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ANKARA CENTRE UPDATE

First Conference of Al-Khawarezmi Committee on Statistics

The First Conference of Al-Khawarezmi Committee on Statistics, the first of a regular biennial event, was held on 6 - 8 December 2010 in Doha, Qatar. Dr. Savaş Alpay, Director General of SESRIC, and Mr. Huseyin Hakan Eryetli, Director of IT and Publications, represented the Centre thereat.

The main aim of the Al-Khawarezmi Committee, chaired by H.E. Hamad bin Jaber B. J. Al Thani, President of the Qatar Statistics Authority, is to act as a catalyst to help Arab statisticians becoming active partners in knowledge creation and improve the practice of statistics in the Arab region. The Committee was named after the great scholar and mathematician Al-Khawarezmi (790–850), a cadre (the House of Wisdom) of Caliphate Baghdad, who invented Algorithms in mathematics. Hence, the committee was established by the International Statistics Institute (ISI) to honour the contributions made by this scholar in terms of human knowledge. The significance of this committee stems from its mission, which is to stimulate Cooperation between ISI and the statistical communities of the Arab region. Al-Khawarezmi committee on statistics strives to achieve excellence in the practice of statistics, statistical education and research both in the region and in the Islamic Ummah.

The purpose of the Conference which was held under the slogan: "Statistics for Evidence-based Policy and Decision Making" is to bring together Arab statisticians to present their current work, discuss areas of common interest, collaborate in joint activities, mentor future statisticians and recognize the excellence of work by statisticians. Since it is an important means of keeping up to date with new advances in statistics, the Conference invited a number of world class statisticians to participate in areas of interest to the Arab countries.

The focus of the first Conference was on statistical methodology and the use of statistics in measuring human development, environmental quality and sustainable economic development. Having properly measured the essential indicators, evidence-based decision making can be achieved through the provision of essential information by statistical agencies.

The scope of the Conference covered key areas of statistics with emphasis on topics of interest to the Arab countries. The topics discussed in the meeting were:

1. Challenges of Poverty measurement in the Arab countries
2. Strategy of the Implementation of national SNA 2008
3. Challenges facing national strategy for the development of statistics in the Arab countries
4. Environmental statistics - Sources, methods and data quality
5. Using IT in data capturing, processing, and dissemination
6. Population, housing, and establishments censuses (Data collection, publishing, analysis and application of results)
7. Health surveillance and measurement, Innovative methods and techniques in health analysis
8. Application of GIS in statistics
9. Towards a national framework for statistics of culture and education
10. Gender Statistics: A tool for mainstreaming gender issues in national development

In the Opening Session, Dr. Alpay delivered a keynote speech titled "Enhancing Statistical Capacity Building Programmes in the OIC Member Countries". by drawing special attention to the importance of developing concrete and coherent National Strategies for the

Development of Statistics (NSDS). He believes that two important initiatives should be taken into consideration:

- The Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme, which was initiated by SESRIC in early 2007 and analyses statistical needs and capacities through the responses of the related questionnaires.
- The twinning of NSOs of advanced countries in terms of NSDS with the NSOs of countries for which an NSDS is still under development.

He also informed the delegates concerning the ongoing statistical activities of SESRIC including the StatCab Programme, OIC - Statistical Working Group (OIC-SWG).

During the session on the theme “Using IT in Data Capturing, Processing, Dissemination and Application of GIS in Statistics”, chaired by Mr. Eryetli, two country cases (Qatar and Egypt) were presented. The participants were also informed about the World Bank’s “Virtual Statistical System” and recent enhancements made in DevInfo.

Workshop on Private Sector Cooperation for Enhancing Intra-OIC Tourism

The workshop on “Private Sector Cooperation for Enhancing Intra-OIC Tourism” was held in Izmir, Turkey, on 10 December 2010. The workshop was organised by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Turkey in accordance with the Resolution adopted by the 26th session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (COMCEC), held in Istanbul, the Republic of Turkey, on 5-8 October 2010. The Workshop was attended by representatives of private tourism agencies in some OIC Member Countries and representatives of the following OIC institutions: COMCEC Coordination Office, Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) and Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI).

