

## SESRIC and Bank Indonesia Jointly Organized International Forum on Islamic Digital Economy



**AN INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON ISLAMIC DIGITAL ECONOMY**  
*"The Islamic Economic Digitalization and Inclusion: Policy Development and Implementation in the OIC Countries"*

Thursday, 29 October 2020 01.00-04.10 p.m (Jakarta Time GMT+7)  
 Open for Public | Registration at <https://virtualisef.co.id/eesric-conference/>  
 E-Certificate Available Upon Request

<b>Welcoming Remarks</b>  <b>Nebil Dabur</b> Director General, SESRIC	<b>Keynote Speech</b>  <b>Sugeng</b> Deputy Governor Bank Indonesia	<b>Closing Speech</b>  <b>M. Anwar Bashori</b> Head of Sharia Economy and Finance Department Bank Indonesia
<b>Lead Discussant</b>  <b>Dadang Muljawan</b> Director of Islamic Economic and Finance Department Bank Indonesia, Vice Rector IIIU	<b>Discussant</b>  <b>Sami Al Suwailem</b> Acting Director General, Islamic Research and Training Institute	<b>Discussant</b>  <b>Ameriza M. Moesa</b> Director of Payment System Policy Department, Bank Indonesia
<b>Lead Discussant</b>  <b>Rifki Ismal</b> Assistant Secretary General of IFSB	<b>Discussant</b>  <b>Irfan Syauqi Beik</b> Director, Zakat Distribution and Utilization The National Board of Zakat, the Republic of Indonesia	<b>Discussant</b>  <b>Lejla Sadiku</b> Team Leader of Knowledge and Innovation UNDP - Istanbul Regional Hub
<b>Discussant</b>  <b>Mazhar Hussain</b> Director Economic and Social Research Department, SESRIC	<b>Discussant</b>  <b>Umar Munshi</b> Founder, Ethis Group and CEO, GlobalSadaqah.com	

**3 STATISTICS**

As the main socio-economic information bank on and for the OIC Member Countries, SESRIC gives special attention to increase the data and information on and for the OIC countries and enhance the national statistical systems...

**11 RESEARCH**

The OIC Economic Outlook 2020 is SESRIC's flagship report which explores global macroeconomic trends with the focus on the OIC countries as a group and provides a wide-range of useful statistics and analyses, including the...

**15 TRAINING**

The Centre organizes training activities under 23 sector-specific capacity building programmes. These activities are implemented through different modalities according to the capacities and needs of the OIC Member States in varied socioeconomic fields...

### SESRIC and Bank Indonesia Jointly Organized International Forum on Islamic Digital Economy

The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) and Bank Indonesia in cooperation with the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) jointly organized a virtual International Forum on 'Islamic Economic Digitalization and Inclusion: Policy Development and Implementation in the OIC Countries' on 29 October 2020.

The Forum was organized as part of the 7<sup>th</sup> Indonesia Sharia Economic Festival (ISEF) 2020 which is being held in Jakarta, Indonesia under the theme of 'Mutual Empowerment in Accelerating Sharia Economic Growth through Promoting Halal Industries for Global Prosperity'. The Forum brought together high level policy makers, economists and finance industry experts from OIC member countries and institutions to discuss the impacts of the digitalization on the economic and financial development, especially in the wake of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The Forum commenced with the welcoming remarks of H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR, Director General of SESRIC. During his speech, Mr. DABUR underlined the importance of Islamic finance as an ethical alternative to conventional finance offering unique perspectives and solutions for socio-economic development. In addition, Mr. DABUR highlighted that the Islamic banks and financial institutions can unlock their substantial growth and profitability potential especially by focusing on the ongoing digital revolution in the global banking and finance landscape. To this end, he added, the adoption of new technologies like blockchain, Big Data, application programming interfaces and process automation is of particular importance not only to develop and offer new products and solutions and but also to broaden their access and outreach to international customers.

Later on, H.E Dr. Sugeng, Deputy Governor Bank Indonesia, delivered a keynote speech underlining the impacts of digital disruptions on the Islamic economy and finance and ideal policy responses in maximizing the beneficial effect of economic digitalization. Dr. Sugeng also highlighted the risks and challenges that digitalization is posing with respect to regulation and cyber security. Fostering intra-OIC and global cooperation through suitable digital platforms could be instrumental in the development of Halal value chains and improving the variety and outreach of sharia based products and services, he concluded.

The opening session was followed by two panel discussions on (1) Designing Islamic Economic Digitalization in OIC Countries and (2) Digital Based Financial Inclusion through Islamic Social Finance Platform. As per the programme, these panel discussions featured discussants from various national, regional and international organizations and

covered a range of topics including:

- State of economic digitalization and inclusion;
- Monetary and macro-prudential policy in the era of digitalization;
- Designing Islamic economic digitalization policies in OIC member countries;
- Digital based financial inclusion through Islamic social finance platforms;
- Potential of digital platforms for enhancing intra-OIC cooperation.

The panel discussions were followed by a very interactive and stimulating Q&A session. The Forum was concluded with the closing remarks made by Mr. Anwar Bashori, Head of Islamic Economics and Finance Department, Bank Indonesia.

## Director General of SESRIC, H.E. Nebil DABUR Addressed the Virtual Meeting of the OIC-COMCEC Central Banks Forum as Lead Speaker

The virtual meeting of the OIC-COMCEC Central Banks Forum was organized by the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey on 07 October 2020 under the theme of 'Recovering Our Economies in Times of Covid-19'. The meeting brought together Governors of the Central Banks and high level policy makers from OIC member countries to discuss the current global and OIC economic outlook and policy measures that were taken to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic; and also to evaluate the post-pandemic challenges and opportunities for the OIC member countries.

H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR, Director General of SESRIC, addressed this august gathering as a lead speaker and shared with the participants the main findings of SESRIC's recent research study on "Socio-economic Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic on OIC Member Countries: Prospects and Challenges". Focusing on the economic impacts of COVID-19, Mr. DABUR stated that the pandemic emerged at a time when the global economy was already in shambles due to lower demand and increasing trade tensions between major global economies. The conjunction of these factors caused a perfect storm drowning the global economy into one of the worst economic recessions in modern history, he added. Referring to the latest estimates of the IMF, Mr. DABUR underlined that the global economy is expected to contract by 4.9% in 2020 and this downward trend may be reversed in 2021 with the hope that either a vaccine is made or herd immunity is achieved to get back to normalization.

Concerning the state of affairs in OIC member countries, Mr. DABUR mentioned that the COVID-19 pandemic constitutes unprecedented challenges and consequences for the OIC economies as the GDP growth is estimated to contract by 2% in 2020. This fall in GDP is particularly

alarming given the continuous weakening of the economic performance of the OIC group in the last few years, he emphasized. Referring to alternative scenarios about the impacts of COVID-19, Mr. DABUR stated that total OIC exports could fall between 17% to 33% and drop in FDI inflows could reach as high as 42 billion US\$; whereas tourism activities are also expected to contract significantly with 30 to 46 million fewer tourists and about 38 and 57 billion US\$ loss in tourism revenue. Moreover, he underlined that this grim state of affairs could result into an additional 6 to 8 million unemployed people in OIC member countries in 2020.

While commenting on the national policy responses to COVID-19, Mr. DABUR mentioned that the majority of OIC member countries have been very quick in enacting appropriate fiscal and monetary policies and introduced stimulus packages to mitigate the negative impacts of the pandemic and restore economic activities. He stressed that the global nature of the pandemic calls for collective national, regional, and international responses. 'It is during these difficult times that the OIC member countries need to show more solidarity and formulate a joint Islamic action not only to slowdown and eradicate the spread of the pandemic but also to establish effective policies and measures to mitigate its post-effects' he finally added.

The virtual meeting of the OIC-COMCEC Central Banks Forum was concluded with the adoption of an official Communique.



## STATISTICS AND INFORMATION DEPARTMENT



### DATABASE, DIRECTORIES AND ROSTERS

As the main socio-economic information bank on and for the OIC Member Countries, SESRIC gives special attention to increase the data and information on and for the OIC countries and enhance the national statistical systems (NSSs) of member countries. Statistics and Information Department is mainly responsible for collating, processing and disseminating socio-economic statistics and information on and for the utilisation of the OIC Member Countries.

