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## **UPDATE ON ANKARA CENTRE ACTIVITIES**

### **TRAINING ON GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND REMOTE SENSING OFFERED TO PARTICIPANTS FROM TEN MEMBER COUNTRIES**

In collaboration with the Middle East Technical University (METU), Ankara, Turkey, and with the financial support of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), the Ankara Centre organised a Training Workshop on Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Remote Sensing (RS). The Workshop was held on the premises of METU during the period 3-14 June 2002 and attended by 15 participants from Bangladesh, Jordan, Malaysia, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD).

The Workshop comprised classroom lectures and hands on applications sessions in the computer laboratory.

Instructors from METU's Civil Engineering Department delivered lectures throughout the Workshop in which they presented detailed approaches to and technical methods for the Geographic Information Systems and the Remote Sensing. The participants visited the Centre and the State Institute of Statistics of the Republic of Turkey where they were lectured on the work done and the projects carried out at the Institute in the field of GIS and RS.

The participants rated the Workshop as highly successful. They recommended that follow-up workshops on the

subject be organised by the Centre in their respective countries in collaboration with

the relevant national institutions.

## **OIC NEWS**

### **THE 30<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE PERMANENT FINANCE COMMITTEE PRAISES THE FINANCIAL PRACTICES OF THE CENTRE**

The Permanent Finance Committee of the OIC held its thirtieth meeting in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, during the period 14 – 16 April 2002. Delegates from 31 member countries and senior officials from the General Secretariat of the OIC and its subsidiary organs attended the meeting. The Director General, Ambassador Erdiñç Erdün, and Mr. Jalel Chouchane, Co-ordinator of Administration and Finance Affairs, represented the Centre at the meeting.

At the Inaugural Session, the OIC Assistant Secretary General for Economic Affairs, Ambassador Nabika Diallo, read the message of H.E. the Secretary General to the participants in which he stressed the importance of the meetings of the

Committee and the role it assumes in approving the annual budgets of the General Secretariat of the OIC and its subsidiary organs as well as in controlling the implementation of those budgets.

After the adoption of the agenda, the member country representatives discussed and endorsed, inter alia, the Budget of the Ankara Centre for the Financial Year 2002/2003 and reviewed its audited final accounts for the Financial Year 2000/2001. In this respect, the Committee adopted a Recommendation in which it commended the performance of the Centre and the absence of any observations on its financial practices and called upon other OIC institutions to follow its example in this respect.

### **THE 18<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE COMCEC REQUESTS THAT MEASURES BE TAKEN TO ACCELERATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OIC PLAN OF ACTION**

The Eighteenth Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Co-operation of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (COMCEC) convened in Istanbul on 10-11 May 2002.

The Meeting was attended by representatives from ten member countries of the Follow-up

Committee of the COMCEC as well as by the OIC General Secretariat, the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade, the

Islamic University of Technology, the Islamic Development Bank, the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Organisation of the Islamic Shipowners' Association. Representatives from the Federation of Consultants from Islamic

Countries and the UNIDO Centre for Regional Co-operation in Ankara were also present at the Meeting. Director General, Ambassador Erdiņ Erdün, and Mr. Oker Gürler, Director of Economic and Social Research Department and Co-ordinator of Technical Affairs, represented the Ankara Centre at the Meeting.

After lengthy deliberations, the Committee agreed, inter alia, on the following:

- To emphasise the importance of implementing the existing OIC Agreements and Statutes in the area of economic co-operation.
  - To request the Member States that had already offered to host Sectoral Expert Group Meetings to expedite the convening of the said meetings, and renew its appeal that offers be made to host similar meetings on the remaining sectors of the Plan of Action.
- That the OIC institutions could report on their activities directly to the COMCEC Session under intimation to the General Secretariat.
  - To stress the importance of the recommendations made by the Experts Group for the implementation of the OIC Plan of Action and to request that measures be taken to accelerate the implementation of these recommendations through appropriate mechanisms to be proposed by the COMCEC Co-ordination Office in co-operation with the OIC General Secretariat and the OIC institutions.
  - To approve the Draft Agenda of the 18<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC to be held from 22 to 25 October 2002 in Istanbul.

