

**IN THIS ISSUE****ANKARA CENTRE UPDATE**

- **23rd Meeting of the Board of Directors of SESRTCIC, Ankara** 1
- **Regional Workshop on Water Quality Management and Pollution Control/FAO, Cairo** 2

**OIC NEWS**

- **First Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism, Isfahan** 3
- **21st Session of the Finance Control Organ of the OIC, Jeddah** 4
- **16th Session of COMCEC, Istanbul** 4
- **Expert Group Meeting on Islamic Common Market, Doha** 5
- **9th Islamic Summit, Doha** 6

**UPCOMING EVENTS 7****CENTRE PUBLICATIONS 8**

## **UPDATE ON ANKARA CENTRE ACTIVITIES**

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### **SESRTCIC BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS JOINT ACTIVITIES AS A MEANS TO ENHANCE COOPERATION WITH MEMBER STATES' INSTITUTIONS**

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The Twenty-third Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC) was held in Ankara, Republic of Turkey, on October 3-5, 2000. The Meeting was attended by delegates from Bangladesh, Kuwait, Libya, Morocco, 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.

H.E. Ambassador Erdinç Erdün, the Director General, opened the Meeting and welcomed the Members of the Board of Directors to Ankara. He congratulated the new Board Members on the confidence accorded to them by their Governments and expressed his pleasure to have the Board Members gathered in Ankara to evaluate the work done by the Centre during the past year and to deliberate on its future activities. He further pointed out that their deliberations would provide valuable input to the Centre's activities.

During the deliberations held on the Report of the Director General, Members of the Board discussed in

detail the financial difficulties made various suggestions and recommendations in this regard. They

The Board then took up and approved the proposed Budget of the Centre for the Financial Year 2001/2002, which included as an integral part the Work Programme of the Centre for the same year starting on 1st July 2001. While reiterating its concern over the financial problems being faced by the Centre, the Board of Directors urged the member countries that had not yet done so, to clear their arrears and start paying their annual mandatory contributions regularly and promptly after that to help ensure a stable flow of dependable revenues.

Furthermore, the Board of Directors reiterated its endorsement of the initiative of the Centre to establish, to the extent possible, direct contacts with the concerned departments and parties in member country governments in order to effectively follow up and accelerate actual payments.

The Board, while appreciating the Centre's training programmes and technical co-operation activities urged the Centre to increase its joint activities, such

as workshops, seminars and training programmes, with the national organisations and institutions in the member states. The Board also requested the Centre to intensify its efforts to co-operate with the relevant regional and international organisations, such as the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the Arab League, in formulating and implementing joint activities, projects and training programmes.

Finally, the Board requested the Centre to enhance its cooperation with Member States' statistical institutions in the area of information and statistics. In this respect, the Board felt that it would be most useful if the Member States' statistical institutions could provide the Centre with their planned programmes, publications and questionnaires. The Board further requested the Centre to prepare, in commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Centre (1978-2003), a compilation of all the activities carried out by the Centre since its inception.

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### **REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON "WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT AND POLLUTION CONTROL" STRESSES ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS IN CATALYSING CHANGE**

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General, FAO Regional Office for the

The Regional Workshop on "Water Quality Management and Pollution Control" was held in Cairo, Egypt on 30 October - 2 November 2000. The Workshop was organised by the FAO Regional Office for the Near East (FAO/RNE) in cooperation with SESRTCIC and hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture of Egypt. Mr. Enver Hakan Konaç, the Chief of the Training Section represented the Centre at the Workshop.

During the opening session, speeches were delivered by Mr. Nabil Muwalhji from the Ministry of Agriculture of Egypt, Dr. Atif Bukhari, Assistant Director

Near East, and Mr. Fernando Chanduvi, FAO-Rome Representative.

Experts, researchers and policy makers from international organisations and institutions dealing with water quality management, pollution control, water resources development or related fields in the agricultural sector as well as participants from Cyprus, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey and Yemen attended the Workshop and made presentations on the subject based on their own experiences.