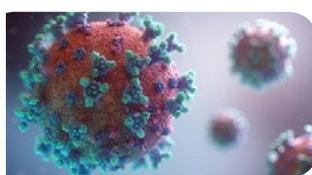


SESRIC continues updating its **OIC Statistics Database (OICStat)** (which serves as the primary online statistical source for the users all over the world who are interested in data and information about OIC countries. Currently, the OICStat

hosts around **1,200 socio-economic indicators** under **26 categories** for the 57 OIC member countries, dating back to 1985. OICStat Database can be accessed on:

<https://www.sesric.org/oicstat.php>

Beside OIC-Stat Database, SESRIC hosts the **COVID-19 Pandemic Database for OIC Member Countries** which provides



statistics, visualized data, and cartographic representation through a two dimensional map on the spread of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic in the

OIC countries. SESRIC COVID-19 Pandemic Database is updated daily and accessible through [https://www.sesric.org/sesric\\_covid\\_19.php](https://www.sesric.org/sesric_covid_19.php)

In addition, SESRIC hosts the **Directory of National Statistical Offices** (<https://www.sesric.org/databases-nso.php>) which lists the contact information on the NSOs of OIC member countries



and **Directory of National Institutions in OIC Member Countries (OIC-DIR)** (<https://www.sesric.org/oicdir.php>) which contains profiles on **551 institutions** including Central Banks, Chambers, Development Agencies, Government-Funded News Agencies, Investment Promotion Agencies, Line Ministries, National and Sub-National Statistics Offices, Research Institutes, Think Tanks under Government Institutions, Training Institutes, Trade Unions / Employers' Organisations, Universities / Higher Education Institutes, and other public or public-benefit institutions.



Moreover, SESRIC hosts the **Roster of Statistics Experts (ROSE)** (<https://www.sesric.org/rose.php>)

that currently contains the professional profiles of **847 statistics experts** of the OIC member countries.

## DATA DISSEMINATION AND VISUALIZATION TOOLS



Running on the OICStat data, SESRIC hosts three online modules including **OIC Ranker** (which enables users to rank the OIC countries based on a selected OICStat indicator) (<https://www.sesric.org/oic-ranker.php>), **OIC Top/Bottom Finder** (which enables users to see the list of OICStat indicators in which an OIC country is positioned at the very Top or Bottom) (<https://www.sesric.org/oic-tbf.php>), and **SESRIC Motion Charts (SMC)** (which enables users to generate visualisations from multiple indicators available in the OICStat Database) (<https://www.sesric.org/smc.php>).

Another data dissemination and visualization tool hosted by SESRIC is **OIC-Countries in Figures (OIC-CIF)**.

This module presents the most recent available information and statistical

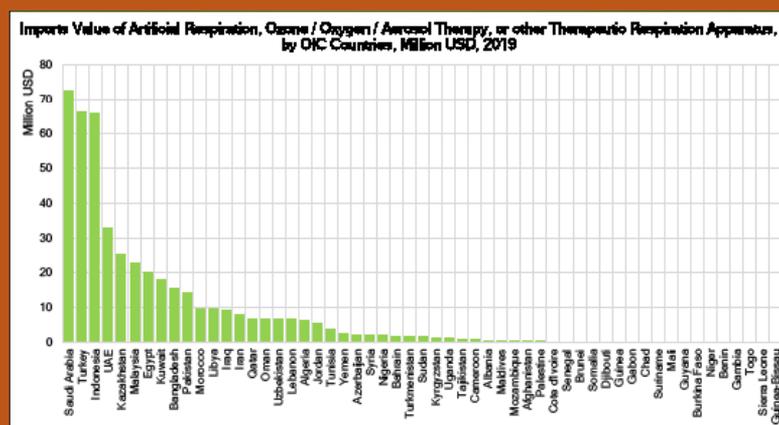
data on OIC countries under nine sections including background, Geography and Climate, Society and Demographics, Government and Politics, Economy and Sectors, Country in Figures, International Partnerships, Logistics, and Special Links. The current version of OIC Countries in Figures is accessible on:

<https://www.sesric.org/oic-member-countries.php>



## STATISTICAL PUBLICATIONS

### *Did You Know? (DYK): Imports Value of Artificial Respiration Apparatus*



The “Did You Know? (DYK)” series reflects striking facts about the OIC countries in a simple and user friendly way. The last DYK issue prepared by SESRIC has covered the value of artificial respiration apparatus imported by the OIC countries.

Despite their importance especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, not many OIC countries are capable of producing artificial respirators. As a

result, many OIC countries import them. The imports of artificial respiration, ozone / oxygen / aerosol therapy, and other therapeutic respiration apparatus by the OIC countries group was 457 million USD in 2019. This value was equal to 5.4% of the global imports (8.4 billion USD) of these products during the same year. The largest imports values of artificial respirators by 10 OIC countries all above 10 million USD in 2019 ranging between 14 million USD (Pakistan) to 72 million USD (Saudi Arabia). Top 10 OIC countries (Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Indonesia, UAE, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Egypt, Kuwait, Bangladesh, and Pakistan) comprised 77% (around 353 million USD) of the total OIC imports of artificial respirators.

On the exports side, the OIC countries share in total exports of these products globally was merely over 1% as only a few OIC countries have the scientific and technological capacity to produce them. Based on the data available as end of July 2020, only 21 OIC countries exported any of the products classified under the group of artificial respiration, ozone / oxygen / aerosol therapy, and other therapeutic respiration apparatus. Only 8 of them recorded exports values above 100,000 USD in 2019. Three OIC countries including Malaysia (63 million USD), Indonesia (11 million USD), and Turkey (9 million USD) made up 97.3% of the total OIC countries group exports of the artificial respirators.

The *DYK on Imports Value of Artificial Respiration Apparatus* can be accessed through:

<http://www.oicstatcom.org/didyouknow.php>

# STATISTICAL CAPACITY BUILDING (STATCAB) PROGRAMME

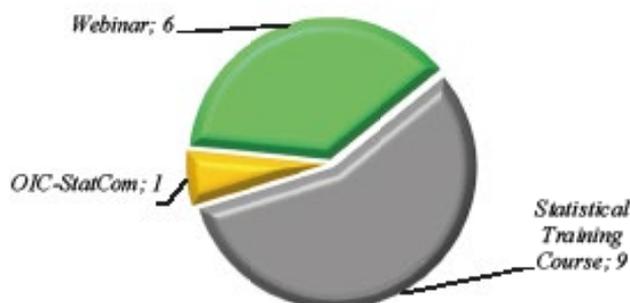


Despite the challenges faced during this time of global crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic, SESRIC exerts every possible effort to facilitate the implementation of activities under its Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme

for the benefit of OIC countries. The statistical activities that used to be face-to-face have been taranformed into virtual ones through a video conferencing platform by following synchronous learning and instruction approaches designed in line with the virtual training solutions undertaken by SESRIC.

Between July and December 2020, a total of **16 statistical activities** were conducted including **9 statistical training courses**, **6 webinars**, and **1 OIC-StatCom** session.

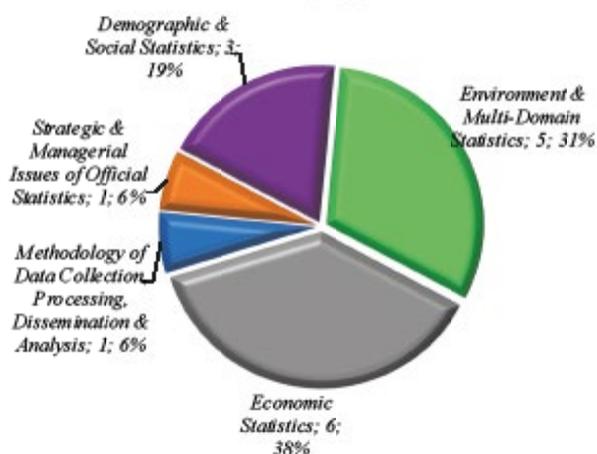
**Number of Statistical Activities Conducted, by Type, July-December 2020**



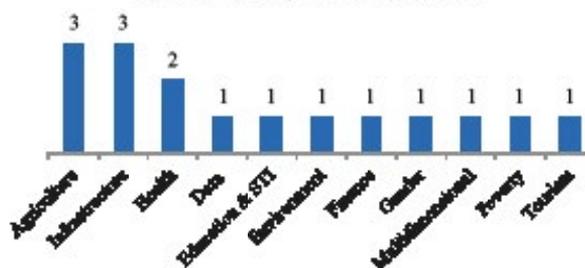
47 OIC countries benefitted from the **16 statistical activities** between July and December 2020. These activities facilitated by SESRIC could not have been realized without the generous support of 11 OIC countries and 3 international organisations.

Below is the breakdown of statistical activities conducted between July and December 2020 by its statistical domain and theme.

