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UPDATE ON ANKARA CENTRE ACTIVITIES

DELEGATION FROM ECO VISITS SESRTCIC FOR A STUDY MISSION

SESRTCIC hosted six delegates from the Economic Cooperation Organisation Secretariat from 7 to 12 June 1999 for a study mission at the Centre.

On the first day of the study programme, Assistant Director General Dr. Abdelrahman Zeinelabdin welcomed the delegates, then gave an outline of the activities of SESRTCIC and explained the mandate of SESRTCIC and its various areas of interest. He pointed out that the Centre was doing its best to carry out its mandate and accommodate the requests of the member countries.

Dr. Zeinelabdin presented the programme laid out for the study mission. It would include computer tools for economic research and statistical analysis, methodology for collection, analysis and dissemination of statistical data, development of databases, internet and web site training. Mr. Oker Gürler, Director of the Research Department, was

designated as the Technical Coordinator of the programme.

Dr. Nurbek Elebayev, Director of Economic Research and Statistics at ECO, presented the activities and mandate of ECO. He pointed out that cooperation areas include Agriculture, Trade, Energy and Transport. He explained that the ECO Guide-book was almost ready for publication, and that they are now interested in finding out how to prepare a Guide-book for Internet publication since they want to publish an Internet version of the book. He further pointed out that they need suggestions as to how to improve their Annual Economic Report

and that they would like to include analysis as well as ECO regional developments in the report. He also explained that ECO is involved in the development and implementation of physical projects, such as the Turkmenistan-Iran Railway project and road building projects. He explained the stages needed to launch and complete a physical project. The trainees expressed their need to develop databases in the areas of trade, energy, communications, transport and agriculture.

Training activities started immediately after the opening session. They included on that day Internet Use with Mr. Candan Baysan, Chief of the Statistics Section, a General Introduction to the Library with Mrs. Nuray Tiryaki, Chief Librarian, and Methodology for Collection, Analysis and Dissemination of Statistical Data with Mr. Baysan.

The programme of the following days was as follows:

Tuesday: 8 June 1999

- General Introduction to Research Issues and Problems with Mr. Oker Gürler, Director of the Research Department
- General Introduction to Computer Tools for Economic Research and Statistical Analysis with Mr. El-Waleed Hammour, Chief of Economic Research Section, and Mr. Nabil Dabour, Chief of Social Research Section
- Computer Tools for Economic Research and Statistical Analysis with Mr. Hammour and Mr. Dabour

Wednesday: 9 June 1999

- Computer Tools for Economic Research and Statistical Analysis: Recitation and Exercises with Mr. Hammour and Mr. Dabour
- Presentation of Research Needs of ECO by the ECO Delegation

Thursday: 10 June 1999

- Organising and Conducting Training Programmes with Mr. Selim İlkin, Director of the Technical Cooperation Department
- Preparation of Questionnaires and Publications with Dr. Mahmoud Rais, Director of the Publications Department
- Development and Management of WEB Sites with Mr. Baysan

Friday: 11 June 1999

- General Overview of the Centre's Activities with Mr. İlhan Uğurel, Director of the Statistics and Information Department
- Discussion of Wednesday afternoon's issues and Evaluation of the ECO Training with Dr. Abdelrahman Zeinelabdin

Upon the completion of the study programme, the members of the ECO delegation were presented each with a certificate of attendance and were asked to kindly fill out a questionnaire indicating their views and opinions regarding the programme they attended. A brief review of their responses reveals that they found the programme very useful and to the point.

OIC NEWS

SESRTCIC CONTRIBUTES A TECHNICAL PAPER TO THE INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON "HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT FOR SUSTAINED ECONOMIC GROWTH AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION AS WELL AS PROGRESS IN THE MEMBER STATES OF THE OIC"

The International Seminar on "Human Resources Development for Sustained Economic Growth and Poverty Alleviation as well as Progress in the Member States of the OIC," organised by the Islamic Institute of Technology (IIT), in collaboration with the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), was held in Dhaka from 11 to 13 April 1999. Director General Ambassador Erdiñç Erdün and Mr. Nabil M. Dabour, Chief of Social Research Section, represented SESRTCIC at the Seminar. Mr. Dabour presented to the Seminar a technical paper entitled "Impact of Stabilisation and Structural Adjustment Programmes (SSAPs) on Human Development and Poverty Alleviation: The Experience of Some OIC Member Countries."