The Workshop provided an opportunity for sharing information and drawing lessons. It resulted in sound recommendations to guide water resources management, particularly those waters with quality limitations, for their safe use in agriculture, forestry and related activities as well as to control and prevent

water pollution. In terms of content, the Workshop covered the new approaches in water quality management, regular water programmes of the FAO and country reports by the participants.

The main output of the Workshop was the recommendations and follow-up actions adopted at the end of the Workshop regarding the health, environmental, legislative, institutional and technological aspects of the water issue. It was concluded that there was a wide range of experience that can be beneficially shared amongst the countries of the region. In particular, the role of international organisations was deemed to be critically important not only in terms of influencing governments to take appropriate action, but also in catalysing change, setting standards, promoting better technologies and providing technical assistance and training.

## **OIC NEWS**

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### **OIC MINISTERS OF TOURISM TAKE STEPS TO FOSTER THE DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM IN OIC COUNTRIES**

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The First Islamic Conference of the Ministers of Tourism convened in Isfahan in the Islamic Republic of Iran on 3-4 October 2000. A preparatory meeting of Senior Officials was held on 2 October 2000. During the meeting, SESRTCIC presented a working document entitled "Tourism Development in the OIC Countries". The paper explored ways and means to strengthen tourism cooperation among the OIC countries. Mr. Elwaleed A. Hammour, Chief of Economic Research Section, attended the preparatory meeting and the Conference on behalf of SESRTCIC.

The Ministerial Session was attended by 31 member countries and by Bosnia Herzegovina as observer. It was also attended by officials from the OIC and other international institutions.

In the closing session, the Conference adopted the Resolution on Tourism and the Isfahan Declaration. The Resolution

on Tourism acknowledged the importance of tourism and tourism cooperation to Member States and decided to enhance cooperation in the following areas:

- Expanding information exchanges and promotion of public awareness;
- Encouraging and facilitating cooperation among private sectors in tourism;
- Providing for investment opportunities in tourism;
- Facilitating visa procedures for tourists from the member states with due respect to national laws;
- Holding of joint training courses on tourism.

The Meeting requested the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) to pay particular attention to tourism through the provision of financial facilities for its development among Member States. It also requested the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), the Islamic States Broadcasting Organization (ISBO) and the Islamic News Agency (INA) to take concrete steps to expand intra-OIC tourism through, inter alia, increased involvement of the private sectors, cultural organisations and academia.

The Conference welcomed the offer of the Government of Malaysia to host the Second Islamic Conference of the Ministers of Tourism in Kuala Lumpur in October 2001.

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**THE 21ST SESSION OF THE FINANCE CONTROL ORGAN OF THE OIC AUDITS THE FINAL ACCOUNTS OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT AND SUBSIDIARY ORGANS OF THE OIC FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1999/2000**

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The 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the Finance Control Organ of the OIC was held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia from 7 to 18 October 2000 to audit the Final Accounts of the General Secretariat and its Subsidiary Organs, i.e. SESRTCIC, ICDT, IIT, IRCICA and Islamic Fiqh Academy (IFA) for the Financial Year 1999/2000.

twenty-seventh Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers are: Burkina Faso, Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan,

The new eight member countries of this session which were elected during the

Saudi Arabia, Sudan and U.A.E.

The auditors from Burkina Faso, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Sudan 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.

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### **THE SIXTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMCEC DECIDES THAT THE NEXT EXCHANGE OF VIEWS SESSION WILL BE ON NON-TARIFF BARRIERS**

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The Sixteenth Session of the COMCEC was held on 25-26 October 2000. The Ministerial Session was preceded by the Meeting of the Senior Officials on 23-24 October 2000.

Delegations from 42 OIC Member States attended the Meeting. The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Kingdom of Thailand participated in the Session as observers and the Republic of Macedonia as guest.

The OIC General Secretariat, SESRTCIC, ICDT, IIT, IRCICA, IDB, ICCI, the Federation of Consultants from Islamic Countries (FCIC), the Federation of

Islamic Countries Contractors (FICC), and the Organisation of Shipowners Association also attended the Meeting.

