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The Workshop on "Industrial Statistics" was convened in Cairo on 4-7 November 2001. It was jointly organised by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organisation (AIDMO) and SESRTCIC, under the auspices of the Ministry of Industry of Egypt. Experts from ESCWA countries, Sudan and Morocco attended the Workshop. The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) also sent their representatives. Ambassador Erdiñç Erdün, Director General, represented the Centre during the sessions and made a speech at the inaugural session.

It was the first time that the Ankara Centre co-operated with ESCWA since 1984. ESCWA representatives underlined the importance of further developing the cooperation between the two institutions. This Workshop gave the opportunity to establish direct contacts between SESRTCIC and AIDMO.

Regional Workshop discusses standardised method of compiling and analysing development indicators

The Regional Workshop on held in Beirut, Lebanon, on 12-14 November 2001. "Development Indicators" was

The Workshop was organised jointly by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the Centre.

The United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) also sent representatives. Mr. Enver Hakan Konaç, Chief of Training Section of the Centre, represented the SESRTCIC at the Workshop.

Experts from 13 ESCWA member countries as well as Sudan and Morocco attended the Workshop and made presentations regarding the policies adopted in their countries for collecting, analysing and disseminating development indicators.

The long-term objective of the Workshop was to provide the basis for national and regional measurement of progress towards achieving the goals of various United Nations conferences and summits and enhance member countries' commitment thereto.

Specifically, the main objectives of the Workshop were to inform participants of the progress made at the international level

in identifying the indicators needed to follow up major United Nations conferences and summits; strengthen the national capacity of participating countries to produce development indicators to assist in policy formulation and monitoring; train participants in methods of compiling, computing and presenting development indicators by using the manual prepared for this purpose; and reach a consensus on a common list of indicators for the region, based on the progress achieved recently and on available national potentials to produce such indicators.

The Workshop was useful in that it enabled the participants to share their experiences in collecting indicators and implementing the recommendations of previous meetings. It also helped the participants understand and discuss a standardised method of compiling and analysing development indicators and reach a consensus on a set of development indicators taking into consideration the United Nations Millennium Declaration Indicators.

The final report of the Workshop, which will include the recommendations, will be published by the ESCWA.

OIC NEWS

OIC Ministers of Tourism stress importance of intra-OIC tourism for development and urge implementation of relevant chapter of OIC Plan of Action

The Second Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism of the OIC Member States was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 12-13 October 2001 following a two-day Meeting of the Senior Officials, which was held on 10-11 October 2001.

The Conference was attended by 30 Member States and by representatives from the General Secretariat of the OIC, the SESRTCIC, the Islamic Centre for the Development of Trade (ICDT), the Islamic

University of Technology (IUT), the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), and the Islamic Shipowners Association (ISA). Representatives from the World Tourism Organisation (WTO) and the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) also attended the Meeting.

At the inaugural session, the Prime Minister of Malaysia H.E. Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad delivered the keynote address. After extending a warm welcome to the delegates, he said that the theme chosen for the Conference, "Tourism: A Smart Partnership for Solidarity and Prosperity", was very appropriate as tourism promotes better relations between countries and peoples and depends on active mutual cooperation among them. He urged the attending Ministers and other participants to work for increased intra-OIC tourism, stressing in this connection the importance of tourism in the economic development of the OIC countries. Following the statement, the Prime Minister of Malaysia officially declared the Conference open.

After the speeches of the Minister of Culture, Arts and Tourism of Malaysia H.E. Dato' Abdul Kadir bin Haji Sheikh Fadzir and the Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance of the Islamic Republic of Iran H.E. Mr. Ahmad Masjed Jame'i, H.E. Ambassador Thierno Nabika Diallo, Assistant Secretary General for Economic Affairs of the OIC, read out the statement of H.E. Dr. Abdelouahed Belkeziz, Secretary General of the OIC. The statement drew the attention of the Conference to the priority areas identified by the Follow-up Committee of the First Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism, which was held in Tehran in August 2001. The statement also stressed the urgency of holding the first expert group meeting on tourism with a view to undertaking an in-depth technical study of the various aspects of tourism in order to pave the way for the implementation of the

OIC Plan of Action.

In his statement, the Secretary General of the World Tourism Organisation (WTO) H.E. Mr. Francesco Frangiali, referring to a Memorandum that was about to be signed by the two organisations, said that the WTO and the OIC were in the process of developing fruitful cooperation.

The working session was opened by H.E. Mr. Ahmad Masjed Jame'i, Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance of the Islamic Republic of Iran (interim Chairman). The Conference then elected H.E. Dato' Abdul Kadir bin Haji Sheikh Fadzir, Minister of Culture, Arts and Tourism of Malaysia, as the Chairman of the Conference. The other members of the Bureau were elected as follows: the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Republic of Guinea and the State of Palestine as Vice-Chairmen, and the Islamic Republic of Iran as Rapporteur.

The Report of the Meeting of the Senior Officials, which was held on 10-11 October 2001, was presented by Mr. Shahril bin Saat, Deputy Secretary General, Ministry of Culture, Arts and Tourism of Malaysia. The Report contained, inter alia, a reference to the working paper submitted by SESRTCIC and entitled "Tourism Development in the OIC Countries: Further Steps towards the Promotion of Cooperation".

The Report of the Follow-up Committee of the First Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism, which was held in Tehran on 27-28 August 2001, was presented by H.E. Engineer Mohammad Moezeddin, Secretary General of Iran Tourism Supreme Council.

In the general debate, statements were made by the representatives of the State of Kuwait, the Republic of Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Popular Democratic Republic of Algeria, the Republic of Indonesia, the Republic of Cameroon, the Republic of Senegal and Malaysia.

The Conference considered the Draft Resolution on Tourism Development and the Kuala Lumpur Programme of Action which were finalised by the Senior Officials' Meeting, and, following a discussion, adopted the two Documents.

In order to achieve the goals set forth in the Isfahan Declaration as well as the Resolution on Tourism Development, the Kuala Lumpur Programme of Action identified three possible areas of cooperation, namely Tourism Facilitation, Tourism Marketing and Research and Training.

On the organisational level, the Conference decided to convene once every two years

and to set up a committee to follow up the resolutions and decisions of the ministerial meetings which would meet once a year. Furthermore, the Conference welcomed the offer of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to organise an expert group meeting on the means and modalities of implementing the Kuala Lumpur Programme of Action.

Consultative Meeting of the OIC Countries for the Preparation of the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference

The Consultative Meeting of the OIC Member Countries for the Preparation of the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference, organised by the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), was held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on 14-15 October 2001. The Meeting aimed at giving the Member States an opportunity to exchange views and co-ordinate their positions on subjects put before the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference in Doha.

Representatives from 34 OIC member countries attended the Meeting. In addition to the IDB, the OIC General Secretariat, SESRTCIC, ICDT and ICCI also attended the Meeting. Experts from international organisations like the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and development (UNCTAD), and from regional organisations like the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the Gulf

Co-operation Council (GCC) also took part in the Meeting. Specialists of world renown and senior trade officials from the OIC countries also participated in the Meeting. The Director of Economic and Social Research Department Mr. Oker Gürler represented the Centre at this Meeting.

The Meeting provided an opportunity for an exchange of views on the major issues under discussion within the framework of the WTO's built-in Agenda and on the new issues. The participants noted that the new trading system under the framework of the WTO has proved positive in some respects although it put a heavy burden on the developing countries, and the benefits of the new trading system have not been even or equitable. The Meeting agreed, inter alia, that the OIC countries should pursue their efforts to co-ordinate their positions and enhance regional co-operation amongst themselves.

17th Session of COMCEC exchanges views on non-tariff barriers and calls for closer cooperation in implementation of COMCEC resolutions

The Seventeenth Session of the COMCEC

was held in Istanbul on 18-21 October 2001. Delegations from 41 OIC Member

States attended the Meeting. The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Kingdom of Thailand

participated in the Session as observers and the Republic of Macedonia as a guest.

The OIC General Secretariat, SESRTCIC, the Islamic Centre for the Development of Trade (ICDT), the Islamic University of Technology (IUT), the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA), the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), the Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC), the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), and the Organisation of Islamic Shipowners Association (OISA) also attended the Meeting.

Representatives from the Economic Committee of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC), the Economic Co-operation Organisation (ECO), the Federation of Consultants of Islamic Countries (FCIC), the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) were also present at the Meeting.

Ambassador Erdinç Erdün, Director General, and Mr. Oker Gürler, Director of the Research Department, represented the Centre at the Meeting.

The Meeting of the Senior Officials was chaired by H.E. Dr. Akın İzmirlioğlu, Under-secretary of the State Planning Organisation of Turkey.

The Opening Ceremony was held under the Chairmanship of H.E. Ahmet Necdet Sezer, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the COMCEC. H.E. President Sezer, and H.E. Dr. Abdelouahed Belkeziz, Secretary General of the OIC, addressed the Session. The Heads of Delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic, the Republic of Azerbaijan and

Mozambique made statements on behalf of the Arab, Asian and African Groups of OIC Member States, respectively. The Heads of Delegation, referring to the importance of the actual implementation of the resolutions of the COMCEC, stressed the need for further reinforcing economic and commercial co-operation amongst the OIC Member States.