The Seminar was inaugurated by H.E. Mr. M. Abdul Mannan, Minister of Labour and Employment of the Government of Bangladesh as Chief Guest on 11 April 1999. The ceremony was presided over by H.E. Dr. Nasser A. Al-Dekhyel, Chairman of the Governing Board of IIT. In his welcome address, Prof. Dr. A. M. Patwari, Director General of IIT, welcomed the Honourable Chief Guest, the representatives of the IDB, the participants from OIC countries, subsidiary organs of OIC, other international organisations, ambassadors, diplomats stationed at Dhaka, professors, high-level officials, and other invited guests. Prof. Dr. M. Anwar Hossain, Director General Designate of IIT, proposed a Vote of Thanks which was passed by the Meeting.

After the Inauguration Ceremony, the Plenary Session was held under the Chairmanship of Prof. Dr. A. M. Patwari, Director General of IIT. Dr. Qazi Kholiquazzaman Ahmed, the noted economist of Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad, presented the keynote paper and Dr. A. Atiq Rahman, Director of the Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS), Prof. Dr. Nurul Islam of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) and Mr. Nabil M. Dabour, Chief of Social Research Section at SESRTCIC, participated in the discussion.

During the first technical session, held under the Chairmanship of Mr. Ahsan Ali Sarker, Secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Employment of the Government of Bangladesh, with Ambassador Erdiñç Erdün, Director General of SESRTCIC as Co-chairman, nine country papers were presented by delegates from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Gambia, Guinea, Iran, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Malaysia. During the second technical session, chaired by Mr. Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmed, Secretary of the Ministry of Education of the Government of Bangladesh, eleven papers on different aspects of the theme of the Seminar were presented by the authors and representatives from Bangladesh IIT, Karachi-Pakistan ICCI, Saudi Arabia and Sudan. The third and last technical session was chaired by Prof. Dr. Nooruddin Ahmed, Vice Chancellor of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) with Mr. Aqeel A. Al-Jassem, Secretary General of ICCI, as Co-chairman. Ten technical papers on the theme of the Seminar were presented by the authors and representatives from Bangladesh, Cameroon, Iran, IIT, Sudan and SESRTCIC.

A panel discussion was held under the Chairmanship of Prof. Dr. Iqbal Mahmud of BUET, and the membership of the following distinguished persons: Dr. Qazi Kholiquazzaman Ahmed of BUP, Mr. Mahfuz Anam, Editor of the Daily Star, Mr. Mozammel Huq from the Grameen Bank, Mr. Aqeel Al-Jassem from ICCI, Ambassador Erdiñç Erdün, Director General of SESRTCIC, Prof. Dr. A. M. Patwari, Director General of IIT and Prof. Dr. Anwar Hossain, Director General Designate of IIT. They all participated and gave their views and opinions and made a set of recommendations for consideration by the COMCEC.

H.E. Mr. Abdus-Samad Azad, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and H.E. Mr. Abul Hasan Chowdhury, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Government of Bangladesh, graced the occasion as Chief Guest and Special Guest respectively. The Concluding Session was presided over by Prof. Dr. A. M. Patwari. Rapporteur General Prof. Dr. Khushi Mohammad, Head of ITS Department of the IIT, presented the Report and

Recommendations of the Seminar which were adopted.

The Final Report and Recommendations of the Seminar were submitted for consideration

to the 15th Meeting of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee held on 11-13 May 1999 in Istanbul, Turkey.

15TH MEETING OF THE COMCEC FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE REVIEWS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION TO STRENGTHEN ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION AMONG OIC MEMBER STATES

The 15th COMCEC Follow-up Committee Meeting took place in İstanbul from 11 to 13 May 1999. The Meeting was attended by the nine OIC Member Countries of the Follow-up Committee, as well as the OIC General Secretariat, Subsidiary, Specialised and Affiliated OIC institutions. The Centre was represented by Director General Ambassador Erdiñç Erdün and Assistant Director General Dr. Abdelrahman Zeinelabdin.

The Meeting took up the following Agenda items:

- A Background Report by the OIC General Secretariat on the progress achieved in the implementation of the COMCEC projects
- Review of the Implementation of the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among OIC Member States
- Matters Relating to the World Trade Organisation (WTO)
- Preparation for the Exchange of Views on "Human Resources Development for Sustained Economic Growth, Poverty Alleviation and Progress in OIC Member States"
- Draft Agenda of the Fifteenth Session of the COMCEC

After extensive deliberations, the Meeting agreed to:

- Lay greater emphasis, in future OIC Background Reports, on the recent progress in the implementation of the COMCEC projects
- Recommend to the COMCEC the formation of a Study Group to examine ways and means to encourage Member States to sign and ratify the existing Agreements and Statutes in the area of economic co-operation
- Urge Member States to speed up action for convening Expert Group Meetings and the formation of Project Committees with a view to expediting the implementation of the Plan of Action. In this respect, the OIC General Secretariat was requested to prepare, in co-operation with SESRTCIC, IDB and other related OIC institutions, an evaluation report on the subject and submit it to the 15th Session of the COMCEC
- Urge the OIC General Secretariat and the IDB to maintain their assistance to the Member States in matters related to the WTO
- Request the OIC General Secretariat, the COMCEC Co-ordination Office and other related OIC institutions to make arrangements for an effective and in-depth exchange of views on the subject of Human Resources Development

A meeting was also held between the OIC General Secretariat, the related OIC institutions and the COMCEC Co-ordination

Office, to co-ordinate their action in the implementation of COMCEC decisions.

OTHER MEETINGS

THE 11TH SESSION OF THE HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE ON THE REVIEW OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (TCDC) CONSIDERS THE ROLE OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN ACCELERATING GROWTH AND EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH BROAD- BASED PARTNERSHIP

The 11th Session of the High-Level Committee on the Review of Technical Co-operation Among Developing Countries was held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, from 1 to 4 June 1999. Director General Ambassador Erdiñ Erdün and Director of the Technical Co-operation Department Mr. Selim İlkin represented SESRTCIC at this Meeting.

TCDC is an indispensable part of South-South Co-operation. Apart from its traditional significance, and in the increasingly globalised world, TCDC has become an effective way for the developing countries to pursue sustainable economic growth and equitable development with a view to integrating into the new international economic order. In the face of such a new international economic situation, the Committee, at its 9th session, timely put forward The New Direction Strategy for TCDC, which is an important milestone in the history of TCDC in that it has re-oriented TCDC and established a series of new priority areas.

Judging from the current situation, the implementation of the New Direction Strategy has gained encouraging headway, especially in such areas as national capacity building, Pivotal Countries system, regional and inter-regional co-operation, Triangular Co-

operation and sharing of experiences, etc. Furthermore, some developed and newly-industrialised countries have increased their input in the Triangular Co-operation programmes which, to some extent, have contributed to the momentum of TCDC. However, it should be noted that the status of TCDC in the UN system has not yet been solidified, with its funding prospect not at all optimistic. So far, resources for TCDC programmes are still

limited, and there are insufficient follow-up resources.

The potential development impact of TCDC for OIC countries is, no doubt, very important. TCDC and ECDC (Economic Co-operation Among the Developing Countries) are not only important in generating new resources for development, they are also essential as a means of sharing relevant development experiences in order to better identify common areas of understanding and common positions in response to the challenges posed by the globalisation process. This, in turn, will strengthen the OIC countries' ownership of the development processes and reinforce national capacities.

In order to reach the objectives set by the new strategy, donor countries should play an active and supportive role fostering an increased use of the TCDC modality in

development co-operation. It is deeply regrettable that the overall ODA is declining. ODA and TCDC must mutually reinforce each other. Consequently, increased South-South co-operation should not be achieved at the expense of the much-needed development assistance provided by the industrialised countries.

If the 70s was a period of TCDC conceptualisation and the 80s of mobilisation, then the 90s may be described as the period of transformation: from merely participating in TCDC to actually managing and financing it; from simple to more sophisticated forms of activities; from mostly bilateral to more broad-based regional and inter-regional arrangements; from public-sector focused to more private-sector oriented activities; from purely South-South interactions to triangular co-operation; and from ad-hoc to more deliberate and sustainable arrangements. These emerging trends attest to the continued validity and fundamental relevance of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and the New Directions Strategy on TCDC.

