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***UPDATE ON ANKARA CENTRE ACTIVITIES***

**COUNTRY VISIT TO THE SULTANATE OF OMAN**

Director General Ambassador Erdiñç Erdün and Assistant Director General Dr. Abdelrahman Zeinelabdin paid an official visit to the Sultanate of Oman from 12 to 16 February 1999.

During their visit, the Director General and the Assistant Director General were received by the Under-Secretary for Development at the Ministry of National Economy, the Under-Secretary at the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the Director of Economic and Technical Co-operation Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Acting Director General of the Institute of Public Administration.

The purpose of the visit was to express thanks and appreciation to the Omani authorities for having settled their country's arrears to the budget of the Centre and to explore ways and means of enhancing co-operation between Oman and the Centre.

In the contacts made, the Director General and the Assistant Director General explained in detail the mandate of the Centre and its activities. The Omani authorities expressed their appreciation and support of the Centre and its activities. They also expressed the desire and hope that co-operation between the Centre and the various government units would be enhanced in a more structured manner. There was a clear emphasis on the necessity of enhancing co-operation in the area of Training and Technical Co-operation. The Director General assured the authorities of the readiness of the Centre to intensify co-operation with Oman in all fields within the limits of the financial and human resources available to the Centre.

Regarding training, an initial agreement was reached with the Institute of Public Administration whereby the Centre would provide international experts for a training course to be conducted at the Institute. It was also agreed that the Institute would inform the Centre of the course they would like to undertake and all the relevant organisational matters related to it.

On the other hand, the Ministry of National Economy handed a document containing a number of projects for which the Centre's technical and financial support was requested. The document has been passed on to the Centre's Training and Technical Co-operation Department for comment.

Although the officials contacted expressed their conviction that the Centre was doing commendable work for the OIC community and that they could profit from its activities, they did make a point of indicating that future financial support would be subject to the manner in which the country would benefit from the Centre.

## **OIC NEWS**

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### **22nd SESSION OF THE ISLAMIC COMMISSION STREAMLINES RECOMMENDATIONS IN VIEW OF THEIR POSSIBLE ADOPTION BY THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS**

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The 22nd Meeting of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs was held from 23 to 26 January 1999 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Director General Ambassador Erdinç Erdün, Assistant Director General, Dr. Abdelrahman Zeinelabdin,

and Director of Statistics and Information Department, Mr. İlhan Uğurel, represented the SESRTCIC in the Meeting.

The first day of the meeting was allocated to the function of the Islamic Commission as the Joint General Assembly of the OIC Subsidiary Organs. In this framework, SESRTCIC presented to the Commission the Report of the Director General, the Report of the 21st Meeting of its Board of Directors, the Final Accounts for 1997/98, and the proposed Budgets of the Centre for 1998/99 and for 1999/2000.

The Commission welcomed the new Director General of the Centre and wished him success at the helm of SESRTCIC. It also paid tribute to Dr. Padi Cindoruk for having founded the Centre more than 20 years ago and having built it up to its present stature despite numerous difficulties. The Commission also noted with appreciation the highly useful work done by the Centre and its numerous contributions to the varied OIC activities in the area of economic co-operation. It approved the documents presented, and forwarded the two budgets proposed to the Permanent Finance Committee for adoption and onward submission to the 26th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (ICFM) to be held in May 1999.

Concerning its own agenda, the Commission started by considering the items relating to economic co-operation and to science and technology and then took up those relating to cultural and information affairs. The delegates held detailed deliberations on a set of recommendations that were prepared by the General Secretariat on the basis of the resolutions of the previous ICFM. This time, however, in the case of items other than those relating to assistance to individual countries and Islamic communities, a number of detailed proposals were included within the body of the recommendations in order to update, clarify, complement, streamline and strengthen the said recommendations, as they were to be adopted eventually by the Foreign Ministers as OIC Resolutions. Many of these proposals were adopted together with others that were made by the delegates themselves. Of special interest to the Centre was the fact that all Centre reports and studies were fully noted with appreciation in the body of the relevant resolutions, task assignments to various OIC bodies were clarified, and a special study was requested of the concerned OIC bodies on the implications of the newly-adopted "Euro" on the OIC countries.