During the working sessions, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey and the Association of Turkish Travel Agencies (TÜRSAB) made presentations on the experience of Turkey in promoting and encouraging the tourism sector and in enhancing the importance of public-private partnership in this regard. The participants conducted general debate discussions related to the challenges of tourism development in the OIC Member Countries and explored possible ways and means to promote cooperation among the representatives of the private sector involved in the field of tourism in the OIC Member Countries. In this context, the participants of the workshop agreed on the offer to organise other meetings which would deliberate on and investigate the possibility of establishing a special OIC platform for cooperation among the representatives of the private sector with the aim of enhancing intra-OIC tourism.

Training Course on 'Basic Occupational Health and Safety: International OHS Regulations, Health and Safety Management System and Risk Assessment Methodologies' in Ankara

The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) organized a training course on “Basic Occupational Health and Safety (OHS): International OHS Regulations, Health and Safety Management System and Risk Assessment

Methodologies” on 13-15 December 2010, in Ankara, Turkey. The course was attended by 15 staff members from İSGÜM and delivered by Mr. Sham Zahary Sudin, Manager of Northern Region Office, from the National Institute of

Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) of Malaysia.

The training course on “Basic Occupational Health and Safety: International OHS Regulations, Health and Safety Management System and Risk Assessment Methodologies” mainly covered the following subjects:

- Historical perspective of OHS evolution
- Definition and Focus of OHS
- Various disciplines of Occupational Health
- Reasons for OHS in Europe and USA
- National implementing legislation
- Overview of Health and Safety At Work Act 1974 (UK), USA and Malaysia

- The concept of prevention in Occupational Health
- The application of epidemiology in Occupational Health
- Introduction to OHS management system
- Types, methodology, elements and benefits of OHS management system

For more information on the OHS-NET please visit:

<http://www.oicvet.org/oshnet.php>

Inaugural Event for the Global Innovation through Science and Technology (GIST) Initiative

SESRIC participated in the Inaugural Event for the Global Innovation through Science and Technology (GIST) Initiative, which was held on 14-15 December 2010 at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina in Alexandria, Egypt.

The event was attended by stakeholders and leaders from across the Middle East, North Africa, and Asia Regions. They deliberated on a set of common issues to Science and Technology and dwelt upon a consultative process with a view to designing and implementing multinational methodologies to support technology innovation development. Representatives of related governments, non-profit organisations and institutions, academies, and industry-related sectors raised issues in which they urged to develop concrete strategies and unified approaches to advance technology commercialisation in key areas such as

agriculture, health, information technology and energy.

The SESRIC representative Mr. Mehmet F. Serenli, Director of Training and Technical Cooperation, made a presentation during the event where he provided an overview of current trends and developments in the OIC Member Countries in the fields of education, scientific research, and science & technology.

The GIST Initiative aims at building peace and prosperity through scientific collaboration, fostering of invention, innovation, entrepreneurship, and the commercialisation of technology in the Middle East, North Africa and Asia Regions.

SESRIC Delegation Headed by the Director General Dr. Savaş Alpay, Paid a Two-Day Working Visit to the IDB Group and Met with H.E. Dr. Ahmad Mohamed Ali, President of the IDB Group

SESRIC delegation headed by Dr. Savaş Alpay, the Director General of SESRIC, and comprised of Mr. Nabil Dabour, Director of Research Department and Mr. Mehmet Fatih Serenli, Director of Training and Technical Cooperation Department, paid a two-day working visit to the Islamic Development Bank Group on 25-26 December 2010. The delegation conducted various technical meetings with different departments and units of the IDB Group with the aim of enhancing cooperation and collaboration between the two institutions in various issues of common interest, particularly a mechanism for joint implementation of the OIC-VET Sub-Programme on Trade, Economy and Finance (OICVET-TEF).