Representatives from the Economic Committee of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC), the Economic Co-operation Organisation (ECO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) were also present at the Meeting.

H.E. Ambassador Erdinç Erdün, the Director General, Dr. Abdel Rahman Zeinelabdin, the Assistant Director General, and Mr. Oker Gürler, the Director of the Research Department, represented the Centre at the Meeting.

The Meeting of the Senior Officials was chaired by H.E. Akın İzmirlioğlu, Undersecretary of the State Planning Organisation of Turkey.

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. H.E. Ahmet Necdet Sezer, and H.E. Azeddine Laraki, Secretary General of the OIC, addressed the Session. The Heads of Delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Guinea made statements on behalf of the Arab, Asian and African

Groups of OIC Member States, respectively. The Head of Delegation of the State of Qatar also made a statement as the host country of the Ninth Islamic Summit Conference. Heads of Delegation praised the progress achieved by the COMCEC in the area of economic and commercial co-operation between the OIC Member States.

Then, the Ministerial Working Session was held under the Chairmanship of H.E. Dr. Devlet Bahçeli, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State of Turkey.

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, including the exchange of

views session on “Strengthening Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Facing Globalisation and Liberalisation”. Thereafter, the Heads of various Delegations presented their country reports on the same subject.

Following the presentation of country papers, the Meeting decided that those Member States that made presentations should submit to the SESRTCIC a summary of their presentations incorporating various proposals made therein by the end of 2000. The SESRTCIC will collect these proposals and include them as annexes to the Report of the 16th Session of the COMCEC.

The Ministers, subsequently, adopted the Resolutions relating to their deliberations on the Agenda Items of the Sixteenth Session. In particular, they decided that the “Effects of Non-tariff Barriers on the Foreign Trade of OIC Member States” would be the theme for the exchange of views at the next session of the COMCEC. In this connection, they requested the ICDT in collaboration with related OIC institutions, including the SESRTCIC, to organise a workshop on the topic and submit its report to the next session.

The Meeting agreed that the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Follow-up Committee would be convened on 8-10 May 2001 and the 17<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC on 18-21 October 2000, in Istanbul.

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**DOHA PLAYS HOST TO A SET OF TRADE-RELATED EVENTS INCLUDING AN EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF ESTABLISHING AN ISLAMIC COMMON MARKET**

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The Expert Group Meeting on the Implications of Establishing an Islamic Common Market was held in Doha, State of Qatar, on 13-14 October 2000.

Delegations from 12 OIC Member States attended the Meeting. Representatives from the OIC General Secretariat, SESRTCIC, ICDT, IDB and ICCI as well

as from the Economic Co-operation Organisation (ECO) were also present at the Meeting. H.E. Ambassador Erdinç Erdün, the Director General, and Mr. Oker Gürler, the Director of the Research Department, represented the Centre at the Meeting.

Mr. Gürler presented a paper on the *Implications of Establishing an Islamic Common Market and a Programme for Gradual Integration* at the Meeting.

At the end of the deliberations, the Expert Group Meeting reached agreement on a set of twelve recommendations. It concluded, among other things, that a number of prerequisites and enabling conditions need to be met before the goal of establishing an Islamic Common Market can be reached. The best option for the OIC Member States in this connection is to adopt a step-by-step approach. They also need to concentrate on the existing institutions and the various regional and sub-regional arrangements, which may be considered as the building blocks leading to the ultimate objective.

The Seventh Private Sector Meeting was

held in Doha, State of Qatar, from 15 to 17 October 2000. Around 250 delegates from 36 OIC Member Countries as well as from the OIC General Secretariat and the subsidiary, affiliated and specialised OIC institutions participated in the Meeting. At the end of its deliberations, the Meeting issued the "Doha Economic Declaration". It contained sixteen recommendations covering various aspects of economic and commercial co-operation amongst the OIC Member States, including measures to enhance the role of the private sector and ways and means to intensify contacts between businessmen and establish joint ventures amongst them.

H.E. Ambassador Erdinç Erdün, the Director General, and Mr. Oker Gürler, the Director of the Research Department, represented the Centre at the Meeting.

The Eighth Islamic Trade Fair was also held in Doha, State of Qatar, from 15 to 20 October 2000 concurrently with the Seventh Private Sector Meeting. The Trade Fair was organised by the Government of Qatar in collaboration with ICDT and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Qatar.

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### **THE 9<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE ISLAMIC SUMMIT CONFERENCE IN SEARCH FOR "PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT"**

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The 9<sup>th</sup> Session of the Islamic Summit Conference was convened in Doha, the State of Qatar on 12-14 November 2000. The Summit was preceded by the Senior Officials Meeting on 8 November 2000, and by the Preparatory Ministerial Meeting held on 9-11 November 2000.

The Conference was attended by the OIC Member States and by some other States and Muslim Communities as observers. The OIC subsidiary, specialised and affiliated institutions, as well as some international and regional organisations,

and some Islamic foundations and societies also attended the Conference. The Centre was represented by H.E. Ambassador Erdinç Erdün, the Director General, and Dr. Abdel Rahman Zeinelabdin, the Assistant Director General.

The Conference was opened by H.E. President Sayed Mohammed Khatami, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Chairman of the Eighth Islamic Summit Conference. The Conference then unanimously elected H.H. Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of the State of

Qatar as the Chairman of the Ninth Islamic Summit Conference.

H.H. the Emir of Qatar delivered the inaugural speech. He was followed by H.E. Dr. Azeddine Laraki, the Secretary General of the OIC, who delivered an address on the activities of the OIC. The Conference then adopted its agenda and work programme. The Conference adopted the motto *Peace and Development "Al-Aqsa Intifada"* for its Session. It then considered and approved the Report and the Resolutions of the Preparatory Ministerial Meeting which were considered and prepared by the following Committees:

- a) The Political, Muslim Minorities and Communities, Legal and Information Affairs Committee,
- b) The Economic, Social, Administrative and Financial Affairs Committee, and
- c) The Cultural and Islamic Affairs Committee.

After reviewing the activities of the OIC in the economic field, the Economic and Social Affairs Committee discussed the various Resolutions one by one. The Committee deliberated on the various important developments on the global economic scene, the international financial crisis, matters relating to strengthening the multilateral trading system, establishment of an Islamic Common Market, debt and

other issues of interest to the Member States.

At the end of its deliberations, the Committee adopted the relevant resolutions. The assignments given traditionally to the Centre, such as the Reports on World Economy, the Least-Developed countries, WTO activities, Regionalisation, Poverty and Debt were renewed. With respect to the Islamic Common Market, COMCEC was entrusted with the task of undertaking, in collaboration with the relevant OIC institutions, a study of the practical steps needed to reach the objective of establishing an Islamic Common Market.

The Administrative and Financial Affairs Committee took up the financial situation of the OIC and its Subsidiary Organs and the issue of the accumulated arrears of mandatory contributions. A decision was also taken to entrust the General Secretariat, in collaboration with the Chair of the Ministerial Conference, to appoint an independent management consultant firm to undertake a comprehensive study on the Organisation with a view to revamping the existing set-up and making it efficient and lean.

The Summit issued a Final Communiqué and the Doha Declaration on 'Al Aqsa Intifada-Palestinian Independence Intifada'.

## **CENTRE'S AGENDA FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2001**

### **JANUARY**

2-5 January 2001: 7th Islamic Countries Conference on Statistical Sciences, Lahore, Pakistan.

10-13 January 2001: Official Country Visit, Jamahiriya.

23-24 January 2001: 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Board of Directors of ICDT, Casablanca, Morocco.

### **FEBRUARY**

10-14 February 2001: 24<sup>th</sup> Islamic Commission, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

**MARCH**

24-27 March 2001: 29<sup>th</sup> Permanent Finance Committee, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

## **ANKARA CENTRE PUBLICATIONS**

### **Latest Publications**

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Documents for the 24<sup>th</sup> Islamic Commission for Cultural Economic and Social Affairs

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