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ANKARA CENTRE UPDATE

SESRTCIC'S DIRECTOR GENERAL VISITS SAUDI ARABIA, THE SUDAN AND YEMEN

CENTRE'S LIBRARIAN ATTENDS THE 64th IFLA CONFERENCE IN AMSTERDAM

At the invitation of the Netherlands Library Community, the 64th General Conference of the International Federation of Library Association & Institutions (IFLA) was held in Amsterdam from August 16 to 21, 1998. It was attended by a large number of professionals and decision-makers in the field of library and information services. The meeting offered a forum for an exchange of experiences on the role libraries and librarians can play in bringing up cultures at local, national and international levels. More than 150 papers and reports were presented.

We live in an age where librarians and libraries are expected to improve their services by **using** the contemporary technology and knowledge stock. By way of on-line connected libraries, researchers have now more chances to reach not only locally stored knowledge but, internationally stored as well. The important point here is for the librarian to reckon where the knowledge can be and the route to be taken at first sight. This will enable researchers to gain time and state new horizons. Therefore the efficiency is related with technology and the librarians to be component. So the librarians should be aware of the existing systems and be in contact with their colleagues.

IFLA aims to promote international understanding, co-operation, discussion, research and development in all fields of library activity and information science. It also provides a body through which librarianship can be represented in matters of international interest. The Federation currently has more than 1400 members from 141 countries. IFLA and The

Netherlands have a very special relationship. This was the third time that this conference was held in this country.

OIC NEWS

UN/OIC CO-ORDINATION MEETING HELD IN GENEVA

A general meeting on cooperation between representatives of the secretariats of the United Nations (UN) system and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and its specialized institutions was held at the UN Office in Geneva from 13 to 15 July 1998. A total of 17 United Nations departments and agencies, the OIC General Secretariat, its Department of Economic Affairs and seven institutions of the OIC participated in the Meeting.

During the first plenary session of the Meeting, statements were delivered by the Director General of the United Nations Office in Geneva, on behalf of the Secretary General of the United Nations and by the OIC Assistant Secretary for Political Affairs, on behalf of the Secretary General of the OIC. Opening statements were also made by the representatives of ICCI, ESCWA, UNCTAD, ISESCO, UNEP, IRCICA, UNITAR, UNFPA, UNESCO, ICDT, IIT and SESRTCIC.

The heads of the OIC and UN delegations attending the general meeting conducted a wide-ranging and substantive exchange of views about the cooperation between the OIC and the UN. There was broad agreement about the prospects of intensifying cooperation in all the fields.

Director General Ambassador Erdinç Erdün and Mr. Selim Ýlkin, Acting Head of the Technical Cooperation Department represented SESRTCIC in this Meeting. SESRTCIC presented a paper entitled “Technical Co-operation Activities of the OIC Institutions within the Framework of OIC-UN Co-operation”, which included a review of the technical co-operation activities of the OIC institutions involving UN co-operation from June 1996 to June 1998. The first part of the report showed that the activities actually carried out during the last two years by various OIC organs with their UN counterparts in the field of technical co-operation have been rather limited. The second part of the report enumerated those joint activities that have been agreed upon but happen to be at one stage or another of actual realisation. Third part of the report related to different areas and types of activities that the OIC organs would like to carry out in collaboration with UN organs in the future.

The Meeting also reviewed working papers prepared by some of the other participating organisations, agencies and institutions of the two organisations. During the phase of the Meetings devoted to bilateral consultations, SESRTCIC held consultations with the following UN agencies to explore possibilities of joint action. Further negotiations will be conducted with these agencies with a view to finalising these programmes.

SESRTCIC-UNEP: Workshop on “Environmental Economic and Policy Instruments for OIC Arab countries”.

SESRTCIC-UNIDO: (1) Training Program on “SME’s Development in the OIC Countries...”; (2) Explore the possibilities of linking up. “Statistical and other databases of the respective institutions...”

SESRTCIC-UNFPA: Training Program on “Population Censuses Methodology, especially for the Central Asian OIC countries.”

SESRTCIC-UNITAR: Workshop on “Debt Management: Special reference to multilateral and bilateral loan negotiations”.

SESRTCIC-DESA: Workshop on “Mechanisms of Supporting Women’s Participation in Sustainable Development in Islamic Countries: Exploring Strategies for Cooperative Partnership.”

SESRTCIC-UNDP: A research project on “Socio-economic Development Indicators of OIC Countries: the Year 2000”. Encouraged by repeated requests received from various quarters, the Centre has decided to initiate this project. The basic idea is to derive an index for the OIC group of countries based on the most widely accepted and well-established socio-economic development indicators with reference to socio-economic indicators of the UN system. This index would be updated on an annual basis using the up to date data that have become available to the Centre. It would serve basically as an instrument that would reflect and trace the overall socio-economic development of the member countries over time. The initial stage of the project will be devoted to the conceptualisation and actual design of the Index. SESRTCIC will submit this project to UNDP for possible cooperation and technical assistance.

SESRTCIC-ESCWA: The two organisations have discussed the possibility of including the available advisory services in the interest of Member States.

The SESRTCIC also intended to explore the possibilities of joint activities in various other areas. However, consultations on the proposed programmes could not be conducted during the Meeting due to the absence of representatives of the following UN agencies: UNICEF: workshop on “Impact of Rural Migration to the Family

Ties” or “Economic Development and Family Structures.” ILO and WTO: Workshop on “Trade and Labour Structures.” FAO: Training program on “Environmental Implications of Agricultural Projects.”

OTHER MEETINGS

THE NEAR EAST REGIONAL TRAINING SEMINAR ON FOOD AND AGRICULTURE POLICY ANALYSIS, WITH A SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON RURAL CREDIT POLICIES HELD IN BABOLSAR, IRAN

The Fourth Session of the Near East Regional Training Seminar was held in Babolsar Training Centre in the Islamic Republic of Iran from 12 to 23 September 1998.

The seminar was jointly organised and sponsored by the FAO Near East Regional Office (FAO-RNE), the Near East and North Africa Regional Agricultural Credit Association (NENARACA), the Agricultural Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and SESRTCIC. The course was generously hosted by the Agricultural Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Twenty-two Participants from 13 Islamic countries took part in this session of the seminar. The seminar focused on rural finance through examining agricultural credit policies and the role of agricultural banks and other lending institutions.

Mr. Elwaleed Hamour, Economist from the Research Department, represented SESRTCIC in the closing session of the seminar.

THE SECOND REGIONAL TRAINING SEMINAR ON APPLICATIONS OF SOTER FOR MONITORING LAND DEGRADATION

The Second Regional Training Seminar on Applications of SOTER for Monitoring Land Degradation was held at the Arab Centre for Studies in Arid Areas and Dry Lands (ACSAD in Damascus, Syria, on 20-27 September 1998.

This seminar was sponsored jointly by ACSAD, the Centre for Environment and Development in Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE), the FAO Regional Office for the Near East (RNE) and SESRTCIC.

Participants from eleven countries, namely, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Yemen attended the seminar. Mr. Selim Ýlkin, Acting Head of the Technical Cooperation Department represented SESRTCIC on the seminar.

The objective of the training seminar was to develop the skills of national specialists working in the areas of land resources inventories, landuse planning, as well as soil conservation and sustainable land resources development and investment. Unlike the first seminar which dwelled more on methodological issues, this second one put the emphasis on SOTER applications methods for monitoring land degradation factors such as salinization, wind/water erosion, etc.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SESRTCIC will participate in the following activities during the last quarter of 1998:

OCTOBER

- Director General's Country Visits to Tunisia, Morocco, Lebanon and Jordan.
- 30 September-2 October: Workshop on "Intra-OIC Trade and Investment and Economic Stabilisation and Structural Reforms in OIC Member Countries" in Casablanca, Morocco.
- 11-13 October: Seminar on Human Resource Development and Poverty Alleviation in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

- 12-14 October: Fifth Private Sector Meeting (ICCI) in Tripoli, Lebanon.
- 13-18 October: Seventh Islamic Trade Fair in Tripoli, Lebanon.
- 26-28 October: International Seminar on Natural Assets and Economic Development in Africa (UNEP/WWF) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

NOVEMBER

- 1-4 November: Fourteenth Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) in Istanbul, Turkey.
- 11-14 November: General Assembly Meeting of ICCI in İstanbul, Turkey.
- 12-14 November: Second Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers in Rabat, Morocco.
- November 1998: 27th Meeting of the OIC Permanent Finance Committee in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.
- November: 23rd Annual Meeting of the Governors of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) in Port Novo, Benin.

DECEMBER

- Director General's Country visits to Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

CENTRE PUBLICATIONS

ANKARA CENTRE PUBLICATIONS

Latest Publications

A new brochure on the Centre in 3 versions: English, French and Arabic.

Statistical Yearbook of the OIC Countries 1998

LIBRARY

WHAT'S NEW IN THE CENTRE'S LIBRARY

The Centre's library receives publications from international organisations such as the United Nations and its agencies, and serves as the depository library for all the publications of the World Bank.

It also receives a widening range of statistical publications, reference works as well as periodicals, reviews and newsletters, on a variety of topics of interest to the OIC Community as a whole, from the national institutions of the OIC member countries.

Latest Acquisitions

The following is a selection among the publications acquired by the Centre during the third quarter of 1998:

ABLO, Emmanuel and Ritva Reinikka, **Do Budgets Really Matter? Evidence from Public Spending on Education and Health in Uganda.** Policy Research Working Paper, 1926. Washington, D.C., the World Bank, June 1998.

CANNING, David, **A Database of World Infrastructure Stocks, 1950-95.** Policy Research Working Paper, 1929. Washington, D.C., the World Bank, June 1998.

CELASUN, Oya, **The 1994 Currency Crisis in Turkey.** Policy Research Working Paper, 1913. Washington, D.C., the World Bank, April 1998.

DASGUPTA, Susmita, Boner Laplante and Nlandu Mamingi, **Capital Market Responses to Environmental Performance in Developing Countries.** Policy Research Working Paper, 1909. Washington, D.C., the World Bank, April 1998.

DOMAC, Ilker and Carlos Elbirt, **The Main Determinants of Inflation in Albania.** Policy Research Working Paper, 1930. Washington, D.C., the World Bank, June 1998.

ELLERMAN, David, **Voucher Privatisation with Investment Funds: An Institutional Analysis.** Policy Research Working Paper, 1924, Washington, D.C., the World Bank, May 1998.

GIRISHANKAR, Navin, **Strategic Management for Government Agencies: An Institutional Approach for Developing and Transition Economies.** World Bank Discussion Paper; 386. Washington, D.C., the World Bank, May 1998.

INGCO, Merlinda and Francis Ng, **Distortionary Effects of State Trading in Agriculture: Issues for the Next Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations.** Policy Research Working Paper, 1915. Washington, D.C., April 1998.

MICHALOPOULOS, Constantine, **Developing Countries' Participation in the World Trade Organization.** Policy Research Working Paper, 1906. Washington, D.C., the World Bank, March 1998.

MICHALOPOULOS, Constantine, **WTO Accession for Countries in Transition.** Policy Research Working Paper, 1934. Washington D.C., the World Bank, June 1998.

TASCHEREAU, Suzanne, **Evaluating the Impact of Training and Institutional Development Programs: A Collaborative Approach.** EDI Learning Resources Series. Washington, D.C., the World Bank, January 1998.