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UPDATE ON ANKARA CENTRE ACTIVITIES

coorganised a Training Workshop on Capacity Building in Drought Mitigation for the Near East Region Countries. The Workshop was held in Rabat, Morocco, on 1-5 November 2002 and attended by 39 participants from 13 member countries. Director General Ambassador Erdiñç Erdün represented the Centre at the Workshop and delivered a speech in which he highlighted the importance of this training workshop for the countries of the region and the role of the Ankara Centre in providing such opportunities for the OIC member countries.

ANKARA CENTRE CONTRIBUTES TO CAPACITY BUILDING IN DROUGHT MANAGEMENT IN THE NEAR EAST REGION COUNTRIES

The Ankara Centre, the Regional Office for the Near East of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO/RNE) and the King Hassan II Institute of Morocco

The workshop also provided the participants with the opportunity to become more acquainted with various aspects of drought mitigation and management as well as with

The objectives of the Workshop were to promote the exchange of countries' experiences in drought management and mitigation with a view to enhancing the national capacity of the participating countries in this field; to help the countries develop their own national plan of action, including the adoption of the rules and regulations necessary to harmonise and coordinate national activities of relief and rehabilitation; to review and endorse a draft document for an FAO regional technical cooperation programme that would support participating countries in their national efforts for adopting and implementing effective measures of drought mitigation.

other related issues such as meteorology, early warning systems, response to emergencies, and relief and rehabilitation activities.

RENEWED INTEREST OF SESRTCIC IN THE ROLE OF SMES IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS OF MEMBER COUNTRIES

In collaboration with the Ministry of Planning and Development of the Republic of Yemen and the Arab Planning Institute, the Ankara Centre organised in Sana'a, Yemen, a Training Workshop on Small and Medium-size Enterprises Development.

The Workshop was inaugurated on 14 December 2002 and organised in three blocs of five working days each whereby twenty-six participants have been trained on the most up-to-date tools, essentially the UNIDO Computer Assisted Feasibility Analysis and Reporting Programme (COMFAR), of projects evaluation, enterprises institution and enterprises development with the ultimate objective of developing a core group of professionals

equipped with the necessary skills to identify investment opportunities, prepare project studies and screen them so that the entrepreneurial community will be

encouraged to invest in projects that have been subject to detailed feasibility studies.

Mr. Jalel Chouchane, Director of Publications Department and Coordinator of Administration and Finance Affairs, represented the Centre at the Inaugural Session of the Workshop. He gave a broad description of the Ankara Centre's mandate as a subsidiary organ of the OIC highlighting the multidimensional activities

it carries out in the field of technical cooperation and training for the benefit of the OIC member countries. Mr. Chouchane also had contacts with the Deputy Minister of Planning and Development, the Chairman of the Central Statistical Organisation of Yemen and the Director General of the Arab Planning Institute and explored with them the possibilities of further enhancing the cooperation between SESRTCIC and their respective institutions.

OIC NEWS

TOURISM: A MAJOR SOURCE OF EMPLOYMENT AND A MODALITY FOR STRENGTHENING MUTUAL KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING AMONG NATIONS

The Third Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism was held in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 7-9 October 2002. It was preceded by a two-day meeting of Senior Officials on 6-7 October 2002.

The Conference was attended by delegates from 46 member countries and

representatives from the General Secretariat of the OIC and its related subsidiary, specialised and affiliated organs. The Ankara Centre was represented by Director General Ambassador Erdinç Erdün and Mr. Nabil Dabour, Chief of Social Research Section.

At the Inaugural Session, the Second Deputy Premier of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, H.R.H. Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz delivered the keynote address in which he stressed that tourism could bring Muslims closer to each other as well as with the rest of the world and underlined the urgent need for Muslim countries to cooperate in this field.

In his statement, H.E. Dr. Abdelouahed Belkeziz, the Secretary General of the OIC, noticed that apart from the ever-increasing importance of the tourism industry as a major source of employment and as an effective means of combating poverty, tourism can also be viewed from a cultural perspective as a modality for strengthening mutual knowledge and understanding among nations recalling that tourism sector was identified as one of the priority sectors in the OIC Plan of Action. In order to secure a just and equitable share of the OIC countries in the world tourism market, Dr. Belkeziz expressed the readiness of the OIC

to boost its cooperation with other international organisations, particularly the World Tourism Organisation, and referred in this respect to the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation signed between the two organisations.

