



S E S R I C

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Attar Sokak No: 4, 06700 G.O.P, Ankara-TURKEY
Tel: +90-312-468 6172 (4 lines) Fax: +90-312-468 5726
E-mail: oicankara@sesric.org Web: www.sesric.org

ANKARA CENTRE UPDATE

ACRONYM OF THE CENTRE CHANGES TO SESRIC

The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries informs that the acronym of the Centre has been changed from SESRTCIC to SESRIC by the decision of its Board of Directors in its Twenty-ninth Meeting, held on September 10-11, 2007

in Ankara, Turkey and has been approved by the 11th Session Islamic Summit Conference held in Dakar, Senegal on March 13-14, 2008. The Centre would, therefore, appreciate that its new acronym be used whenever necessary in any future correspondence.

TRAINING COURSE ON “CENSUS AND SURVEY PROCESSING SYSTEM (CSPRO) & STATISTICAL PACKAGE FOR SOCIAL SCIENCES (SPSS)” IN SUDAN

The Centre organised a training course on “Census and Survey Processing System (CSPRO) & Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS)” at the Central Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Sudan on February 4-6, 2008. The course was provided by an expert from the Department of Statistics in Jordan and was attended by 12 staff members of the Central Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Sudan. Mainly, the CSPRO course focused on CSPRO Commands and Functions and covered the followings:

- ☞ Batch and Lookup files
- ☞ Weights and Editing rules

☞ Tabulation

Beside that, the following topics were covered within the scope of the SPSS course:

- ☞ Converting the data from CSPRO to SPSS
- ☞ Merge, Aggregate and Split Files
- ☞ Data Control and Consistency
- ☞ Tabulation

The aim of this training course was to improve the statistical capacity building and performance of the Central Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Sudan on “CSPRO and SPSS”.

THE 3RD CORE GROUP MEETING ON 'RANKING UNIVERSITIES OF OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES'

The 3rd Core Group Meeting on OIC University Ranking was held on February 21-22, 2008 in Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran. Mr. H. Hakan Eryetli and Mr. Esat Bakımlı represented the Centre thereat.

The objective of the meeting was to review and discuss the progress of the OIC University Ranking and finalize the process prior to the 11th OIC Islamic Summit Conference to be held in Dakar, Senegal on March 13-14, 2008. The

meeting started with opening remarks by Dr. Hossein Mohammadi Doostdar, President of the Centre for International Scientific Studies & Collaboration (CISSC), Ministry of Science, Research and Technology, welcoming remarks by Prof Dr. Mansour Kabganian, Deputy Minister of Science, Research and Technology, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the message of the OIC Secretary General read by Ambassador Ali Akbar Salehi, OIC Assistant Secretary General for S&T.

Moderated by Ass. S. G. Ali Akbar Salehi, the meeting adopted the proposed agenda and continued with presentations by Mr. E. Bakımlı, Researcher at SESRIC, and Prof. A. Memariani, Director of the Institute for Research and Planning in Higher Education (IRPHE), Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran. Mr. Bakımlı summarized the progress achieved so far in OIC University Ranking by SESRIC, shared the Centre's experience throughout the process with special focus on the problems related to the practice of data collection and the procedure of ranking, and concluded with a proposal of some fine tunings and adjustments to overcome such problems. Following the presentation by SESRIC, Prof. Memariani presented the experience of IRPHE in ranking of the universities in the Islamic Republic of Iran by using a software package developed by IRPHE in accordance with the adopted criteria,

procedures and mechanisms for the purpose of the OIC university ranking.

On the other hand, Dr. Hassanuddeen Aziz made an informative presentation on Quality Assurance in Higher Education. The meeting requested Dr. Hassanuddeen to present this information within the framework of the Science & Technology activities of the 11th OIC Islamic Summit Conference and later to prepare a comprehensive document on Quality Assurance Mechanisms for higher education in the member states.

The meeting also reviewed and discussed the Terms of Reference for the Coordination Bureau of the OIC University Ranking, established under the auspices of IRPHE, in its capacity as the secretariat of the Core Group.

The meeting decided to submit a progress report on the implementation of the OIC University Ranking to the 11th Islamic Summit Conference.

THE 1ST MEETING OF THE HEADS OF NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICES OF ECO MEMBER COUNTRIES

The 1st Meeting of the Heads of National Statistical Offices of ECO Member Countries was held on January 28-29, 2008, in Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran and was attended by the ECO Deputy Secretary-General, Heads of National Statistical Offices of the ECO member countries, the representatives of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Islamic Development Bank (IDB), Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), the Deputies, Director Generals and Senior Experts of the Statistical Centre of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Dr. Sıdıka Başçı represented SESRIC thereat.

During the discussion on the Agenda Item "Collaboration with International Organisations on Development of Statistics in the ECO Region", Dr. Sıdıka Başçı informed the delegates about the new Data Collection and

Dissemination Software System which has recently been developed by the SESRIC, Statistical Capacity Building Training Programs of the Centre and the new initiative of the Centre on press releases from NSOs. The following decisions were taken by the delegates of the ECO National Statistical Offices:

1. The meeting agreed, on the proposal of Kazakhstan, to prepare an ECO Business Plan for implementation of ECO Framework of Cooperation and Plan of Action on Statistics.
2. The member states were requested to convey their respective training needs in different areas as well as existing training facilities which could be used for capacity-building of the experts of member states.
3. The meeting welcomed the proposal of Iranian delegation to organise several workshops/seminars for statisticians from member states in different fields of statistics including design of statistical

surveys, Mobile Electronic Device application in censuses, and sample surveys and compilation of National and Regional accounts based on SNA.

4. The meeting took note of the proposal of the Iranian delegation to establish a separate statistical unit in the ECO Secretariat, the proposal of Pakistan to establish a regional

statistical centre and Azerbaijan's proposal to establish economic research and statistics centre in Baku to coordinate regional activities in the area of statistics.

5. The meeting agreed that a network of ECO NSOs as an institutional mechanism would be established.

THE 11TH MEETING OF THE UN COMMITTEE FOR THE COORDINATION OF STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES (CCSA)

The 11th Meeting of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA) was held in New York, at the United Nations Headquarters, on February 25, 2008. The Director of the United Nations Statistics Division and Co-chair of the committee, Mr. Paul Cheung, welcomed the participants. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Pieter Everaers, Director of Agriculture and Environment Statistics, Statistical Cooperation of Eurostat and also Co-chair of the Committee.

Firstly, the four task teams which were established during the 8th session in 2006, presented their reports about their tasks of "Reporting mechanisms on statistical capacity building activities", "Capacity building through regional training initiatives for national

statisticians", "Review of modalities for coordination of technical cooperation programmes at the sub-regional level" and "Assessment of the effectiveness of capacity building activities in Africa". Secondly, the Committee discussed the draft of the revised Terms of Reference of CCSA prepared by the two co-chairs and the secretariat. Finally, there was the discussion on the latest developments in the implementation of the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX).

The African Development Bank confirmed its offer to host the 12th Session of the CCSA at its headquarters in Tunis, Tunisia, on September 11-12, 2008. The Director General of SESRIC, Dr. Savaş Alpay represented the Centre at this meeting.

THE 39TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS STATISTICAL COMMISSION

The 39th Session of the UN Statistical Commission was held at the United Nations Headquarters, New York, on February 26-29, 2008. The Commission elected South Africa as the Chair of the Statistical Commission and Finland, Colombia, Oman and Hungary as the members of the Bureau. During the working Sessions, the Commission discussed the reports prepared by the designated institutions on employment statistics, education statistics, national accounts, tourism statistics, industrial statistics, trade statistics, health statistics,

informal sector statistics and environment statistics.

Moreover, issues of collection and dissemination of statistics and standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata were also discussed during the working Session. Reports of three committees, Steering Committee on the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century on statistical capacity-building, Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities and Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting were

presented as well. The Director General of SESRIC, Dr. Savaş Alpay represented the Centre at the Session.

In his meetings with the heads of the National Statistical Organisations (NSOs) of the OIC Member Countries, Dr. Savaş Alpay informed them about the training programs organised by the Centre and asked them to increase their efforts for more collaboration and cooperation on the subject. On the sidelines of the Commission

meeting, Dr. Alpay also met with the Director of the Statistics Division of the IMF and the UNESCWA and the Director General of the AITRS and discussed the possibility of jointly organising a workshop on National Accounts during the third quarter of this year. He also had talks with the Director of Statistics of the World Tourism Organisation concerning the prospects of jointly organising a workshop on Tourism Statistics for the OIC Member Countries.

OIC NEWS

THE 11TH SESSION OF THE ISLAMIC SUMMIT CONFERENCE

The agenda for the 11th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held in Dakar, Senegal on March 13-14, 2008 focused on the following items:

- ☞ Implementation of the OIC Ten-Year Program of Action
- ☞ Adoption of the revised OIC Charter
- ☞ Two brainstorming sessions on economic cooperation among Member States, especially the African ones and knowledge-sharing among Member States.

The Islamic Summit Renews its Confidence in Professor Ihsanoğlu and Re-elects him for another Five-Year Term

The Secretary General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, Professor Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu, was re-elected for a new term of office during the closing meeting of the 11th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held in the Senegalese capital Dakar.

The new Charter sets the new term of office for OIC Secretary General at five years instead of four years as it was in the previous Charter.

The incumbent Secretary General has one year remaining in office thereby bringing the overall length of his term to six years.

The Member States commended the Secretary General for his performance during the past

years as well as for his efforts in preparing the Dakar Summit.

Professor Ihsanoğlu expressed his thanks and gratitude to the Member States for their confidence and support for the Organisation and the Secretary General, and reaffirmed his determination to continue playing a positive role in serving the OIC Member States and the Islamic World.

OIC Charter Adopted

The leaders of the Ummah at the 11th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference unanimously adopted the new OIC Charter, which marks the launch of a new era in the OIC's history as it continues its mission with a reinvigorated vision.

The New Agreement between Chad and Sudan

The General Secretariat of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference welcomed the signing of an agreement regarding reconciliation and the normalisation of relations between the neighbouring African nations. The signing of the agreement at the Presidential Palace in Dakar, Senegal, between H.E. President of the Republic of Sudan Omar Hassan Al Bashir, and H.E. President of the Republic of Chad Idriss Deby, took part on the sidelines of the 11th

Session of the Islamic Summit Conference, on March 13, 2008.

H.E. Maitre Abdoulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal, Chair of the current Session of the Islamic Summit Conference, was praised

for the commendable efforts made to contribute to the realization of this Agreement which would permanently end the disputes between the two countries and establish peace and security in the region.

THE 3RD MEETING OF THE PROJECT COMMITTEE ON "SUSTAINABLE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN A CROSS-BORDER SYSTEM OF PARKS AND PROTECTED AREAS IN WEST AFRICA"

The SESRIC participated in the 3rd Meeting of the Project Committee on "Sustainable Tourism Development in a Cross-Border System of Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa" held at the Islamic Centre for the Development of Trade (ICDT) headquarters on March 24, 2008 in Casablanca. The project "Sustainable Tourism Development in a Cross-Border system of Parks and protected Areas in West Africa" was initiated by Benin, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Sierra Leone within the framework of the implementation of the Plan of Action of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) to strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation.

The objectives of the Meeting were to review the progress achieved so far and to update the programme of the planned Activities for the year 2008/2009. The Meeting was attended by the

representatives of Benin, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Sierra Leone as well as the delegates of ICDT, SESRIC and WTO. Mr. Süleyman İslamoğlu, Acting Director of the Training and Technical Cooperation Department, represented the Centre thereat.

At the opening session of the Meeting, the participants discussed the need to address the challenges related to growing poverty, especially in the African continent. They also referred to the project as being inspired from the world tourism code of ethics, which was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations. At the end of the Meeting, the participants agreed to hold the next meeting in Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic, on the sidelines of the 6th Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers.

OTHER MEETINGS

THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON 'THE UNEMPLOYMENT CRISIS IN THE ARAB COUNTRIES'

The Arab Planning Institute, Kuwait (API) organised the International Conference on "The Unemployment Crisis in the Arab World", which was held in Cairo, Egypt on March 17-18, 2008. The major objectives of this conference were to analyse the nature of persisting, high and increasing unemployment rates in the Arab countries, to evaluate the

policies pursuing these issues, as well as to search for future applicable policy options.

