

Closing Statement by H.E. Dr. Savaş Alpay, Director General of SESRIC

At the Closing Session of the

Study Visit on “Skill Development for Youth Employment”

Ankara, Turkey, 11-13 January 2012

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

**Distinguished Delegates, Participants and Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuhu,

First, I would like to thank you all for designating the last three days of your valuable time to attend and participate in the discussions and deliberations on the important issue of youth unemployment, which is a widespread concern in majority of the member countries. I would also like to congratulate you for the valuable recommendations and proposals you made, which I believe will contribute significantly to the efforts of the OIC and its member countries towards devising effective policies aimed at reducing unemployment and, ultimately, improving the collective welfare for the Islamic Ummah.

We had the honour at SESRIC to organize this Study Visit as an initial phase of the project “Skill Development for Youth Employment (SDYE)”, that we have recently initiated, in collaboration with the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), with a view to contribute to the efforts of the OIC member countries towards decreasing the high unemployment rates, particularly youth unemployment. In this spirit, we organized this event to share and exchange the experience of Turkey in reducing youth unemployment through the “Skill 10 Project”.

I hope that this Study Visit was successful in transferring the Turkish experience in “Skill 10 Project” to other member countries as a good practice in addressing the concern about youth unemployment. I am also hopeful that this event set grounds for enhanced

cooperation between the Turkish institutions involved in the “Skill 10 Project” and the counterpart institutions in your countries. I am certain that the extensive presentations, discussions, field trips, and deliberations made during the last two days further enriched our understanding of the practices and challenges in tackling youth unemployment. I believe that this short experience will valuably contribute to the efforts of your institutions towards reducing youth unemployment in your countries. Hopefully, this event has already laid the ground for establishing a professional network among your institutions for systematic sharing of knowledge and experience on youth employment.

I believe that the outcomes of this event will help us at SESRIC to develop and implement additional capacity building and training programs, and enhance the technical cooperation in this important area for the benefit of all OIC member countries. To facilitate this process, I would like to remind you that the training activities that will be held under capacity building programmes will be most beneficial if every member country and organization makes due effort in contributing to as well as benefiting from training programmes organised by SESRIC.

Distinguished Participants,

Before closing the study visit on Skill Development for Youth Employment, I would like, once again, to express my deep gratitude to Islamic Development Bank (IDB), to the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB), to the Ministry of National Education of the Republic of Turkey, to the Turkish Work Agency (İŞKUR) and to all those who, in one way or another, contributed to the success of this study visit. I would also like to present my congratulations to the delegates for their excellent presentations and to the participants for their keen interest and lively participation.

I wish you all safe trips back to your home countries and all the success in your future work.

Wassalamu Alaykum we Rahmatullahi we Barakatuhu