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## **OIC COORDINATION MEETING TAKES UP ISSUES OF SHARES OF MANDATORY CONTRIBUTIONS AND OIC PARTICIPATION IN EXPO 2000**

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The OIC Coordination Meeting held at the General Secretariat on 27 January 1999 was attended by SESRTCIC, the Islamic Centre for the Development of Trade (ICDT), the Islamic Institute of Technology (IIT), the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA), the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), the Islamic Shipowners Association (ISA), and by the Cabinet of the Secretary-General of the OIC and the Directors of Economic Affairs and Finance at the Secretariat.

A detailed evaluation was undertaken of the Islamic Commission Meeting and consideration was given to measures that may be taken to ensure fuller recognition of the OIC bodies during future deliberations of this and other similar bodies.

It was also decided that the OIC General Secretariat would try to lobby for option 5 given as a compromise solution in the "mandatory contributions paper" prepared by SESRTCIC for consideration by the Permanent Finance Committee and the ICFM.

Finally, on the feasibility of the participation of the OIC in Expo Hannover 2000, it was agreed that under the overall co-ordination of the ICDT, a project document should be prepared on the subject and used to search for potential sponsors. Participation would be decided by June 1999, provided that the necessary funding could be secured.

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## **27th SESSION OF THE PERMANENT FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE OIC RECOMMENDS ADOPTION OF BUDGETS AT PREVIOUS LEVELS**

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The OIC Permanent Finance Committee (PFC) held its twenty-seventh session from 6 to 10 February 1999 at the OIC General Secretariat. The Meeting was attended by delegations from 32 Member Countries, namely, Jordan, U.A.E., Indonesia, Iran, Pakistan, Bahrain, Brunei, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Turkey, Tunisia, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sudan, Oman, Gambia, Guinea, Palestine, Qatar, Cameroon, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Malaysia, Egypt, Morocco, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, and Yemen. It was also attended by the General Secretariat of the OIC and the following bodies of the OIC: IRCICA, SESRTCIC, IIT, ICDT, the Islamic Fiqh Academy, the International Commission for the Preservation of the Islamic Cultural Heritage and the Permanent Council of the Islamic Solidarity Fund (ISF).

Director General Ambassador Erdiņ Erdün, Assistant Director General Dr. Abdelrahman Zeinelabdin, and Head of the Finance Department Mr. Rahmi Kaleli represented SESRTCIC at the Meeting. The Meeting took up four main agenda items:

1. The 1998/1999 and 1999/2000 budget proposals of the OIC General Secretariat and the Subsidiary Organs.
2. The Report of the 19th Session of the Finance Control Organ on the Closing Accounts of the OIC General Secretariat and the Subsidiary Organs for the Financial Year 1997/1998 and their responses.
3. The study prepared and presented by the Ankara Centre on the "Percentage Shares of Mandatory Contributions of the Member States to the Budgets of the OIC General Secretariat and the Subsidiary Organs."
4. The arrears of Member States' contributions.

The budgets were recommended for submission to the 26th ICFM at the same levels as those of 1997/1998. All requests for increase made by the other OIC institutions, including the General Secretariat, were rejected. Regarding the arrears of contributions, it was decided to continue giving the countries the chance to settle their arrears, with 50% reduction, until the year 2000, as had been decided by the 25th ICFM. The OIC General Secretariat and the Subsidiary Organs were requested, however, to exert more efforts in the collection of the arrears.

Concerning the study presented by the Ankara Centre on the Shares of Contributions, it was felt that the study was highly technical. It was decided, therefore, to entrust the OIC General Secretariat with the task of convening an Expert Group Meeting which would study the Ankara Centre document and present its recommendations to the 28th Meeting of the PFC. In the meantime, the present share scheme will be implemented.