**Number of Statistical Activities Conducted, by Statistical Domains, July-December 2020**



**Number of Statistical Activities Conducted, by Theme, July-December 2020**



The following impressions are from the statistical training courses organised by SESRIC between July and December 2020.



**Statistical Training Course on "Transport Statistics" for the benefit of Benin, provided by ANSD of Senegal, 21-24 July 2020**



**Committee Meeting on 'SDG 4 Indicators for the Benefit of Qatar, provided by TurkStat of Turkey, 27-29 July 2020**



**Statistical Training Course on "SDG 13 (Climate Action) Indicators" for the Benefit of Egypt, provided by DoS of Jordan, 19-22 October 2020**



**Statistical Training Course on 'Banking, Insurance and Financial Statistics' for the Benefit of Brunei, provided by DoB of Malaysia, 17-19 November 2020**



**Statistical Training Course on 'Tourism Statistics' for the Benefit of Iraq, provided by INS of Tunisia, 13-15 December 2020**

SESRIC has recently initiated the Webinar Series on Statistical Experience Sharing through which NSOs of OIC countries and statistical units of the relevant international agencies find the opportunity to inform the participants about their experiences on statistical themes of mutual interest. The following are impressions from these webinars conducted between July 2020 and December 2020.



**Statistical Training Course on 'Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Statistics' for the Benefit of Cote d'Ivoire, provided by HCP of Morocco, 30 Nov - 4 Dec 2020**



**Webinar on 'Collection & Dissemination of SDG Indicators: Experiences of Uzbekistan', 12 November 2020**



**Statistical Training Course on 'Living Conditions and Poverty Statistics' for the Benefit of Bangladesh, provided by BPS-Statistics Indonesia, 17 November 2020 and 8-9 December 2020**



**Webinar on 'Balancing Food Security in OIC Countries: An Overview of the Food Balance Sheets', 24 November 2020**



**Statistical Training Course on 'SDG 5: Gender Equality' for the Benefit of Kuwait, provided by CAPMAS of Egypt, 8-10 December 2020**



**Webinar on 'Survey on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Usage in Households and Individuals', 18 December 2020**

## OIC STATISTICAL COMMISSION (OIC-STATCOM)



SESRIC, in its capacity as the Secretariat of the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom), organised the 9<sup>th</sup> Session of the OIC-StatCom on 28 September – 1 October 2020 in collaboration with Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group through a video-conferencing platform due to the current COVID-19 outbreak. 95 participants from NSOs of 39 OIC countries joined the 9<sup>th</sup> Session of OIC-StatCom. Representatives of 9 international and regional organizations, namely Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) General Secretariat, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group, Islamic Organisation for Food Security (IOFS), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative (OPHI), Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (PARIS21), Statistical Centre for the Cooperation Council for the Arab

Countries of the Gulf (GCC-Stat), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA), and United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) also attended and participated in the Session.

During the 9<sup>th</sup> Session, the activities undertaken since the last session were presented by the Secretariat (SESRIC) and the OIC-StatCom Strategic Vision for 2030 together with its Programme of Action for 2021-2025 was adopted after consultation and elaboration by the Members of the Commission.

The following topics were covered through the presentations of the member countries as well as relevant international organisations:

- Emerging Approaches for Strengthening Capacities of National Statistical Systems;
- Generating SDG Indicators from Population, Housing, and Agriculture Census Data;
- Monitoring and Reporting SDG 1 (No Poverty) Indicators; and
- Utilisation of Non-Traditional Data Sources in Official Statistics.

All the documents, reports, and other related materials of the 9<sup>th</sup> Session of OIC-StatCom are available at the link: <https://bit.ly/OICStatCom9Docs>

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)

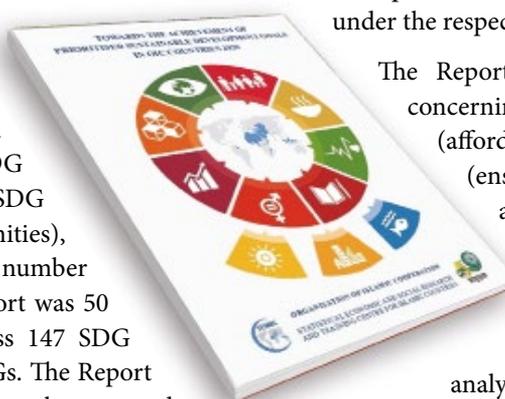
### *Annual Progress Report on Prioritised SDGs*

SESRIC has released its newest report titled “Towards the Achievement of Prioritised Sustainable Development Goals in OIC Countries 2020” (available at: <https://www.sesric.org/publications-detail.php?id=512>).

The Report covers eight prioritised SDGs (SDG 1-5, 8-9, and 13) and additional three SDGs including SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy), SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities), and SDG 14 (life below water). The number of indicators used in this year’s report was 50 for the OIC countries group across 147 SDG indicators available on these 11 SDGs. The Report analyses whether the selected indicators have moved towards or away from the related targets under the 11 SDGs covered.

This year’s Report reveals that the OIC countries as a group is estimated not to achieve by 2030 any of the prioritised

and the additional three SDGs covered without intensified efforts. Although some progress has been observed in SDG 1 (ending poverty), SDG 3 (ensuring healthy lives), SDG 4 (ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education), and SDG 9 (supporting industry, innovation and infrastructure), these improvements are not sufficient to achieve the targets under the respective SDGs by 2030.



The Report also presents a stagnant progress concerning SDG 2 (ending hunger), SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy), and SDG 8 (ensuring sustainable economic growth and decent work) which means the OIC countries group is too slow to be on track for the achievement of these three SDGs by 2030. Additionally, lack of data prevents a comprehensive analysis on SDGs 5, 11, 13, and 14.

The 2020 edition of the Report discusses the possible devastating impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak on the SDGs in an effort to motivate the OIC countries to support each other in addressing the severe negative socio-economic impacts of the pandemic.

## COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS

### *Tobacco Questions for Surveys (TQS) and TQS-Youth Integration Project*

To improve the implementation of the WHO FCTC in member states, the OIC, through its Strategic Health Programme of Action, 2014-2023, aims to reduce the level of exposure of individuals and populations to the harmful effects of tobacco. Based on the resolution of the 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom) held in April 2014 on the importance of public health issues and tobacco control, SESRIC signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the CDC Foundation in September 2014. Under this MoA, SESRIC engages with the member states to encourage the integration of TQS questions into ongoing surveys by offering technical consultation and funding assistance. To continue the partnership between SESRIC and the CDC Foundation for the year 2021-2022, a new Subcontractor Agreement Amendment was signed on 30 November 2020.

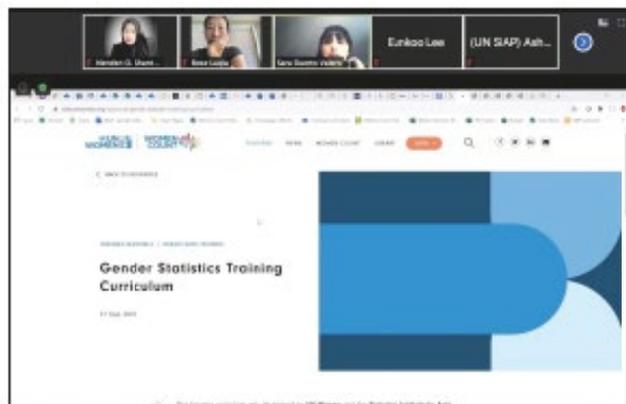
Within the framework of this project, SESRIC organised a webinar titled “Tobacco Questions for Surveys (TQS) and Tobacco Questions for Surveys of Youth (TQS-Youth)” on 9 December 2020 in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and CDC Foundation with the participation of 47 attendees from 19 OIC member countries (Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Benin, Egypt, Gabon, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Togo, Turkey, and UAE).

The objectives of this webinar were to provide an introduction of TQS and TQS-Youth; an overview of how tobacco questions can be integrated into adult and youth surveys; and examples for how TQS and TQS-Youth data can help inform tobacco control and prevention strategies.



**Webinar on ‘Tobacco Questions for Surveys (TQS) and TQS-Youth’,  
9 December 2020**

### *Subgroup on Gender Statistics Training (SGGST)*



**Virtual Meeting of the Subgroup on Gender Statistics Training,  
22 September 2020**

SESRIC participated in the Virtual Meeting of the Subgroup on Gender Statistics Training (SGGST) organised by the UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific on 22 September 2020. Representatives from BPS-Statistics Indonesia, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), School of Data Kyrgyzstan, Hongkong Baptist University, Philippine Statistical Research and Training Institute (PSRTI), UN Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), and UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) also took part in the said virtual meeting.

At the outset, the SGGST curriculum was showcased after which the participants shared their views concerning the repository of gender statistics training experts and certification of trainers. During the meeting, each member of the SGGST also described their plans for the use of SGGST curriculum. SESRIC informed the participants that gender statistics training has been included in SESRIC Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme activities for 2020 and will be included in 2021 activities. The expert who will be the trainer of gender statistics related training programme will be encouraged to utilise the SGGST curriculum as one of the knowledge resources.

The SGGST, a subsidiary organ within the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific, was established in 2018 to support NSOs in the region to acquire necessary statistical capacities to effectively produce and use gender statistics for tracking of progress on the Sustainable Development Goals. SESRIC has been a formal member of the SGGST since 15 November 2018.

## Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA)



**36<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA), 10-11 September 2020**

SESRIC participated in the 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA) held virtually on 10-11 September 2020.

On the first day of the session, Volume II of CCSA publication entitled “How COVID-19 is Changing the World: a Statistical Perspective” and results of the second round of the Global COVID-19 Survey of NSOs were covered. Following the agenda, issues concerning the 2030 agenda and population data in the global monitoring of the SDGs were discussed among the participants.

Discussions related to the 2030 Agenda specifically on the coordination of statistical capacity building and SDGs progress methodologies continued in the second day of the session. Additionally, the participants also shared their views on how CCSA members could contribute to the upcoming World Development Report 2021. The issues related to geospatial information for statistics, open data and revision of the Classification of Statistical Activities were also covered during the session.

SESRIC became the member of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA) since 2006. CCSA is a global body of 45 international and supranational organisations, whose mandate includes the provision of international official statistics in the context of the Principles Governing International Statistical Activities, and which have a permanent embedded statistical service in their organisation and regular contacts with countries.

## Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training (GIST)



Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training (GIST)

SESRIC participated in the series of Virtual Meetings of the UN Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training (GIST) Task Team on ‘Addressing NSO Needs’ held between 30 April – 12 August 2020. The African Institute for Economic

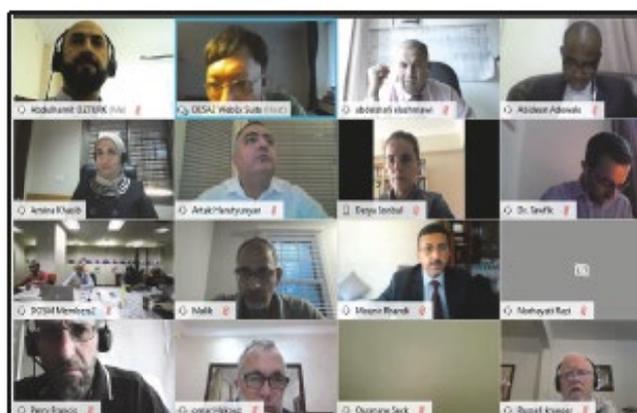
Development and Planning (IDEP), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Statistical Institute (ISI), United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), SESRIC, Statistics Norway, University of Queensland-Australia, and U.S. Census Bureau took part in the virtual meetings.

During the five virtual meetings held since the end of April 2020, the UN GIST Task Team on Addressing NSO Needs discussed and fine-tuned the case studies where coordination in statistical training could be improved to better meet the needs of NSOs.

SESRIC contributed to the virtual meetings through its case study on ‘Gender Statistics Coordination’ which highlights the role of SESRIC in the work of the Subgroup on Gender Statistics Training (SGGST) for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific coordinated by the UN Women (Secretariat of the Subgroup) and the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) (Secretariat of the Network) since November 2018. The main objective of the SGGST is to ensure data users and producers in Asia and the Pacific have the necessary skills to produce, disseminate and use gender statistics widely, including for SDG monitoring.

GIST is a network of international and regional training institutions, working together build sustainable statistical capacities through efficient, effective, and harmonized delivery of training. SESRIC is one of the founding members of GIST established since April 2018.

## ISWGNA/BOPCOM on Islamic Finance



**Inaugural Meeting of the ISWGNA/BOPCOM Joint Task Team on Islamic Finance (IFTT), 10 September 2020**

SESRIC attended the Inaugural Meeting of the Inter Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA) / Committee on Balance of Payments Statistics (BOPCOM) Joint Task Team on Islamic Finance (IFTT) held on 10 September 2020.

The inaugural online meeting of IFTT brought together 25 experts in the areas of national accounts, external sector statistics (ESS), and other macroeconomic statistics from

countries where Islamic finance is prevalent, and experts from relevant international/regional organizations.

The meeting focused on several background documents of the IFTT such as terms of reference and work programme of IFTT, and draft information note which will be submitted to upcoming Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts (AEG) and BOPCOM meetings to be held in November 2020. The joint task team also discussed the possibilities to collaborate on selected research topics on the terminologies and statistical treatment of Islamic finance activities, and the draft guidance note that will be the final output of the IFTT for endorsement at the AEG and BOPCOM meetings in 2021.

The IFTT has been established by the ISWGNA and BOPCOM to carry out further research and develop methodology/guidance on the treatment of Islamic finance in national accounts and ESS. The IFTT replaces the ISWGNA Task Force on Islamic Finance which was formed back in 2017 to develop guidance on the statistical treatment of Islamic finance transactions and flows in the national accounts.

## **Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD)**



**11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the International TOSSD Task Force, 6-9 October 2020**

SESRIC attended the 11th Meeting of the International Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD) Task Force which was organized online by the Development Co-operation Directorate (DCD) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) on 6-9 October 2020.

During the Meeting, the TOSSD Task Force Secretariat gave an update on the 2020 data collection, relevance of TOSSD for tracking COVID-19 response and related eligibility and reporting issues, work of the IAEG-SDGs working group on measurement of development support, and TOSSD strategy paper. The participants also discussed the proposals on how to operationalise the concept of sustainability in TOSSD, proposals to complement and adjust the TOSSD classifications, and the revised reporting instructions on debt relief. On the last day of the Meeting, Indonesia presented their final recommendations and findings of the report on the TOSSD Indonesia Pilot Study.

During the session titled “Communication and Outreach”, SESRIC made a live demonstration of its COVID-19 Pandemic Database for OIC Member Countries that was launched in April 2020. The objective of the presentation is to show how TOSSD could benefit from these innovative tools and integrate them in the data presentations on TOSSD in the future.

The Meeting ended with the review of the Terms of Reference of the International TOSSD Task Force and discussions on the logistical implications of COVID-19 for TOSSD Task Force meetings.

## ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

**The OIC Economic Outlook 2020 is SESRIC's flagship report which explores global macroeconomic trends with the focus on the OIC countries as a group and provides a wide-range of useful statistics and analyses, including the comparison of OIC countries' economic performance with the developed countries, the non-OIC developing countries and the world average.**



### OIC Economic Outlook 2020

The OIC Economic Outlook 2020 is SESRIC's flagship report which explores global macroeconomic trends with the focus on the OIC countries as a group and provides a wide-range of useful statistics and analyses, including the comparison of OIC countries' economic performance with the developed countries, the non-OIC developing countries and the world average.

The current edition of the Report is prepared at a time when the level of uncertainty in the global economy is at its peak due to rising protectionism and the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic. The global economy is expected to contract by 4.9% in 2020, while developed economies bearing the real brunt of the pandemic with a staggering drop of 8% in their GDP growth. The OIC economies which recorded a growth rate of 2.4% in real terms are also expected to contract by 2% in 2020 with a recovery to be followed in 2021.

Following the breakout of the pandemic, the estimates of global trade flows were significantly revised downward. In line with the global trends, OIC countries have witnessed a slowdown in their total exports to the world and their



aggregate exports decreased to US\$ 1.79 trillion in 2019. With respect to the export flows from OIC countries in 2020, it is expected that the total exports could fall between 17% and 33%, depending on alternative scenarios. Intra-OIC export flows have been steadily increasing since 2016 from a level of US\$ 254 billion to reach US\$ 331 billion in 2019. Over the last three years, intra-OIC exports increased by more than 30%, which is a significant achievement. This trend is expected to be reversed during 2020 with an expected fall of between 4.9% and 14.9%.

FDI flows to OIC countries generally remained lower than their potential and reported at US\$ 106.7 billion in 2019, which was 3.6% lower than the 2018 value of US\$ 110.7 billion. Amid the uncertainty, global investment flows are estimated to decline by around 40% in 2020. The OIC countries are also expected to be affected at similar levels. Over the last several years, the OIC member countries witnessed a sharp deterioration in their fiscal balance. High dependence on commodity and primary goods exports makes many OIC countries particularly vulnerable to price

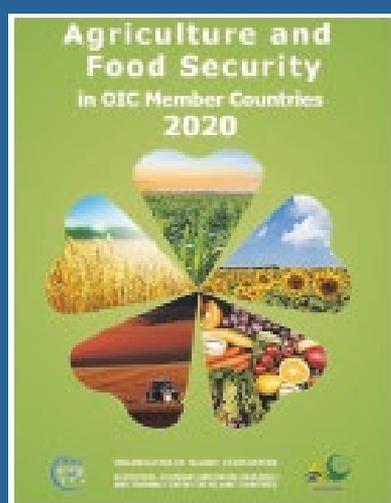
fluctuations. There were ten OIC countries with a fiscal balance surplus in 2018. This number decreased to eight in 2019.

The OIC countries continue to record significantly higher average unemployment rates compared to the world, developed countries and non-OIC developing countries. Since 2014, the total unemployment rate in OIC countries has been on the rise to reach 6.7% in 2019 as compared to 5.9% in 2014. The unemployment rate for the youth labour force (14.5% in 2019) is typically higher than the rates for adults in all country groups. Amid the COVID-19, the ILO expects around 25 million increase in the number of

unemployed people worldwide, which means an additional 6 to 8 million unemployed people in OIC member countries.

The special section of this report focuses on trade and integration challenges and opportunities amid the rising uncertainties concerning trade protectionism and the COVID-19 pandemic. These shocks could be detrimental for OIC countries that are already well integrated into global value chains while offering some opportunities to benefit from the reorientation of supply chains. To avail these opportunities, OIC countries need to reduce trade costs, improve technological capacities and increase their preparedness to meet supply chain risks.

## AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY IN OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES 2020



The Agriculture and Food Security in OIC Member Countries 2020 report presents the recent state as well as the constraints and challenges of the agriculture sector and food security in OIC member countries through the analysis of a wide range of latest available statistics. This report is prepared during the COVID-19 pandemic, therefore a special chapter is provided to highlight the impacts of the pandemic on agriculture and food security in OIC member countries.

The report stresses out that agriculture remains one of the most important sectors in many OIC countries as a major source of livelihood and employment for millions of people. Latest statistics pointed out that, in 2018, the share of agriculture in the total GDP exceeded 20% in 18 OIC countries. Even in seven OIC countries located in Africa, this share exceeded 30%. Meanwhile, the share of employment in the agriculture sector stood more than 20% in 36 OIC member countries. This share even exceeded 50% in 12 OIC members located in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The report also shows that OIC countries are relatively abundant with agricultural resources (e.g. water, arable land, and human resources) and account for a significant share of global agricultural production and trade. The latest statistics indicate that since 2010, the gross agricultural production index in OIC recorded a much better performance when compared to the developed countries and world average. Half of the OIC member countries were also ranked among the top 20 producers of major agricultural commodities worldwide. Furthermore, in terms of trade, OIC countries have witnessed an impressive increase of 30% in the total volume of agriculture trade throughout 2010-2018.

Despite considerable progress, the report highlights that agricultural productivity in OIC member countries remained insufficient to feed the growing population. The average per capita gross agricultural production growth index for the OIC group remained stagnant during the period 2010-2016. Many OIC member countries still heavily rely on food imports to meet their local demand. This state of affairs has serious socio-economic repercussions particularly for the 28 OIC Low-Income Food Deficit Countries (LIFDCs) which are vulnerable to any sharp rise in the international food prices, trade restrictions and consequently, worsening of the already deteriorated state of food security through increasing the number of undernourished population. The number of undernourished people in the OIC region stands at around 176 million, corresponding to 10.5% of the OIC total population. Besides, multiple threats to food security are currently existing in many OIC member countries such as internal conflicts, pest/locust outbreaks, extreme weather, displace population and last but not least COVID-19 outbreak.

The report also emphasizes agriculture development challenges and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on agriculture and food security. Issues such as inefficient agricultural resource management, lack of infrastructure, micronutrient deficiency, and climate change impacts need to be dealt with to transform them into opportunities. Furthermore, a special section on the COVID-19 pandemic examines the degree of the pandemic impacts on the agri-food sector, its channel of exposure, and finally comes up with policy suggestions to deal with the shock.

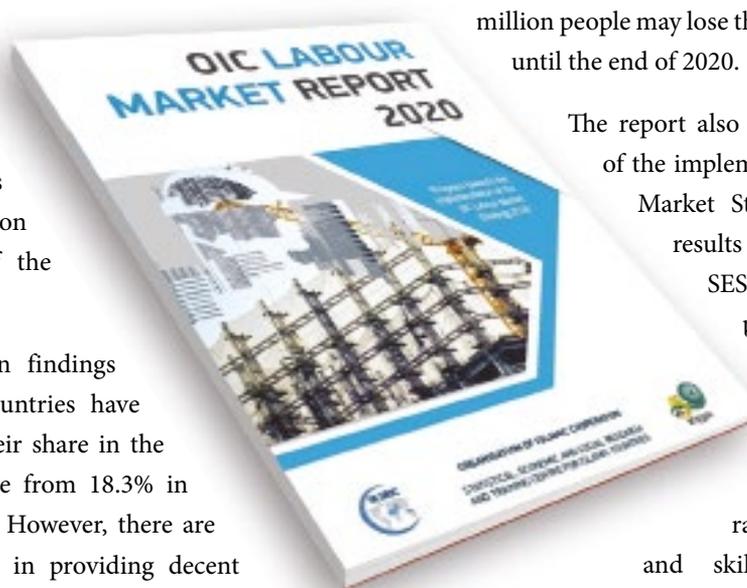
## OIC LABOUR MARKET REPORT 2020

SESRIC prepared the OIC Labour Market Report 2020 as a technical background document for the 5th Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers (ICLM). The report analyses the state of labour market and discusses some important aspects of labour market policy and developments in OIC countries. The 2020 edition of this report provides an update on the current state of labour market in OIC countries and a brief assessment on the progress made towards the implementation of the OIC Labour Market Strategy 2025 based on key performance indicators and survey responses. The report also provides selected best practises on the implementation of the strategy.

According to the main findings of the report, OIC countries have constantly increased their share in the world total labour force from 18.3% in 2010 to 20.3% in 2019. However, there are considerable challenges in providing decent job opportunities for the labour force. The total unemployment rate was on average 6.7% in OIC countries, 5.1% in non-OIC developing countries and 4.8% in developed countries. Youth population faces particular challenges in labour markets. As of 2019, youth unemployment in OIC countries is estimated to reach 14.5%. Moreover, 25.8% of youth are estimated to be in not in employment, education or training (NEET) status in OIC countries.

Overall, the report reveals that labour force participation rate, employment to population ratio, the share of labour force with tertiary education are lower, but female unemployment rate, the share of vulnerable employment, the share of employment in agriculture, inactivity rate, and share of labour force primary education are higher in OIC countries compared to other developing and developed countries. On the other hand, the OIC member

countries have also witnessed substantial improvements in the functioning of their labour markets as the shares of vulnerable employment and working poor have decreased from 55.1% to 50.7% and 41.8% to 30.6%, respectively, during the period 2010-2019. However, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is expected to jeopardize the hardly achieved gains towards improving the labour market situation in OIC member countries and put the policymakers in a more challenging situation. It is estimated that an additional 8 million people may lose their jobs in the OIC countries until the end of 2020.



The report also provides a detailed analysis of the implementation of the OIC Labour Market Strategy 2025 based on the results of a survey conducted by SESRIC. Assessment of key performance indicators (KPIs) reveals that while some progress has been made in reducing the working poverty rate, improving productivity and skills levels, indicators on participation to labour market, unemployment, youth unemployment and the gender gap in labour market participation could not be improved. Based on the response to SESRIC survey from 20 OIC countries, 32% of all actions recommended in the strategy document were completed, 38% were initiated but not completed and 30% were not initiated yet.

In the end, the report provides a section on best practices in different thematic areas of the OIC Labour Market Strategy to enhance the intra-OIC cooperation and facilitate the exchange of knowledge and expertise among the OIC member countries in addressing some common labour market challenges. This edition includes 17 case studies on best practices and lessons learnt from 9 OIC member countries, namely Azerbaijan, Cameroon, Djibouti, Malaysia, Nigeria, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Turkey.

