



OIC/Seminar-Tourism 2019/SG-MES

**MESSAGE
OF HIS EXCELLENCY DR. YOUSEF A. OTHAIMEEN,
SECRETARY GENERAL OF
THE ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION
AT THE OPENING OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR
ON DEVELOPMENT OF MUSLIM FRIENDLY TOURISM
IN THE DHAKA CITY**

**Dhaka, People's Republic of Bangladesh
15 October 2019**

**MESSAGE
OF HIS EXCELLENCY DR. YOUSEF A. OTHAIMEEN,
SECRETARY GENERAL OF
THE ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION
AT THE OPENING OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON
DEVELOPMENT OF MUSLIM FRIENDLY TOURISM IN THE
DHAKA CITY**

Dhaka, People's Republic of Bangladesh, 15 October 2019

**His Excellency Mr. Mahbub Ali, State Minister for Civil Aviation and
Tourism of the People's Republic of Bangladesh,**

Distinguished Participants,

Assalamu Aleykum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuhu.

Let me, first and foremost, express our most sincere congratulations to the Government and the people of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on the decision of the OIC to grant this beautiful city Dhaka the award of OIC City of Tourism for the year 2019 and the organization of several events in this city. As you all know, the Government of Bangladesh successfully organized the commemoration ceremony in Dhaka on 11-12 July 2019 as OIC City of Tourism for 2019. I wish also to thank the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) for convening of this International Seminar and Award Ceremony within the framework of the commemoration of Dhaka as OIC City of Tourism.

The granting of the fifth edition of the award to Dhaka is indeed a clear testimony to the importance of this city in the realm of eco-tourism and Islamic heritage. In addition, the adoption of OIC Strategic Roadmap for Development of Islamic Tourism by the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM), which was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, in February 2018, is also increasing the role of Dhaka city in OIC tourism platform. There is no doubt that Dhaka has the potentials to become a regional hub for heritage and eco-tourism, considering its eco-friendly attractions, historical landmarks and rich Islamic cultural heritage.

The outcome of this International Seminar on Islamic Tourism will also give additional impetus for the development of Islamic tourism in the OIC Member States. The convening of this Seminar and Award ceremony are also important for the implementation of the OIC Strategic Roadmap for the Development of Islamic Tourism, geared towards the development of tourism infrastructures, new investments in family-friendly hotels and leisure facilities as well as the Halal food market.

Similarly, the development of the OIC Halal Food sector is aimed at expanding Islamic tourism activities within the Muslim world. Dhaka can therefore lead the way in supporting the on-going mutual recognition of OIC/SMIIC Halal standards.

Finally, it is important to underscore the social opportunities of tourism development in OIC, in addition to its economic importance. In this regard, organisation of youth camps and regular excursions for students would provide a

good avenue for people-to-people interaction among OIC populations. This will also assist to find new tourism destinations in the OIC. I wish you fruitful deliberations.

Assalamu Aleykum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatihu