The Centre organised a training course on “Labour Market Statistics” and “Labour Inspection” within the framework of the OIC Capacity Building Programme for Public Employment Services (OIC PESCaB) on 19-22 January 2015 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. The training course was held at the National Employment Agency and the course was provided by Mr. Harouna Aby Ly, Director of Labour Statistics and Studies (DSTE), Republic of Senegal with the participation of relevant members of the National Employment Agency, Burkina Faso. For details please click here.

In accordance with its 2015 Annual Work Plan and within the framework of the Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme, SESRIC organised the training course on “Banking, Insurance and Financial Statistics” at the National Agency of Statistics and Demographics (ANSD) in Dakar, Republic of Senegal on 26-29 January 2015. The course was conducted by Mr. Mohamed Adel Souidene, Central Director of National Accounts of National Institute of Statistics (INS) of Republic of Tunisia, with the participation of relevant officials of the ANSD. For details click here.

In accordance with its 2015 Annual Work Plan and within the framework of the Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme, SESRIC organised the training course on “Education Statistics” at the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Analysis (INSAE) in Cotonou, Republic of Benin on 27-29 January 2015. The course was conducted by Mr. Adjibou Oppa Barry, Statistician at the National Agency of Statistics and Demography (ANSD) of Senegal, with the participation of 23 officials of the INSAE. For details click here.
Al-Quds Al-Sherif was announced as the capital of Islamic tourism for 2015 by H.E. Iyad Ameen Madani, the Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), as per the Resolution of the 8th Session of the Conference of Ministers of Tourism (ICTM) held on 4-6 December 2013 in Banjul, the Gambia. For details click here

Fifth Meeting of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group

The Fifth Meeting of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group was held on February 5th, 2015 in Ankara, Turkey with the theme “Travel Facilitation for Enhancing Mobility in the OIC Member States”. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of 10 OIC Member States including Gambia, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Mozambique, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sudan and Turkey. For details click here

Inaugural Meeting for the Maternal and Child Survival Project

As part of the implementation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Strategic Health Programme of Action (SHPA), the OIC General Secretariat, SESRIC and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) in partnership with the United States Agency for International development (USAID) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) have initiated the “Maternal and Child Survival Project.” The inaugural meeting for the Maternal and Child Survival Project took place in Ankara, Turkey between the period 19-21 January 2015. For details click here

Third Meeting of the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum

The Third Meeting of the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum was held on 29-30 January 2015 in Istanbul, Turkey with a theme “International Branding of Tourism Destinations in the OIC Member Countries. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of 16 OIC Member States. The Centre was represented thereat by Dr. Cem Tintin, Researcher. Representatives from the COMCEC Coordination Office, ICCT, ICD (IDB Group), Tourism Development International and TURSAB also attended the Meeting. For details click here

Training Course on “Professional Skills for Official Statisticians: Time Management” in Uzbekistan

In accordance with its 2015 Annual Work Plan, SESRIC organised the training course on “Professional Skills for Official Statisticians: Time Management” at the State Committee of Statistics (Goskomstat) in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan on 16-18 February 2015, within the framework of the Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme. The course was conducted by Mr. Sanan Hasanov, Expert at Business Management Group International (BMGI), with participation of relevant officials of Goskomstat. For details click here
Training Course on “Geographic Information Systems” in Burkina Faso

In accordance with its 2015 Annual Work Plan and within the framework of the Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme, SESRIC organised the training course on “Geographic Information Systems” at the National Institute of Statistics and Demography (INSD) in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso on 3-5 February 2015. The course was conducted by Ms. Marie-Antoinette Ouattara, Chief of Cartography Division at the National Institute of Statistics (INS) of Cote d’Ivoire, with the participation of 17 officials of the INSD. For details click here

Training Course on “Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Statistics” in Afghanistan

