



VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMME
FOR OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES

REPORT

THIRD MEETING OF THE MONITORING AND ADVISORY
COMMITTEE OF THE OIC-VET PROGRAMME

(TEHRAN, 17–18 JULY 2011)



Ankara, August 2011

I. BACKGROUND

1. The Third Meeting of the Monitoring and Advisory Committee (MAC) of the OIC-VET Programme was held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran from 17 to 18 July 2011.
2. The main objectives of the Meeting were:
 - To review the progress of the actions and activities accomplished since the Second Meeting held in Antalya, Turkey on 11–12 May 2010;
 - To discuss the modalities of closer collaboration in ongoing OIC-VET projects and programmes;
 - To draft an action plan for the coming period; and
 - To increase the involvement of NFPs into the ongoing projects/programmes.

II. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

A. Attendance

3. The Third Meeting was attended by representatives of the following OIC Member Countries:
 - Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
 - Republic of Azerbaijan
 - People's Republic of Bangladesh
 - Republic of Cameroon
 - Islamic Republic of Iran
 - Republic of Iraq
 - Republic of Maldives
 - Islamic Republic of Pakistan
 - Republic of Senegal
 - Republic of Togo
 - Republic of Tunisia
 - Republic of Turkey

4. The representatives of the following OIC institutions attended the Meeting as well:

- Standing Committee of Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Conference (COMCEC)
- Islamic Development Bank (IDB)
- Islamic University of Technology (IUT)
- Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRIC)

(A copy of the List of Participants of the Third Meeting of the Monitoring and Advisory Committee (MAC) of the OIC-VET Programme is attached as Annex I.)

B. Documentation

5. The documentation of the meeting consisted of the Draft Agenda and Programme. The meeting was also provided with the Implementation Report of the Vocational Education and Training Programme for OIC Member Countries (OIC-VET), programmes and reports of the previous MAC Meetings, updated brochure of the OIC-VET Programme and introductory flyers of International Student Internship (OIC-ISIP) and Ismek Master Trainer (IMTP) Programmes.

III. OPENING SESSION

6. The Opening Ceremony of the Third MAC Meeting was held on 17 July 2011 under the chairmanship of Dr. Kourosh Parand, Deputy of Training at TVTO and the Chairman of the Third MAC Meeting. Following the recitation from the Holy Quran, Dr. Parand welcomed all participants and emphasized the importance of OIC-VET Programme for all OIC Member Countries.

7. In his inaugural address, H.E. Prof. Abdolraosul POURABBAS, Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Affairs and President of Technical and Vocational Training Organization (TVTO), first welcomed the delegates of the National Focal Points of the OIC-VET Programme and thanked the Republic of Turkey to host the first and second Meetings of MAC. He further stated his hope that the Third MAC Meeting would be an important step in achieving the long term objectives of the Islamic Countries in increasing the capacity of economic institutions, scientific development and skills learning abilities through life-long learning.

8. H.E. POURABBAS continued his statement by pointing out the significance of innovation, technology and science for sustainable development, economic growth and welfare of the Islamic Countries, especially with the shift from the resource-based economy to knowledge-based economy. In this regard, H.E.Prof. Abdolraosul POURABBAS stressed the importance of technical and vocational training as the most important tools for the policy of innovation and technology.
9. Before concluding his remarks, H.E. Prof. Abdolraosul POURABBAS stated Islamic Republic of Iran's readiness in relevant fields of vocational education and training for the enhancement of cooperation at the level of OIC Member Countries.

(A copy of the text of the Inaugural Statement of H.E. Prof. Abdolraosul POURABBAS is attached as Annex II.)

10. H.E. Dr. Savas ALPAY, Director General of SESRIC, made a statement at the Opening Session. He expressed his special thanks to the Technical and Vocational Training Organization (TVTO) for hosting the Third MAC Meeting in Tehran and for the warm hospitality. He also expressed his thanks to the delegates for accepting SESRIC's invitation and designating their time to attend the Meeting.
11. In his speech H.E. Dr. Savas ALPAY elaborated on the milestones achieved in the conduct of the various activities under the OIC-VET Programme. H.E. Dr. Savas ALPAY emphasized the role of OIC-VET Programme in establishing a common platform for exchange of knowledge and experience through cooperation and collaboration among OIC Member Countries in order to improve the quality of vocational education and training in the public and private sectors. He commended the projects in which SESRIC, as the Executive Organ of the OIC-VET Programme, concerned OIC institutions and public and private partners have been working together to support and enhance the opportunities for individuals to develop their knowledge and skills.
12. H.E. Dr. Savas ALPAY also shared his belief that the Third MAC Meeting would provide an invaluable platform to discuss further ways of improving the existing programmes under OIC-VET, besides identifying new potential areas for further collaboration. He, therefore, requested the delegates and representatives of relevant OIC institutions at the Meeting to support the OIC-VET Programme and to actively get involved in the ongoing projects for their increased success.

(A copy of the text of the Inaugural Statement of H.E Dr. Savas ALPAY is attached as Annex III.)

13. Lastly, H.E. Dr. Savas ALPAY and H.E. Prof. Abdolraosul POURABBAS presented their gifts to each other. Following the award ceremony, the Session adopted the Draft Agenda of the Third MAC Meeting and elected the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the Rapporteur Countries. Iran, Turkey and Pakistan were elected as the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur of the Meeting respectively.

(The Agenda of the Meeting is attached as Annex IV.)

IV. WORKING SESSIONS

Working Session I: Review of the Progress in the implementation of the OIC-VET Programme since the Second Meeting of the Monitoring and Advisory Committee (MAC)

14. The session started with an OIC-VET visual presentation focusing on the aims and importance of the Programme. After the short introduction of the participants by Mrs. Hatice Ilbay Soylemez (SESRIC), Mrs. Melek Ates Tasci (SESRIC) briefed the participants on the OIC-VET Programme and pointed out to the activities completed by SESRIC since the Second Meeting of the MAC. Mrs. Tasci mentioned the Official Launch of the OIC-VET Programme by H.E. Abdullah GUL, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the COMCEC, at the COMCEC Economic Summit held in Istanbul on 9 November 2009. Mrs. Tasci also informed the participants of the governance, previous MAC Meetings, objectives, beneficiaries, implemented activities, capacity building programmes and training opportunities of the OIC-VET Programme.
15. Following the presentation of Mrs. Melek Tasci, Mr. Mehmet DOGAN, education director at Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality made a presentation on “As an Adult Education Application: ISMEK, Istanbul Art and Vocational Education Courses”. As an OIC-VET partner in the “ISMEK Master Trainer Programme (IMTP)”, Mr. DOGAN briefed the participants about ISMEK and explained in details the working mechanism of the programme.

16. The Meeting expressed appreciation of the above SESRIC activities and adopted the following decisions and recommendations:

- Inform National Focal Points (NFPs) about the resources available in terms of finances and capacities to execute the OIC-VET projects;
- Inform all NFPs before any implementation regarding the OIC-VET projects;
- Prepare Portal announcements of recent and upcoming OIC-VET activities;
- Prepare schedules for the OIC-VET projects;
- Develop projects targeting unemployment and considering the market needs;
- Increase the volume of trainings and Training of Trainers (ToT) courses;
- Develop e-learning module to share the trainings on the virtual base among OIC Member Countries;
- Conduct research projects studying the training needs, strategies and weaknesses of VET systems in OIC Member Countries;
- Publish a statistical yearbook on TVET in OIC Member Countries to identify the current capacities and weaknesses of the countries;
- Share the resources to strengthen the VET systems in low income countries;
- Establish an email group for NFPs for technical support and better communication.

Working Session II: Discussion on higher involvement of NFPs and OIC Organs in the implementation of OIC-VET

17. The session started with a recitation from the Holy Quran. Afterwards, representatives of the member countries and OIC institutions briefed the meeting about the latest developments in the field of vocational education and training in their respective countries and discussed several ways and means of increasing the involvement of NFPs and OIC institutions in the implementation of OIC-VET Programme.

18. Mr. Mohamed Hashim (Maldives NFP) made an introductory presentation on the history, current situation, challenges and future of VET in Maldives and briefed the Meeting about the recent preparations of Skills Training Program, a new initiative of the government of Maldives to tackle the increasing number of youth unemployment and foreign expatriates in the country. He explained the need for competency based trainings according to market needs, skill standards and curricula to improve the quality and employability of trainings. He further requested an active collaboration within the OIC-VET Programme to improve the educational, employment and community services in the member countries.
19. Mr. Ahmad Mukhtar (Pakistan NFP) informed the meeting about the structure and mandate of National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) of Pakistan and their efforts to enhance the VET activities in Pakistan which have been promoted through the National Skills Strategy (2009-2013). He further briefed the Meeting about their collaboration with other countries and international organizations with a view to increase the total capacity of VET in Pakistan. He lastly remarked on the similarities of challenges and responses across the countries and stressed the importance of closer cooperation between the member countries.
20. Mr. Huseyin Acir (Turkey NFP) made a presentation where he summarized MEGEP, METEM and UMEM Projects and reflected upon the questions of what is distinctive about them and in which areas of the projects may the cooperation between member countries be enhanced. He also briefed the participants about the VET system and the state of VET capacity in Turkey as well as the lessons learnt from their experiences for matching the existing competences and identify possible areas of future cooperation. He further proposed the development of curriculum and training materials, the exchange of students and trainers through sister schooling and training of trainers (ToT) among OIC Member Countries.
21. Mr. Sameh Hussein (IDB Representative) briefed the participants on Education for Employment (E4E) project which aims to contribute to the solution of the unemployment problem in Arab countries. He further pointed out the findings of the research that was conducted jointly by Islamic Development Bank and World Bank. He also mentioned proposals that addressing the gap between knowledge and skills in trainings.

22. Mr. KouroshParand (Chair) summed up all the presentations and invited participants to give their remarks at the end of the session.
23. Mr. Reza Bajoulvand (Iran NFP) informed the participants about the gender equality in accessing vocational education and training in Iran and stated its readiness to help other member countries with the support of IDB.
24. Mr. Mukhtar Ahmad (Pakistan NFP) stressed the need to formulate the OIC-VET Programme as a comprehensive platform on the EU model and suggested to constitute a core group out of member countries who would study various collaborative models around the world, formulate a proposal for establishing a platform which can serve as a common accreditation and certification mechanism and suggest policies and strategies for TVET in various countries. He further underlined that only such a platform can integrate the TVET systems of the member countries and help in mutual recognitions of qualifications through common evaluation tools.

Working Session III: Discussion of Potential Project Proposals

25. The session started with a short documentary on Iran focusing on its history, culture and potentials. The documentary was followed by a presentation on TVTO. Mr. Reza Bajoulvand (Iran NFP) informed the participants on the education system in Iran and in TVTO, its target groups, its collaboration with the national and international bodies, sub-offices and structures, TVTO policies and National Qualifications Framework.
26. He also stated the need to organize international skill competitions between OIC Member Countries to give the members the opportunity and a platform to exchange information as well as to display their skills. He lastly stressed the readiness of Iran to host these competitions with the collaboration of other countries.
27. Mr. EminTarikArgit (MUSIAD) briefed the Meeting about the framework and working mechanism of International Student Internship Programme (OIC-ISIP) and stressed the importance of public and private partnership to increase the quality of vocational education and training and to provide the integration of labor market and vocational training.

28. The participants were then separated into three groups to identify the potential projects for collaboration and to finalize other proposals. Mr. Ali Isler, Expert at COMCEC Coordination Office, briefed the participants about the criterion for project proposals and financing mechanism of IDB for the OIC Member Countries. Representatives of the groups informed the Meeting about their discussions and proposed the following areas and projects promoted by the national focal points for consideration and implementation;

- Mobile Training
- Tourism and Hotel Management
- Virtual Training
- Training of Trainers
- Port Handling and Shipping

Working Session IV: Next Steps and Action Points

29. Mrs. Tulay Alpman (Ministry of Labor and Social Security of Republic of Turkey) made a presentation on the activities and efforts of Ministry of Labor and Social Security of Republic of Turkey in the field of VET and briefed the participants about the OIC-OSHNET project. She also focused on various areas where joint projects and programs could be developed with OIC Member Countries.

30. Mr. Ousmane Ngom Leye (Senegal NFP) informed the meeting about the difficulties in vocational education and training in Senegal and the efforts to revise the TVET system. He stated the importance of improving and uplifting science and technology and the quality of education for sustainable development. He further stressed the need for expanding education, the classes and e-learning in order to provide new job opportunities to youth in Senegal.

31. Mrs. Hatice Ilbay Soylemez (SESRIC) informed the participants about an updated OIC-VET Portal and other infrastructural arrangements undertaken by SESRIC, namely OIC-VET Partners Database and OIC-VET Training Module. She further briefed the participants on the planned activities of SESRIC, namely the Skill Development for Youth Employment and OIC Human Resource Map projects and stressed the importance of and need for NFPs active support and contribution to those projects for their success.

32. The Meeting discussed several ways and means of enhancing cooperation and collaboration among the NFPs for continuous interaction and partnership and further discussed next steps and action points for consideration and implementation;

- Project based skills competition in the field of TVET among OIC Member Countries;
- Ranking the capabilities of OIC Member Countries based on some benchmarks, scientific advancements and standards;
- Establishing thematic working groups to work on Training of Trainers, Virtual Training and Simulation and Exchanging of Knowledge and Experience in VET.

Closing Session

33. The Closing Session of the Third MAC Meeting was held on 18 July 2011. H.E Prof. Abdolraosul POURABBAS, Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Affairs and President of Technical and Vocational Training Organization (TVTO), made a closing statement at the Session. H.E. Prof. POURABBAS emphasized that in order to have sustainable development in skill and technology, the OIC-VET Programme would attach paramount importance to strengthening the cooperation of all beneficiaries, partners and social institutions to implement the projects in the best way. H.E. Prof. POURABBAS concluded his statement by thanking all delegations, OIC institutions, organizers and interpreters for their valuable contribution to the Third Meeting of the Monitoring and Advisory Committee.

(The text of the Closing Statement of H.E Prof. Abdolraosul POURABBAS is attached as Annex V)

34. Dr. Savas ALPAY, Director General of SESRIC, presented the Draft Recommendations to the Session and highlighted important points of agreement contained in the recommendations. The Session then adopted the Recommendations of the Third MAC Meeting.

(Recommendations of the Meeting is attached as Annex VI)

35. The date and venue of the Fourth Meeting of the Monitoring and Advisory Committee (MAC) of the OIC-VET Programme will be communicated in due course.

36. The Meeting expressed its gratitude to the Technical and Vocational Training Organization (TVTO) of Islamic Republic of Iran for its excellent organization and the SESRIC for its assistance in facilitating the meeting.