For more information on the conference, visit:

🔗 Arabic Link:

http://www.arab-api.org/conf_0308a.pdf

🔗 English Link:

http://www.arab-api.org/conf_0308e.pdf

THE 9TH ANNUAL GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK (GDN) CONFERENCE

Launched in 1999, the GDN is a global network of research and policy institute dedicated to building high-quality social science research capacity across the developing and transition world. GDN aims to generate policy relevant, local research and build the capacity of research institutes and individual researchers in the developing and transition world. The 9th Annual Global Development Network (GDN) Conference on the theme 'Security for Development: Confronting Threats to Survival and Safety' was held in Brisbane, Australia, on January 27, 2008.

The Conference which featured nearly 500 participants from across the world drew attention to the devastating impact of insecurity and violence on potential development and long-term growth, a theme that is at the top of the international development agenda.

The 6 key messages emanating from the conference were: physical security is a precondition of human security; controlling contagious diseases cannot be done unilaterally; tackling natural disasters and climate change is a development issue; that rule of law can often be implemented through a series of small confidence-building measures ; poverty is not necessarily the main cause of conflict and weak institutions also play a key role; and allocating

resources for prevention is essential before disaster or conflicts occur.

Director General of SESRIC, Dr. Savaş Alpay represented the Centre there at.

During the Conference, Dr. Savaş Alpay had discussions with Dr. Gobind Nankani, Executive Director of the GDN on the possibility of potential cooperation between the SESRIC and the GDN. In his meeting with Dr. Craig Wilson, Executive Director of the Foundation for Development Cooperation, Dr. Savaş Alpay explored the potential cooperation between the two institutions in the area of microcredit financing and bilateral activities. Details on the Asia Microfinance Forum 2008 were also talked about during the discussions.

During his talks with the Nobel Prize laureate and Chairman of the Commission on Growth and Development, Mr. Michael Spence, Dr. Savaş Alpay discussed the modalities of how OIC Member Countries could benefit from the Commission's activities concerning the policies and strategies for rapid economic growth and poverty alleviation.

Dr. Savaş Alpay also had talks with the author of various distinguished publications and studies on Development in Africa, Prof. Paul Collier, regarding the poverty alleviation strategies that can be implemented in the OIC African Countries and elsewhere.

THE 1ST MEETING OF THE STATISTICAL WORKING GROUP

The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) organised the First Meeting of the Statistical Working Group (SWG-1) at the OIC level on March 25-26, 2008 at its Headquarters in Jeddah. The SWG has been initiated in accordance with the recommendation of the Expert Group Meeting on Statistical Capacity Building organised by IDB on April 29, 2007 which called on IDB to

“establish a working group, in collaboration with the relevant OIC Institutions, to meet regularly in order to harmonise statistical activities, exchange experiences and best practices, develop common methodologies for collecting and processing data from Member Countries”. Similar proposal in the form of a project for establishing SWG was made by the

Director General of SESRIC, Dr. Savaş Alpay, during his visit to the IDB on December 3, 2007.

The meeting was attended by the representatives of the OIC General Secretariat, SESRIC, ICCL, ICDT and IDB. The Inaugural session was addressed by the Vice President of the IDB, Dr. Amadou Boubacar Cisse and Dr. Savaş Alpay. Then a presentation entitled “Setting the Scene: The Big Picture” was presented by, Dr. Abdullateef Bello, the Division Chief, Statistics (Data Resource Center, IDB).

The discussions during Working Sessions focused on four themes namely

- i. Institutional Statistical Capacity and Activities
- ii. Statistical Needs-Assessment: Where Do We Stand?
- iii. A Framework for Statistical Coordination: Institutional Niches; and
- iv. Statistical Working Group: Functions, Membership and Modus Operandi

On the first day of SWG-1, the Working Sessions were chaired by Dr. Savaş Alpay while those of the second day were chaired by the

Director of Economic Policy and Statistics Department, IDB, Dr. Lamine Doghri. In these two days, the Acting Director of Statistics and Information Department of SESRIC, Dr. Sıdıka Başçı made three presentations explaining SESRIC’s views on the above-mentioned themes.

In terms of data collection, the SWG agreed to give priority to sourcing primary data directly from member countries and decided to avoid sending multiple questionnaires from different OIC institutions to member countries for socio-economic data collection. The SWG also agreed to collect secondary data from international sources. In terms of data processing, the SWG agreed to standardize definitions of various indicators used in databases and publications of OIC institutions. In terms of data dissemination the SWG agreed to create a common database as a one-stop platform for accessing reliable and consistent statistics on indicators of OIC member countries. Moreover, SESRIC offered to host the Second Meeting of the SWG (SWG-2) at its Headquarters in Ankara, Turkey, before the COMCEC Meeting in October 2008.

