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ANKARA CENTRE UPDATE

Workshop on Agricultural and Rural Development "Sharing of Best Practices and Success Stories within the Poverty Reduction Framework"

The Workshop on Agricultural and Rural Development 'Sharing of Best Practices and Success Stories within the Poverty Reduction Framework' was organized by the SESRIC and IDB on 16-18 September 2010 in Antalya, Turkey. Experts and practitioners from various OIC Member Countries including Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Indonesia, Pakistan, Malaysia, Senegal, Sudan, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda and Yemen and from regional and international organisations including the OIC General Secretariat, Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (COMCEC) Coordination Office, Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development (AAAID), Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD), Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) attended the workshop. Mr. Atilla Karaman, Researcher, represented the SESRIC thereat.

The workshop had the following objectives:

- to be a forum for exchange of knowledge, experiences and best practices related to agriculture and rural development;
- to assess shortcomings associated with the implementation of earlier Agriculture and Rural Development Programs by Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs)/Institutions and explore ways and means to overcome these difficulties in the different areas of IDB intervention;

- to develop recommendations and proposals for poverty reduction through Agriculture and Rural Development; and
- to brainstorm and share new programs that may be undertaken in the Least Developed Member Countries with a specific emphasis on the spirit of 'South-South Cooperation'.

The workshop was conducted around the following thematic areas:

- Integrated value chain interventions
- Improving the productivity, profitability and sustainability of small-holder farming
- Microfinance
- Community Driven Development (CDD)
- Gender empowerment
- Enhancing sustainable management of natural resources
- Rural infrastructure

The Workshop participants recognized with consensus that there is a strong link between the Agriculture and Integrated Rural Development, and the Poverty Reduction and Food Security. Considering the huge impact of the agriculture sector's development on poverty reduction, the participants stated that it was extremely important to promote unutilized potential within OIC Member Countries to attain food security.

The Workshop recognized the importance of private sector involvement in the development of agriculture sector through the concept of Public-Private Partnership (PPP) whereby the governments of the Member Countries provide necessary infrastructure and enabling environment (private sector friendly policies and regulations) and the private sector organisations

bring foreign direct investment and operational efficiency in the sector.

The Workshop emphasized the transfer of knowledge from one member country to another thereby encouraging a more collaborative approach between the participating institutions with each one concentrating on improving different but compatible products.

The Workshop also stressed collaboration and establishing partnership between the OIC institutions, IDB and other specialised institutions in the agricultural sector in order to

effectively promote the sector in the potentially least developed OIC Member Countries.

The Workshop focused on shared best practices and how to increase the resilience of the food security system in OIC Member Countries.

The results of the workshop have been submitted to the "Exchange of Views Sessions" held during the 26th Session of the COMCEC Ministerial Meeting on 5-8 October 2010 in Istanbul.

SESRIC Received a Delegation from the CRDF of U.S.

SESRIC received a delegation from the U.S. Civilian Research and Development Foundation (CRDF) on 21 September 2010 at its headquarters. The delegation comprised of Ms. Natalia Pipia, Senior Programme Manager at CRDF, and Mr. Khaled J. Touqan, Director of CRDF Jordan and MENA Office.

At the outset, Mr. Nabil M. Dabour, Director of Research Department at SESRIC, expressed his thanks and welcome to the delegates and briefed them on the activities of the Centre in the fields that have science and technology components, such as agriculture, water, energy, health, as well as eGovernment and information technology. In particular he highlighted the regular report of the Centre on "Research and Scientific Development of OIC Member Countries", which portrays an overview of the performance of the OIC Member Countries as well as their achievements in the field of research and development (R&D) and science & technology (S&T) in order to track the overall level of preparedness of the countries towards a knowledge-based economy.

Subsequently Mr. Mehmet F. Serenli, Director of Training and Technical Cooperation Department, informed the delegation on training and technical cooperation activities of the Centre, in particular the Atlas of Islamic

World Innovation Project, which aims to map and evaluate the changing landscape of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) across fifteen OIC Countries by determining the rising hotspots for innovation as well as looking to how STI can contribute to sustainable development and poverty reduction in some of the less-developed countries of the Islamic World through the analysis of the latest data, trends and case studies. Mr. Serenli also informed the delegation that the Centre has developed and initiated the Vocational Education and Training Programme for OIC Member Countries (OIC-VET), which comprises a number of sub-programmes and projects, including the OIC Capacity Building Programme (OIC-CaB), OIC International Students Internship Programme (OIC-ISIP), OIC Training Opportunities (TROP) and others.

On her part, Ms. Natalia Pipia, Senior Programme Manager at CRDF, expressed her thanks to the SESRIC team for their warm receiving of the delegation and informed them about the purpose, objectives and activities of the CRDF in the region. She also stated that the CRDF was willing to cooperate with the OIC and its concerned institutions in the field of science and technology on broad range of topics that would entail cooperative research and partnerships for stronger relationship among the

OIC family and the U.S. On the other hand, Mr. Khaled J. Touqan, Director of CRDF Jordan and MENA Office, emphasised the need for closer cooperation and collaboration between the U.S. and OIC Member Countries to promote the application of science and technology to economic growth through

international partnerships and training fostering innovation and entrepreneurship.

During the discussion, the two parties elaborated on areas of possible cooperation between SESRIC and CRDF, including the possibility of joint projects and programmes on issues related to science and technology.

Workshop on "Payment Systems and Capacity Building"

A one day workshop was organized by SESRIC in cooperation with the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey on "Payment Systems and Capacity Building of Central Banks of OIC Member Countries" on 26 September 2010 in Istanbul, Turkey. The main objective of the workshop was to exchange views and experiences on payment systems in OIC Member Countries and on capacity building programmes organized by the Central Banks, as well as to explore the possibility for further cooperation and collaboration among the Central Banks.

The workshop was attended by relevant senior officials and experts of the Central Banks from OIC Member Countries; namely, Albania, Algeria, Bangladesh, Morocco, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Qatar, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, and Central Bank of West African States.

The workshop was organised in line with the decision of the governors of Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the OIC Member Countries, who declared in the Final Communique adopted during the Meeting of Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of OIC Member States-2009 held in Istanbul, Turkey, that each meeting should be preceded by workshops and technical work.

The workshop extensively discussed and deliberated on the most pertinent issues related to payment systems and capacity building, such as the feasibility of establishing an effective cross-

border payment and settlement system among the OIC Member Countries, the importance of cooperation on having effective operation, regulation and oversight of payment systems in individual member states and harmonisation of the legal systems.

The workshop agreed upon the significant role of payment systems in maintaining financial stability through increasing the effectiveness of monetary policy and expressed its willingness for further cooperation to learn from each other innovative payment instruments. The need for a more harmonised and converged payment system among the Member Countries, convergence of big banks systems to the national payment system, and improving the infrastructure of existing payment systems was also stressed during the workshop.

The workshop also took note of the current capacity building programs offered by central banks of the interest of other central banks for participation, and identified the areas where information and training could be shared and exchanged. In this regard, experts have stressed upon the importance of active participation of central banks in the Central Banks Capacity Building Programme developed and managed by the SESRIC through matching the needs and capacities of central banks by regularly conducted surveys.

For more information on the Capacity Building Programme for Central Banks please visit:

<http://www.oicvet.org/cbp-centralbanks.php>

Director General of SESRIC Addressed the Governors of Central Banks of OIC Member Countries

Dr. Savaş Alpay, Director General of SESRIC, addressed the Governors of Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the OIC Member Countries on 27 September 2010 during the opening session of the Meeting of Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the OIC Member Countries-2010, which was jointly organised by the Central Bank of Turkey and SESRIC in Istanbul, Turkey.

During his opening statement, Dr. Alpay, stated that while economic recovery was underway across the globe and output growth rebounded better than expected in 2009, being the epicentre of the crisis, most of the developed and advanced economies were still under great economic and financial stress and their recovery was expected to remain slow. In this context, Dr. Alpay stated that during the crisis, many developed countries were forced to recapitalize banks, take over a large part of the debts of failing financial institutions and introduce large stimulus packages to revive demand. As a result, there was an explosion of their public debt.

However, as a group, developing and emerging economies suffered less down turn during the crisis and, thus, their economic prospects were more promising, whereas economic activity in many of these countries was expected to be relatively vigorous, mainly due to the strong domestic and recovering external demand. As a substantial part of the developing countries, the OIC Member Countries were also gradually recovering from the negative impacts of the crisis and the recession in the world economy of 2008-09. Due to the virtually non existence of sub-prime market in the OIC Member Countries, the majority were only affected by the spill over effects of the crisis on their export earnings, remittances, aid and FDI.