Annex I

List of Participants to the Third Meeting of the Monitoring and Advisory Committee (MAC)

Annex II

Opening Statement by Prof. Abdolraosul POURABBAS, Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Affairs and President of Technical and Vocational Training Organization (TVTO)

Annex III

Opening Statement by Dr. Savaş ALPAY, Director General of SESRIC

Annex IV

The Agenda of the Third MAC Meeting

Annex V

Closing Statement by Prof. Abdolraosul POURABBAS, Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Affairs and President of Technical and Vocational Training Organization (TVTO)

Annex VI

List of Recommendations Adopted at the Third MAC Meeting

Annex I

List of Participants to the Third Meeting of the Monitoring and Advisory Committee (MAC) of the Vocational Education and Training Programme for OIC Member Countries (OIC-VET)

17-18 July 2011

The Olympic Hotel, Tehran

Islamic Republic of Iran

A. OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES

REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN

- Mr. SEYED ALI KHALILI

Director General, Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled

- Mr. HESSAM AL-DIN TALEGHANI

Director General, Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

- Mr. ILQAR NADIROV

Chief Consultant, Ministry of Education

- Mrs. AYGUN ALIZADE

Professor at Azerbaijan Academy of Science

- Mr. ELMAN NORUZOV

Professor at Azerbaijan Academy of Science

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

- Mrs. TAJKERA BEGUM

Deputy Director General, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

- Mr. AMBROISE ABANDA
Chief, National Bureau of Statistics

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

- Prof. ABDOLRASOUL POURABBAS
Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Affairs and President of TVTO
- Mr. REZA BAJOULVAND
Deputy of Training, Instructor Training Center (ITC)
- Dr. KOUROSH PARAND
Deputy of Training and the Chair of the Third MAC Meeting, TVTO
- Dr. ALI ASGHAR ROSTAMI ABUSAEEDI
Director General of Legal and International Affairs and TVTO's representative at the Third MAC Meeting Board
- Dr. ALIREZA TAHERI
International Affairs Advisor, Technical and Vocational Training Organization (TVTO)
- Mrs. MARZIEH ADABI MOHAZAB
Head of Secretariat, Technical and Vocational Training Organization (TVTO)
- Mr. MOHAMMAD ALISHAHI
International Affairs Expert, Technical and Vocational Training Organization (TVTO)
- Mr. ABBAS KARIMI
Session Reporter, Technical and Vocational Training Organization (TVTO)
- Mrs. ELHAM SEIFI
Third MAC Secretariat, Technical and Vocational Training Organization (TVTO)

REPUBLIC OF IRAQ

- Mr. ABDULLAH MATHI

Director of Centre for Training and Statistical Research, Central Statistical Organization

REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES

- Mr. MOHAMED HASHIM

Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Education

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN

- Mr. MUKHTAR AHMAD

Director General, NAVTTC (National Vocational and Technical Training Commission)

REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL

- Mr. OUSMANE NGOM LEYE

Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training

REPUBLIC OF TOGO

- Mr. KOUKO ZOUMAROU AGBERE

Chief, National Bureau of Statistics

REPUBLIC OF TUNISIA

- Mr. MOHAMED BAHRI GABSI

Director General, Ministry of Trade

REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

- Mr. HUSEYIN ACIR

Director General, Ministry of National Education General Directorate of Technical Education

- Mr. SEDAT GUNEYPARLAK

Educational Expert, Ministry of National Education General Directorate of Technical Education

- Mrs. HATICE TULAY ALPMAN

Engineer, Ministry of Labor and Social Security

- Mr. MEHMET DOGAN

Education Director, the Centre for Art and Vocational Training Courses of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality (ISMEK)

- Mr. YUSUF KEMAL CIVELEK

Vice General Coordinator, the Centre for Art and Vocational Training Courses of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality (ISMEK)

- Mr. EMIN TARIK ARGIT

Deputy Secretary General, Independent Industrials and Businessmen's Association (MUSIAD)

B. OIC INSTITUTIONS

STATISTICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES (SESRIC)

- Dr. SAVAS ALPAY

Director General

- Dr. HALIT KAPLAN

Advisor

- Mrs. HATICE ILBAY SOYLEMEZ

Researcher

- Mrs. HATICE MELEK ATES TASCI

Researcher

COMCEC COORDINATION OFFICE

- Mr. ALİ İŞLER

Planning Expert

ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK (IDB)

- Mr. SAMEH HUSSEIN
Principle Sector Specialist

ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY (IUT)

- Associate Prof. CHE KUM CLEMENT
Head of Department

Annex II

Opening Statement by Prof. Abdolraosul POURABBAS, Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Affairs and President of Technical and Vocational Training Organization (TVTO)

Praise be to Almighty God who sent divine revelations to the Prophet and opened a direct and eternal way before the humanity for evolution. Praise be to God who oriented human from the steep of ignorance and infidelity to the secure shelter of monotheism, science and knowledge.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Respectable participants of the Third Meeting of Monitoring and Advisory Committee (MAC) of Vocational Educational and Training Programme for OIC Member Countries:

Greetings

I would like to welcome the cherishing presence of distinguished guests to the Islamic Republic of Iran and wish you a happy and successful trip. This meeting is concurrent with the birth day anniversary of the saviour of humanity, Hz. Mahdi [A.S.] (The 12th Imam of Shiite) and I also wish to congratulate this auspicious birth anniversary to you.

While expressing thanks to the Republic of Turkey for holding the first and second meetings of Monitoring and Advisory Committee (MAC) of the vocational education and training programme of OIC member countries successfully, I would like to state that Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes the compilation of programs of Vocational Education and Training Programme for OIC Member Countries (OIC-VET) and will make its best efforts to fulfill it. The third meeting of Monitoring and Advisory Committee (MAC) of OIC Member Countries which is held for the first time independently indicate the special attention of the Islamic countries to skill trainings.

