



CERTIFICATION ADVISORY BOARD (CAB) MEETING OF THE OIC CERTIFICATION AND ACCREDITATION PROGRAMME FOR OFFICIAL STATISTICIANS (OIC-CPOS)

7-8 SEPTEMBER 2016 ANKARA, TURKEY

1 Introduction

Being instruments of quality assurance, both certification and accreditation play significant roles in providing tools for the fulfilment of particular requirements or endorsement of competencies at a certain point in time defined in accordance with a generally accepted criteria set. According to relevant ISO definitions, *certification* is a procedure which examines the *conformity* with a set of clearly defined and expected requirements. *Accreditation* is a procedure which examines the *competency* for the conduct of certain activities and tasks. When implemented appropriately, these procedures can strengthen the fundamental role of National Statistical Offices (NSOs) for supporting the evidence-based decision making in parallel to the increasing quality of human resources employed.

The Certification and Accreditation Programme for Official Statisticians (OIC-CPOS) Programme is based on the proposal initially submitted by the then Central Informatics Organization (CIO) of Kingdom of Bahrain to initiate a programme on the “*Accreditation of Statistics Professionals*” specific to member countries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). The project has the vision to help official statistics professionals working in the OIC member countries in making their professional development recognized and establish clear and effective career paths by endorsing their expertise and knowledge under an official and professional context. The OIC-CPOS project further aims at recognizing those who have achieved an acceptable level of professional competence in the understanding and application of statistical methods and are bound by code of ethics, principles and good practices of official statistics. The OIC-CPOS project in its current format was presented to and approved by the Fourth Session of OIC-StatCom and IDB was called to extend financial support to carry out the activities.

Within the framework of OIC-CPOS, two structures; i.e., Certification Advisory Board (CAB) and Examination Committee (ExCom), play the most important roles. The Certification Advisory Board (CAB) is the most senior body under OIC-CPOS. The CAB Members are from 20 OIC Countries including Bahrain, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Comoros, Egypt, Gambia, Iran, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Libya, Mauritania, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Senegal, Sudan, Togo, Turkey and Yemen. The CAB is expected to:

- (i) supervise and observe at high level the implementation of the OIC-CPOS Project;
- (ii) approve the appointment of the ExCom members; and
- (iii) prioritise and decide on the themes, structure, timetable, and admission criteria of the exams.

The ExCom is central to the preparation of the training materials. The ExCom members are expected to duly carry out drafting the official curricula, training materials and questions of the Basic Level Certification Exams (CertEx-Basic). After the nomination and selection of the ExCom members in mid-2015, 15 ExCom members from 14 OIC member countries have been working on to prepare the course content, textbook and examination questions on 30 themes of official statistics in line with the definition and scope given in the Classification of Statistical Activities (CSA) Revision I-October 2009.



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In its capacity as the Coordination Office (CO), the SESRIC has conducted a pre-check of training materials and exam questions to ensure a certain degree of uniformity with the previously prepared guidelines and training material / exam question templates.

2 Rationale

The final leg of the first phase of OIC-CPOS project involves the conduct of exams and awarding of the certifications to those who successfully pass the CertEx-Basic. In this respect, the CO needs the guidance of the CAB to finalise the issues with respect to training materials, exam questions, and other processes.

3 Objective and Expected Accomplishments

The overall objective of the Meeting is to:

- (i) inform the participants about core skills frameworks on official statistics, certification systems for recognition of professional statistical qualifications, and approaches to harmonising official statistics education at the post-graduate level;
- (ii) identify the priority themes to be covered in the Cert-Ex Basic;
- (iii) decide on the structure, timetable, and admission criteria for Cert-Ex Basic; and
- (iv) draw roadmap and way forward for the OIC-CPOS in light of the progress made so far.

The expected accomplishments at the end of this Meeting include:

- (i) increased awareness on various statistical core skills frameworks, certification and accreditation systems;
- (ii) identified themes for their inclusion into the CertEx-Basic;
- (iii) clear and understandable structure, timetable, and admission criteria for Cert-Ex Basic; and
- (iv) future of the OIC-CPOS in light of the available resources.

4 Methodology

The Meeting will be hosting plenary sessions to inform the participants about the current trends on certification and accreditation in official statistics, both from perspectives of supranational, international, and national organizations.

The Working Group Session on the Themes and Conduct of OIC-CPOS Basic Level Exam will be an open discussion space using the same principles of the BarCamps (an international net consisting of “open non-conferences” whose subjects are proposed by the participants directly):

- i. Parity: All participants are at the same level;
- ii. Sharing: Any participant can take the floor and submit her/his ideas, proposals and considerations.

The general topic “Themes and Conduct of OIC-CPOS” will be proposed to the participants without a set list of subjects to follow. The general topic will therefore be developed by the



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participants themselves using a whiteboard on which any of them will be allowed to make any amendment in order to better plan the different discussions. A “*Camp Coordinator*” will organize people asking to take the floor and help the brainstorming phases. This session will be closed with a summary of the main inputs to be used by the CO.

5 Target Group

The participants of this Meeting will include CAB members from 20 OIC member countries, national and international organizations active in certification and capacity building in official statistics, academia, and relevant OIC institutions.

6 Timing and Duration

The two-day Meeting will be held on 7-8 September 2016.

7 Venue

The Meeting is tentatively planned to be held at SESRIC Headquarters in Ankara, Turkey.

8 Working Languages

The three official languages of the OIC (Arabic, English, and French) are also the working languages of the Workshop.