On the first day, the SESRIC delegation conducted a meeting with the Director of Human Development Department, Dr. Daouda Malle, and the Officer-in-Charge of the Cooperation Department, Dr. Aftab Ahmad Cheema. The meeting was also attended by some Senior Officials from these two departments. During the meeting a presentation was made by Mr. Mehmet Fatih Serenli, on the OIC-VET Programme and the so far implemented and planned training projects within the framework of the Programme. Following a general discussion and debate on the possible ways and means of cooperation between the SESRIC and the IDB in the implementation of the OIC-VET Programme, the Human Development Department of the IDB proposed two training programmes to be implemented jointly with the SESRIC within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme during the year 2011: (1) Skill Development for Youth Employability Enhancement Project (2) Training of Master Trainers for Agricultural Development.

The delegation of SESRIC also conducted a meeting with the Chief Executive Officer of the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD), Mr. Khaled Al-Aboodi.

During the meeting and in the light of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which was signed between the two institutions in October 2010, Dr. Alpay, the Director General of SESRIC and Mr. Al-Aboodi, the CEO of the ICD, discussed and exchanged their views on some possible areas of cooperation and issues of common interest to the two institutions. Topics covered in the discussion include promoting science and technology innovations and the importance of the private sector engagement in nanotechnology in the member countries, agricultural development and the potential of enhancing the private sector investment in the African member countries, particularly in seed improvement, food security and the support of some potential sectors in the Central Asian member countries.

Following this, the delegation of SESRIC continued the meeting with some Senior Officials at the ICD. The two parties discussed the ongoing preparation of the comprehensive study on “The Potential Role of Special Economic Zones in Promoting Economic Growth and Integration in OIC Countries”, which is being jointly prepared by SESRIC, ICD and TEPAV. It was agreed that in order to promote this project among the member countries, the issue of promoting SEZs should be put at the Agenda of the 27th Session of the COMCEC, which will be held in October 2011. It was also agreed that a concept paper on the subject should be prepared and presented at the 27th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC, which will be held in May 2011.

The SESRIC delegation also conducted a meeting with the Director General of the Islamic Research & Training Institute (IRTI), Prof. Bambang Brodjonegoro. The meeting was also attended by some Senior Officials at IRTI. During the meeting, the two parties agreed on informing each other on their planned activities

for the year 2011, particularly in the areas of training and research in order to identify some of these activities and projects to be implemented jointly by SESRIC and IRTI, particularly in the area of Islamic Banking and Finance and the issue of establishing a Network among the Muslim Researchers Worldwide through organising an International Conference for these researchers. They also agreed on maintaining close cooperation and exchanging knowledge and experiences in the areas of these activities and projects as well as promoting each other's activities and publications in their websites. They also explored on the possibility of developing e-learning modules on various subject of interest to individuals and institutions in member countries.

On the second day, the SESRIC delegation conducted a meeting with the Advisor to the CEO and some Senior Officials of the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC). As the IDB focal point for organising, jointly with SESRIC, the workshop on the theme "The Impact of Transportation Networks on Trade and Tourism" of the Exchange of Views Session of the 27th Session of the COMCEC, the two parties discussed some technical and organisational matters related to the preparations of the workshop. The ITFC also welcomed any capacity building and technical training project proposals from SESRIC in the area of trade and finance to be implemented jointly. In this context, SESRIC and ITFC agreed on organising some certified training programmes for professionals working in the national agencies dealing with trade facilitation and promotion.

The delegation of SESRIC also conducted a meeting with the Director of Infrastructure

Department, Dr. Walid Abdelwahab. During the meeting, Dr. Alpay, the Director General of SESRIC and Dr. Abdelwahab exchanged their views on different areas of cooperation between SESRIC and the Infrastructure Department in the IDB in addition to the current preparations for organising the workshop on the theme "The Impact of Transportation Networks on Trade and Tourism".

The SESRIC delegation was received by H.E. Dr. Ahmad Mohamed Ali, the President of the IDB Group, in his office where a fruitful discussion was conducted between the Director General of SESRIC and Dr. Ali regarding the most immediate issues of interest to the member countries and possible ways and means of enhancing intra-OIC collaboration in the areas of trade, economy, science and technology. Dr. Alpay and Dr. Ali agreed on enhancing partnership between the two institutions in implementing joint projects and programmes in various fields in the forthcoming period. The IDB President, Dr. Ali, expressed his willingness to initiate a special scholarship programme under the OICVET-TEF for university students pursuing degrees in the fields of trade, economy and finance, as well as carrying out joint knowledge sharing and orientation programmes for the professionals working in different governmental agencies related to trade, economy and finance. Dr. Alpay and Dr. Ali also exchanged views on the possibility of developing the concept of "cross-border cooperation" between neighbouring countries and generalising current local practices to a wider geography as a successful model of intra-OIC cooperation among member countries.

