

**SPEECH OF Dr. OSMAN BABIKER,
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ISLAMIC RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE (IRTI)
AT THE OPENING SESSION OF THE WORKSHOP ON INNOVATIVE SOCIAL
ASSISTANCE STRATEGIES IN POVERTY ALLEVIATION
(Ankara, December 12, 2011)**

**Islamic Research and Training Institute
[IRTI]
Member of the
Islamic Development Bank Group [IDB]
Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**

**Statistical, Economic, Social Research
and Training Centre for Islamic
Countries (SESRIC) of the OIC
ANKARA - TURKEY**

WORKSHOP ON:

**"INNOVATIVE SOCIAL ASSISTANCE STRATEGIES IN POVERTY
ALLEVIATION"**

ANKARA - TURKEY

From 12th to 14th December, 2011

IRTI / IDB ADDRESS

Excellency's

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Assalam-o-Alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakutuh

On behalf of the Group of the Islamic Development Bank, I wish to express my deep and profound gratitude to H.E., the IDB Governor for Turkey for the efforts made to encourage and strengthen IDB activities and for hosting this Workshop on **INNOVATIVE SOCIAL ASSISTANCE STRATEGIES IN POVERTY ALLEVIATION**.

I also would like to thank Dr SAVAŞ ALPAY, Director General of SESRIC and all the staff of SESRIC, for their great efforts and fruitful collaboration in implementing this important Workshop.

I wish to thank all the outside participants from Turkey and from other IDB MCs for accepting the invitation to participate in this Workshop.

Last but not least, I would like to express my deep thanks to the distinguished experts and speakers from inside Turkey and from outside who have accepted our invitation to be the main resource persons and for their valuable input to this Workshop.

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The Islamic Development Bank Group is an international financial institution established in December 1973 by Muslim countries. Its main objective is to foster the economic development and social progress of its 56 member countries.

In this context, I would like to assure you that the Bank is keen to be a full partner in the development process of all its Member Countries.

As you may kindly be aware, Turkey is among the pioneering countries that becomes member of the IDB since its inception. Since then, several development projects in health, education and infrastructure sectors were financed by the IDB.

The Islamic Research and Training Institute is considered as the academic arm of the IDB Group, since it is mainly devoted to research and training.

The purpose of IRTI is, indeed, to undertake research to enable the economic, financial and banking activities in IDB member countries to conform to *Shari'ah*.

IRTI is also vested with the responsibility of offering training facilities to develop the capabilities of professional personnel engaged in the development process in the Bank's member countries. This is done by organizing Workshops, workshops and seminars in Arabic, English, French and Russian languages on subjects of relevance to the development needs of the member countries.

The range of training programs offered by IRTI covers a wide variety of themes, such as the Promotion of the Private Sector, Financing Micro Enterprises, Human Capital Development, Macro Economic Management and Islamic Banking and Finance.

As part of its regular activities, IRTI is giving special attention to Asian member Countries including Turkey. Therefore, IRTI organized a number of training activities on a variety of subjects, with special focus on Islamic Modes of Finance, Sukuk, Islamic Financial Products Regulation and Supervision of Islamic Banks. The main objective of these activities is to enable target groups to become more aware of the implications of financial development and to provide them with a better understanding of the intricacies of Islamic Financial Service Industry globally and regionally.

This Workshop will be a forum where all the participants will have the opportunity to share and reflect on experiences of their respective organizations.

In this context, I wish to assure you that IRTI is willing to continue offering training facilities to you and to your colleagues in order to satisfy the training needs of your respective countries.

I hope this Workshop will be a successful event in achieving its constructive objectives.

Wassalamu Alaikum Warahmatullah Wabarakatuh.