Then, the Ministerial Working Session was held under the Chairmanship of H.E. Dr. Devlet Bahçeli, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State of Turkey.

The Chairman of the Senior Officials Meeting made a presentation summarising the outcome of the deliberations of the Senior Officials on the Agenda Items of the Meeting, including the exchange of views session on “The Effects of Non-Tariff Barriers on Foreign Trade of the Member Countries”. Thereafter, the Heads of various Delegations presented their country reports on the same subject.

The Ministers subsequently adopted the Resolutions relating to their deliberations on the Agenda Items. They decided, inter alia, that the “*Private Sector Investment in the Member Countries and the Role of IDB*” would be the theme of the next exchange of views session of the COMCEC. In this connection, they requested the IDB, in collaboration with related OIC institutions, including the SESRTCIC, and other international organisations, to organise a workshop on the topic and submit its report to the next session.

The Meeting agreed that the 18th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee would be convened on 10-11 May 2002 and the 18th Session of the COMCEC on 22-25 October 2002 in Istanbul.

During the Meeting, the Centre distributed the following reports and publications:

- Annual Economic Report on the OIC Countries: 2001,
- International Financial Architecture and Implications for the OIC Countries,
- WTO Agreements and Implications for the OIC Countries,
- Practical Steps and Possible Consequences of Establishing an

Islamic Common Market,

- Possible Methods for Establishing an Islamic Stock Exchange and Clearing Union,
- The WTO Agreements on Non-Tariff Barriers and Implications for the OIC Member States: Customs Valuation, Preshipment Inspection, Rules of Origin and Import Licensing,

- *Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, 2001*, a statistical publication in the OIC Countries Information Series,
- *Developments in Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Policies in OIC Countries*, and
- *Summaries of Proposals and Country Reports on Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises*.

OIC Finance Control Organ pays tribute to SESRTCIC for the soundness of its Final Accounts

The 22nd Session of the Finance Control Organ of the OIC was held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, from 17 to 23 October 2001 to audit the Final Accounts of the General Secretariat and its Subsidiary Organs, i.e. SESRTCIC, ICDT, IUT, IRCICA, IFA and ISF, for the Financial Year 2000/2001. Messrs. Jalel Chouchane and Coşkun Enginel represented the Centre at this meeting.

Auditors from Burkina Faso, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and

the United Arab Emirates examined the accounts and financial operations of the above-mentioned institutions and made some observations and suggestions thereon. In this context, the soundness of the financial documents and records of the Centre was carefully checked by the auditors who paid tribute to the Centre for the transparency of its financial operations and its full compliance with the relevant rules and regulations.

CENTRE'S AGENDA FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2002

JANUARY

19-23 January, 25th Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

MARCH

5-8 March, 33rd Session of the UN Statistical Commission, New York, USA.

14-16 March, Training Workshop on Technical Cooperation in the area of Business Incubators among the OIC Member Countries, Ankara, Turkey.

24-27 March, 30th Session of the Permanent Finance Committee, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

ANKARA CENTRE PUBLICATIONS

Latest Publications

InfoReport, vol.13, issue no.47, English, French and Arabic editions.

Journal of Economic Cooperation among Islamic Countries, vol. 22, issue no.4, 2001.

Documents

17th Session of the COMCEC, 18-21 October 2001, Istanbul. See pages 5-6 for a full listing.

Administrative Documents for the 25th Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs, Acting as the General Assembly of the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries, 19-23 January 2001, Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (English, French and Arabic).

1. Report of the Director General
2. Report of the Twenty-fourth Meeting of the Board of Directors
3. Budget Proposal, Including Work Programme, for 2002/2003
4. Final Accounts for the Financial Year 2000/2001
5. Report of the Twenty-second Session of the Finance Control Organ on the Closing Accounts of the Ankara Centre for the Financial Year 2000/2001

Technical Documents for the Twenty-fifth Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs, 19-23 January 2001, Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (English, French and Arabic).

1. Annual Economic Report on the OIC Countries: 2001
2. International Financial Architecture and Implications for the OIC Countries
3. WTO Agreements and Implications for the OIC Countries
4. Implications of the Introduction of the Euro for the Economies of the OIC Countries
5. Economic Problems of the Least Developed and Land-locked OIC Countries (2001) and the UN Programme of Action for the LDCs for 2001-2010
6. Poverty and Health Problems in the Least Developed and Low-income OIC Member Countries
7. External Debt Situation of African and Other Members of the OIC
8. Practical Steps and Possible Consequences of Establishing an Islamic Common Market
9. Possible Methods for Establishing an Islamic Stock Exchange and Clearing Union

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Latest Acquisitions

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