Training Course on "National Accounts: Supply and Use Tables" in Jordan

The Centre organised a training Course on "National Accounts: Supply and Use Tables" at Jordan Department of Statistics on 27-29 December 2010. The Course was provided by Dr. Hüsniye Aydın, an expert from the Turkish

Statistical Institute of the Republic of Turkey, and was attended by 17 staff members of Jordan Department of Statistics in Jordan.

The training course on “National Accounts: Supply and Use Tables” mainly covered the following subjects:

- General overview on National Accounts
- National Accounts in Turkey
- Supply-Use and Input-Output Tables in NA System
- Methods and compilation principles
- Data sources and questionnaires
- Classifications
- Non-observed economy
- Compilation of the supply and use tables
- Valuation matrices
- The balancing of supply and use tables
- Import matrices
- Symmetric input-output tables
- Cif/fob adjustments

- Calculation and allocation method of FISIM
- Price and volume measures in supply and use framework
- Other topics on GDP estimations and SU/IO Tables
- General Evaluation of Training Course and Mission on SUTs

The aim of this training course was to improve the statistical capacity building and performance of the Jordan Department of Statistics on “Supply and Use Tables”.

For more information on the Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme please visit:

<http://www.oicvet.org/cbp-statcab.php>

Memorandum of Understanding between TEVTA and İSMEK

Technical Education and Training Authority of the Province of Punjab (TEVTA), Islamic Republic of Pakistan, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with The Centre for Art and Vocational Training Courses of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality (İSMEK), a training partner of SESRIC under the Vocational Education and Training Programme for OIC Member Countries (OIC-VET) Programme, on 27 December 2010.

The primary aim of the MoU is to improve and promote mutual relations and exchange

programmes in the fields of art and vocational training. In this regard, TEVTA and İSMEK agreed to enhance cooperation and considered the idea of exchanging trainers among them. İSMEK also offered to give free courses to trainees coming from Punjab and to organize handcrafts exhibitions and symposia in Punjab.

For more information on the OIC-VET Programme please visit:

<http://www.oicvet.org>

Policy Dialogue Workshop on Islamic Monetary Policy

A Policy Dialogue Workshop on “Islamic Monetary Policy” was held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran on 8-9 January 2011. The workshop was jointly organized by Islamic Research and Training Institute (IRTI), which is a member of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Group, and the Monetary and Banking Academy (MBRA) of the Central Bank of Islamic Republic of Iran. The workshop brought together officials from the Central Banks of

some OIC Member Countries, academicians, researchers, and experts. Islamic finance and its implications for the monetary policies of some OIC Member Countries were the main theme of the workshop.

The workshop started with welcoming remarks made by Dr. Hossein Ghazavi, a Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Iran, and Dr. Abd Elrahman Elzahi Saaid Ali, the

representative of IRTI. During the panels, country experiences of Iran, Pakistan, and Sudan were presented by the representatives of the Central Banks of these countries. Dr. Ahmad R. Jalali-Naini, Associate Professor at MBRA, deliberated on different monetary policy instruments and provided a comparison of interest based versus non-interest based instruments. Dr. Jalali-Naini gave a thorough review of the economic literature on this topic. ‘The application of non-interest based monetary policy instruments in Iran’ was presented by Dr. Akbar Komijani, Professor of Economics at the University of Tehran. In his presentation, Dr. Komijani evaluated the performance of the monetary policy of Iran during 1972-2009.

Dr. Ali Arshadiy, the representative of the State Bank of Pakistan, and Dr. Nagmeldin H. Ibrahim, Deputy Director of the Policies Department at the Central Bank of Sudan, delivered speeches on the application of non-interest based monetary policy instruments in Pakistan and Sudan, respectively. Dr. Arshadiy emphasized on the importance of independence

and transparency of central banks and deliberated on the specific mechanisms used by the State Bank of Pakistan to retain independence and transparency. Dr. Musa Jega Ibrahim, Economist at the Islamic Research and Policy Department of IDB, made a presentation on the role of IDB in promoting Islamic economic policy to achieve sustainable development in Muslim countries. In his presentation, Dr. Ibrahim emphasized the importance of setting international standards for Islamic financing.

During the panels, the participants conducted an in-depth discussion during the workshop on various related issues, particularly on the advantages and the challenges of the non-interest based monetary policy. The workshop ended with a general panel discussion of the speakers where some concluding remarks and recommendations have been made on the subject.

Training Course on "Education & Training Statistics" in Niger

The Centre organised a training course on “Education & Training Statistics” at the National Statistical Institute, Niger on 12-15 January 2010. The Course was provided by Dr. Bruno Magloire Kamgho Tezanou, an expert from the National Statistical Institute of Cameroon, and was attended by 20 staff members of the National Statistical Institute in Niger.

The training course on “Education & Training Statistics” mainly covered the following subjects:

- Measures of Access to the System of Education;
- Measures of Participation in Education;
- Measures of Internal and External Efficiency;
- Educational Costs and Expenses,

- Need for an Information System for Educational Management (ISEM)

The aim of this training course was to improve the statistical capacity and performance of the National Statistical Institute in Niger on “Education & Training Statistics”.

For more information on the Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme please visit:

<http://www.oicvet.org/cbp-statcab.php>

Training Course on "Payment Systems" in Kyrgyz Republic

The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) organised a training course on "Payment Systems" at the National Bank of the Kyrgyz Republic on 25-27 January 2011. The Course was provided by Ms. Sinem Kamiloğlu, an expert from the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey, and was attended by 15 specialists of the National Bank of the Kyrgyz Republic.

The training course on "Payment Systems" mainly covered the following subjects:

- Introduction to the Payment Systems in Turkey
- Turkish Interbank Clearing – Electronic Funds Transfer System (TIC-RTGS)

- Turkish Interbank Clearing - Electronic Security Transfer and Settlement (TIC-ESTS)
- Retail Payment Systems
- A Day in TIC-RTGS and TIC-ESTS
- Future Projects in Turkish Payment System

The aim of this training course was to improve the capacity and performance of the National Bank of the Kyrgyz Republic on "Payment Systems"

For more information on the Capacity Building Programme for Central Banks please visit:

<http://www.oicvet.org/cbp-centralbanks.php>

OIC NEWS

Mid-Term Review Meeting of the Ten-Year Programme of Action and Vision 1441H for Science and Technology

SESRIC participated in the Mid-Term Review Meeting of the Ten-Year Programme of Action to Meet the Challenges Facing Ummah in the 21st Century (TYPOA) and Vision 1441H for Science and Technology held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates during the period 4-6 December 2010. Senior officials of 15 OIC Member States and concerned OIC Institutions, namely OIC General Secretariat, OIC Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH), Statistical Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), Islamic Development Bank (IDB), Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Islamic Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO), Islamic University of Technology (IUT), Islamic University of Uganda and Islamic University of Niger participated in the meeting. SESRIC was represented thereat by Dr. Savaş Alpay, Director General, and Mr. Mehmet Fatih Serenli,

Director of Training and Technical Cooperation Department.

The Meeting aimed to review the progress achieved since the adoption of the TYPOA in Makkah al-Mukarramah in 2005 and the Vision 1441H in Kuala Lumpur in 2003; discuss problems, bottlenecks and future direction for the implementation of TYPOA and 1441H; identify the issues of Science and Technology (S&T) systems of Member Countries that have been braved individually and collectively, devise mechanisms and propose tools in the light of these findings to overcome the bottlenecks and ensure smooth process to implement viable initiatives during the remaining half of the programme period.

During the meeting, the delegations introduced their reports and presented short summaries of the progress made so far by their

governments/institutions with respect to the implementation of TYPAO related to science and technology development and 1441H. They also informed the Meeting on the shortfalls and bottlenecks experienced by them and the structural reforms required to overcome the problems. The country delegations also discussed the integration of science policy into social development and identify factors responsible for success or failure of the implementation during the remaining five years of TYPOA and the remaining 10 years of the Vision 1441H.