In accordance with its 2015 Annual Work Plan and within the framework of the Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme, SESRIC organised the training course on “Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Statistics” at the Central Statistics Organization (CSO) in Kabul, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on 23-25 February 2015. The course was conducted by Mr. Vedat Mert, Expert at the Turkish Statistics Institute (TURKSTAT), with the participation of 29 officials of the CSO, Afghan Ministry of Agriculture, Afghan Academy of Science, and Faculty of Agriculture. For more details click here

SESRIC and Committee on Statistics of the Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan sign MoA

The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) and Committee on Statistics (CS) of the Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan have signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) to facilitate collaboration and cooperation between both institutions within the framework of the project titled “Integration of the “Tobacco Questions for Surveys (TQS)” into the National Surveys in Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Member States”. The MoA was signed on 13 February 2015 by Prof. Savaş Alpay, Director General of SESRIC, and Mr. Alikhan Smailov, Chairman of CS of the Ministry of National Economy of Kazakhstan. For details click here

Habib School of Medicine of International Islamic University of Uganda Officially Launched

The Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU) an affiliated institution of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), has officially inaugurated the Habib Medical School on 10 February 2015. The Habib Medical School was inaugurated by the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Asuman Kiyingi, on behalf of the President of Uganda, and OIC Assistant Secretary General, Ambassador Muhammed Naem Khan, on behalf of the Secretary General. For details click here

Training Course on “Postal Financial Services” in Djibouti

The Centre has organised a training course on “Postal Financial Services” within the framework of the OIC Postal Service Capacity Building (OIC PS-CaB) Programme on 17-19 February 2015 at the Office of Djibouti Post in collaboration with the Office of Tunisian Post Company. Mr. Moez Jebali, who is in charge of the Electronic Payments Department at the Tunisian Post Company, provided this three day training course. For details click here
**9th Meeting of Steering Committee on Health**

The Ninth Meeting of the OIC Steering Committee on Health (SCH) was held on 25–26 February 2015 in Istanbul, Turkey. The meeting was attended by the members of the Steering Committee, inter alia, discussed preparations of the 5th Islamic Conference of Ministers of Health (ICHM) scheduled to be held in Turkey on 17-19 November 2015 and reviewed the status of implementation of the OIC Strategic Health Programme of Action 2014-2023. The SCH Meeting was preceded by Lead Country Coordinators Meeting on 23-24 February 2015 at the same venue. For details [click here](#).

**Expert Group Meeting on the Indicator Framework for the Post-2015 Development Agenda**

The Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on the Indicator Framework for the Post-2015 Development Agenda, organized by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), was held on 25-26 February 2015 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, back-to-back with the 46th Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission. The representatives from national statistical systems, supranational, international and regional organizations with expertise in development indicators and monitoring attended and contributed to the EGM. Prof. Savas Alpay, Director General, and Dr. Atilla Karaman, Senior Researcher, represented the SESRIC thereat. For details [click here](#).

**The 7th Meeting of the OIC Consultative Group on Enhancing Intra-OIC Trade**

In the context of the follow-up of the implementation of the “Executive Programme of the Road-Map for Achieving Intra-OIC Trade Targets” adopted by the OIC Consultative Group on Enhancing Intra-OIC Trade, the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) and the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC), member of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Group, organised the 7th Meeting of the OIC Consultative Group on Enhancing Intra-OIC Trade in Casablanca on 2-3 March 2015. For details [click here](#).

**5th Meeting of the COMCEC Poverty Working Group**

The Fifth Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group organized by the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC) was held on 26 February 2015 in Ankara, Turkey. For details [click here](#).