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**OIC WORKING GROUP MEETING CONSIDERS PARTICIPATION  
OF OIC IN EXPO 2000**

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The OIC Group Meeting on Expo 2000 was convened at the invitation of the General Secretariat of the OIC. The Meeting took place in the office premises of the ICDT and was chaired by the Director General of the ICDT, Dr. Badr Eddine Allali, who is the Co-ordinator General for the OIC Expo 2000 team. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following institutions: the Islamic Fiqh Academy, the Office of the General Secretariat of the OIC, the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO), IRCICA, SESRTCIC and ICDT which will continue to play the focal role.

From the outset, it was decided to postpone the question of finance to a later date and to prepare an overall outline of the proposed contribution of the OIC in Expo 2000 to be used for two purposes:

- 1) As a background document for a proposed resolution from the forthcoming ICFM meeting with the aim of securing approval and support for the OIC's participation in Expo 2000.
- 2) For raising the necessary funds for the project.

The Meeting proposed that three kinds of products may be exhibited in Expo 2000:

- 1) Products already in existence: these are the end results of projects already completed and can therefore be exhibited without any extra cost except that required for logistic purposes. In this category fall items like films, publications, etc.
- 2) Products which are expected to be produced within the framework of the institutions' budget programmes for 2000/2001, and which may then be taken to Hannover. In this case, the implementation costs of these products are already provided for in the institutions' budgets and the only extra costs needed are those associated with the process of their transfer to Hannover.
- 3) Altogether new products which institutions can propose and prepare but which require full funding.

To enable ICDT to prepare the overall outline, all institutions should forward a plan of their proposed activities for EXPO 2000 by March 20 at the latest. Proposals shall include the following information:

- 1) Name and nature of each activity
- 2) Estimated budget for the contribution, detailed by projects
- 3) The state of implementation of each project, according to the above criterion (ready, planned or new). Due care should be taken here to provide accurate information as each choice carries with it a different financial implication.
- 4) A preliminary time-table and space requirement plan for the contribution. This is to give an idea as to when, for how long and how much space will be needed for each activity.
- 5) The number and names of the personnel who will be in charge of the activities, whenever applicable.

## ***OTHER MEETINGS***

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**THIRTIETH SESSION OF THE STATISTICAL COMMISSION OF  
THE UNITED NATIONS PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE  
CENTRE TO DEMONSTRATE ITS WEB SITE**

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The Thirtieth Session of the Statistical Commission of the United Nations took place in New York, USA, from 28 February to 8 March 1999. Mr. Candan Baysan, Chief of the Statistics Section represented the Centre at this Meeting. Mr. Baysan paid visits to the United Nations Statistical Division (Ronald Jansen of the International Trade Statistics Section) and to the OIC Permanent Observer Mission to the United Nations (Senior Adviser Shahid Husain).

The Meeting dealt specifically with such theoretical issues as those related to the methods of standardisation and comparability in different fields of statistics and a number of reports were presented by the specialised, affiliated and subsidiary organs of the United Nations on the respective topics. The Meeting also decided on a set of binding actions that will define the terms and responsibilities of the Statistics Division. During the Meeting, Mr. Baysan was able to exchange views with the Director General of the Division, Mr. Habermann, with the Secretary of the Meeting, Mr. Roberts, and with a number of participants from the OIC member countries including Mr. Othaim of Saudi Arabia and Mr. Lebdeh of Palestine. The Commission decided to meet every year.

Mr. Baysan was congratulated by several participants on the quality and coverage of the Centre's web site. During a lunch at the Permanent Mission attended by all the technical staff available, Mr. Baysan was able to summarise the statistical activities of the Centre and to make a demonstration of the Centre's web site which was met with great enthusiasm.

The Meeting was useful in two major respects: it gave the Centre an opportunity to assess the content of the present agenda of the international statistical community; more importantly perhaps, it enabled the Centre to measure the enthusiastic response aroused by the Centre's web site among the said community.

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### **THIRD SESSION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA (ESCWA) STATISTICAL COMMITTEE**

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The Third Session of the Statistics Committee of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) took place in Beirut, Lebanon, from 16 to 19 March 1999. Mr. Candan Baysan, Chief Statistician, represented the Centre in this Meeting.