The Meeting also revealed the actions and measures taken by the Member States and

concerned OIC Institutions to develop cooperation with other Member States and Institutions to push forward the TYPOA and 1441H to its successful conclusion by the year 2015/2020. The Meeting recommended measures and initiatives to speed up cooperation amongst the Member States and OIC Institutions, and indicated expectations from OIC system as a whole for an integrated approach in the coming years for consideration by the 14th General Assembly of COMSTECH and then for consideration by the 12th Islamic Summit Conference to be held in March 2011 in Egypt.

International Forum on “Kazakhstan and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference: New Prospects for Cooperation”

The International Forum on “Kazakhstan and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference: New Prospects for Cooperation” was held on December 9, 2010 in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The forum, which was organized by the Foundation of the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, brought together political figures, academicians, and other experts from the OIC member countries.

Key problems facing the OIC were brought up in the framework of the forthcoming chairmanship of Kazakhstan in the OIC in the upcoming year. The Forum was characterized by in-depth discussions on the important role of the OIC in international politics with a view to determining the prospects of Kazakhstan's contribution towards the enhancement of this role, as an emerging key player in regional as well as global politics.

Third Meeting of the OIC Statistical Working Group (OIC SWG)

The Third Meeting of the OIC Statistical Working Group (SWG) was held at the Headquarters of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 26 December 2010. The representatives of the General Secretariat of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), Islamic Development Bank (IDB), Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and Central Department of Statistics and Information (CDSI) of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia participated in the Meeting.

The Meeting started with the opening statements of Dr. Ahmet Tıktık, Vice President (Corporate Services) and Acting Chief Economist of IDB, Dr. Savaş Alpay, Director General of SESRIC, and Dr. Abdullateef Bello, Director of Data Resources and Statistics Department of IDB. They emphasized the strengthening and improvement of coordination of statistical activities among the OIC Institutions and the need to accelerate the implementation of the activities related to the previous meetings of OIC_SWG. They also pointed out the importance of availability of high quality data for assessing and quantifying the impact of economic crisis and raising awareness in the field of statistics. In the meeting Dr. Alpay, proposed the idea of developing a specific

statistical capacity index for the OIC Member Countries, as well as convening the OIC_SWG future meetings in line with the sessions of the OIC Statistical Commission in order to have a higher participation rate from the National Statistical Organizations (NSOs) of the OIC Member Countries.

After the inaugural session, the OIC_SWG-3 participants presented a number of technical papers followed by discussions on the following themes: (i) Scorecard on OIC_SWG activities: Where do we stand on coordination, harmonization, and standardization?; (ii) Institutional Progress Report on OIC-SWG Activities and New Statistical Initiatives; (iii) OIC Statistical Commission: Issues and preparation, (iv) and Joint Statistical Publications for the OIC Summit.

At the end of the technical sessions, the OIC_SWG-3 agreed on;

- collectively working together to advance and strengthen partnership through coordination, collaboration, and cooperation in all areas of statistical activities needed to support various initiatives of the OIC, its subsidiaries, and Member Countries taking into account the OIC Ten-Year Programme of Action,
- urging NSOs of the OIC Member Countries to treat SWG members as partners and to provide timely data to enable them to report accurate, reliable, and consistent data in their publications
- organizing both the 1st Session of the OIC-Statistical Commission (OIC-SC-1) and the 4th SWG (OIC_SWG-4) Meetings in 2011 by SESRIC.

For more information on the OIC Statistical Working Group (OIC_SWG) please visit:

<http://www.sesric.org/activities-swg.php>

Director General of SESRIC addressed the Fourteenth Session of the COMSTECH

Dr. Savaş Alpay, Director General of SESRIC, addressed the Fourteenth Session of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH), which was held in Islamabad on 11-13 January 2011, under the Chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Yousaf Raza Gillani, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Co-Chairman COMSTECH. Nearly three hundred delegates from twenty-nine member states and twenty-four international and regional organizations attended the meeting.