Dr. Alpay, also stressed that the Islamic principles-based financial system had been recently more attractive in many countries

around the world as many people came to argue that such a system, as a feasible potential alternative, could provide the solution to the weaknesses of the conventional financial system and, consequently, the global financial crisis could have been avoided if such a system had been in place instead of the conventional one. He also touched upon the fact that it had been recently reported that Islamic banks had been less affected than many conventional banks since they were not exposed to losses from investment in the so-called “toxic assets” such as Collateralized Debt Obligations (CDOs) and Credit Default Swaps (CDSs), adding that there was, undoubtedly, a promising potential for Islamic financial services to grow more at the global financial market in the near future.

Dr. Alpay called attention to the Capacity Building Programme (CBP), that SESRIC had been undertaking over the last three years based on the analyses of the needs and capacities of the Member Countries in the relevant areas through regular surveys, and matching these needs and capacities through sending experts among these countries to offer the needed training programmes. He also pointed out that within the framework of CBP, the Centre was also conducting the Central Banks Capacity Building Programme for the relevant institutions in Member Countries.

The Director General also informed the Governors of Central Banks and Monetary Authorities about a very important initiative of SESRIC: the Vocational Education and Training Programme for OIC Member Countries (OIC-VET), which has been initiated and designed by SESRIC, and officially launched by H.E. Abdullah Gül, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the COMCEC, at the COMCEC Economic Summit held on 9 November 2009 in Istanbul on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the COMCEC. In this connection, he expressed SESRIC’s readiness, to

strengthen cooperation with the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of OIC Member Countries in order to extend and enrich training programmes for more benefits to the Member Countries in this important area.

He concluded his remarks by stating that this meeting was an instrumental step towards improving and enhancing the level of cooperation and coordination among the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the OIC Member States, the institutions which played the most important role in achieving the macroeconomic stability in the economies of the Member Countries.

The Governors of the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of OIC Member Countries evaluated the latest financial and economic developments in the world, and their implications for OIC Member Countries. In this regard the Governors clearly committed themselves to strengthening their efforts towards enhancing the level of cooperation and coordination among their institutions to mitigate the negative impacts of global financial crises and shocks in international financial markets on their economies.

The Governors also extensively discussed and deliberated on the most pertinent issues related to payment systems and capacity building of financial institutions in OIC Member Countries, and underlined the significant role of cooperation on having effective operation, regulation and oversight of payment systems in individual Member Countries and harmonisation of the legal systems in this regard.

Having been inspired by the agreements reached during the meeting, the representatives of the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the OIC Member Countries adopted the Final Communiqué in which they recognised the significant role of payment systems in maintaining financial stability through increasing the effectiveness of monetary policy and expressed willingness for further

cooperation to learn from each other's experience about innovative payment instruments. The meeting also affirmed the need for strengthened cooperation among the institutions in the area of capacity building by exchanging knowledge and experience, and participating in the ongoing programmes, such as Central Banks Capacity Building Programme developed and managed by SESRIC through matching the needs and capacities of central banks by regularly conducted survey.

Governors of Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of OIC Member Countries are convened regularly on annual basis for the purpose of sharing experiences on financial policies and central banking in order to catch up with the world's agenda and follow up global trends and developments as well as to improve and enhance the level of cooperation and coordination among the Central Banks of the OIC Member Countries. SESRIC is a member of the secretariat of the meeting to organize coordination with the OIC system.

The previous meeting in 2009 was organised when the world economy was still suffering the negative impacts of the global financial crisis which manifested in continuous slowdown of economic growth and high unemployment rates in many countries around the world. The Meeting worked out for the institutionalization of this SESRIC initiative, supporting the efforts of the OIC Member Countries to mitigate the negative impacts of global financial crises and shocks on their economies.

The Meeting of Central Banks and Monetary Authorities in 2011 and 2012 will be chaired by Malaysia and Saudi Arabia respectively.

For more information on the Meetings of Central Banks and Monetary Authorities please visit:

<http://www.sesric.org/activities-cb-meetings.php>

32nd Meeting of the Board of Directors of SESRIC

The Thirty-second Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) was held in Antalya, Republic of Turkey, on 30 September - 1 October 2010.

The Meeting was attended by Mr. Mohanna A. Al Mohanna (delegate of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia), Ms. Hissah Ibrahim Janahi (delegate of State of Kuwait), Mr. Rashed Al Suwaidi and Mr. Khalifa Al Rubaei (delegates of State of United Arab Emirates), Dr. Hassan Ibrahim Al-Mohannadi (delegate of State of Qatar), Mr.

Mehmet Aktas (delegate of Republic of Turkey), Mr. Houshang Namdari (delegate of Islamic Republic of Iran), and Mr. Ilkin Majidov (delegate of Republic of Azerbaijan). The representative of the OIC General Secretariat, Ambassador Hameed A. Opoloyeru, Assistant Secretary General for Economic Affairs, and Dr. Savaş Alpay, Director General of SESRIC, attended the Meeting as ex officio members of the Board. The Meeting was also attended by some Senior Staff Members of the Centre.

SESRIC Hosted the Second Meeting of the Project Steering Group of the Atlas of Islamic World Innovation

The SESRIC hosted the Second Project Steering Group Meeting of the Atlas of Islamic World Innovation Project during the period 3-4 October 2010 in Istanbul, Turkey under the Chairmanship of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC). The meeting was attended by the national focal points of the Atlas Project and in-country researchers of pilot countries, as well as the relevant OIC institutions and international partners.

On behalf of the project management, Dr. Savaş Alpay, Director General of SESRIC, welcomed all the participants and expressed his satisfaction with the progress of the project having several country studies currently well advanced and moving very fast. He emphasised that the project has many far-reaching and ambitious objectives towards generating opportunities for collaboration among OIC Member Countries and between OIC and non-OIC countries, making Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) more visible, building capacities, and attracting Science and Technology (S&T) focused investments to OIC Member Countries. In this regard, he stressed upon the aspiration of the project to follow up the country reports by activities, such as seminars, workshops and

media events in order to draw attention of the public and private sector, civil society, policy makers and the public at large to the results and recommendations of the Atlas Project for improvements in the areas of science, technology and innovation.

The Meeting reviewed the progress made so far in the Atlas Project concerning the pilot projects and discussed several issues pertaining to country case studies, schedule of launching country reports and provided comments and suggestions on the execution of the project. Moreover, country researchers shared experience on conducting pilot projects and lessons learnt from the fieldwork, and exchanged ideas about common approach to conduct country studies, highlighting pertinent points in Atlas Methodology and understanding the process of Atlas Research, including the data collection and fieldwork component.

The Meeting also included a special session where project partners presented their objectives in supporting the Atlas Project and how they might fit into broader priorities of these organisations. A discussion on how to use project partner networks and priorities to take

further some of the country recommendations also took place.

The Project Steering Group commended the efforts of the project management and adopted several decisions to ensure the expeditious conduct of Atlas reports and their conformity with the project parameters and international standards. They also decided to schedule the launch of first two country reports of Malaysia

and Pakistan during the 12th Islamic Summit Conference.

For more information on the Atlas of Islamic-World Science and Innovation Project please visit:

<http://www.aiwsi.org>

SESRIC Received a Plaque of Gratitude at the 14th International Business Forum

SESRIC has been awarded with a plaque of gratitude at the 14th International Business Forum (IBF) as an appreciation for its efforts and contributions to the organisation of the Congress on "The Importance of Technology for Development in Islamic Countries".

Dr. Savaş Alpay, Director General of SESRIC, addressed a number of distinguished bureaucrats, chairmen of non-governmental organisations (NGOs), academicians, businessmen and press members at the 14th International Business Forum Congress where he briefed the participants on the theme "Research and Scientific Development in OIC Member Countries" underlining the significant role nanotechnology plays and would play in all the areas pertaining to health, environment, science and technology.

The 14th International Business Forum Congress was held in Istanbul, Turkey during the period 6-9 October 2010 under the patronage of H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey, and was honoured with H.E. Abdullah Gül, President of Turkey and Chairman of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (COMCEC). The Forum was attended by a number of distinguished presidents, bureaucrats, chairmen of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), academicians, businessmen and press members from all over the world, also present

were 35 Ministers of Trade and Industry from OIC Member Countries and representatives of nearly 600 business companies from 65 countries.

Another plaque ceremony also took place at the IBF where the participants of the pilot project of the OIC International Students Exchange Programme (OIC-ISIP) were awarded a plaque of gratitude by H.E. Abdullah Gül.

Organised every year by the Independent Industrialists and Businessmen's Association (MÜSİAD) since 1995, the International Business Forum is a voluntarily-based, non-governmental platform with the motto of "Global Business Network among Muslim Nations" with an aim to gather Muslim business people from all over the globe where they try to share trade, investment and co-operation. The IBF is also an official forum of the COMCEC.

The IBF, as a platform for leaders, respected figures of the Islamic World, decision-makers, pioneer industrialists of cooperation, and co-operators of OIC Member Countries, ensures and provides the objectives and parameters in supporting the institutionalisation of trade organisation among the OIC Member Countries, by generating new business expansions, global business networking and partnerships, and exchanging ideas about who to manage professional partnerships.