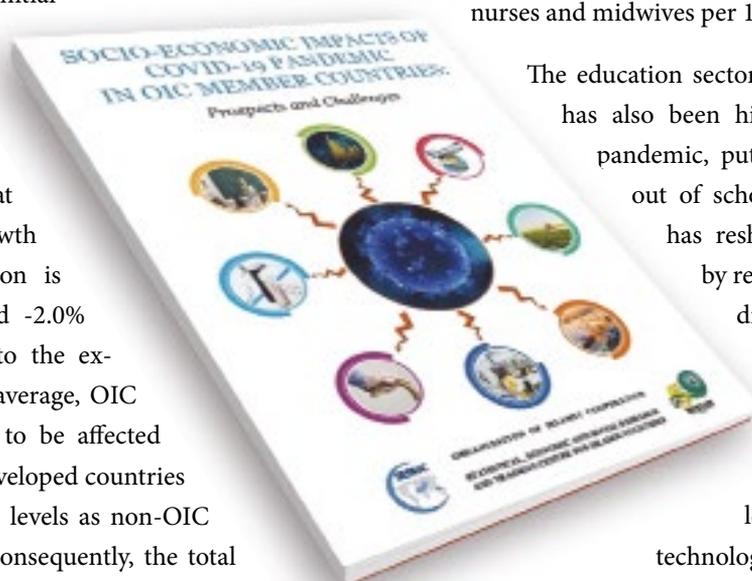
## SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES

SESRIC has launched a comprehensive research study on “Socio-Economic Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic in OIC Member Countries: Prospects and Challenges”. The report investigates the potential impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on OIC member countries in various socio-economic fields and highlights the policy measures taken by the OIC member countries to address the negative impacts of this unprecedented crisis.

Based on the initial projections on the potential impacts of the pandemic, the main findings of the report underline that the average GDP growth rate for the OIC region is estimated to be around -2.0% in 2020 as compared to the ex-ante level of 3.7%. On average, OIC countries are expected to be affected less severely than the developed countries but at around the same levels as non-OIC developing countries. Consequently, the total number of unemployed persons would increase from its previously estimated level of 47.7 million to 53.3 – 55 million in 2020. On the other hand, total exports of OIC countries to the world could fall between 17% and 33%. Moreover, it is being projected that the FDI flows to OIC countries may fall to below US\$ 64 billion in 2020 from US\$ 106 billion in 2019. In the area of tourism, OIC countries are projected to host 31 - 45 million fewer international tourists in 2020. This translates into a potential USD 39 - 58 billion loss in tourism receipts.

The pandemic poses also a great risk to disturb the production of food and agricultural products. Economic

and income contraction amid the pandemic control measures would possibly increase the poor population thereby putting more people in a food-insecure state. The COVID-19 pandemic has serious implications for the healthcare systems across the OIC member countries. The availability of adequate health workers, intensive care beds and ventilators limits the response capacity in the member countries. Currently, 38 OIC countries are facing a critical shortage of health workers with less than 44.5 physicians, nurses and midwives per 10,000 people.



The education sector in OIC member countries has also been hit particularly hard by the pandemic, putting 432.6 million learners out of schools. While the COVID-19 has reshaped the education sector by revolutionizing the online and distance learning landscape, remote learning environments are not always inclusive to marginalized learners with sub-standard technological infrastructures. All in all, the pandemic is deepening and reinforcing the pre-existing socio-economic inequalities and amplifying the vulnerabilities in the social, political, and economic systems.

The report also highlights national practices in public health and safety measures, economic policy response and social policy measures taken by OIC member countries to counter the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on their economies and society at large. Finally, the report identifies various economic and social policy responses and evidence-based recommendations at the national, regional and international levels.

## TRAINING & TECHNICAL COOPERATION DEPARTMENT



### SESRIC CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMMES

The Centre organizes training activities under 23 sector-specific capacity building programmes. These activities are implemented through different modalities according to the capacities and needs of the OIC Member States in varied socioeconomic fields and areas. SESRIC, after matching these needs and capacities, provides training opportunities by mobilizing competent experts and facilitating the exchange of know-how, skills and experience among the national institutions of the OIC Member States. The Centre's efforts aim to develop human and institutional capacities in different sectors following South-South Cooperation mechanisms.

Furthermore, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, holding physical training courses and capacity building activities were not practical anymore. In order to respond to this extraordinary situation, SESRIC undertook the necessary preparations to utilize the available digital platforms in order to better serve the Centre's training activities and keep participants motivated and engaged during this difficult time of the global crisis due to COVID-19 pandemic. Here are some of the selected implemented activities:

#### CENTRAL BANKS CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME (CB-CAB)

##### • Training Course on “Islamic Banking and Diversification of Islamic Financial Instruments”



SESRIC organised a virtual training course on “Islamic Banking and Diversification of Islamic Financial Instruments” on 13-17 July 2020. The training course was provided by a competent expert from Bank Indonesia for the benefit of experts and executives from the Central Banks of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Kazakhstan. The course provided insights into the fundamentals of Islamic finance, its principles and methodologies.

## ENVIRONMENT CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME (ENVIRONMENT-CAB)

### • Training Workshop on “Environmental Impact Assessment”



SESRIC, in collaboration with the Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA), organized a virtual training workshop on “Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)” on 30 November - 03 December 2020. The training workshop was provided by a competent expert from Tunis International Centre for Environmental Technologies (CITET) for the benefit of experts from the Ministries of Environment of Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen.

The training workshop introduced participants to the fundamentals of EIA in addition to enhancing their capacities in conducting EIAs and carrying out necessary reviews. It also provided participants with advanced EIA procedures and most recent trends in identifying environmental impacts and ways and means to minimize them.

## AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME (AGRI-CAB)

### • Training Course on “Food Safety Analysis”



The virtual training course was organised by SESRIC on 10-14 August 2020 for the benefit of participants from the Ministry of Fisheries, Marine Resources and Agriculture of the Republic of Maldives (MFMRA) and Maldives Food and Drug Authority (MFDA).

The training course was delivered by a competent expert from the Ministry of Health Malaysia who shared insights into risk analysis components and assessment methods

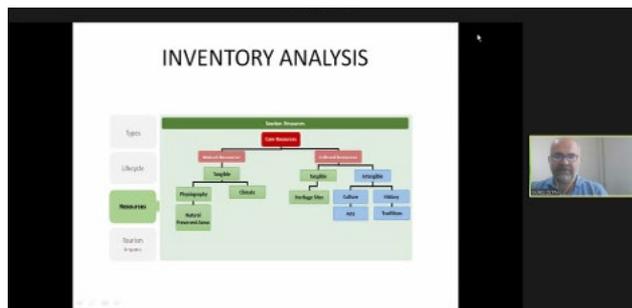
used in the field to develop effective national food safety programmes and strengthen the existing food control system.

## TOURISM CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME (TOURISM-CAB)

### • Training Course on “Developing Multi Destination Tourism Corridors”



Within the framework of the SESRIC’s Tourism Capacity Building Programme (Tourism-CaB) and in line with COMCEC Ministerial Policy Recommendations, the Centre organized a virtual training course on “Developing Multi Destination Tourism Corridors” on 23-27 August 2020 for the benefit of experts and executives from the National Tourism Council (NTC) of the State of Qatar. The training course was provided by competent experts from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Turkey and the Department of Tourism Management of Istanbul University.

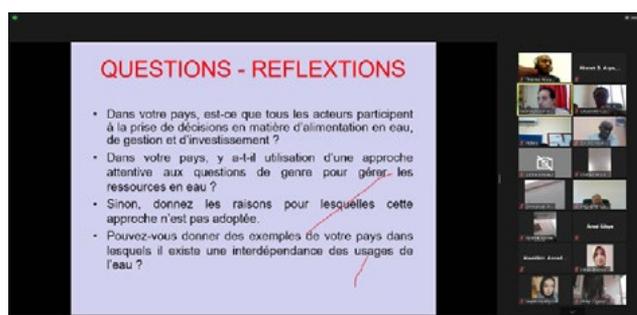


The training course provided insights on planning, establishment and management of multi-destination tourism corridors as well as the importance of governance, institutionalization and stakeholder involvement for their long-term sustainability.

## WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME (WATER-CAB)

### • Training Workshop on “Water Governance and Integrated Water Management” for Lake Chad Basin Countries

SESRIC and the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) jointly organized a Training Workshop on “Water Governance and Integrated Water Management” on 19-22 October 2020 for the benefit of the national water resource institutions of the Lake Chad Basin countries through an online video conference platform.



The training workshop strengthened the technical capacities of the professional staff at the national water resource institutions in Cameroon, Chad, Niger, Nigeria, Libya and Sudan through providing insights on how to analyse, formulate, and implement water policies, plans and programmes by using an Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) approach.

## PUBLIC AUDIT CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME (PAU-CAB)

### • Training Course on “Financial Audit”



Within the framework of its Public Audit Capacity Building Programme (PAU-CaB), SESRIC organized a training course on “Financial Audit” on 21-25 September 2020. The course was conducted virtually for the benefit of participants from the Ministry of Finance and Economy, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and State Committee for Statistics of Turkmenistan as well as participants from the Central Bank of Republic of Uzbekistan, Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction and other financial entities in Uzbekistan.

The training course was provided by competent experts from the Turkish Court of Accounts (TCA) who provided insights into public accountability and good governance as well as the international auditing standards and their applicability in the public sector auditing.

## STOCK EXCHANGES CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME (SE-CAB)

### • Training Course on “Stock Exchange Awareness”

SESRIC organized a training course on 13-21 July 2020 for the benefit of participants from Bursa Brunei Darussalam

(BNX), the Ministry of Finance and Economy (MOFE), Dynamic Technologies (DT) and the Monetary Authority of Brunei Darussalam (AMBD). The training course was provided online by competent experts from the relevant departments of Bursa Istanbul, the Secretariat of OIC Exchanges Forum.



The course provided insights into various aspects of stock exchange mechanisms such as Risk and Regulatory Compliance, Equity Market Operations, Bond and Sukuk Issuance and Functions of the Depository, to name just a few.

## Diplomacy Capacity Building Programme (Diplomacy-CaB)

### • Training Course on “Digital Diplomacy for the OIC Junior Diplomats”

In partnership with the Diplomacy Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, SESRIC organized a Training Course on “Digital Diplomacy for the OIC Junior Diplomats” on 14-17 September 2020 through a video conferencing platform. The training course was conducted within the framework of SESRIC's Diplomacy Capacity Building Programme (Diplomacy-CaB) and attended by young diplomats from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of 29 OIC member countries.

The primary objective of the training course was to provide knowledge on the relationship between digital diplomacy and foreign policy objectives, as well as to identify the process of developing and monitoring effective digital diplomacy strategies. The training course was delivered by eminent experts who provided the OIC junior diplomats with the opportunity to enhance their understanding and knowledge of the practical implications of digital diplomacy on their policy fields.



## TECHNICAL COOPERATION

SESRIC plays a significant role in enhancing technical cooperation and collaboration among the OIC Member States by facilitating technical assistance, exchange of knowledge and best practices, skills development, and networking. The Centre also emphasises the importance of “region and country specific development projects” that are tailored according to the characteristic and needs of each region. Therefore, SESRIC partners with national, regional and international institutions in order to implement projects and activities under its technical cooperation initiatives developed to cater the needs of OIC Member States.

### ACTIVITIES & PROJECTS

#### • Webinar on “Regional, Sub-regional and Interregional Organizations in the Global South as Actors in Responding to COVID-19”



SESRIC participated in the Webinar on “Regional, Sub-regional and Interregional Organizations in the Global South as Actors in Responding to COVID-19” organized jointly by United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and UNDP Seoul Policy Centre’s on 15 July 2020.

In the panel discussion, a presentation was delivered by SESRIC on its initiatives taken during the pandemic and the Centre’s role in promoting South-South cooperation through its mandates; Statistics, Research and Training. Moreover, concrete examples were also shared regarding the support mechanisms launched by the various OIC Institutions, including SESRIC, towards helping the OIC Member countries in responding to COVID-19 and mitigating its negative impacts.

#### • Webinar on “Economic Impacts of the Covid-19 Pandemic on OIC Countries”



SESRIC, the Centre for Middle Eastern Studies (ORSAM), OSTIM Technical University and Istanbul University jointly organized a Webinar on “Economic Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on OIC Countries” on 06 July 2020. High-level speakers from various background came together to discuss economic impacts of COVID-19 from different perspectives, including energy, technology and employment. During the panel discussion, SESRIC presented the main findings of its report titled “Socio-Economic Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic in OIC Member Countries: Prospects and Challenges.”

### NETWORKS

SESRIC brings together the national institutions from the OIC member countries working in a wide range of socio-economic domains to establish closer cooperation for sharing and exchanging knowledge, experience and conducting joint initiatives, projects and programmes through the Centre’s networking cooperation modality. Every year, the Centre analyses the needs for such networks and holds networking meetings in close cooperation with the National Focal Points of the relevant institutions. SESRIC currently hosts two main Networks; the OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET) and the OIC Public Employment Services (OIC-PESNET).

#### • 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET)



The 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET) was jointly organized by SESRIC, in its capacity as the OIC Technical Coordinator of OIC-OSHNET, and the Directorate General of Occupational Safety and Health (DGOSH) of the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services of the Republic of Turkey, in its

capacity as the Secretariat of the OIC-OSHNET. The Meeting was conducted through a video conferencing platform on 07-08 October 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the OIC-OSHNET brought together 52 high level representatives and National Focal Points (NFPs) from 37 OIC member countries to discuss and adopt two important documents; “Rules of Procedure” and “OIC-OSHNET Work Plan 2021-2022”.



The OIC-OSHNET was launched in 2011 in order to establish closer cooperation among the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Institutions of the OIC member countries through sharing knowledge, experience and best practices. SESRIC assumes the role of the OIC Technical Coordinator of the OIC-OSHNET and carries out a specific capacity building programme on OSH namely, Occupational Safety and Health Capacity Building Programme (OSH-CaB) to support the efforts of the OIC member countries in improving workplace safety and health. For more information, please visit: <https://oshnet.sesric.org/>

## PORTALS

SESRIC develops and maintains various web portals in line with the decisions taken at the relevant OIC Fora with a view to strengthening communication, cooperation, and knowledge sharing among the relevant stakeholders in the

OIC Member States. The portals act as the main information sharing platforms in the relevant fields, facilitate coordination of activities and serve as a library for all publications and reports related to these areas. Currently, SESRIC hosts OIC-OSHNET Portal, OIC Portal on Water Resources, OIC Health Portal, OIC Intern, and Tobacco Free OIC Initiative. Portals can be accessed through SESRIC website: <https://www.sesric.org/>

### • Training Session on “Content Management and Use of the OIC Health Portal”

SESRIC and the General Secretariat of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) jointly organised a training session on “Content Management and Use of the OIC Health Portal” on 12 November 2020 through an online video conferencing platform. The training session was attended by nominated focal points from the Health Ministries of 22 OIC Member States as well as representatives from relevant OIC institutions. The session was geared towards briefing participants on the rationale and structure of the OIC Health Portal and its relevance to the OIC Strategic Health Programme of Action (OIC-SHPA) 2014-2023.

The OIC Health Portal can be reached at <https://www.oic-health.org/>



## OIC-VET PROGRAMME

The Vocational Education and Training Programme for the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC-VET) is a programme developed by SESRIC in order to support and supplement the OIC Member States’ efforts to overcome the current challenges and limitations faced in the area of technical and vocational education and training (TVET). The Programme aims to enhance the quality of TVET systems in the OIC Member States, and thus to contribute to the development and competitiveness of their economies. The OIC-VET Programme’s activities are implemented through different modalities such as Training of Trainers (ToT) Courses, Training Workshops, Projects, Training Courses, Study Visits and Webinars.

### • The OIC-VET Programme Identified as a Good Practice for Sustainable Development

The OIC-VET Programme has been published as a solution towards the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 4) on “Quality Education” at the “Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Develop-

ment-Volume 3” publication by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation.

The published report focused on the challenges that face the TVET systems particularly in the OIC region and the establishment of the OIC-VET Programme as a solution that supplements the international efforts towards the achievement of the SDGs, primarily goal 4 “Quality Education”.

The OIC-VET Programme was highlighted considering its important role in scaling up South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSC and TrC), and knowledge exchange through innovative and holistic approaches among the relevant national TVET authorities of the OIC Member States. Special emphasis was given to the Roadmap of the programme and the activities listed under the Implementation Work Plan which embrace the fundamentals of SSC such as mutual understanding, exchange of expertise and experiences, peer-to-peer learning and capacity development.



### • Webinar on “Best Practices of TVET Centres amid the COVID-19 Pandemic”



Within the scope of the OIC-VET Programme, SESRIC organised a Webinar that brought together high-level representatives of national TVET authorities from different OIC member countries namely; Jordan, Malaysia, Nigeria and Turkey who shared their institutions’ best practices and

success stories during the pandemic. The virtual event was livestreamed and recorded on SESRIC’s YouTube Channel which is reachable through the following link: <https://bit.ly/sesric-live>.

The Webinar facilitated knowledge exchange among TVET policy-makers and stakeholders and highlighted the important roles played by TVET Centres in supporting the national emergency response policies of their home countries. Furthermore, the Webinar aimed at strengthening partnerships and promoting solidarity among the relevant national institutions in the field of education and skills development to overcome the obstacles caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

### • Training Course on “Skills and Entrepreneurship Development”



A training course on “Skills and Entrepreneurship Development” was organised on 08-17 July 2020 for the benefit of participants from the Ministry of Employment, Vocational Training and Crafts, the Ministry of Public Service and Renewal of Public Service, and the Ministry of Labour, Social Dialogue, Professional Organizations and Relations with the Institutions of the Republic of Senegal.

The training course was organised within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme and the Executive Programme for the Implementation of OIC Framework for Cooperation on Labour, Employment and Social Protection 2019/2020. The course mainly covered the following topics: skills development plan, role of training in the development of know-how, training as a tool for human capital development, and entrepreneurial spirit.

## INTERNSHIP PROGRAMMES

The Centre has two main Internship Programmes as follows:

- OIC International Internship Programme (OIC Intern)
- SESRIC Internship Programme

Both programmes target young adults who are citizens of the OIC member countries, below the age of 30 and already enrolled in universities (3rd year or higher or pursuing postgraduate degree)

## OIC International Internship Programme (OIC INTERN)

OIC INTERN is an international internship programme that aims at guiding young people through professional career planning by reinforcing academic knowledge gained during their studies with practical applications.

The programme gives young people the opportunity of experiencing professional working environment and consequently improving their work ethics, work discipline and

other skills. While giving the opportunity to get vocational and technical experience, it also enables interns to acquire cultural interaction and intercultural communication skills.

Like other programmes, the OIC INTERN has also been adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on life and business. Despite this difficult situation, 40 students from different OIC member countries have completed their internships in 11 different public and private sector institutions in 2020.

## BINA PROGRAMME

The BINA Programme is an initiative carried out in partnership between SESRIC, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and Libyan Program for Reintegration and Development (LPRD) to support Libya, as a conflict-affected state, in the areas of research, capacity building and economic development. SESRIC assumes the role of the executing agency of the Programme.

### • BINA Programme Steering Committee Meeting



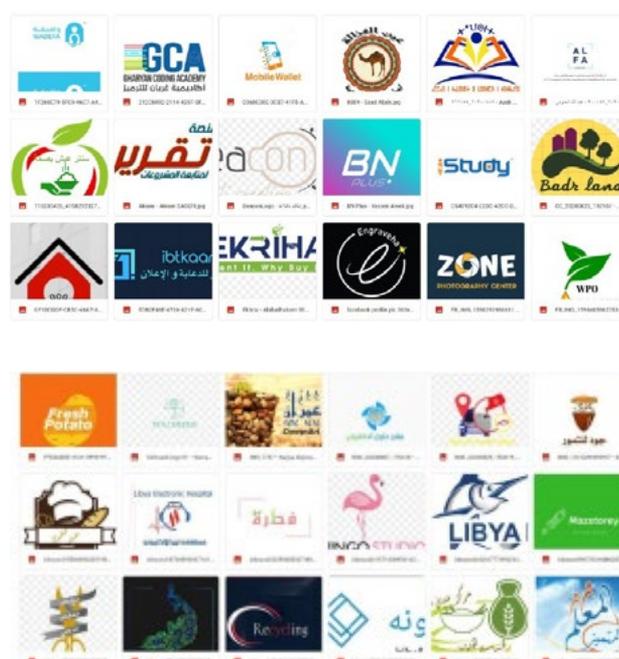
The Steering Committee Meeting of the BINA Programme was virtually held on 23 July 2020 to follow-up the progress made and the future actions with respect to the implementation of the Programme in light of the ongoing challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic as well the escalating difficulties of implementing activities in Libya under the current conditions. The Meeting was attended by the Steering Committee Meeting members from the partnering institutions; SESRIC, IsDB and LPRD, in which the remaining activities of the Programme were discussed and disbursement status was approved. In addition, the Steering Committee members addressed the exit strategy of the programme in order to assure sustainability of the services currently provided within the framework of the Programme.

### • BINA SME LIBYA

#### ➤ Entrepreneurship Training Program for 70 Start-ups/ SMEs in Libya

BINA SME Business Incubator developed an advanced detailed program for selected Start-ups/ SMEs in Libya. The program included; introduction to entrepreneurship, business idea, business model, business strategy, business plan, marketing, finance, Libya business environment, coaching

and pitching training.



#### ➤ Training of 25 Libyan Mentors and BDS providers in Libya

A tailored-made training of Mentors to 25 mentor/ BDS has been developed and remotely delivered by qualified experts and trainers. A group of Business mentors/ coaches and BDS have started to receive a full training course of 90 hours.

### • NAMA Competition II

Within the framework of the BINA SME Development Project, 32 start-ups were incubated in the BINA Incubator and received intensive coaching and mentoring sessions for a period of five months. The incubation process was conducted through a combination of e-incubation and mainstream incubation processes due to the ongoing pandemic conditions. After the completion of the incubation process, the Graduation Ceremony was organised on 26 November

2020 in Istanbul, Turkey with the aim of celebrating and awarding the start-ups to support their growth.



• Training Course on “Peace Journalism”



The training course on “Peace Journalism” was virtually organised on 19 September-01 October 2020. The training course included interactive training methods, activities and simulations regarding news production process by using peace journalism concept, interactive questions and assessment tests.

• Training Course on “Public Administration”



The training course on “Public Administration” was virtually conducted on 19-23 October 2020 for the benefit of officials from the relevant public institutions of Libya. The course aimed to increase the capacities of the participants on good governance, countering corruption and reforming government administrations. The training course also provided insights into relevant international experience of reforming public administration with a specific emphasis on the cultural aspects and dynamics provided from Morocco’s experience on public administration reform.

• Training Course on “Social Entrepreneurship for NGOs”



The training course on “Social Entrepreneurship for NGOs” was virtually organised on 23-26 November 2020 for the benefit of 20 trainees from the relevant civil society organizations and NGOs of Libya. The training course aimed to increase the capacities of the trainees on the strategic management and outreach for NGOs within the concept of social entrepreneurship. The training course also provided insights on how new media strategies can diversify income sources of NGOs and support them to become less dependent on external funding. The training provided distinct opportunity for the trainees to enrich their knowledge on the concepts, new tools and methods needed to develop and sustain social enterprises.

• Brainstorming Sessions on “Reforming Public Administration in Libya”

SESRIC organized two virtual brainstorming sessions on “Reforming Public Administration in Libya” on 09-10 November 2020 to exchange views on the major issues and challenges concerning the effective functioning of the current system and explore alternative approaches on how to reform it.

The brainstorming sessions were organized as part of a research project on “the Public Administration Reform in Libya” that is carried out by SESRIC within the framework of the BINA Programme. The research is expected to recommend a set of reform proposals and priorities needed in Libya to design a framework that is inclusive for Libya’s particular needs. The research will also include a focused case study on the health sector as one of the most important sectors in need of reform in Libya.



# JOURNAL OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Journal of Economic Cooperation and Development (ISSN 1308-7800), previously titled the Journal of Economic Cooperation among Islamic Countries (ISSN 0252 - 953X), is a journal of applied research in development economics. The Journal welcomes original papers dealing with important economic and social issues of immediate concern to the developing countries. It will give special attention to those papers which deal with the potentials for and possibilities of promoting and expanding economic and technical cooperation among the developing countries. The Journal appears in English, in March, June, September and December. The Journal is indexed/abstracted in SCOPUS, JEL/Econlit, i-Journals, i-Focus and i-Future.

## Volume 41 (2020) Number 3

Six articles focusing on: Sukuk-based infrastructure investment, effective Sukuk-based market portfolio diversification, Russian energy sector analysis, Bangladesh economic analysis, government spending effect on economic growth in Sudan, and education's effect on holistic economic development in rural Indonesia comprised the Volume 41 (2020) Number 3 of JECD. Readers can access this issue via: [https://www.sesric.org/publications-jecd-articles.php?jec\\_id=115](https://www.sesric.org/publications-jecd-articles.php?jec_id=115)

## Volume 41 (2020) Number 4

Seven articles on exchange rate effects on Turkish sectoral exports, capital regulation respective of bank performance, customer satisfaction measure, risk sharing in Islamic Finance, the growing prevalence of Islamic banking in Balkan nations, credit allocation in industrial and agricultural sectors to drive economic growth, and higher education performance in OIC nations were included in the Volume 41 (2020) Number 4 of JECD. Readers can access this issue via: [https://www.sesric.org/publications-jecd-articles.php?jec\\_id=116](https://www.sesric.org/publications-jecd-articles.php?jec_id=116)