**Twenty-Fifth Session of the CCSA**

The Twenty Fifth Session of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA), a forum with 45 members that promotes inter-agency coordination and cooperation on statistical programmes and consistency in statistical practices and development, was held at United Nations Headquarters in New York, USA on 2 March 2015. Delegates from international and supranational organizations participated in the Twenty Fifth Session of the CCSA. The Centre was represented by Prof. Savas Alpay, Director General, thereat. For details [click here](#).
Training Course on “Parcel, Logistics Services and Express” in Uganda

The Centre, in collaboration with the Post and Telegraph Organization (PTT) of Turkey, organised a training course at the Posta Uganda on “Parcel, Logistics Services and Express” on 24-25 February 2015. The course was provided by two competent experts, namely, Mrs. Candan Şenyüz, Acting Deputy Head of International Relations Department and Mr. Hürriyet Doğan Yantiri, Expert of Post and Cargo Services Department in PTT. For details click here.

Training Course on “Occupational Hygiene” in Pakistan

The Centre organised a training course on “Occupational Hygiene” in collaboration with the Saeed Ahmed Awan Centre for the Improvement of Working Conditions & Environment, Pakistan on 9-10 March 2015. The training course was provided by the Department of Occupational Safety and Health, Ministry of Human Resources, Malaysia, with the attendance of participants from public and private sectors in Pakistan. For details click here.

Training Course on “Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Statistics” in Sudan

In accordance with its 2015 Annual Work Plan and within the framework of the Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme, SESRIC organised the training course on “Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Statistics” at the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) in Khartoum, Republic of Sudan on 02-04 March 2015. For details click here.

Training Course on “National Accounts: Financial Sector” in Qatar

In accordance with its 2015 Annual Work Plan and within the framework of the Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme, SESRIC organised the training course on “National Accounts: Financial Sector” at the Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics (MDPS) in Doha, State of Qatar on 08-11 March 2015. The course was conducted by Mr. Mohamed Adel Souidene, Central Director of National Accounts of National Institute of Statistics (INS) of Republic of Tunisia, with the participation of 34 officials of the MDPS. For details click here.

Training Courses for Palestinian Trainees

A group of eight trainees from different vocational schools of Palestine received training at the Centre for Art and Vocational Training Courses of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality (İSMEK) on 23-27 March 2015 in Istanbul, Turkey, on the subjects of “Sewing for Ladies Clothing”, “Glassworks and Ceramic Styling” and “Skin Care”. The five-day training programme has been hosted by İSMEK and participants were rewarded with certificates. For details click here.

Training Course on “Postal Financial Services and Postal Codes-Addressing System” in Gambia

The Centre, in collaboration with the Post and Telegraph Organization (PTT) of Turkey, organised a training course on “Postal Financial Services and Postal Codes-Addressing System” at the venue of the Gambia Postal Services Corporation (GAMPOST), Gambia on 13-14 March 2015. For details click here.
Fourth Session of the UNESCAP Committee on Statistics

The Fourth Session of the UNESCAP Committee on Statistics, organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), was held at the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC) in Bangkok, Thailand on 25-27 March 2015. The Committee Session was attended by delegates from UNESCAP full and associate member countries and representatives from 18 international organisations. 10 out of the attending 33 UNESCAP member countries were also OIC member countries namely Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Maldives and Pakistan. The Centre was represented thereat by Prof. Savas Alpay, Director General, and Mr. Abdulhamit Ozturk, Researcher. For details click here.

Signing Ceremony of COMCEC Projects

The Signing Ceremony, which has been organized by the COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO), for the successful projects under the second round of COMCEC Project Cycle Management (PCM) was held in Ankara on 30 March 2015. A total of 17 successful projects under the COMCEC PCM, the main implementation instrument of the new COMCEC Strategy, have been announced on 12 February 2015. These projects were submitted by 11 OIC member countries namely Azerbaijan, Cameroon, Chad, Gambia, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Qatar, Suriname, Turkey, and Uganda and two OIC institutions including SESRIC and ITFC. Amb. Musa Kulaklikaya, Director General of SESRIC, signed the operational and financial agreements of the successful project of SESRIC entitled to receive grants within the framework of COMCEC Project Cycle Management (PCM). For details click here.