The official web site of IBF is available through :

<http://www.musiadfair.com>

Memorandum of Understanding between SESRIC, ICD and TEPAV

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed on 6 October 2010 between the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD) and the Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey (TEPAV) with the aim of promoting and supporting the development of Special Economic Zones as a platform for private sector development and economic integration among the OIC Member Countries.

In accordance with this MoU, the three partners (ICD, SESRIC and TEPAV) will co-develop a high impact advocacy paper that seeks to promote the role of Special Economic Zones as a vehicle for enhancing intra-OIC trade and investment, and, thus contributing

to more economic integration among OIC markets. The MoU reflects the shared objectives of ICD, SESRIC and TEPAV towards private sector development and enhancement of OIC cooperation through concrete initiatives with the aim of identifying potential linkages between supply groups “industries” and demand groups “markets” that could be harnessed through well selected and well designed Special Economic Zones project concept.

The MoU was signed by Dr. Savaş Alpay, Director General of SESRIC, Mr. Khaled Al-Aboodi, CEO of ICD, and Dr. Ümit Özlale, Director of TEPAV.

14th International Business Forum Congress

Dr. Savaş Alpay, Director General of SESRIC, addressed the 14th International Business Forum (IBF) Congress on the theme “The Importance of Technology for Development in Islamic Countries” on 6 October 2010 in Istanbul, Turkey.

Addressing a number of distinguished bureaucrats, chairmen of non-governmental organisations (NGOs), academicians, businessmen and press members, Dr. Alpay briefed the participants on the theme “Research and Scientific Development in OIC Member Countries” with a special focus on nanotechnology.

Calling upon the OIC Member Countries for taking rapid and sound actions in the nanotechnology field, Dr. Alpay stated that the world was in the ‘Nanotechnology Era’ in which the expenditures for nanotechnology related research will reach 3 trillion USD by

2015. He emphasized that, countries needed nanotechnology in many strategic areas such as textile, food and automotive sectors and the OIC Member Countries must take place and invest in the nanotechnology related fields. Dr. Alpay stressed the importance of cooperation for sharing experience among the OIC Member Countries.

Underlining the importance of knowledge-intensive exports, Dr. Alpay stated that 80% of the total technology exports of the OIC Member Countries had been realized from Malaysia. He also expressed that the scientific work was not at the desired level based on the fact that only 63 thousand scientific articles were published in the OIC Member Countries as a whole, whereas, Germany on its own published 73 thousand scientific articles in 2009. Moreover, he stated that the Muslim countries should establish partnerships and cooperation in addition to the need of

increasing their level of R&D expenditures. “We should further develop our information infrastructure and our universities should be supported in order to increase their level of quality”, he finally added.

The official web site of IBF is available through:

<http://www.musiadfair.com>

Plaques to the Participants of the OIC-ISIP Pilot Project

H.E. Abdullah Gül, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (COMCEC), awarded plaques to the participants in the pilot project of the OIC International Students Internship Programme (OIC-ISIP) during the ceremony taken place at the 14th International Business Forum (IBF) in Istanbul, Turkey on 6 October 2010. The ceremony was attended by 35 ministers of trade and industry of OIC Member Countries, as well as representatives of nearly 600 business companies from 65 countries.

The Awarding Ceremony marked the official launch of the OIC International Students Internship Programme (OIC-ISIP) after the successful implementation of its pilot in Turkey during the summer of 2010. The pilot project was realised with the participation of 14 university students from 10 different OIC Member Countries, pursuing their degrees in various technical and vocational areas, who were recruited in companies affiliated to the Independent Businessmen and Industrialist’s Association (MÜSIAD), the official host of the IBF.

The OIC-ISIP is a special international internship programme developed under the Vocational

Education and Training Programme for OIC Member Countries (OIC-VET) Programme; and aims to enhance the quality of workforce employed in OIC Member Countries and strengthen integrity and convergence of labour markets, and promote competitiveness of OIC economies through increasing knowledge and skills of university students about to enter into the labour market in accordance with national legislation and practices.

The OIC-ISIP operates under the IBF as an internationally recognised internship programme by all OIC Member Countries which will cater to the basic training needs of the university students pursuing different degrees in OIC universities. By its nature, the OIC-ISIP involves various stakeholders in different sectors of the economy, including enterprises, industrial companies, SMEs, business world, chambers, VET institutions and centres, universities, as well as Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other civil society organisations.

For more information on the OIC-VET Programme please visit:

<http://www.oicvet.org>

Training Course on Quarterly National Accounts and Short-Term Indicators

The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESERIC) in collaboration with the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS) organized a “Training Course on Quarterly National Accounts and Short-Term Indicators” on 6-10 October 2010, in Amman, Jordan. The course was attended by 20 participants representing 12 Arab States such as,

Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, UAE and Yemen.

The objective of the course was to enhance work on the analysis of certain economic policies and performance of macroeconomic indicators through the provision of short-term economic indicators in a period shorter than an annual term. The course

provides detailed knowledge on various issues of quarterly national accounts and short-term indicators, including an introduction on the origin and development of their systems, concepts and importance, system of quarterly accounts' preparation, types of volumes and prices indices and the ways of developing them. On the other hand, the course dealt with the modelling of quarterly data by use of the BENCH Programme, practical exercises of this programme and the manner to use the attained results to prepare quarterly estimations and matching them with the

annual data by defining the inputs and calculation mechanisms and economic models used in the estimation and the processing of economic data.

At the end of the training course the AITRS distributed CD's containing the contents of the course: the theoretical lectures, presentations by the lecturers and country experiences.

For more information on the Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme please visit:

<http://www.oicvet.org/cbp-statcab.php>

Training Course on "How to Transfer from 1993 to 2008 National Accounts System"

The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) in collaboration with the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS) organised a training course on "How to Transfer from 1993 to 2008 National Accounts System" on 11-14 October 2010, in Amman, Jordan. The course was attended by 21 participants representing 12 Arab countries such as Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, UAE and Yemen.

With the adoption of a new national accounts system (2008 System), by the United Nations which is an updated version of the 1993 System with many changes, this training course was organised, firstly, to introduce the new system to the participants by explaining how to transfer the

national accounts from the 1993 System to the 2008 one and, secondly, to increase the knowledge of workers in the area of national accounts by introducing methods, classifications, international recommendations and the recent changes made on the national account system and its usage. Such knowledge will enable the workers to attain more accurate and simple data through one defined system. The course also aimed to increase the knowledge of those who work on economic surveys related to accounts and national concepts in order to enable them to develop more simple forms used by data providers.

For more information on the Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme please visit:

<http://www.oicvet.org/cbp-statcab.php>

International Symposium on Poverty Alleviation Strategies: Experiences and New Ideas

SESRIC supported and participated in the "International Symposium on Poverty Alleviation Strategies: Experiences and New Ideas", which was held in Istanbul, Turkey during the period 13-15 October 2010. The Symposium was hosted by the Prime Ministry General Directorate of Social Assistance and Solidarity of the Republic of Turkey, and brought together social scientists from different disciplines, researchers, national/international experts from the public/private sector representatives from

international organisations and Non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

The main objective of the Symposium was to strengthen the awareness on combating poverty in all segments of the society and increase the potential cooperation among both governmental and non-governmental organisations at national and international level. SESRIC was represented by Mr. Mehmet Fatih Serenli, Director of Training

and Technical Cooperation Department, and Mr. Mazhar Hussain, Researcher, thereat.

Mr. Hussain submitted a paper on the “State of Poverty in OIC Member Countries” where he investigated the state of poverty and prevalence of undernourishment in these countries, and analysed the progress made so far by the Member Countries towards achieving the MDGs target of eradicating extreme poverty and hunger by 2015. He highlighted that despite this remarkable progress, poverty situation remained alarming in OIC Member Countries, some suffering from higher incidence of poverty and hunger. He concluded that at intra-OIC level, Member Countries should enhance cooperation both in terms of financial and technical support, to assist those lagging behind, as well as helping each other by sharing best practices and by providing capacity building services to improve the process of assessment of progress towards achieving the MDGs.

Mr. Serenli made a presentation on “The Role of Vocational Training in Poverty Alleviation” where he underlined the importance of education and training in poverty alleviation among other financial and developmental instruments. He stated that approaches built on existing vocational training structures and community development approaches to enhance skills had been proven to be very effective in poverty alleviation, allowing vocational schools to accept a new role in a local network which promotes business and self-employment opportunities rather than concentrating exclusively on traditional initial

vocational training tasks. In this regard, he mentioned the Vocational Education and Training Programme for OIC Member Countries (OIC-VET), a programme originally designed and developed by SESRIC and officially launched by the Economic Summit of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (COMCEC) held in Istanbul in November 2009, as an international collaborative programme that aims at increasing the quality of national VET systems and generating more employment opportunities for the poor.