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### **THE 29<sup>th</sup> ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS APPROVES THE BUDGET AND WORK PROGRAMME OF THE CENTRE FOR 2002/2003**

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The 29<sup>th</sup> Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, Session of Solidarity and Dialogue, was held in Khartoum, Republic of the Sudan, on 25-27 June 2002. It was attended by the Member States of the Organisation and by some other States with observer status. It was also attended by the subsidiary, specialised and affiliated organs as well as by some international and regional organisations and a number of Islamic foundations and societies.

The Conference was opened by H.E. Omar Hasan Al Bashir, President of the Republic of the Sudan. After adoption of the Agenda and election of the members of the Bureau, the Conference, chaired by H.E. Dr. Mustafa Osman Ismail, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Sudan, distributed its work among the plenary and four committees namely, the Political Affairs Committee, the

Economic and Social Affairs Committee, the Cultural and Islamic Affairs Committee and the Administrative and Financial Affairs Committee.

This latter Committee took up, inter alia, the Report of the 30<sup>th</sup> Session of the Permanent Finance Committee and the Report of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Finance Control Organ. After extensive deliberations, it adopted the said reports and the recommendations contained therein, among which were the budget of the Centre and its work programme for the Financial Year 2002/2003. The Committee also elected the new members of the Finance Control Organ for a two-year term starting from 1 July 2002. The new members are: Burkina Faso, Iran, Morocco, Nigeria, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Turkey.

At the Closing Session, the Ministers endorsed the Resolutions drafted at the above mentioned Committees and adopted the Final Communiqué and the Khartoum

Declaration. They also welcomed the offer made by the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the Thirtieth Session of the Conference.

## **OTHER MEETINGS**

### **FAO ORGANISES ITS FIRST EXPERT CONSULTATION ON IRRIGATION ADVISORY SERVICES IN THE NEAR EAST REGION**

An Expert Consultation on Irrigation Advisory Services in the Near East Region has been organised by the FAO Regional Office for the Near East (RNE), Cairo, and the Tunisian Ministry of Agriculture. The Consultation took place in Hammamet, Tunisia, during the period 13-16 May 2002.

The Consultation was the first of its kind to address the issue of irrigation advisory and training services in the Near East Region. Its objectives were to review the experiences of the different advisory services presently available inside and outside the region, to identify the potentials and gaps and to recommend actions to assist national governments to promote appropriate irrigation advisory services and regional co-operation.

The Consultation was attended by representatives and resource persons from

seven countries of the Near East region, namely Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey and Yemen, five regional and international organisations, namely the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas, and the World Health Organisation's Regional Centre for Environmental Health Activities, resource persons from outside the region (Britain and USA), FAO technical officers and officials from the Tunisian Ministry of Agriculture.

Mr. Nabil Dabour, Chief of the Social Research Section at the Centre, represented the Centre at the Consultation to which he presented a paper entitled "The Role of Irrigation in Food Production and Agricultural Development in the Near East".

## **CENTRE'S AGENDA FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2002**

### **JULY**

24 June-4 July, Regional Training Workshop on Multi-Sector Agricultural Policy Analysis for Central Asian Countries, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

9-11 July, UN/OIC General Co-ordination Meeting, Vienna, Austria.

10-12 September, Expert Group Meeting on Poverty Statistics, Beirut, Lebanon.

14-16 September, Workshop on Private Sector Investment in the Member Countries and the Role of the Islamic Development Bank, Istanbul, Turkey.

## SEPTEMBER

# ANKARA CENTRE PUBLICATIONS

### Latest Publications

*InfoReport*, vol. 14, issue no. 49, English, French and Arabic editions.

*Directory of Foreign Investment Legislation in OIC Countries*, English-French edition.

*Journal of Economic Cooperation among Islamic Countries*, English, vol. 23, issue no. 2, 2002.

*Statistical Yearbook of the OIC Countries, 2002*, English-Arabic edition.

# WHAT'S NEW IN THE CENTRE LIBRARY

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## THE WORLD BANK POLICY RESEARCH WORKING PAPER (PRWP) SERIES, MARCH & APRIL 2002

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