The Conference elected H.R.H. Prince Sultan Bin Salman Bin Abdulaziz, Secretary General of the Supreme Commission for Tourism of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as the Chairman of the Conference. The other members of the Bureau were elected as follows: People's Republic of Bangladesh, Republic of Senegal and State of Palestine as Vice-Chairmen and Malaysia as Rapporteur.

After adopting the Agenda and Work Programme, the Ministers considered the Report of the Senior Officials. In the general debate, statements were made by representatives of 21 member States and the Conference took note of several issues and

proposals raised during the discussion concerning strengthening cooperation in tourism among OIC countries. The delegation of Malaysia reiterated that its proposal for the establishment of an OIC Centre for Tourism Development is aimed at ensuring the effective implementation of all the resolutions adopted by the ministerial conferences on tourism. A large number of participants took part in the discussion on the proposal and it was agreed that the matter, as required under the OIC Charter, has to be submitted with an elaborate study on the subject to the 30th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

At the Closing Session, the Conference adopted the Resolution on Tourism Development and the Riyadh Declaration and welcomed the offer of the Republic of Senegal to host the Fourth Conference in 2004.

FINANCE CONTROL ORGAN OF THE OIC VERIFIES THE SOUNDNESS OF SESRTCIC ACCOUNTS

The 23rd Session of the Finance Control Organ of the OIC was held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, from 2 to 16 November 2002 to audit the Final Accounts of the General Secretariat of the OIC and its Subsidiary Organs for the Financial Year 2001/2002.

The new eight member countries of this OIC body which were elected for a two-year term

by the twenty-ninth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers in June 2002 are: 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.

The auditors examined the accounts and financial operations of the mentioned

institutions and made some observations and suggestions thereon. In this context, the Finance Control Organ could once again verify the soundness of the financial operations of the Centre and the transparency of its records and accounts.

OTHER MEETINGS

ECO SUMMIT ESTABLISHES A FUND FOR RECONSTRUCTION OF AFGHANISTAN

The Seventh Summit Meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) convened in Istanbul on 14 October 2002. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Ahmet Necdet Sezer, President of the Republic of Turkey, and attended by the ECO member States: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Ambassador Erdinç Erdün, Director General of the Centre, represented the Secretary General of the OIC at the Summit.

The Summit expressed the determination of ECO member States to strengthen their

cooperation especially in the areas of trade and investment, transport and communications, energy, minerals, environment, agriculture, industry and drug control, and underpinned the urgent need for effective utilisation of the rich economic potential of the region in this respect essentially through private sector joint ventures.

The Summit also expressed the support of the member States to the efforts for the reconstruction of Afghanistan by establishing an ECO Fund for that purpose within the financial limitations of the member States.

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS COMPILATION AND NON-OBSERVED ECONOMY

A Sub-regional Workshop on the Implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts (SNA) was held in Ankara on 21-25 October 2002. The Workshop was co-organised by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO), the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and the State Institute of Statistics of the Republic of Turkey (SIS) and attended by participants from the ECO member States. The Centre was represented by Mrs. Asli Güveli, Deputy Director of Statistics and Information Department, who briefed the participants on the activities

carried out by the Centre and specifically the role it undertakes as a major statistical organ of the OIC.

Experts from the UNSD made presentations on the 1993 SNA and countries shared their experiences in this respect. The participants noted various problems of individual countries in national accounts compilation and recommended that those problems be addressed through inter-country and international cooperation. The importance of non-observed economy was also stressed and an appeal to participating countries was made to consider hosting a workshop on this topic. The workshop also recommended that a roster of experts in national accounts need to be developed in collaboration between the national statistical offices and the related international organisations.

CENTRE'S AGENDA FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2003

JANUARY

11-15 January 2003: Twenty-sixth Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

MARCH

4-7 March 2003: Thirty-fourth Session of the UN Statistical Commission, New York, United States.

23-26 March 2003: Thirty-first Session of the Permanent Finance Committee, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

APRIL

3-5 April 2003: Fourth Meeting of the Heads of the National Statistical Organisations of the OIC countries, Lahore, Pakistan.

ANKARA CENTRE PUBLICATIONS

Latest Publications

InfoReport, vol.14, issue no. 51, Arabic, English and French editions.

Statistical Handbook of the OIC Countries 2002.

Journal of Economic Cooperation Among Islamic Countries, English, vol. 23, issue no. 4, 2002.

WHAT'S NEW IN THE CENTRE LIBRARY

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PRWP; 2876 / Milanovic, B. *Can We Discern the Effect of Globalization on Income Distribution? Evidence from Household Budget Surveys.*

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