The Symposium was carried out within the context of main themes stated below:

- New ideas and new trends for poverty alleviation
- Human capacity building in poverty alleviation
- Cooperation for poverty alleviation
- Designing efficient poverty alleviation programs
- Impact assessments of poverty alleviation programs

Poverty alleviation is one of the priority developmental issues highlighted in the OIC Ten-Year Programme of Action to Meet the Challenges Facing the Muslim Ummah in the 21st Century adopted during the Third Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held in Makkah al-Mukarramah in 2005.

Director General of SESRIC Delivered a Keynote Presentation at the Muslim Universities Vice-Chancellors’/Presidents’ Forum

Dr. Savaş Alpay, Director General of SESRIC, delivered a keynote presentation on ‘Research and Scientific Development in OIC Member Countries’ at the Muslim Universities Vice-Chancellors’/Presidents’ Forum jointly organised by the Ministry of Higher Education of Malaysia and the National Higher Education Research Institute (IPPTN) of the University Sains Malaysia

on 19-20 October 2010 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Director General highlighted some important facts related to the research studies conducted by SESRIC and presented an overview of current trends and developments in the OIC Member Countries in the fields of education, scientific research, and science & technology, focusing on

scientific publications and university rankings as two major indicators of performance at higher education and scientific research.

Furthermore, Dr. Alpay, went on explaining the key determining factors of this performance and showing where the OIC Member Countries stand vis-à-vis the world with respect to these factors. He also provided an overall analysis of student-teacher ratio at tertiary schools, enrolment rate at tertiary schools, and public expenditure for tertiary education as three factors being crucial for better education at universities and advanced scientific research.

Dr. Alpay concluded his presentation by underlining some broad policy implications where he emphasised the need for more public and private resources allocated to higher education, by which the public expenditure on increasing the number of schools and teachers would be much higher in Member Countries. He stressed upon the idea of promoting academic research through improving living standards for scientists in order to reduce the OIC Countries' brain drain to the West, as well as providing grants and minimizing teaching loads.

Dr. Alpay also stated that in order to stimulate R&D, it is important that governments develop a plan on reaching in the foreseeable future the 1% target of R&D share in GDP, set by the OIC Ten-Year Programme of Action in 2005 as adopted by

the Heads of States and Governments. Governments, he added, should also encourage research joint ventures among companies in OIC Member Countries and take advantage of R&D spillovers by learning about other countries' new technologies and improving them, and by importing technological goods and services from their trade partners. Dr. Alpay concluded his presentation by saying that encouraging private sector to increase R&D expenditures through tax concessions or R&D subsidies was another policy that the OIC Member Countries should consider.

The Forum was held upon the adjournment of the 5th Islamic Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research organised by the Islamic Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO) and brought together vice-chancellors, presidents and rectors of the Muslim Universities in the OIC Member Countries.

The theme of the Forum was 'Charting New Directions for Muslim Universities: Must We Subscribe to Western Ideological and Philosophical Constructs?'. To this end, the main objective of the Forum was to encourage discussion and debate and develop an effective future plan based on creative ways and new conceptual approaches that are not to be dominated by western culture and mindset, as well as to establish essential working collaborations among universities of OIC Member Countries, and form short and long-term strategic action plans to further advance higher education.

SESRIC Received a Delegation from the US on Polio Eradication

SESRIC received a delegation from the United States on 19 October 2010 at its headquarters to discuss possible means and ways of cooperation and collaboration on polio eradication and on mother and child health. The delegation consisted of Mr. Edwin Brown, Deputy Director at Office of International Health and Bio-defence of Department of State; Ms. Ellyn W. Ogden, Senior Technical Advisor for Health, USAID Worldwide Polio Eradication Coordinator; Mr. Ellias Durry, Global Immunization Division, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services and John C. Letvin, Economic Officer, United States Embassy in Ankara.

Mr. Brown made a brief introduction on the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) and on the OIC-US cooperation on mother and child health. Ms. Ogden and Mr. Durry explained in detail the work and efforts undertaken by their institutions with respect to polio eradication issues. The team stressed the importance of the role of

SESRIC in this regard and requested support in line with the mandates drawn up for the Centre.

Mr. Nabil Dabour, Director of Research Department at SESRIC, briefed the delegation on the activities undertaken by the Centre, especially those related to health issues in the OIC Member Countries, and announced the the Centre's willingness in considering new conceptual approaches on Polio eradication to be tackled in the studies related to this field and in the OIC Outlook Reports. The delegations was briefed on training and technical cooperation functions of the Centre, in particular, the Ibn Sina Programme for Health Capacity Building and the OIC-VET Programme.

The two parties expressed their willingness to cooperate with each other and agreed on exchanging data and articles in this regard. They also agreed to strengthen communication and encourage dialogue in order to promote research joint ventures between them as well as advocate academic research through importing all possible services related to Polio Eradication.

OIC-US Cooperation on Mother and Child Health

The 1st Islamic Conference of Health Ministers, held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in June 2007, adopted the Resolution No.KLOICHMC-1/2007/2.5 on Mother and Child Health. In pursuance of the Resolution, the OIC General Secretariat in collaboration with the Center of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the United States prepared a project entitled "Reaching every Mother and Baby in the OIC with Emergency Care". The OIC and the United States signed a Cooperation Framework Agreement on 1st December 2008 to implement the project.

After the 2nd Islamic Conference of Health Ministers, held in Tehran in 2009, the OIC General Secretariat established close contact with the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) Secretariat in Geneva and finalized a work programme to enhance collaboration on polio eradication for the year 2009 and beyond.

The 36th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (ICFM) requested the OIC General Secretariat to fully implement the project entitled "Reaching Every Mother and Baby in the OIC with Emergency Care" under the Cooperation Framework Agreement signed by the OIC General Secretariat and the US on 1st December 2009. In 2009, the OIC Secretary General, the US State Department and the US Health and Human Services Department (DHHS) agreed to expedite the implementation of the Cooperation Framework Agreement. In August 2010, a delegation of USAID and the US State Department visited the OIC Headquarters in Jeddah to discuss the implementation of US-OIC project on Mother Child Health.

The President of the United States, H.E. Barack Obama, in a speech he delivered in Cairo on 4 June 2009, committed to expand partnerships with Muslim communities to promote child and maternal health in an action to be taken within the domain of Science and Technology.

For more information on the IbnSina Health Capacity Building (IbnSina-HCaB) Programme please visit:

<http://www.oicvet.org/cbp-hcab.php>

Memorandum of Understanding between SESRIC and FCA

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) and the Regional Office for the Framework Convention Alliance for Tobacco

Control for the Eastern Mediterranean (FCA) with an aim to promote cooperation in providing assistance regarding the development of policies and legislation as well as the capacity building

programmes related to tobacco control in the OIC Member Countries.

According to the MoU, the two parties shall exchange technical and administrative assistance in matters of common interest, such as the preparation of studies and research and the issuing of books, guidelines and educational tools related to tobacco control, training programmes, seminars, workshops and so on. Moreover, the parties shall exchange information and data, documents, statistical periodicals and other relevant publications on the activities, events and issues of common concern.

The MoU reflects the common objectives of the SESRIC and FCA Regional Office towards establishing a network of cooperation between organizations, associations and institutions interested in the field of tobacco control along with interested national and regional organizations, as well as encouraging OIC Member Countries to establish national committees for the formulation of policies and strategies for tobacco control in cooperation with the Regional Office of World Health Organization (WHO).

Director General of SESRIC Visited the Technical and Vocational Training Organisation (TVTO) of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Dr. Savaş Alpay, Director General of the SESRIC and Mr. Nabil Dabour, Director of Research Department visited the Technical and Vocational Training Organisation of Islamic Republic of Iran (TVTO) on 29 November 2010 upon the invitation of Prof. Abdolrasoul Pourabbas, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Affairs and President of TVTO, to discuss issues of mutual interest of cooperation between the two institutions, particularly the preparations for organising the 3rd Meeting of the Monitoring and Advisory Committee (MAC) of the OIC Vocational Education and Training Programme (OIC-VET), which the TVTO of Iran offered to host in 2011.

The visit took place at the TVTO Headquarters in Tehran, where Prof. Pourabbas, and some senior staff at the TVTO received Dr. Alpay and Mr. Dabour. At the outset of the meeting, Prof. Pourabbas welcomed and thanked Dr. Alpay for accepting his invitation, and, then, made a comprehensive presentation on the various activities of the TVTO covering the TVTO's mission, objectives, approach, activities and programmes. In particular, Prof. Pourabbas underlined the current vocational education and training programmes of the TVTO in various areas, which are available for students at all levels including the universities. He mentioned that most

of these programmes are developed in collaboration with the Ministries of Labour and Industry and Science and Technology, and that, currently, about 600,000 students are registered in various VET programmes, some of which cover a period of 18 months, and some of these students could complete their learning to get the degree of Master of Engineering (ME).

