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UPDATE ON ANKARA CENTRE ACTIVITIES

The members of the Board commended the Director General and the staff of the Centre for the volume and quality of the work that has been accomplished. They also commended the marked increase in the number and quality of the training workshops and seminars organised by the Centre and expressed their high appreciation of its statistical, economic and training publications.

SESRTCIC BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMENDS CENTRE'S STATISTICAL, ECONOMIC AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES

The Twenty-fourth Meeting of the Board of Directors of SESRTCIC was held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, on 25-26 September 2001. The Meeting was attended by delegates from Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Yemen. The Director General of the Centre and the Representative of the OIC General Secretariat were present as ex-officio members of the Board. The Meeting was also attended by a Representative from IDB, as observer.

After the adoption of the Meeting Agenda, Ambassador Erdiñ Erdün, Director General of the Centre, presented his report in which he gave a full account of the financial situation and the overall administrative and technical activities of the Centre. He also presented to the Board the proposed Budget and Work Programme of the Centre for the Financial Year 2002/2003.

The Board of Directors, subsequently, approved the proposed Budget of the Centre for 2002/2003 in the amount of US\$ two million US dollars, as submitted, and recommended its adoption by the competent OIC authorities. In this context, the Board urged the member countries that had not yet done so to clear their arrears

and to start paying their annual mandatory contributions regularly and promptly to help ensure a stable flow of dependable revenues.

It has also been agreed that the Twenty-fifth Meeting of the Board would be held in the last week of September 2002.

OIC NEWS

THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF TOURISM IDENTIFIES PROJECT IDEAS AND PROPOSALS OF COOPERATION

The First Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism was held in Teheran, Islamic Republic of Iran, on 27-28 August 2001.

The Meeting was attended by senior officials from the Ministries of Tourism of 18 member countries. It was also attended by representatives of the General Secretariat of the OIC and the following organs and institutions of the OIC: the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC), the Islamic University of Technology (IUT), the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB).

At the outset, a welcome address was made by H.E. Moezzedin, Deputy Minister for Culture and Islamic Guidance of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The OIC Assistant Secretary General for Economic Affairs H.E. Diallo read out the message of the Secretary General of the OIC. In this message, the Secretary General stated that the Follow-up Committee was entrusted with the mandate of reviewing the implementation of the Resolutions adopted by the First Islamic Conference of Tourism. In this connection, he stressed the

urgency of holding an Expert Group Meeting to work out the details of specific proposals with a view to implementing the relevant chapter of the OIC Plan of Action.

H.E. Ahmad Masjed Jamei, Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance of the Islamic Republic of Iran, spoke on the importance of tourism in building bridges amongst the various cultural communities. H.E. Abu Aiteh, Minister of Tourism of the State of Palestine, made a statement in which he spoke of the destruction of cultural and tourism sites caused by the aggressive policies of the Israeli Government.

The Committee elected H.E. Ahmad Masjed Jamei, Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as the Chairman of the Follow-up Committee. The other Members of the Bureau were elected as follows: Republic of Lebanon, Republic of Mali and State of Palestine as Vice-Chairmen, and Republic of Tajikistan as Rapporteur.

After the adoption of the agenda and work programme, the OIC General Secretariat, the SESRTCIC, the ICCI and the ICDT presented background reports and papers before the Committee. Then, based on the

general deliberations and discussions that followed the presentation of these reports, the Committee identified a wide range of project ideas and proposals of cooperation among the OIC countries in three major areas: *Tourism Facilitation, Marketing, and Research and Training.*

The Committee also issued a communiqué incorporating all the ideas and proposals of cooperation in tourism in the OIC countries which were identified by the Committee. In this connection, the Committee urged the Second Islamic Conference of Ministers of

Tourism to deliberate on these ideas and come out with concrete proposals for implementing the Isfahan Declaration and the Resolutions adopted by the First Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism.

At the closing session, and after the adoption of the Report and the Recommendations, the Committee was briefed by the delegation of Malaysia on the preparations for the Second Islamic Conference of the Ministers of Tourism, to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 10-13 October 2001.

IDB BRINGS TOGETHER GENEVA-BASED PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF OIC COUNTRIES IN PREPARATION FOR THE FOURTH WTO MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

The Brainstorming Meeting of the Geneva-Based Permanent Representatives of the OIC Member Countries for the Preparation of the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference, organised by the IDB, was held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 10-11 September 2001.

It was attended by the Geneva-Based Permanent Representatives of the OIC member countries, the OIC Permanent Mission in Geneva, the IDB, the SESRTCIC, the ICDT and the ICCI. Representatives from international organisations including the WTO and UNCTAD, and from regional organisations including the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the League of Arab States also took part in the Meeting. Internationally well-known specialists from the OIC countries also participated in the Meeting. The Director of Economic and Social Research Department Mr. Oker Gürler represented the Centre at this Meeting.

