

Text of Speech of Dr. Pourabbas, President of Technical and Vocational Training Organization, Islamic Republic of Iran

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 program at 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 savior of humanity, Hazrat 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 complied 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].