Prof. Pourabbas also briefed the Director General on the recent decision of the Iranian Parliament to develop a comprehensive system for VET programmes in Iran, called "National Functional Skills System", where all the departments and divisions in various Ministries which provide VET programmes will come together under this central system. In this connection, Prof. Pourabbas expressed their readiness to cooperate with SESRIC with a view to transfer and exchange the experience of Iran in this area to/with other OIC Member Countries. He also expressed his thanks and appreciations to the Government of the Republic of Turkey for its increasing positive relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran and for the fruitful cooperation efforts of the two countries.

Concerning the offer of the TVTO to organise and host the 3rd Meeting of the Monitoring and Advisory Committee (MAC) of the OIC

Vocational Education and Training Programme (OIC-VET) in 2011, Prof. Pourabbas expressed the willingness and readiness of the TVTO to organise and host the said meeting in Tehran. He mentioned that, with the support of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the TVTO will spare no effort to assure all the success for the meeting and make it, as it was the case in the previous meetings, very fruitful for all the partners. He also mentioned that the TVTO may invite the Ministers of Labour and Science and Technology to address the meeting at the opening session.

On his part, Dr. Alpay expressed his thanks to Prof. Pourabbas, the President of the TVTO, for his invitation and warm hospitality, and briefed him on the OIC Vocational Education and Training Programme (OIC-VET), which has been initiated and designed by the SESRIC and officially launched by H.E. Abdullah Gül, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (COMCEC). He mentioned that the Programme has so far recorded significant impact and progress and received positive response from many Member Countries, where three pilot projects on various areas of interest to the Member Countries have already been implemented. In this context, Dr. Alpay expressed his confidence that, with the realisation of the ongoing and planned pilot projects and close cooperation with the

National Focal Points of the OIC-VET Programme and other relevant institutions, the Programme will reach, during the coming period, a wider audience of beneficiaries from Member Countries and become a successful model and a brand for human capacity development in OIC Member Countries.

Following his presentation on the OIC-VET Programme and other activities of the Centre in the areas of research and statistics, Dr. Alpay answered the questions of Dr. Kourosch Parand, Deputy of Training and TVTO's Secretary for the 3rd Meeting of the MAC, related to the preparations for the meeting. In this context, Dr. Alpay suggested that the date of the meeting be in the end of April or the first week of May 2011 (i.e. before the meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC). He also mentioned that the meeting will be a two-day meeting, where presentations will be made by the National Focal Points of the OIC-VET Programme in the first day, and the second day will be designated to take some decisions on the implementation mechanism of the planned pilot projects of the Programme. At the end of the meeting, Dr. Alpay and Prof. Pourabbas discussed the possibility of signing a MoU for cooperation between the two institutions.

For more information on the OIC-VET Programme please visit:

<http://www.oicvet.org>

OIC NEWS

Fourth Steering Committee Meeting and Third Project Committee Meeting on Cotton of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference

The Third Meeting of the Project Committee and the Fourth Meeting of the Steering Committee for the Implementation of the OIC Cotton Action Plan were held on 27-28 September in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco. The Third Project Committee Meeting was chaired by Dr. Osman Mahjoub Elfiel, from the Islamic Development Bank Group (IDB) and the Fourth Steering

Committee Meeting was chaired by Mr. İsmail Kalender, General Manager, Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Republic of the Turkey.

In addition to the representatives of the following OIC Member Countries: Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Indonesia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Syria, Turkey and Uganda, the representatives of the OIC General

Secretariat, Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (COMCEC) Coordination Office, Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) and Centres of Excellence also participated in the meeting.

After adoption of the Agenda, the discussion and deliberations focused on the 14 projects proposals on the cotton sector which have been prepared and submitted by 7 Member Countries to the IDB for financing. These project proposals cover wide range of activities related to development of cotton sector in these countries, including capacity building, training, research, production, marketing, pest management, etc. The IDB has received these project proposals through the OIC General Secretariat and currently they are being reviewed to assess their technical soundness and economic viability. As per IDB procedures these proposals will be further discussed with the countries concerned to explore possible financing modalities to determine their priorities for inclusion in the country work program. Upon agreement on the financing modalities and receipt of official request from the governments of concerned countries, these proposals will be considered by IDB for financing under different financing windows.

The representative of SESRIC, Mr. Mostafa Rmouch, gave a short presentation on two project proposals under the Vocational Education and Training Programme for OIC Member Countries (OIC-VET) Programme, namely 'Cotton Growing and Irrigation Techniques, Quality Improvement and Treatment of Cotton Diseases' and 'Cotton Processing'. The two projects were endorsed for submission to the Steering Committee and the Committee invited SESRIC to organize such

training courses in close collaboration with the Centres of Excellence specialized in cotton research in order to add to the quality of the training programmes.

On the second day, Mr. Ismail Kalender, representative of the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Republic of the Turkey, chaired the Fourth Steering Committee Meeting. The Meeting adopted the Report of the 3rd Meeting of the Project Committee and decided to submit the approved project proposals to the international finance institutions through the OIC general Secretariat. The meeting underlined the importance given to the Cotton Action Plan by OIC General Secretariat and called upon concerned OIC Member States and OIC Institutions to give full support for the implementation of this plan.

The Committee debated on the issue of extending the duration of the OIC Five-Year Cotton Action Plan and decided to submit a proposal to the 26th Session of the COMCEC, to prolong the duration of the Plan for another 5 year period from 2011-2016. In this regards, the Committee raised the issue of preparing a concept paper justifying the need of extending the duration of the plan under the coordination of the COMCEC.

The Committee also called upon the concerned Member States and OIC Institutions to give informative contribution to the Cotton Web Portal (www.oic-cotton.org) through the OIC General Secretariat in order to enhance the communication and cooperation among themselves.

For more information on the OIC Cotton Training Programme (OIC-CTP) please visit:

<http://www.oicvet.org/ctp.php>

4th Meeting of the OIC Member States' Stock Exchanges Forum

The 4th Meeting of the OIC Member States' Stock Exchanges Forum convened on 2-3

October 2010 in Istanbul, Turkey. The Meeting was hosted by the Istanbul Stock Exchange (ISE)

and attended by the representatives of 13 stock exchanges, 6 central depositories, clearing and registry institutions and 10 related organisations and institutions, including the SESRIC. Mr. Atilla Karaman, Reseacher, represented the Centre thereat.

In his speech at the opening session, Mr. Hüseyin Erkan, Chairman of the Forum and Chairman-CEO of the Istanbul Stock Exchange, reminded the participants that the current state of the financial industry and fast changing world requires a close partnership of countries, while the growing interest in Islamic finance presents many challenges, therefore making cooperation even more important in order to achieve mutual benefits. Mr. Erkan went on to say that as a result of the extensive work of the task forces, a remarkable progress has been made in many areas of cooperation since the establishment of the Forum in 2005, and expressed his gratitude for this hard work. Mr. Erkan said that the Forum has worked on many projects so far and shall go over this work during the two-day Meeting.

In the working sessions of the Meeting, Mr. Hüseyin Erkan delivered a presentation on the background of the Forum and the tasks accomplished since the 3rd Forum Meeting convened in October 2009. The participants presented the reports of the relevant Task Forces of the Forum, and international organisations including Progress on Creation of OIC Indices, Progress on Islamic Repo, Branding and Promoting Islamic Capital Markets and Raising Awareness for the OIC Markets, Islamic Corporate Social Responsibility, and OIC Capital Markets Interlinking.

A set of proposals, recommendations and decisions have been made at the end of the Meeting related to the future work and activities of the various Task Forces of the Forum and other related administrative and organisational matters.

The Report of the Forum, including the adopted recommendations and decisions, has been

submitted to the 26th Session of the COMCEC, which was held in Istanbul on 5-8 October 2010. The 5th Meeting of the Forum will be held in Istanbul in October 2011.

The Islamic Financial Services Board (IFSB) organised the "Seminar on Islamic Capital Markets" on 1 October 2010 in Istanbul, Turkey. The seminar, hosted by the Istanbul Stock Exchange, has been the first of the three awareness programmes of the IFSB to take place in October 2010. The Seminar has been held back to back with the Fourth OIC Member States' Stock Exchanges Forum..

The opening remarks were delivered by Prof. Datuk Rifaat Ahmed Abdel Karim, Secretary General of the IFSB, and Mr. Hüseyin Erkan, Chairman and CEO of the ISE. In his speech, Prof. Rifaat stated that the seminar series of the IFSB act as an important platform in raising awareness for the Islamic financial services industry and capacity building. Explaining that the instruments of the Islamic financial services sector need development, he expressed that a standard framework is needed to accommodate the challenges faced in different legal environments.