Mr. Selim İlkin took the opportunity to contact various UN Subsidiary Organs. With UNSD, he discussed the forthcoming training programme in Yemen. He learned that they were ready to provide SESRTCIC with a top

expert for this programme who could lecture only in English. With UNDP, he discussed the possibility of organising a joint workshop on the topic of “the impact of WTO on OIC Countries”, and a proposal on the “Construction of a Socio-Economic Development Index for the OIC Countries” prepared by our Statistical Department. Mr. İlkin submitted to UNFPA a brief proposal on “Technical Support for National Statistical Structures in the Central Asian OIC Countries” prepared by our Statistical Department. Finally, UNDESA - Family Unit, proposed to organise jointly with the Centre a workshop on “Family Statistics in OIC Countries.”

The following publications have been brought and deposited in the Centre’s Library.

- 1) UNDESA, Report on the World Social Situation, New York, 1997.
- 2) UNDP, Sharing Innovative Experiences, New York, 1992.
- 3) UN, Social Policy and Social Progress, special issue on the Social Summit, New York, 1995.
- 4) UNDP Special Unit for TCDC, Cooperation South: No.1, 1998 on Pivotal Countries; No. 2, 1998 on Globalisation, and No: 1, 1999 on Rethinking the International Financial System.

CENTRE’S AGENDA FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1999

JULY

- 28 June-2 July 1999: 26th Meeting of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (ICFM) in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
- 2nd Meeting of The Task Force on Training By IRTI/IDB in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

AUGUST

- 9-12 August 1999: Conference entitled “Islamic Economics Towards the 21st Century” in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 13 August 1999: Co-ordination Meeting of the Islamic Economics Institutions in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

ANKARA CENTRE PUBLICATIONS

Latest Publications

Journal of Economic Cooperation, English edition, volume 20, issues 1, 2, and 3

Information Series, No.6, **Agriculture**

Journal of Economic Cooperation, Arabic edition, volumes 17/18, 19, and 20

Information Series, No.7, **OIC Socio-Economic Indicators**

WHAT'S NEW IN THE CENTRE LIBRARY

Latest Acquisitions

The following is a selection among the publications acquired by the Centre during the second quarter of 1999:

DOCUMENTS

Annual Report 1998. Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi Fund for Development.

Annual Report 1998. Ankara, The Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey, 1999.

Asian Development Outlook 1999. Oxford University, Asian Development Bank, 1999.

BLACKDEN, C. Mark and Chitra Bhanu. **Gender, Growth, and Poverty Reduction: Special Programme of Assistance for Africa, 1998 Status Report on Poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa.** World Bank Technical Paper, 428. Wash., D.C., The World Bank, March 1999.

DEMİRĞÜÇ-KUNT, Aslı and Enrica Detragiache. **Monitoring Banking Sector Fragility: A Multivariate Logit Approach with an Application to the 1996-97 Banking Crises.** Policy Research Working Paper, 2085. Wash., D.C., The World Bank, March 1999.

East Asia: The Road to Recovery. World Bank Technical Paper, 428. Wash., D.C., The World Bank, September 1998.

GISSELQUIST, David and Carl Pray. **Deregulating Technology Transfer in Agriculture: Reform's Impact on Turkey in the 1980s.** Policy Research Working Paper, 2086. Wash., D.C., The World Bank, March 1999.

Bangladesh. Policy Research Working Paper, 2072. Wash., D.C., The World Bank, March 1999.

WODON, Quentin T. **Microdeterminants of Consumption, Poverty, Growth, and Inequality in Bangladesh.** Policy Research Working paper, 2076. Wash., D.C., The World Bank, March 1999.

KAMINSKY, Graciela L. and Sergio L. Schmukler. **What Triggers Market Jitters? A Chronicle of the Asian Crisis.** Policy Research Working Paper, 2094. Wash., D.C., The World Bank, April 1999.

MIN, Hong G. and Judith A. McDonald. **Does a Thin Foreign Exchange Market Lead to Destabilizing Capital-Market Speculation in the Asian Crisis Countries?** Policy Research Working Paper, 2056. Wash., D.C., The World Bank, February 1999.

WODON, Quentin T. **Growth, Poverty, and Inequality: A Regional Panel for**

REFERENCE MATERIALS

Lexique Général, Anglais-Français. New York, United Nations, 1991.

Terminology Bulletin No. 344, 2 volumes: Environment and Development. New York, United Nations, 1992.

Terminology Bulletin No. 346: Currency Units. New York, United Nations, 1993.

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