The Meeting lasted for two full days excluding an extra morning session during which the report of the Meeting was edited and adopted. All the participating countries were OIC Member Countries and the delegations were all headed by the chief executives of the respective national statistical organisations. Five of the countries had already attended the Centre's Third Meeting of the Heads of National Statistical Organisations of the OIC (SH3). Methodological issues related to different areas of statistics collection were taken up and discussed in some detail and since the participants were all chief executives, the discussions were very fruitful.

The Meeting has reconfirmed the Centre's standing among the statistical community in the Member Countries of the OIC as a Centre of excellence. On another level, it has enabled Mr. Baysan to discuss with Dr. Labeeb Abdunnur, the Chief of Statistics Division, their possible contribution to the Centre's training programme on sampling

techniques scheduled to be held in Yemen, sometime within the next 12 months. The need for training in statistical sampling was strongly underlined by the country representatives attending the Meeting.

## **CENTRE'S AGENDA FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1999**

- **SPRING** 22nd Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Centre

### **APRIL**

- April 11-13: Seminar on Human Resource Development and Poverty Alleviation (IIT) in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

### **MAY**

- May 11-13: 15th Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-Up Committee in Istanbul, Turkey.
- May 24-28: 26th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

### **JUNE**

## **ANKARA CENTRE PUBLICATIONS**

### **Latest Publications**

**Journal of Economic Cooperation**, Volumes 16 and 17, 1996-97 (Arabic).

**Journal of Economic Cooperation**, Volume 19, issue 4, 1998 (English).

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

*The Centre's library receives publications from international organisations such as the United Nations and its agencies, and serves as the depository library for all the publications of the World Bank.*



*It also receives a widening range of statistical publications, reference works as well as periodicals, reviews and newsletters, on a variety of topics of interest to the OIC Community as a whole, from the national institutions of the OIC member countries.*

### Latest Acquisitions

*The following is a selection among the publications acquired by the Centre during the first quarter of 1999:*

#### **BOOKS**

AKYUZ, Yilmaz, **East Asian Development: New Perspectives**. Frank Cass, London, 1999.

ALBA, Pedro and others, **Volatility and Contagion in a Financially Integrated World: Lessons from East Asia's Recent Experience**. Policy Research Working Paper, 2008. Wash., D.C., The World Bank, November 1998.

CROOME, John, **The Present Outlook for Trade Negotiations in the World Trade Organization**. Policy Research Working Paper, 1992. Wash., D.C., The World Bank, October 1998.

DeROSA, Dean A., **Regional Integration Arrangements: Static Economic Theory, Quantitative Findings, and Policy Guidelines**. Policy Research Working Paper, 2007. Wash., D.C., The World Bank, November 1998.

DEVARAJAN, Shantayanan and Vinaya Swaroop, **The Implications of Foreign Aid Fungibility for Development Assistance**. Policy Research Working Paper, 2022. Wash., D.C., The World Bank, December 1998.

DINAR, Ariel, Trichur K. Balakrishnan and Joseph Wambia, **Political Economy and Political Risks of Institutional Reform in the Water Sector**. Policy Research Working Paper, 1987. Wash., D.C., The World Bank, September 1998.

FEACHEM, Zuzana, Martin Hensher and Laura Rose (Editors), **Implementing Health Sector Reform in Central Asia: Papers from an EDI Health Policy Seminar held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, June 1996**. EDI Learning Resources Series. Wash., D.C., The World Bank, December 1998.

FINGER, J. Michael, **GATT Experience with Safeguards: Making Economic and Political Sense of the Possibilities that the GATT Allows to Restrict Imports**. Policy Research Working Paper, 2000, Wash., D.C., The World Bank, October 1998.

MIN, Hong G., **Dynamic Capital Mobility, Capital Market Risk, and Exchange Rate Misalignment: Evidence from Seven Asian Countries**. Policy Research Working Paper, 2025. Wash., D.C., The World Bank, December 1998.

POMERLEANO, Michael, **The East Asia Crisis and Corporate Finances: The Untold Micro Story**. Policy Research Working Paper, 1990. Wash., D.C., The World Bank, October 1998.

SAVAGE, Lawrie, **Re-Engineering Insurance Supervision**. Policy Research Working Paper, 2024. Wash., D.C., The World Bank, December 1998.

WACZIARG, Romain, **Measuring the Dynamic Gains from Trade**. Policy Research Working Paper, 2001. Wash., D.C., The World Bank, November 1998.

YEATS, Alexander J., **What Can be Expected from African Regional Trade Arrangements? Some Empirical Evidence**. Policy Research Working Paper, 2004. Wash., D.C., The World Bank, November 1998.

## **DOCUMENTS**

**Annual Report 1997-1998**. Jeddah, Islamic Development Bank, 1998.

## **REFERENCE MATERIALS**

**Worldwide Government Directory with International Organizations 1999**. Wash., D.C., Keesing's Worldwide, L.L.C., 1998.

## **STATISTICAL PUBLICATIONS**

**Annual Statistical Abstract 1996**. Kuwait, Ministry of Planning, Central Statistical Office.

**Bulletin nos.165-166, Autumn 1997 & Winter 1998**. Tehran, Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Economic Research Department.

**Comptes de la Nation (Base 1983): Agrégats et Tableaux d'Ensemble (1990-1996)**. Tunis, Institut National de la Statistique.

**Economic Developments of Iran in 1375 (1996/97)**. Tehran, Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Economic Research Department.

**Economic Trends no.13, 1998**. Iran, Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Economic Research Department.

**Enquête Nationale sur le Budget, la Consommation et le Niveau de vie des Ménages 1995. Vol. A: Résultats de L'Enquête sur le Budget des Ménages. December 1997**. Tunis, Institut National de la Statistique.

**Expenditure and Consumption Levels: The Annual Report (January-December, 1997)**. Ramallah, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics.

**Export Receipts 1997-98**. Karachi, State Bank of Pakistan, Statistics Department

**Final Report and Results of the First Industrial Survey 1996**. Sana'a, Central Statistical Organization.

**Foreign Liabilities & Assets and Foreign Investment in Pakistan 1996**. Karachi, State Bank of Pakistan, Statistics Department.

**Monthly Statistical Bulletin; Economic and Social Indicators, vol. 10, no.1, 1999**. Oman, Information & Publication Center.

**Monthly Statistical Bulletin, August 1998**. Kuala Lumpur, Department of Statistics.

**Monthly Bulletin no.54, October 1998.** Lebanon, Banque du Liban, Department of Statistics and Economic Research.

**Monthly Statistical Bulletin, December 1998.** Ankara, The Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey.

**Monthly Statistical Bulletin, July 1998.** Kuala Lumpur, Department of Statistics.

**Pakistan's Balance of Payments, January-March, 1998.** Islamabad, State Bank of Pakistan, Statistics Department.

**Price Indices. December 1998.** Istanbul, Istanbul Chamber of Commerce.

**Projection de la Population Active et Demande Additionnelle d'Emploi 1995-2015, Vol IV: Niveau National et Régional.** Tunis, Institut National de la Statistique.

**Quarterly Bulletin no.3. July-September 1998.** Ankara, The Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey.

**Quarterly Bulletin no:78, 1998.** Lebanon, Banque du Liban.

**Recensement Général de la Population et de l'Habitat 1994: Caractéristiques Economiques de la Population.** Tunis, Institut National de la Statistique.

**Recensement Général de la Population et de l'Habitat 1994: Migration Intérieure.** Tunis, Institut National de la Statistique.

**Statistical Bulletin. December 1998.** Islamabad, State Bank of Pakistan, Statistics Department.

**Statistical Pocketbook of Indonesia 1996.** Jakarta, Central Bureau of Statistics.

**Statistical Year Book 1996.** Riyadh, Ministry of Planning, Central Department of Statistics.

**Statistical Year Book 1997.** Muscat, Information and Documentation Center, Ministry of National Economy.

**Statistical Year Book 1998.** Khartoum, Central Bureau of Statistics.

**Statistics Handbook 1998.** Kuala Lumpur, Department of Statistics.

**Statistiques du Commerce Extérieur no.28, 1997.** Tunis, Institut National de la Statistique.

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