Mr. Hüseyin Erkan articulated his appreciation for the efforts undertaken by the IFSB in the Islamic financial services industry. He also underlined that the OIC Member States Stock Exchanges Forum and IFSB should work together in a global market with a growing demand for the Islamic financial products.

The Seminar had the aim to discuss the structural issues in Islamic capital markets focusing on its development and regulatory issues. The Seminar addressed the following topics:

- General Issues in Islamic Capital Markets;
- Shari`ah and Legal Issues in Islamic Capital Markets;
- Islamic Capital Market Products and Liquidity Management; and
- Future Challenges and Opportunities for Islamic Capital Markets.

Twenty-Sixth Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (COMCEC)

The 26th Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (COMCEC), which is chaired by the President of the Republic of Turkey, convened in Istanbul, Turkey on 5-8 October 2010 with the participation of delegates from 45 OIC Member Countries, five observer countries, one invited country, 13 OIC organizations, and six international/regional organizations.

The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) actively participated in the 26th Session of COMCEC Session's important technical background reports and acted as co-organizer of the different preparatory meetings. SESRIC was represented thereat by Dr. Savaş Alpay, Director General and Mr. Mehmet Fatih Serenli, Director of Training and Technical Cooperation Department.

The Senior Officials Meeting of the 26th Session of the COMCEC

The Meeting of the Senior Officials of the 26th Session of the COMCEC started on 5 October 2010 under the Chairmanship of Kemal Madenoğlu, Undersecretary of the State Planning Organization (SPO) of Turkey.

During the Meeting, the delegations of the Member States and the OIC Institutions considered and deliberated on a number of agenda items related to various issues related to enhancing economic and commercial cooperation among the Member States. The agenda items included the following issues:

- World economic developments in conjunction with the OIC Member Countries
- Review of the implementation of the OIC Ten-Year Program of Action and

the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation among the OIC Member States.

- Mid-term review of the OIC Ten Year Program of Action
- Evaluation of the Plan of Action
- Cooperation in the area of tourism
- Cooperation in the area of transportation
- Review of the activities of the Statistical Working Group (OIC_SWG)
- Report by the Session Committee
- Intra-OIC Trade
 - Trade Preferential System among the member states of OIC (TPS-OIC)
 - Road map for enhancing intra-OIC trade
 - WTO related technical assistance
 - Trade financing activities
- Private sector cooperation
 - Islamic trade fairs
 - Private sector meetings
- Poverty alleviation and economic/technical assistance to OIC Countries
 - Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) and Special Program for Development of Africa (SPDA)
 - OIC Cotton Program
 - Cooperation among Development Cooperation Institutions (DCIs) of the OIC Member States
 - Vocational Education and Training Programme for OIC Member Countries (OIC-VET)

- Food Security Program
- Financial cooperation among the OIC Member States
 - Cooperation among the stock exchanges
 - Cooperation among the central banks and monetary authorities
- Exchange of Views on “Agriculture and Rural Development”
- Development of the OIC Halal Food Standards and procedures
- E-government applications and their economic impact on the OIC Member States

The SESRIC contributed the following background reports and studies dealing with some major agenda items of the Meeting:

- (1) Annual Economic Report on the OIC Countries 2010;
- (2) E-Government Applications and Their Economic Impacts on the OIC Member Countries; and
- (3) Results of the Questionnaire Circulated by the SESRIC to the Member Countries on the Proposed Themes for the COMCEC Exchange of Views Sessions.

Additionally the Centre also made presentations and briefed the Committee on the following agenda items: (1) Cooperation among the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities; (2) Vocational Education and Training Programme for OIC Member Countries (OIC-VET); (3) Review of the Activities of the Statistical Working Group; and (4) Cooperation among Development Cooperation Institutions of the Member States.

In their deliberations on the agenda items listed above, the Senior Officials discussed and considered the recommendations and policy implications of many technical and background

reports prepared and presented by various relevant OIC Institutions as well as those of some related international and regional organizations. They also prepared the Draft Resolutions on these issues for consideration by the Ministerial Meeting, held on 7 October 2010.

The Ministerial Meeting of the 26th Session of the COMCEC

The Ministerial Meeting of the 25th Session of the COMCEC was held on 7 October 2010. The Opening Ceremony of the Meeting was held under the chairmanship of H.E. Abdullah Gül, President of the Republic of Turkey and the Chairman of the COMCEC.

In his inaugural address, H.E. Gül mentioned the importance of cooperation among the OIC Member Countries and emphasized on resilience to the global economic crisis. He said that the OIC Member Countries did not have their fair share of global prosperity despite being rich in natural resources and that the share of the OIC Member Countries in world GDP was only 7% in 2009 even though they accounted for 22% of world population.

H.E. Abdullah Gül emphasized on the importance of poverty alleviation and political stability. He said that being a global community, the Islamic world should be aware that global problems could only be solved if there were a global mind and action. He also elaborated on poor agriculture productivity, low quality of production, and the lack of competitiveness in the tradable goods of the OIC Member Countries. Drawing attention to the fact that around 1 billion of the people who are under the hunger threshold live in the OIC Member Countries, he stated that the problem of food scarcity and insufficient nutrition should be resolved in no time. He also expressed his condolences to the Pakistani people who were struck by a natural disaster and called upon the countries to coordinate on humanitarian aid and to be generous in this respect.

An award ceremony was held at the end of the Opening Session, where the “Islamic Solidarity Prize for the Enhancement of Trade among OIC Member Countries” was accorded to the Saudi Exports Promotion Center, an affiliate of the Saudi Chambers of Commerce and Industry. Also, an agreement was signed between H.E. Nihat Ergün, Minister of Industry and Trade,

and the Acting General Director of the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC) to establish the center of SMIIC in Turkey.

The official web site of the COMCEC is available through:

<http://www.comcec.org>

Fourth Islamic Conference of Ministers of Environment

The Fourth Islamic Conference of Ministers of Environment was held in the city of Hammamet, Tunisia, on 5-6 October 2010. Mrs. Zehra Zumrut Selcuk, researcher at the Statistics and Information Department, represented the Centre thereat.

After the adoption of the Draft Agenda and Programme, the Conference Bureau was elected based on the proposal put forward and the participating heads of delegations from member states delivered their statements and reports in the field of environment and sustainable development.

During the second Session, the Ministers examined the Report of the Islamic Executive Bureau for Environment, the Report of

Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO)'s Efforts in the Fields of Environment Protection, Water Resources Management, Renewable Energy and Sustainable Development. The meeting continued with the presentation of the Assessment Report on the Outcome of the Previous Three Sessions of the Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers.

Taking into consideration the observations made by the Conference members, the updated vision of General Framework of Islamic Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted afterwards. The document highlighted the environment priority issues in the Islamic world, as well as the positive development in a number of Member States where the competent parties developed plans and implemented projects at protecting the environment and achieving rational use of natural resources. In this context, the importance of collaboration with regional and international organizations was underlined and Member States were invited to develop more joint Islamic projects on environment related issues such as agricultural production, fighting famine and food shortages, improving green technologies, etc.

Under the strategies and programmes' session, the draft Strategy on Management of Disaster Risks and Climate Change Implications in the Islamic World, the draft Strategy for Energy Efficient and Promotion of Clean and Renewable Energy in Islamic Countries and the draft Action Programme to Benefit from Adaptation Funds and Clean Development Mechanisms in Islamic World were endorsed. The members of Conference asserted again the need to launch national projects in cooperation with international parties in order to benefit from these strategies and programmes.

As specialized projects, the draft Environment Action Plan in the Islamic World was handled. It was decided to establish a high-level climate change expert network of Member States to keep pace with the latest developments and to enhance knowledge by sharing experiences and projects. Member States were also requested to devote special attention to water issues in the Islamic World. The Project on the Islamic Environment Network in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was the other agenda item under specialized project. The delegates thanked the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for all the efforts made in launching the project, which will ensure better environment security through the provision of relevant data, technical services and trainings to assist Member States in the conservation of the environment.

At the closing Session of the Conference, the members of the Conference reiterated their commitment to the Islamic Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Jeddah Commitments for Sustainable Development as issued by the First and Second Islamic Conferences on Environment Ministers, held in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, respectively in 2002 and 2006. They also renewed the commitment of the Islamic world to the activation of programmes schedules as part of the celebration of 2010 as an International Year of Biodiversity, and stepping up efforts to

protect biodiversity through increased awareness of its importance and a concrete response to the deterioration of ecosystems as a result of environment degradation and climate change.

The Conference adopted the Tunis Declaration on “Enhancing the Efforts of the Islamic World towards Environment Protection and Sustainable Development” based on the report of the experts’ committee and all the other guidance documents presented during the Conference. The adopted Tunis Appeal on “Youth and Biodiversity” was also requested to be submitted to the various UN bodies. The members of the Conference expressed their concern about the developments taking place in Palestinian occupied territories and delivered the “Communiqué on the Environmental Situation in Palestine”.