NEWS AND RELEASES

FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

AFRICA ACHIEVING HEALTHY AND STEADY GROWTH RATE

According to the report of the World Bank Africa Development Indicators 2007 (ADI) based on more than a thousand indicators covering economic, human and private-sector development, governance, environment, and aid, many of the economies in Africa are seen to be growing fast and at steady rates. Over the past decade, Africa has recorded an average growth rate of 5.4 percent, which is at pace with the rest of the world and is supportive of the region’s ability to meet the Millennium Development Goals on poverty, health and other issues, and to help make it a

significant investment destination for global capital.

The report shows that “Africa has learnt to trade more effectively with the rest of the world, to rely more on the private sector, and to avoid the very serious collapses in economic growth that characterized the 1970s, 1980s and even the early 1990s.” It is also seen that Africa since the mid-1990’s has been learning from the mistakes of the earlier decades to improve macro-economic management, implement better structural policies and move towards an integration with the rest of

the world. On the other hand, although significant long-term gains for Sub-Saharan economies were reported, the warning was that the region remains volatile, which discourages significant gains in investment.

Rapid increases in revenues emanating from the recent rises in oil prices have helped Africa's seven biggest oil economies, which inhabit 27.7 percent of the continent's population.

Similar benefits were also forthcoming for many other resource-rich African countries thanks to the rising prices of precious metals and other commodities. Yet, a group of 18 resource-poor countries in the region, where 35.6 percent of Africa's population, have also fared at least equally well with growth of more than 4 percent over the last decade.

The slowest-growing economies, where 36.7 percent of the region's population live, are also doing better than before with "better macro-

economic management, greater investments in human resource development, and improvements in institutions and in the performance of the public sector". So, the source pessimism relates more to the continuing infrastructure gap (\$22 billion a year) and the high relative levels of indirect costs (35 percent of total costs for exports) as compared to the highly competitive Asian economies (8 percent for Chinese exports). Nevertheless, African exports grew by over 11 percentage points on average between 2003 and 2006, according to ADI 2007.

Creating the right balance between investments in human and physical capital will help with the MDGs and in closing Africa's infrastructure gap estimated at 5 percent of the region's annual GDP. Furthermore, improving the investment climate, encouraging innovation and building institutional capacity for better governance are also required to accelerate and sustain African growth.

COMMISSION ON GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

The Commission on Growth and Development was launched in April 2006 in order to gather and evolve over a period of two years a best understanding of the policies and strategies that underlie rapid and sustained economic growth and poverty reduction. It brings together as commissioners twenty-one leading practitioners in government, business and the policymaking fields from both the developing and industrialized world. The Commission's audience is the leaders of developing countries.

The Chairman of the Commission is the Nobel laureate Michael Spence, former Dean of the Stanford Graduate Business School, while Danny Leipziger, Vice-President, World Bank, is its Vice-Chair. The Commission is supported by the Governments of Australia, Sweden, the Netherlands, and United Kingdom, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the World Bank.

The Commission's work takes off from "a basic premise that future global challenges of poverty, environmental degradation, misunderstandings between nations, and differences in living standards within and across countries are best met in conditions of rising and sustained prosperity, and expanding economic opportunities". Although there has been progress recorded in developing countries recently in improving several of the social and economic developing indicators vis-à-vis the situation in the developed industrialized countries, per capita incomes in the former, let alone converge with those in the latter, have remained even farther behind. This was due to the fact that, except in some developing countries in Asia, economic growth could not be sustained at high enough rates for long enough periods.

The Commission through a set of well organized activities during its two-year mandate aims to reach a fuller understanding of the factors behind sustained growth and the differences in growth performances among countries and over time, as well as of the challenge of the countries in formulating effective growth strategies within a rapidly changing global context. When the Commission completes its report in April 2008, there will be available for the targeted audience not only a succinct report by the Commission, but also a substantial number of technical papers

covering key details, results of numerous workshops on different aspects of sustained and inclusive growth, and transcripts of several consultations held on the subject in different parts of the World involving select audiences and participants.

The web site:

<http://www.growthcommission.org> contains a full extent of the Commission's work program, different activities and much useful technical documentation for ready reference.

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO CUSHION RICH-COUNTRY SLOWDOWN IN 2008

The World Bank report *Global Economic Prospects 2008* states that "resilience in developing economies is cushioning the current slowdown in the United States, with real GDP growth for developing countries expected to ease to 7.1 percent in 2008, while high-income countries are predicted to grow by a modest 2.2 percent". It is noted that world growth slowed down slightly in 2007 to 3.6 percent from 3.9 percent in 2006, largely due to weaker growth in high-income countries. In 2008 global growth will go down further to 3.3 percent.

The developing-country growth is expected to slow down moderately over the next two years, but a more significant slowdown in the US economy could weaken the medium-term prospects in these countries. A weaker US dollar, a possible recession in the US and rising financial-market fluctuations would cut export revenues and capital inflows for developing countries, and reduce the value of their dollar-investments abroad. In the area of trade, the strong import demand from the developing countries will help support global growth.

Growth in developing countries has brought large increases in commodity prices, especially for oil, metals and minerals, benefiting many commodity exporters, and providing for strong demand growth in some developing countries.

On the other hand, however, the recent rise in grain prices has hurt food importers and the urban poor in many of these countries.

The report notes that improved "macroeconomic management and technological progress have helped increase total factor productivity and real income growth in developing countries over the past 15 years, a trend that is expected to help reduce poverty in the next decade". In the first half of 2007, industrial production rose in the developing regions, especially in East Asia (20%, year over year), which is also reflected on GDP growth, particularly in China, India and Russia. GDP growth in East Asia and the Pacific is expected to be about 10 % in 2007, with China growing by more than 11%.

GDP in Europe and Central Asia will grow by 6.7 % in 2007, and then slow to 6.1 % in 2008 and 5.7 % in 2009. Inflation has risen in several countries, tied to sustained strong domestic demand and rising food and fuel prices. GDP in Latin America and the Caribbean rose by 5.1 % in 2007 and is expected to slow down to 4.5 % in 2008 and to 4.3 % by 2009. GDP in the Middle East and North Africa slowed down in 2007 to 4.9 % and will probably rise with higher oil prices to 5.4 % in 2008.

GDP growth in South Asia decreased slightly in 2007 to 8.4 %, with industrial production and GDP growth driven by strong domestic demand. GDP in Sub-Saharan Africa grew 6.1 % in 2007, and is expected to rise by 6.4% in 2008, mostly due to strong domestic demand.

Investment in the region is expected to remain strong, despite the tightening of international credit conditions, due in part to large foreign-financed investments.

CENTRE'S ACTIVITIES FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF 2008

APRIL

- ☞ 13th General Assembly Meeting of COMSTECH, April 1-3, 2008, Islamabad, Pakistan
- ☞ Seminar on Development of E-Tourism Technology in Islamic Countries, April 21-22, 2008, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- ☞ 9th Meeting of the Experts Group on Standardisation, April 16-18, 2008, Ankara, Turkey
- ☞ Training Programme on "Labour Statistics", April 21-24, 2008, Cameroon
- ☞ 24th General Assembly and 5th Board of Directors Meeting of the Islamic Chamber, April 25-26, 2008, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

MAY

- ☞ 24th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC, May 13-15, 2008, Antalya, Turkey
- ☞ 4th Core Group Meeting on 'Ranking Universities of OIC Member Countries', May 13-15, 2008, Shiraz, Iran
- ☞ 31st Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs (ICECS), May 20-21, 2008, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
- ☞ Training Programme on "Real Sector Statistics", May 19-21, 2008, Kazakhstan

JUNE

- ☞ 33rd Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), June 3-4, 2008, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
- ☞ ABCDE Conference of South Africa-World Bank, June 9-11, 2008, Cape town, South Africa
- ☞ 11th Annual Conference on Global Economic Analysis, June 12-14, 2008, Helsinki, Finland
- ☞ Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) Review Meeting on 2009 Implementation Goal of Trade Preferential System among the Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (TPS-OIC) June 17-19, 2008, Ankara, Turkey
- ☞ 35th Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (ICFM), June 18-20, 2008, Kampala, Uganda
- ☞ 6th Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism of the OIC Member Countries, June 29- July 2, 2008, Damascus, Syria