Dr. Alpay presented an overview of current trends and developments in the OIC Member Countries in the fields of scientific research, and science & technology, and touched upon key determining factors related to the performance of OIC Member Countries, showing their stand in the world with respect to these factors. Dr. Alpay concluded his presentation by underlining some broad policy implications as well as stressing

upon stimulating R&D to the target level of 1% share in GDP in the foreseeable future, as set by the OIC Ten-Year Programme of Action in 2005.

The meeting started with opening addresses by H.E. Pir Aftab Shah Jilani, Federal Minister for Science and Technology, H.E. Prof. Atta-ur-Rahman, Coordinator General COMSTECH, H.E. Prof. Amadou Tidiane B.A, Minister for Scientific Research, Republic of Senegal and H.E. Mr. Yousaf Raza Gillani, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Co-Chairman of COMSTECH.

Five plenary Sessions were held with the participation of heads of Delegations and representatives from various OIC Member Countries and National and International organisations. In the light of these sessions, the senior officials made their presentations and read their reports in which they deliberated on a set of common issues of concern to the member countries with a view to enhancing new

mechanisms and initiatives to draw policy guidelines and encourage cooperation for the COMSTECH Program.

The 14th Session of COMSTECH General Assembly adopted a number of Resolutions where the Ministers of Science and Technology of OIC Member Countries endorsed the recommendations contained in the report of the Mid-Term Review of the OIC Ten-Year Programme of Action and OIC Vision 1441H for Science and Technology in Dubai in December

2010, whereby the delegates requested the SESRIC to implement capacity building activities in the area of S&T for the sake of enhancing the STI capacity of the relevant institutions in the member countries as well as for facilitating higher commercialisation of scientific research towards knowledge-driven economies.

For more information about the General Assembly, please visit the official website at:

<http://14thga.comstech.org/>

Third Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Islamic Conference of Health Ministers

Third Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Islamic Conference of Health Ministers was held at the OIC Headquarters in Jeddah on 22-23 January 2011. The purpose of the Steering Committee Meeting was to review the actions taken on the resolutions adopted by the First and Second Islamic Conferences of Health Ministers (ICHM), and the preparation for the Third Islamic Conference of Health Ministers to be hosted by Kazakhstan in 2011. The meeting was attended by the members of the Steering Committee and SESRIC was represented by Dr. Savaş Alpaya, Director General, and Mr. Mehmet F. Serenli, Director of Training and Technical Cooperation Department thereat.

The meeting reviewed the status of the implementation of the decisions of the Islamic Conferences of Health Ministers, and listened to the reports on actions taken by the Members of the Steering Committee in regard to polio eradication, combating malaria and communicable diseases in the OIC countries, vaccine and drug production, mother child health issues as well as cooperation with international partners.

For more information please visit the following web page:

<http://www.sesric.org/activities-health.php>

UPCOMING EVENTS

FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2011

April

- ▶ First Session of the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-SC), 11-12 April 2011, Istanbul – Turkey

May

- ▶ EGM on "Unemployment and Underemployment in IDB Member Countries in the Post-Crisis World", 09-10 May 2011, Jeddah - Saudi Arabia
- ▶ The OIC Tourism Investment Forum, 10-12 May 2011, Damascus – Syria
- ▶ 27th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of COMCEC, 10-12 May 2011, Ankara – Turkey
- ▶ OIC Network for Occupational Safety and Health (OIC-OSHNET): Kick-off Meeting, 16-17 May 2011, Ankara – Turkey

June

- ▶ EGM on "The Impact of Transportation Network on Trade and Tourism", 01-02 June 2011, Istanbul – Turkey
- ▶ Workshop on the Impact of Transportation Networks on Trade and Tourism, 07-08 June 2011, İzmir – Turkey
- ▶ 7th World Islamic Economic Forum (WIEF), 07-09 June 2011, Astana – Kazakhstan
- ▶ Exhibition on Science and Technology on the sidelines of the 38th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), 26-27 June 2011, Astana – Kazakhstan
- ▶ The 38th Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers, 28-30 June 2011, Astana - Kazakhstan