Mrs. Selcuk, conveyed the message of Dr. Savaş Alpay, Director General of SESRIC. In his

statement, Dr. Alpay stressed the importance of promoting academic research to share knowledge and experience for the sake of achieving higher environmental standards, to frame an integrated environment plan for the Islamic World and to increase cooperation among Member Countries and international organizations. In this context, he emphasized the dedication and efforts of SESRIC to complement the endeavours and achievements of Member Countries through disseminating and analyzing environment-related indicators, preparing reports on these areas of concern, organizing capacity-building programmes to train professionals in the field of environment and implementing joint environment projects with other international organizations.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.sesric.org/activities-environment.php>

5th Islamic Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research (ICMHESR)

Dr. Savaş Alpay, Director General of SESRIC, addressed the Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research of the OIC Member Countries at the 5th Islamic Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research (ICMHESR). The Conference was organised by the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) and hosted by the Ministry of Higher Education of Malaysia at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia during the period of 19-21 October 2010.

During his address, Dr. Alpay, Director General of SESRIC presented an overview of current trends and developments in the OIC Member Countries in the fields of education, scientific research, and science & technology, focusing on scientific publications and university rankings as two major indicators of performance at higher education and scientific research. Dr. Alpay, touched upon key determining factors of the performance of OIC Member Countries and

showed their stand in the world with respect to these factors where he also provided an analysis of student-teacher ratio at tertiary schools, enrolment rate at tertiary schools, and public expenditure for tertiary education as three key factors that are crucial for better education at universities and advanced scientific research.

Dr. Alpay concluded his presentation by underlining some broad policy implications as well as touching upon the fundamental need for more public and private resources allocated to higher education. He also stressed upon the idea of promoting academic research by improving living standards for scientists in order to reduce the OIC countries’ brain drain to the West, as well as providing grants and minimizing teaching loads. He also stated that in order to stimulate R&D and reach the 1% target of R&D share in GDP in the foreseeable future, as set by the OIC Ten-Year Programme of Action in 2005 and as adopted by the Heads of States and Governments, Governments should encourage research joint

ventures among companies in OIC Member Countries and take advantage of R&D spillovers by learning about other countries' new technologies, and by importing technological goods and services from their trade partners.

During the opening ceremony of the Conference, H.E. Tan Sri Dato' Haji Muhyiddin Haji Mohd Yasin, the Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia, pointed out that quality higher education should provide broader contribution such as social cohesion, better health, character-moulding. He added that the development of critical and creative faculties were much more essential for learning societies in a rapidly changing world rather than reducing the role of education to factory. H.E. Muhyiddin also mentioned that quality education could become part of our culture through enhancement of individual potential, recognition of cultural diversity, lifelong learning, and experience gained by learners. He expressed his hope of achieving holistic education and addressing equity of access to all.

Hon. Dato' Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin, Minister of Higher Education of Malaysia, in his opening statement stated that the Fifth Islamic Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research was an excellent platform for all parties to identify emerging trends and technologies that are of excellent quality and that such quality could be incorporated into their organisations' requirements. He also urged the participants to pool resources and work together to invigorate the Islamic educational agenda, and to reclaim the glorious standing of the great universities of Cordoba and Alexandria which reigned supreme in the early years of Islam.

Dr. Abdelaziz Othman Altwajiri, Director General of Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization gave a presentation during the Fifth Session on the theme "Enculturation of Quality in Academia, Research and Innovation towards Prosperity of Ummah". His presentation

focused on important initiatives to improve quality in higher education, research performance and innovation in advanced and emerging technologies. He added that such initiatives would also give due consideration to empowering women in scientific, technological, economic and social development, so as to tap this huge potential and resource towards economic progress. Finally, he concluded his presentation by saying that combined vision would help to adopt a strategic vision of science and higher education in the Islamic Countries.

The Fifth ICMHESR reviewed and assessed the reports of the Director General of ISESCO on the issues and challenges facing the OIC Member Countries in their efforts to overcome the common obstacles deterring their progress towards scientific and technological excellence. Among other agenda items, the Conference also reviewed the progress made in two collaborative projects in which the Centre had actively partaken and participated, namely "Ranking of Universities of OIC Member Countries" and "Atlas of Islamic World Science and Innovation.

The Islamic Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research (ICMHESR) in Kuala Lumpur is the fifth of such conferences carrying on the tradition of cooperation and collaboration among OIC Member Countries. The theme of the Fifth Conference was 'Enculturation of Quality in Academia, Research and Innovation towards Prosperity of Ummah'. Besides its regular agenda, the Conference witnessed a round table discussion entitled 'Empowering Women for Scientific and Technology Development in Islamic Countries'.

The official web site of the Fifth ICMHESR is available through:

<http://www.icmhesr5.my>

International Islamic Liquidity Management Corporation (IILM) Signing Ceremony

Eleven central banks and two multilateral organisations signed the Articles of Agreement for the establishment of the International Islamic Liquidity Management Corporation (IILM) on 25 October 2010 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. This global initiative is aimed to assist institutions offering Islamic financial services in addressing their liquidity management efficiently and effectively. In addition, the initiative would facilitate greater investment flows for the Islamic financial service industry. To this end, the IILM will issue, in an integrated manner, high quality Shariah-compliant financial instruments at both the national level and across borders, thereby enhancing the soundness and stability of the jurisdictions in which they operate.

The signatories of the IILM Articles of Agreement are governors and representatives

from the central banks or monetary agencies of the OIC Member Countries including Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Turkey and United Arab Emirates. The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector are the multilateral organisations participating in this initiative. Luxembourg and Mauritius, as two non-OIC Member Countries, have also signed the IILM Articles of Agreement.

The Memorandum of Participation for the IILM was signed on 7th October 2010 in Washington on the sidelines of the IMF-World Bank Annual Meetings. The signing of the Articles of Agreement signifies the official establishment of the IILM.

Fifth OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development

The Fifth OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development was held under the patronage of H.E. Omar Hassan Al-Bashir, President of the Republic of the Sudan, in Khartoum on 26-28 October 2010. The Conference was attended by honourable ministers and delegates from 29 OIC Member States and 3 OIC Observer States. It was also attended by the representatives of the OIC General Secretariat and its relevant institutions as well as representatives of some regional and international organizations. Mr. Mazhar Hussain, Researcher, represented the Centre thereat and gave a presentation entitled "Agricultural Development and Food Security in the OIC Countries: Challenges and Opportunities for Cooperation".

The first two days (26-27 October) of the Conference were dedicated for the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) as preparation for the Ministerial Session, which was held on the third day (28 October). In the opening ceremony of the Senior

Officials Meeting, H.E. Dr. Abdalatif Ahmed Ijami, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Sudan, welcomed the participants of the Conference to Sudan. Furthermore, in his speech, he gave an overview of measures taken by his government to facilitate both public and private investment in agriculture sector. He also underscored the need for harmonization of the national legislation to promote sustainable agricultural development; cooperation among the development institutions in OIC Member States in the area of agriculture and food security.

During the first plenary session, the OIC General Secretariat presented a report on the OIC activities in the domain of agricultural development and food security. The report underscored the need for concrete actions to promote intra-OIC agricultural investment, food trade and natural resource management in the Member Countries. In the same session, SESRIC, Islamic Development Bank (IDB), and Islamic Chamber of Commerce and

Industry (ICCI) presented the findings of their reports on agriculture, rural development and food security in the Member Countries. The Meeting discussed the presentations made by these institutions in detail and appreciated their recommendations to help Member Countries to achieve the goal of food security and agriculture development.

During the second plenary session, delegates from Member Countries made presentations on the various national programmes on food security and agricultural development in their respective countries and some successful examples have been highlighted. They also expressed their readiness to share their experiences within the OIC cooperation framework. During these presentations, special attention has been given to research and development, seed improvement and agricultural inputs, support to mechanization, agricultural investments and development of multi-stakeholder partnerships.

During the third plenary session, the Meeting discussed the formulation of the Framework for Intra-OIC Cooperation on Food Security and Agricultural Development. In this regard, the delegates recommended that Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (COMCEC) be seized with the task of preparation of the said Executive Framework and its implementation mechanism through the COMCEC Task Force on Agriculture, Rural Development and Food Security.

The Meeting also discussed and approved the draft resolution and the draft agenda of the Ministerial Session. The recommendations of the SOM were included in the draft resolution, which together with the report of the SOM, were presented to the Ministers in the OIC Ministerial Session. Among other things, the Meeting urged the Member Countries to

- Give food security a high priority in their national development agendas and budgets as well as mobilize resources for

implementing food security and agricultural development projects,

- Allocate a minimum of 6% of the national budgets to food security programs and create favourable conditions for attracting and sustaining foreign investments into the agricultural sector, food security and rural development,
- Formulate an Executive Framework for Agriculture, Rural Development and Food Security in OIC member states. The Framework must be actionable, result oriented, inclusive and comprehensive, including timelines and benchmarks,
- Redeem their respective pledges to ISFD and SPDA, and increase, or make new, contributions to the latter.