H.E. Ambassador Dr. Mounir Zahran, Personal Representative of the President of Egypt to the Group of Fifteen and Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs inaugurated the Meeting. H.E. Dr. Ahmad

Mohamed Ali, President of the IDB, in his statement read by Mr. Abdul Aziz Al-Kelaibi, expressed his wish for a very successful completion of the Meeting. The Meeting was chaired by Dr. Mounir Zahran, an Egyptian specialist on multilateral trade negotiations conducted within the framework of the GATT and the WTO.

Another specialist in the area, H.E. Ambassador Nacer Benjelloun Touimi, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco in Geneva, presented some reflections on the Agenda of the Doha Ministerial Conference from the point of view of the developing countries.

An UNCTAD expert, Mr. Murray Gibbs, discussed the issues of whether there is a case for a new multilateral trade round and how the development interests of the developing countries would be served by a new round.

Then, Mr. Ram Venuprasad, of Warwick University, presented a study on E-Commerce. The last topic taken up by the Meeting was a study on Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). The study was prepared by a very well-known

specialist on TRIPS, Mr. Carlos Correa, who was unable to attend the Meeting. It was presented by H.E. Ambassador Dr. Mounir Zahran, Chairman of the Meeting.

At the end of each presentation, the

participants discussed the topics and related issues in a more detailed manner. The Meeting also provided an opportunity for an exchange of views on major issues being discussed within the framework of the WTO's built-in Agenda and on the new issues.

OTHER MEETINGS

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT MUST CONSTITUTE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING PROCESS

The Regional Training Workshop on "Water Policy Analysis and Management for Agriculture for Central Asian Countries" was organised by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) in Almaty, Kazakhstan, from 10 to 21 September 2001, in collaboration with the Committee for Water Resources under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of Kazakhstan, the SESRTCIC, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and the International Fund for Aral Sea Saving.

The Workshop was attended by specialists in water resources, irrigation and environmental protection from the Central Asian countries and international resource persons from the USA, Egypt, Turkey, Pakistan, the UK and Canada. Ambassador Erdinç Erdün, Director General of SESRTCIC, and Mr. Selim İlkin, Consultant to the Technical Cooperation Department, represented the Centre at the Workshop. Ambassador Erdün, in his inaugural speech, said that new policies had to be formulated in dealing with water issues. He emphasized that the interdisciplinary nature of water resources

problems required the integration of the technical, economic, environmental, social and legal aspects of these problems in a coherent analytical framework. Ambassador Erdün also pointed out that water resources development and management must constitute an integral part of the socio-economic development planning process.

The Workshop was devoted to actual issues of rational use of water resources and conservation, cooperation on international transboundary waterways, environmental protection and strengthening the potential of food production. It stressed the need to promote national policies in the fields of water resources management, agriculture, and environmental protection and to formulate policies facilitating conversion to water saving technologies, at the same time keeping a favorable balance for river ecosystems. All these issues are to be considered in an integrated approach to water management.

More specifically, the Workshop aimed at building the capacities of the participants in:

- strengthening the integration of economic and environmental factors and sustainable issues in the

formulation, planning and analysis of water, agricultural and rural investment,

- developing policy reforms that improve productive and allocative efficiency of water use in agriculture,
- formulating water demand management policies for irrigated agriculture to improve the sustainability of water resources use in competing sectors,
- implementing policy reforms at the macro and micro levels,
- adopting institutional reforms with a focus on decentralisation and delegation of responsibilities at the local levels, and

- negotiating the sharing of operation and maintenance costs of trans-boundary water infrastructure.

Over and above the objectives listed above, the Workshop provided an opportunity for the participants to share international experience on new irrigation technologies, international legislation, and water saving practices and considered practical approaches to implementation of water demand management policies through case studies and exercises. It also prepared recommendations to plan the national policies and strategies for water use and management.

CENTRE'S AGENDA FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 2001

OCTOBER

10-13 October 2001, 2nd Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

18-21 October 2001, 17th Session of the COMCEC, Istanbul, Turkey.

13-27 October 2001, 22nd Session of the Finance Control Organ, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

NOVEMBER

4-8 November 2001, Training Workshop on "Industrial Indicators", Cairo, Egypt, jointly with ESCWA, United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD), Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organisation (AIDMO) and Islamic Development Bank (IDB).

12-14 November 2001, Training Workshop on "Development Indicators", Beirut, Lebanon, jointly with ESCWA and Islamic Development Bank (IDB).

ANKARA CENTRE LATEST PUBLICATIONS

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WHAT'S NEW IN THE CENTRE LIBRARY

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