5th Meeting of the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group

SESRIC has participated in the 5th meeting of the COMCEC Transportation and Communications Working Group that took place in Ankara on February 12, 2015. The theme of meeting was:” Evaluating the Ownership, Governance Structures, and Performances of Ports in the OIC Member States.” In addition to SESRIC, the meeting was attended by representatives of 11 Member States which were: Afghanistan, Gambia, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Malaysia, Morocco, Mozambique, Saudi Arabia, Suriname and Turkey. Also Representatives of COMCEC Coordination Office, Islamic Development Bank (IDB), Organization of Islamic Shipowners” Association (OISA), UNCTAD, Khalid Bichou & Associates Ltd., Drewry Shipping Consultants, and Hogia Transport Systems also attended the meeting. The Transportation and Communications working group held deliberations on the latest global and regional trends in port sector, the current state of institutional and governance structure of the ports in OIC member states, and the efficiency of the ports in the member states. For details click here.
5th Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group

SESRIC participated in the 5th meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group that took place in Ankara on March 5, 2015. The theme of meeting was: ” Strengthening Institutional Capacity: Establishing/ Strengthening Farmer Organizations in the OIC Member Countries.” The Agriculture working group held deliberations on: the recent trends in strengthening farmer organizations (FOs) at the global level, farmer organizations and policy environment in the OIC member countries, and policy options for establishing/strengthening farmer organizations in the OIC member countries. For details click here.

SESRC and IDB organized a side event during the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Japan

The Statistical, Economic, Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) organized a side event during the third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR), which was held in Sendai, Japan during 14-18 March 2015. The theme of the side event was “Developing Capacities for Effective Disaster Risk Management in Low-Income OIC Member Countries”. For details click here.

4th Meeting of the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group

SESRIC participated in the 4th Meeting of the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group that took place in Ankara on 19 March 2015. The theme of meeting was: ” Improving the Supervisory Mechanism of OIC Member Countries.” The Financial Cooperation working group held discussions on the supervisory framework of the banking sector in the OIC member countries and policy options to improve supervisory mechanisms in the banking sector in OIC member countries. For details click here.

Forty-Sixth Session of the UN Statistical Commission

The Forty-Sixth Session of the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) was held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, USA on 3-5 March 2007. The Session, which marks the 68th anniversary of the Commission, was attended by representatives of national and international agencies. Prof. Savas Alpay, Director General, and Dr. Atilla Karaman, Senior Researcher, represented the Centre thereat. For details click here.

38th Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs (ICECS)

The 38th Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs (ICECS) was held at the OIC Headquarters in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on 31 March – 02 April 2015. The Session has been attended by the representatives of the OIC member countries and those of the OIC and its subsidiary, specialized and affiliated institutions. For details click here.
In accordance with its 2015 Annual Work Plan and within the framework of the OIC Tourism Capacity Building Programme (Tr-CaB), SESRIC organised the training course on "Tourism Marketing" at the Gambia Tourism Board, Ministry of Tourism and Culture (MTC) of The Gambia in Banjul on 25-26 March 2015. The course was conducted by experts Dr. Nirwan Noh and Dr. Khairil Wahidin Awang from the Ministry of Tourism and Culture of Malaysia, and local experts of MTC of Gambia. For details click here.

The Centre, in collaboration with the Office of Tunisian Post, organised a training course on "Parcel, Logistics, Express and Postal Financial Services" at the venue of the Mauritanian Post Company (Mauripost) on 24-25 March 2015. Mr. Hafedh Ben Saida, Manager of the Department of Parcel Postage in Tunisian Post Company, conducted the two day training course. For details click here.

The Centre organised, in collaboration with the Competition Authority of the Republic of Turkey, a training course on "Competition Law Enforcement in Regulated Markets and Bid-Rigging" within the framework of the OIC Capacity Building Programme for Competition Authorities (OIC-CA-CaB) on 30-31 March 2015 in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic. The course was provided by Mr. Yalçın Yalçaın, Competition Expert, Turkish Competition Authority. For details click here.