The Meeting also;

- Called on Islamic donor countries and financing institutions, particularly the Islamic Development Bank, to increase their funding for agricultural projects in member states with particular emphasis on empowerment of most vulnerable segments of population,
- Invited international development institutions and donor countries to increase their official development assistance and technical support in the agricultural sector of OIC member states for increased agricultural production, poverty alleviation, and food security,
- Called on the private sector to increase investment in the agricultural sector and develop partnership with national governments, and non-governmental bodies to promote food security and rural development in member states.

In his speech at the opening ceremony of the Ministerial Session, H. E. Omar Hassan Al-Bashir, President of the Republic of the Sudan, reaffirmed the Sudan's continued support for food security initiatives of the OIC Member Countries by enhancing economic cooperation among the member states. He called upon the Member Countries to formulate long-term

policies for the promotion of agriculture, rural development and food security within the OIC cooperation framework and the creation of an OIC Permanent Committee for Agricultural Development and Food Security.

During the Ministerial Session, the Ministers elaborated on various issues related to the realization of agriculture development and food

security in the Member Countries and, consequently, they adopted the resolution and report of the Conference. The Conference also welcomed the offers made by the Republic of Turkey and the Republic of Senegal to host 6th and 7th Ministerial Conferences on Food Security and Agricultural Development in 2011 and 2012, respectively.

Seventh Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers

The 7th Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM) was held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, on 28-30 November 2010. The Ministerial Session, which was held on 30 November 2010, was preceded by a two-day Meeting, on 28-29 November 2010, of the Senior Officials preparatory to the 7th Session of the ICTM. Senior Officials from 22 OIC Member Countries and representatives of the OIC General Secretariat and eight OIC institutions, namely: Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (COMCEC) Coordination Office, Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA), Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), Islamic University of Technology (IUT), Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) attended the Meeting. SESRIC was presented at the Conference by Dr. Savaş Alpay, Director General of the Centre and Mr. Nabil Dabour, Director of Research Department.

The Senior Officials reviewed and discussed the progress achieved in the implementation of the resolutions and decisions of the 6th Session of the ICTM, which was held in Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic on 29 June – 2 July 2008. In so doing, the OIC General Secretariat presented the Progress Report, which was adopted by the 2nd Coordination Committee Meeting on Tourism. The Report includes the various activities

accomplished under the Short-Term Plan and Programme, including recent bilateral activities and regional projects. It also highlights various activities of OIC institutions towards the implementation of the Framework for Development and Cooperation in the Domain of Tourism among OIC Member States. The recommendations of the Progress Report of the OIC General Secretariat include the need for increasing public awareness about the existing tourism resources in OIC countries, the development of more regional and bilateral tourism projects and creation of an annual “OIC City of Tourism” award in recognition of the exceptional contributions to the improvement of tourism in OIC Member Countries.

The representatives of Indonesia, Malaysia and Iran presented reports on various activities, which were carried out in their respective capacities as Focal Points on Tourism facilitation, Marketing, Research and Training. In this context, they informed the Meeting of the need for the Member States to submit necessary inputs and data to facilitate the mandate of the Focal Points.

The Senior Officials also considered the reports submitted and presented at the Meeting by the following OIC institutions: SESRIC, IRCICA, ICDT, ISESCO, IDB and ICCI. In this connection, Mr. Nabil Dabour, Director of Research Department at SESRIC, presented the report titled “International Tourism in the OIC Countries: Prospects and Challenges-2010”. This report examines the performance and economic role of the international tourism sector in the

OIC Member Countries in the latest five-year period for which the data are available. In so doing, the report analyses the major indicators, which are traditionally used in measuring international tourism, i.e. international tourist arrivals, international tourism receipts and international tourism expenditures. The report also attempts, as much as the available relevant data allows, shedding light on the state of intra-OIC tourism. The analysis is made at both the individual country and the OIC regional levels. The report also highlights the impacts of the global financial crisis of 2008-2009 on the international tourism sector worldwide. In its conclusion, the report sheds light on the challenges of tourism development in the OIC Countries and the issue of tourism cooperation among them and proposes some recommendations to serve as policy guidelines.

In the light of these reports and presentations, the Senior Officials deliberated on a set of common issues of concern to the Member Countries with a view to enhancing cooperation among the Member Countries in the field of tourism. They also discussed and prepared the Draft Agenda and Work Programme of the Ministerial Sessions as well as the “Draft Resolution on Tourism Development among the OIC Member States” and the “Draft Tehran Declaration” for consideration and adoption by Ministers of Tourism at the Ministerial Session.

The Ministerial Session was held on 30 November 2010 with the participation of Ministers and Heads of Delegations from 29 Member Countries, the representatives of the above-mentioned OIC institutions and the representative of the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UN-WTO).

Following the adoption of the agenda and the work programme, the working session of the

Ministers started with the consideration of the Report of the Senior Officials Meeting. The Ministers and Heads of Delegations made presentations on the various activities of their respective countries towards the development of tourism sector. During the general debate, the following issues have been raised :

- the facilitation of tourist visa arrangements,
- the protection of true image of Islam through tourism activities and developing unified approach among the Member States,
- the role of the private sector in tourism development,
- the promotion of student exchange programmes among the Member Countries,
- the development of tourism as an important tool for poverty alleviation, and
- the promotion of ecotourism, health tourism and regional tourism projects in OIC Member Countries.

The Conference adopted the Resolution on Tourism Development between the OIC Member States and the Tehran Declaration, and welcomed the offer made by the Government of the Republic of Sudan to host the 8th Session of the ICTM in 2012 and urged the Member States to actively participate in the Conference.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.sesric.org/activities-tourism.php>

The report on: “International Tourism in the OIC Countries: Prospects and Challenges-2010” is available online through:

<http://www.sesric.org/publications-detail.php?id=164>

UPCOMING EVENTS

FOR THE PERIOD OF DECEMBER 2010 – FEBRUARY 2011

December

- ▶ AITRS-SESRIC Training Course on Disability Statistics Damascus, 01 - 02 December 2010, Damascus - Syria
- ▶ Mid-Term Review Meeting of the Ten-Year Programme of Action and Vision 1441H for Science and Technology, 04 - 06 December 2010, Dubai - United Arab Emirates
- ▶ First Conference of Al-Khwarizmi Committee on Statistics, 06 - 08 December 2010, Doha - Qatar
- ▶ International Forum on 'Kazakhstan and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference: New Prospects for Cooperation', 09 December 2010, Almaty - Kazakhstan
- ▶ Workshop on Private Sector Cooperation for Enhancing Intra-OIC Tourism, 10 December 2010, Izmir - Turkey
- ▶ Training course on 'Basic Occupational Health and Safety: International OHS Regulations, Health and Safety Management System and Risk Assessment Methodologies' in Ankara, 13-15 December 2010, Ankara, Turkey
- ▶ Inaugural Event for the Global Innovation through Science and Technology (GIST) Initiative, 14-15 December 2010, Alexandria, Egypt
- ▶ Third Meeting of the OIC Statistical Working Group (OIC_SWG), 26 December 2010, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
- ▶ Memorandum of Understanding between TEVTA and İSMEK, 27 December 2010, Istanbul Turkey
- ▶ Training Course on "National Accounts: Supply and Use Tables", 27-29 December 2010, Amman Jordan
- ▶ Thirty-Ninth Session of the Permanent Finance Committee, 27 - 29 December 2010, Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

January

- ▶ Policy Dialogue Workshop on Islamic Monetary Policy, 08-09 January 2011, Tehran, Iran
- ▶ 14th General Assembly of COMSTECH, 11 - 13 January 2011, Islamabad - Pakistan
- ▶ Training Course on "Education & Training Statistics" in Niger, 12-15 January 2011, Niamey, Niger
- ▶ Third Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Islamic Conference of Health Ministers, 22-23 January 2011, Jeddah - Saudi Arabia
- ▶ 3rd Meeting of the Work Group Entrusted with the Consideration of Setting up an Implementation Programme for the Causes and Issues Contained in the Ten-Year Programme of Action, 25-26 January 2011, Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt
- ▶ Training Course on "Payment Systems" in Kyrgyz Republic, 25-27 January 2011, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
- ▶ 23rd University Council Meeting and 18th Graduation Ceremony of Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU), 28 - 29 January 2011, Kampala, Republic of Uganda

February

- ▶ 3rd Session of the Islamic Conference of the Ministers in-charge of Childhood, 07 - 11 February 2011, Tripoli, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
- ▶ First OIC Health Expo, 24 - 27 February 2011, Tunis, Republic of Tunisia
- ▶ 6th Businesswomen Forum, February 2011, Khartoum, Republic of the Sudan
- ▶ High-level Meeting on Humanitarian Issues, February 2011, OIC Headquarters, Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia