto López-Cálix. *Ecuador : An Economic and Social Agenda in the New Millennium*. Washington, D.C.: World Bank, 2003.

Harris, Clive. *Private Participation in Infrastructure in Developing Countries: Trends, Impacts, and Policy Lessons*. Washington, D.C.: World Bank, 2003.

Honohan, P. (ed.). *Taxation of Financial Intermediation: Theory and Practice for Emerging Economies*. Washington, D.C.: World Bank, 2003.

Klein, Michael and Bitá Hadjimichael. *The Private Sector in Development: Entrepreneurship, Regulation, and Competitive Disciplines*. Washington, D.C.: World Bank, 2003.

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Yusuf, S. ... (et al.). *Innovative East Asia: The Future of Growth*. Washington, D.C.: World Bank, 2003.

**WORLD BANK POLICY RESEARCH  
WORKING PAPERS (PRWP) SERIES,**

**APRIL-JUNE 2003**

PRWP; 3009/Messerlin, P. *Agriculture in the Doha Agenda*.

PRWP; 3018/Brenton, P. *Integrating the Least Developed Countries into the World Trading System: The Current Impact of EU Preferences under Everything but Arms*.

PRWP; 3024/Lederman, Daniel and William F. Maloney. *R & D and Development*.

PRWP; 3025/Lederman, Daniel and William F. Maloney. *Trade Structure and Growth*.

PRWP; 3026/Watson, Robert, Michael Crawford and Sara Farley. *Strategic Approaches to Science and Technology in Development*.

PRWP; 3035/Kopits, Elizabeth and Maureen Cropper. *Traffic Fatalities and Economic Growth*.

PRWP; 3038/Ravallion, Martin. *The Debate on Globalization, Poverty, and Inequality: Why Measurement Matters*.

PRWP; 3041/Beck, Thorsten, Asli Demirguc-Kunt and Ross Levine. *Bank Concentration and Crises*.

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PRWP; 3048/Ravallion, Martin. *Targeted Transfer in Poor Countries: Revisiting the Tradeoffs and Policy Options*.

PRWP; 3050/Grais, Wafik and Zeynep Kantur. *The Changing Financial Landscape: Opportunities and Challenges for the Middle East and North Africa*.

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