It is hoped that holding the third meeting hosted by Islamic Republic of Iran could be considered as new effort in achieving the long term objectives of Islamic countries in the path of developing skill learning. Reviewing the programs and achievements of OIC member countries on technical and vocational trainings, this meeting intends to follow up the subject of skill training based on necessities and priorities.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

As you are aware, with the change of attitude of Islamic countries from the resource-based economy into to knowledge-based economy, and the significance of having access to sustainable development in these countries, the three pivots of 1) innovation, 2) technology and 3) merit have found considerable importance. Today, science, technology and innovation are recognized as pivots of economic growth and development, establishment of technological capability and development and welfare of countries. The improvement of merits and skills of human forces and promotion of their leaning abilities through life-long learning and also expansion of technical and vocational trainings are the most important tools of the policy of innovation and technology. On the other hand, the subject of entrepreneurship as a factor for orienting talents and expanding the capacity of resources of countries towards employment and sustainable development will need the empowerment of human forces and technical and vocational trainings are serving this goal.

Thus, considering the political, economic and geographical conditions of Islamic countries, compatibility of skill learning and technology system among Islamic countries seems to be necessary for the optimal use of abilities of these countries.

However, the broad and noticeable changes in the area of science and technology in Iran including success in the area of advanced technologies such as Nano Technology, biotechnology, robotics, approval of supportive rules such as supporting the knowledge-based companies, growth of journals, books and scientific-research articles at national and international levels, and gaining world ranks in the area of technology made Islamic Republic of Iran to move towards the system of skill and technology. Furthermore, studying the skill training systems of more than 80 countries, Iran has designed and compiled the National System of Skill and Technology with three sub-systems 1) skill and technology training 2) professional merit [qualification] and 3) employment system. The necessary rules such as Article 21 of the 5th Economic, Social and Cultural Development Plan as executive guarantees for its approval has also been approved.

Islamic Republic of Iran is pursuing the following objectives by designing and implementing this system:

- 1- Establishing a link between skill trainings and qualification and demands of labor market
- 2- Converging the skill training system with regard to the national comprehensive scientific map

3- Networking among active beneficiaries at the skill training system

4- Increasing the competitiveness of enterprises and training institutions and centers

5-Developing innovation abilities and national technology

6- Developing virtual and electronic education and training

The National Organization of Skill and Technology has been established within the framework of National System of Skill and Technology in order to plan and coordinate skill trainings. On this basis, the skill trainings in Iran have been designed in three levels: 1) general courses of skill and technology, 2) higher courses of skill and technology and 3) supplementary courses between academic levels. According to this system, the general courses of skill and technology are presented by Ministry of Education, higher courses of skill and technology at (A.Sc.), (B.Sc.), (M.Sc.) and (Ph.D.) are presented by Scientific and Applied Universities and the Technical and Vocational Centers and the supplementary courses between academic levels are presented by the Technical and Vocational Training Organization as well.

At present, in Iran, TVTO has 658 fixed technical and vocational training centers, 441 workplaces beside universities, 1800 work places beside industries and guilds, 2900 rural and tribal training bases, more than 1000 urban mobile training work places, 844 training work places in prisons, and 603 work places at military bases in the public sector and about 18000 free technical and vocational institutes in the private sector. They are working with about 36000 skill training instructors and in average 3 million people are granted skill certificate annually.

Also, in the part of academic skill trainings, it has 740 units of Scientific and Applied Comprehensive Universities in 712 fields with about 20000 instructors and 164 academic technical and vocational centers.

In line with these, having a successful experience with more than a century in the area of skill training, having specialized forces of skill system and capable organizations and associations, the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to undertake the following proposals to achieve the above goals at the level of Islamic countries:

- Developing the regional system of professional qualification in the Islamic countries
- Compiling merit models for the pyramid of human force

- Holding skill Olympiad in Islamic countries with an emphasis on value-based technological skills
- Designing and implementing virtual, electronic and simulation training
- Developing skill learning for women in line with their empowerment as a half of our countries' human forces
- Training skill instructors for Islamic countries
- Developing skill learning for special and underprivileged stratum

In line with these objectives, I would like to request the President of the Meeting and Deputy of Technical and Vocational Training Organization of I.R. of Iran (His Excellency, Dr. Parand) to clarify strategies, objectives and proper grounds for the above-proposals in this Meeting in collaboration with other respectable members.

Last but not the least, I would like to thank and appreciate the collective efforts of the distinguished guests of the Third Meeting of the Monitoring and Advisory Committee (MAC) of the Vocational Education and Training Programme for OIC Member Countries (OIC-VET) and their presence in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Relying on the Islamic values, it is hoped that the Islamic countries could be the manifestation of this divine command at the global level which states: **واعتصموا بحبل الله جميعا ولا تفرقوا** [Hold fast to the Rope of Allah, and be not divided [Holy Qur'an].

Annex III

Opening Statement of Dr. Savaş Alpay, Director General of the SESRIC, at the Third Meeting of the Monitoring and Advisory Committee of the Vocational Education and Training Programme for OIC Member Countries

Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

17 July 2011

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

Respected Minister,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

AssalamuAlaykum we Rahmatullahi we Barakatuhu

I am honoured to address the Third Meeting of the Monitoring and Advisory Committee of the Vocational Education and Training Programme for OIC Member Countries. Let me, at the outset, express my sincere appreciation and thanks to all of you for accepting the invitation and designating time to attend this very important meeting. Our special thanks go to the Technical and Vocational Training Organization (TVTO) of the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting this significant meeting at this beautiful city, Tehran.

The main objective of this meeting is to review the progress that has been achieved since the Second Meeting of MAC held in Turkey last year, and to discuss ways and means of cooperation and collaboration among National Focal Points of the Programme in implementing projects in OIC Member Countries. In this meeting, we expect to consolidate the existing relationships between the National Focal Points further in order to help them generate a better outcome in providing vocational education and training to the individuals in their countries. As you all know, The OIC-VET Programme emphasises the importance of coordination and cooperation among all Member States to improve the quality of vocational education and training in the public and private sectors with the aim of supporting and enhancing the opportunities for individuals to develop their knowledge and skills and thus to contribute to the development and competitiveness of the

economies of their countries. Therefore, as an important step towards this ultimate goal, we are sure that our gathering here today will take place in a fruitful and most productive atmosphere. I would also like to mention that it is promising to see number of participants and also interest and support of the Member Countries to the Programme have been increasing each year. In this regard, once again I would like to thank all the respected representatives for their participation and invaluable contribution to this meeting.

As you may all agree, in an age of intensive global competition, knowledge is the single most important tool for a strong existence and education is the single most powerful means to improve the quality of life and well-being of our citizens. Education builds a culture of providing best service for our people and society as a whole. Every investment in education would definitely bring higher returns for the future of our individuals and community. Stating the importance of life-long learning hundreds of years ago, The Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of God be upon him), advised humanity to “seek knowledge from the cradle to the grave”. Especially, in the era of rapid technological transformation, life-long learning is in front-page on the agenda of many countries. Governments now need to be more responsive to the demands of the sectors and more aware of the social and economic relevance of skills and provide technical and vocational education with a commensurate share of social investment. Moreover, as production gets more onto a global scale, the pressure on the workforce to improve and update their knowledge and skills according to the changing demands and priorities of the market has been increasing as well.

All these developments could explain why many governments in the developing world have now been trying to reform their technical and vocational education systems. These reforms include the attempts to make the importance of life-long learning known by individuals, to improve the image of the vocational education and training (VET) and to increase the public awareness about the leading role of VET in socio-economic development of the countries.

In this regard, OIC-VET Programme targets to enhance the understanding of VET both by people and industry, besides building the skills and competencies of the workforce through strengthening the VET systems of the Member Countries by employing collaborative projects and designs. In other words, the OIC-VET Programme not only improves the capacity of the VET systems of the Member Countries but also establishes bridges among the members of OIC Community by identifying potential collaboration areas and turning them into real cooperative actions.

In fact, The OIC-VET Programme is envisaged to establish closer cooperation among Member Countries in meeting today's developmental challenges by providing opportunities for organisations involved in vocational education and training to build OIC partnerships, to exchange best practices, experiences and knowledge, to increase the expertise of their staff and to develop the skills and competencies of the participants. Our ultimate desire is that all OIC Member Countries would share this vision and benefit from this significant Programme.

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you may recall the OIC-VET Programme was launched by Abdullah Gül, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of COMCEC during the COMCEC Economic Summit held in Istanbul on 9 November 2009, with the participation of the heads of states and governments. The İstanbul Declaration, adopted at that Economic Summit, stated the importance of vocational education and training in socio-economic development of the OIC member countries, welcomed the launch of OIC-VET and also requested Member Countries to facilitate the implementation of the programme. Marked by this event, SESRIC undertook the role of Executive OIC Organ of the OIC-VET Programme, responsible to develop and coordinate cooperation programmes among Member Countries and also follow up the implementation of these programmes. With the guidance of Monitoring and Advisory Committee and continuing support and involvement of the National Focal Points, since then, SESRIC has worked towards the successful implementation of the various projects under the framework of OIC-VET Programme. To this end, I am very proud to say that, three successful pilot projects have already been accomplished and have become full-fledged programmes under the umbrella of OIC-VET.

Our first pilot project with the Turkish Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (İSGÜM) in May 2010 has led the way to the successful establishment of OIC- Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET) with a kick-off meeting one year later in May 2011. Our aim is to turn this network into a platform for OSH professionals to exchange their best practices and to share their experiences and projects in the field so that OIC Member Countries would enhance their capacities in this important area.

The second pilot project with the Centre for Art and Vocational Training Courses of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality (İSMEK) in June 2010 has yielded to İSMEK Master Trainer Programme (İMTP), whose first certificates were awarded to the 10 Pakistani Master Trainers in April 2011.

OIC International Student Internship Programme (OIC-ISIP) has also started its implementation phase in 2010. Arrangements have been already made for the internship of summer 2011.

These are some of the accomplishments that were realized under the OIC-VET Programme since our last meeting. I would like to express that this Third Monitoring and Advisory Committee Meeting would present us with an invaluable platform to discuss further how to improve our existing programmes under OIC-VET, besides identifying new potential areas for further collaboration. We will share our experiences and our recommendations for reaching the better. Vocational training is a precious tool for promoting new opportunities for individuals in all sectors of the economy. We believe that through close cooperation and networking among member countries, the OIC-VET Programme has already started to establish a larger community of beneficiaries since its launch, in a short period of time.

It is my belief that as the owners of the OIC-VET Programme, support of the Member Countries and support of the OIC Institutions are the two main assets of this Programme. And it is my hope that open and inclusive dialogue will be the hallmark of this meeting and its concrete outcome will pave the way for future collaborations. I am confident that the work you are about to accomplish would, ultimately, approximate and contribute significantly to the collective welfare for the Ummah. As we all look forward to the successful outcome of this meeting, I wish you all the success in your deliberations.

Thank you for your kind attention.

WassalamuAlaykum we Rahmatullahi we Barakatuhu

Annex IV

Agenda of the Third Meeting of the Monitoring and Advisory Committee (MAC) of the Vocational Education and Training Programme for OIC Member Countries (OIC-VET)

Tehran, Iran

16–20 July 2011

Saturday, 16 July 2011

Arrivals

Day 1: Sunday, 17 July 2011

9.00 – 9.30 Registration

9.30 – 10.30 Opening Session

- Recitation from the Holy Quran
- Welcoming statements
 - Dr. Abdolrasoul Pourabbas, Deputy Minister / Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Republic of Iran & President of TVTO
 - Dr. Savaş Alpay, Director General of SESRIC
- Adoption of the Draft Agenda and Programme
- Election of the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Rapporteur for the SessionI

10.30 – 11.00 Coffee Break

11.00 – 13.00 Session I: Review of the Progress in the implementation of the OIC-VET Programme since the Second Meeting of MAC

- OIC-VET visual presentation
- Introduction of participants by SESRIC

- SESRIC's presentation on OIC-VET implemented activities
 - (OIC-VET website and brochure introduction)
- Presentation by Mr. Memet Doğan / OIC-VET Project Partner
- Presentations / Comments / Proposals of National Focal Points

13.00 – 14.30 Lunch Break

14.30 – 16.30 Session II: Discussion on higher involvement of NFPs and OIC Organs in the implementation of OIC-VET

- Presentation by Mr. Mohamed Hashim / Maldives NFP
- Presentation by Mr. Mukhtar Ahmad / Pakistan NFP
- Presentation by Mr. Huseyin Acir / Turkey NFP
- Comments / Proposals of National Focal Points & OIC Institutions

16.30 – 17.00 Coffee Break

17.00 – 18.30 Session III: Discussion of Potential Project Proposals

- TVTO visual presentation
- Presentation by Mr. Reza Bajoulvand / Iran NFP
- Presentation by Mr. Emin Tarik Argit / OIC-VET Project Partner
- Comments / Proposals by NFPs & OIC Institutions
- Group activity
- Wrapping up the first day of the meeting

Day 2: Monday, 18 July 2011

9.30 – 11.00 Session IV: Next Steps and Action Points

- Presentation by Mrs. Tulay Alpman / OIC-VET Project Partner

- Presentation by Mr. Ousmane Ngom Leye / Senegal NFP
- Presentation by SESRIC on new pilot projects, programmes and capacity building trainings
- Comments / Proposal by NFPs & OIC Institutions
- Date and venue of the Fourth Meeting of the Monitoring and Advisory Committee
- Any other business

11.00 – 11.30 Coffee Break

11.30 – 12.30 Closing Session: Wrapping up the meeting and adoption of the Final Document

- SESRIC's Reading the Recommendations discussed during the Third MAC Meeting
- Adoption of the Final Document
- Closing Statements
- Statement by Dr. Abdolreza Sheikholeslami, Minister of Labour and Social Affairs

12.30 – 14.00 Lunch Break

14.30 – 18.30 Site trips: visit to two Vocational Education and Training Centers in Karaj

- Automotive Technology Centre
- Instructor Training Centre

Day 3: Tuesday, 19 July 2011

Trip to Isfahan

Wednesday, 20 July 2011

Departures from Iran

Annex V

Closing Statement of Prof. Abdolraosul POURABBAS, Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Affairs and President of Technical and Vocational Training Organization (TVTO) at the Third Meeting of the Monitoring and Advisory Committee of the Vocational Education and Training Programme for OIC Member Countries

Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

18 July 2011

Numerous thanks to God Almighty who created mankind as the masters of creatures, and identified his perfection in his working art, skill, activity, development and transformation. The Almighty God determined no boundaries to mankind's growth and transcendence and laid his deliverance and emancipation in useful working and activity which equalizes to worshipping.

Ladies and gentlemen

Dear participants of the Third Monitoring and Advisory Committee of Vocational Education and Training for OIC Member Countries;

AssalamuAlaykum we Rahmatullahi we Barakatuhu

I am really pleased to host you in this meeting in my country, Islamic Republic of Iran in which we opened new opportunities for our cooperation and deliberation in one the main and most important issues, technical and vocational training. If God will, this meeting leads to more efforts in using mutual experience of Islamic countries.

In this meeting, with the help of God, we reviewed the strategies, programs, and achievements of OIC members in the fields of technical and vocational training and we hope that we utilize the heritage of our past, today development, and also our localized international experience in order to develop and progress all Islamic communities who were pioneers in training, research, skills and applied knowledge, even though sooner than the scientific resurgence of the west, the Renaissance.

Nowadays, issues like appropriate occupation pattern, vocation competency system, national and regional innovation system, and preparing new training patterns are the main topics for experts, politicians and decision-makers where they can utilize them as patterns or development, improving national capacities, sustainable economic development, social and cultural developments, and strengthening the cooperation of all beneficiaries and social institutions. For this aim, it is necessary that Islamic countries prepare comprehensive and integrated patterns in which their own local conditions and especially where the Islamic holy rules is the base.

Having utilized its historical experience and national patterns of its specialist and expert human resources, the Islamic republic of Iran has adopted policies in the mentioned fields and announced its readiness to cooperate with OIC members in designing and implementing strategies and policies for the OIC-VET based on the appropriate occupational patterns, vocational competency systems, and national and regional innovation system.

Ladies and gentlemen;

As discussed in this meeting, in order to enter in high-lever international fields and achieve an appropriate position for skill training in Islamic countries and also to have sustainable development in skill and technology, our main policy should be based on continues and permanent efforts to implement our agreements.

One of the main outcomes of this meeting which was held by the participation of different countries and the expert of the Islamic republic of Iran was the emphasis on the communication, consultation, and monitoring strategies which were formed based on the unanimous agreement of the countries.

Finally, it is hoped that with the effective participation of the members of this meeting, all the mentioned agreements and achievements be made and we witness common strategies, policies, and program for this goal.

Once again, I do appreciate the attendance of our respected and wise guests from Islamic Countries and also I would like thank to our domestic experts and specialists.

I hope that in future meetings; we witness more developments in technical and vocational training, skill –based training, research and new proposals in Islamic countries and move to skill- based trainings.

Annex VI

Recommendations Adopted at the Third Meeting of the Monitoring and Advisory Committee of the OIC-VET Programme

The Monitoring and Advisory Committee (MAC) of the OIC-VET Programme adopted the following recommendations in its Third Meeting, which was held on 17-18 July 2011, in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran;

1. The Committee **called upon** the Member States that have not done so, to designate their National Focal Points (NFPs) for the OIC-VET Programme.
2. The Committee **called upon** the National Focal Points (NFPs) of the OIC-VET Programme and relevant authorities in the Member States, as well as, the relevant OIC institutions to actively participate in the implementation process of the OIC-VET Programme.
3. The Committee **expressed** strong satisfaction with the implementation of OIC-VET Programme and **welcomed** the launching of planned projects to be implemented in coordination with National Focal Points of the Member States and concerned OIC Institutions.
4. The Committee **expressed** its appreciation for İSMEK Master Trainer Programme (İMTP) and **requested** Member States to actively get involved in the programme for sharing best practices among OIC Member Countries.
5. The Committee **endorsed** the OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET) and **urged** Member States to actively support the network for the exchange of knowledge and experience in the field of occupational safety and health.
6. The Committee **welcomed** the OIC International Students Internship Programme (OIC-ISIP), and **called upon** Member States to actively participate in the OIC-ISIP for promoting enhanced interaction among the universities, technical and vocational education organizations and the labour market.
7. The Committee **welcomed** the proposal to establish a thematic working group on the subject of “Virtual Training and Simulation” among the Member Countries. The working group will be led by

the Islamic Republic of Iran and open to the participation from all OIC Member Countries and relevant OIC Institutions a voluntary basis.

8. The Committee **welcomed** the proposal to establish a thematic working group on the subject of “Training of Trainers” among the Member Countries. The working group will be led by the Republic of Turkey and open to the participation from all OIC Member Countries and relevant OIC Institutions on a voluntary basis.

9. The Committee **welcomed** the proposal to establish a thematic working group on the subject of “Sharing of Best Practices in Vocational Education and Training (VET)” among the Member Countries. The working group will be led by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and open to the participation from all OIC Member Countries and relevant OIC Institutions on a voluntary basis.

10. The Committee **requested** SESRIC to establish an e-mail group among National Focal Points to increase the level of participation and effectiveness of communication.

11. The Committee **welcomed** SESRIC’s project on Skill Development for Youth Employment (SDYE) and **appreciated** IDB’s contribution and support to this project.

12. The Committee **expressed** its strong appreciation for SESRIC for the prudent implementation of OIC-VET Programme and **requested** it to submit recommendations adopted at the Third Monitoring and Advisory Committee Meeting to the 27th session of COMCEC to be held on 17-20 October 2011 in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey.

13. The Committee **agreed** to give special considerations to assist Republic of Maldives in capacity building, resource sharing, and financing of the skills development projects of TVET due to the unique geographical and vulnerable economic situation of the country.

14. The Committee **expressed** its thanks and strong appreciation to Technical and Vocational Training Organization (TVTO) and Islamic Republic of Iran for organizing the Third Meeting of the Monitoring and Advisory Committee of the OIC-VET, in collaboration with SESRIC, on 17-18 July in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran.