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UPDATE ON ANKARA CENTRE ACTIVITIES

NINTH OIC-UN COORDINATION MEETING AGREES TO ENHANCE OVERALL COOPERATION AND CONSIDERS POSSIBILITIES OF JOINT ACTION

The Ninth OIC-UN Coordination Meeting convened in Vienna, Austria, on 11-13 July 2000. Ambassador Erdinç Erdün, Director General, and Mr. Selim İlkin, Director of Technical Cooperation Department, represented SESRTCIC at the Meeting.

SESRTCIC, as a focal point of Technical Cooperation, submitted to the Meeting a report on *Technical Cooperation Activities of the OIC Institutions Within the Framework of OIC-UN Cooperation*. It also submitted a note on *Ways and Means to Enhance UN-OIC Cooperation*. Discussions took place on the basis of the latter paper.

During the Meeting, SESRTCIC agreed in principle to explore the possibilities of organising the following joint activities with the indicated UN organs.

SESRTCIC-IFAD: IFAD has maintained periodic contacts with SESRTCIC and meetings have taken place both in Rome and Ankara between representatives of the two parties. SESRTCIC

expressed interest in being informed about IFAD's programmes and project activities with particular focus on training and capacity building. As a follow-up, the parties agreed to continue the exchange and sharing of information.

SESRTCIC-UNCTAD: SESRTCIC and UNCTAD agreed to explore the possibilities of conducting the following activities:

- A joint workshop on capacity building in trade, services and finance sectors to enable regional/global integration of the Palestinian economy.
- Investment policy reviews at country level to be conducted by SESRTCIC while UNCTAD is to supply the basic format and models.

SESRTCIC-UNEP: SESRTCIC and UNEP agreed to cooperate in the following areas:

- Development of training on natural resource accounting, including a programme in French for French speaking OIC countries.
- Training on preventive approaches in industry, in cooperation with UNIDO, WHO and ILO.
- Development of databases in support of state of the environment assessments in OIC countries.

SESRTCIC-UNFPA: Both sides will find the means to convene a workshop for the Central Asian Republics in preparation of the next round of

population census. The workshop will be organised by SESRTCIC, with the technical support of the UNFPA.

SESRTCIC-UNIDO: It was agreed in principle that the present level of cooperation should be enhanced and that the scope for engaging in joint activities in the following fields should be investigated:

- A workshop on the implications of the WTO agreements for policy measures for promoting industrial development in Islamic countries.
- A training programme for SME support institutions in Islamic countries on the emerging trends and best practices in the provision of business development services, including new developments in information technology.

Both parties agreed to develop these proposals through follow-up correspondence and meetings in anticipation of their implementation at the earliest possible opportunity pending availability of funding.

SESRTCIC-WFP: It was agreed to explore the possibilities of organising a joint workshop on a sub-regional basis on the use of vulnerability analysis and mapping (VAM) for targeting, disaster mitigation and development planning and its possible integration into national planning structures.

SESRTCIC-WORLD BANK: Contacts were established during the Meeting between SESRTCIC and the World Bank on two important issues:

- Cooperation on organising training programmes in OIC countries. To

this end, SESRTCIC will contact the World Bank Institute (WBI) directly to explore possible ways of cooperation.

- Exchange of economic and

sectoral information. On this, SESRTCIC will also contact directly World Bank country departments concerned to seek such information.

SEMINAR ON “WAYS AND MEANS TO ESTABLISH AN ISLAMIC COMMON MARKET” URGES REALISTIC APPROACH TO IMPLEMENTATION

The Seminar on Ways and Means to Establish an Islamic Common Market was held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, from 27 to 28 September 2000. It was jointly organised by the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and the Institute for Trade Studies and Research affiliated to the Ministry of Commerce of Iran. Representatives from the OIC General Secretariat, the IDB, the SESRTCIC, the Islamic Centre for the Development of Trade (ICDT), and the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) attended the Seminar. Representatives from the Economic Co-operation Organisation (ECO) and from National Institutions and Ministries of Iran, and economists and specialists from Kuwait University, the American University in Washington, D.C., King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals, the International Islamic University in Malaysia, and Isfahan University were also present at the Seminar.

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

The Seminar was organised in five sessions as follows:

1. Islamic Common Market: Challenges and Requirements;

2. Globalisation and Trade Liberalisation;
3. Trade Policy, Technology Transfer and Food Security;
4. Integration and Trade Growth;
5. Trade Facilitation and Market Access.

Mr. O. Gürler presented a paper on the *Role and Function of Regional Blocs and Arrangements in the Formation of the Islamic Common Market* at the first Session. He also conducted the Second Panel Discussion on Globalisation and Trade Liberalisation.

At the end of the deliberations, the Seminar concluded that there was an urgent need to establish an Islamic Common Market amongst the member countries of the OIC. The Islamic Common Market should be established realistically, according to a step-by-step approach. It should be realised through reinforcing existing regional economic groupings amongst the OIC countries. It should mobilise all the expertise available in the organs under the OIC umbrella. Finally, the Seminar affirmed that there was a need to set up a steering committee to co-ordinate the efforts aimed at establishing the Islamic Common Market.

**TRAINING SEMINAR ON “URUGUAY ROUND AND FUTURE MULTILATERAL
TRADE NEGOTIATIONS IN AGRICULTURE FOR THE GCC COUNTRIES” FOCUSES
ON ENHANCING CAPABILITY OF GCC COUNTRIES TO DEAL WITH
MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS (MTN)**

A Training Seminar on “Uruguay Round and Future Multilateral Trade Negotiations in Agriculture for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Countries” was held in Muscat, Oman, on 16-20 September 2000. The Seminar was organised jointly with the FAO Regional Office for the Near East (FAORNE) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries of Oman, under the auspices of H.E. Ahmed Bin Abdulnabi Macki, Minister for National Economy of Oman and Vice President of Financial Affairs and Energy Resources Council.

Ambassador Erdiñç Erdün, Director General, and Mr. Selim İlkin, Director of Technical Cooperation Department, represented the Centre at the Seminar.

Eighty-three agricultural trade and policy analysts as well as other specialists in the relevant ministries (but also in the private sector and academic institutions from the six GCC countries) who have the responsibility of advising their governments in the Geneva agricultural negotiations participated in the Seminar. A number of international consultants as well as FAO technical officers were also present.

During the opening session, speeches were delivered by H.E. Dr. Ahmed Bin Khalfan Bin Mohammed Al Rawahi, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries of Oman, Dr. Atif Y. Bukhari, Assistant Director General and

Regional Representative of FAO for the Near East and H.E. Ambassador Erdiñç Erdün, Director General of SESRTCIC.

The main purpose of this project was to enhance the capability of the GCC countries to deal with Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTN) in agriculture in order to maximise their benefits as current or potential WTO members. More specifically, the project aimed at:

1. Improving understanding of the existing WTO Agreements so that countries become knowledgeable about their rights and obligations and capable of discussing future negotiations;
2. Preparing participants to analyse issues that are likely to arise during the negotiating process and the consequences for them of alternative positions; and
3. Taking up and debating special issues of regional/sub-regional concern.

In addition, the training programme aimed at providing information and guidance on electronic access to sources of information covering interpretation, impact, transition measures and debate on these UR Agreements.

The content of the training workshop covered the various UR Agreements

concerning agriculture, i.e.: agreements on Agriculture; Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures; Technical Barriers to Trade; and Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights. The activities were structured into a number of modules which were combined to provide a training package corresponding to the specific needs of this sub-regional group of countries.

In addition to the acquisition of new information and to discussions on trade and policy matters of special relevance to the sub-region, the participants shared experiences concerning the implementation of WTO rules, clarified doubts and

expectations with respect to different provisions, and familiarised themselves with the other countries' perceptions of emerging issues and likely negotiating positions. The information and training materials produced were made available to a large group of institutions and persons of the civil society, such as parliamentary bodies, universities and farmers associations.

The Seminar was one of the best-organised and most successful seminars of its kind. The participants and the organisers expressed their satisfaction with the high quality and professionalism of the Seminar.

CENTRE'S AGENDA FOR THE LAST QUARTER OF 2000

OCTOBER

- 2-5 OCTOBER/ISFAHAN, IRAN:
1ST MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
ON TOURISM
- 3-5 OCTOBER/ANKARA,
TURKEY: 23RD MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
SESRTCIC
- 7-18 OCTOBER/JEDDAH, SAUDI
ARABIA: 21ST SESSION OF THE
FINANCE CONTROL ORGAN
- 13-17 OCTOBER/DOHA, QATAR:
7TH PRIVATE SECTOR
MEETING AND ISLAMIC
COMMON MARKET

- 23-26 OCTOBER/ISTANBUL:
16TH SESSION OF COMCEC

NOVEMBER

- 30 OCTOBER-2 NOVEMBER/
CAIRO, EGYPT:
REGIONAL WORKSHOP
ON WATER QUALITY
MANAGEMENT AND
POLLUTION CONTROL/FAO
- 12-14 NOVEMBER/DOHA,
QATAR: 9TH ISLAMIC SUMMIT
- 21-22 NOVEMBER/
CASABLANCA, 17TH SESSION
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF ICDT

ANKARA CENTRE PUBLICATIONS

Latest Publications

- DOCUMENTS FOR THE 23RD MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF SESRTCIC
- DOCUMENTS FOR THE 21ST SESSION OF THE FINANCE CONTROL ORGAN OF THE OIC
- REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONFERENCE ON STRENGTHENING SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED ENTERPRISES FACING GLOBALISATION AND LIBERALISATION
- DOCUMENTS FOR THE SIXTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMCEC

WHAT'S NEW IN THE CENTRE LIBRARY

Latest Acquisitions

The following is a selection among the publications acquired by the Centre during the third quarter of 2000:

International Fund for Agricultural Development, Rome, Annual Report 1999.

The OPEC Fund for the International Development, Vienna, Annual Report 1999.

Barth, James R., Gerard Caprio and Ross Levine, Banking Systems Around the Globe: Do Regulation and Ownership Affect Performance and Stability? Policy Research Working Paper, 2325. Wash., D.C., The World Bank, April 2000.

Beck, Thorsten and Ross Levine, New Firm Formation and Industry Growth: Does Having a Market- or Bank-Based System Matter? Policy Research Working Paper, 2383. Wash., D.C.,

The World Bank, June 2000.

Broadman, Harry G., Competition, Corporate Governance, and Regulation in Central Asia: Uzbekistan's Structural Reform Challenges. Policy Research Working Paper, 2331. Wash., D.C., The World Bank, May 2000.

Buckles, Daniel (Edited by), Cultivating Peace: Conflict and Collaboration in Natural Resource Management. Wash., D.C., The World Bank, 1999.

The World Bank, Can Africa Claim the 21st Century? The World Bank, Wash., D.C., April 2000.

Clarke, George, Claude Menard and Ana Maria Zuluaga, The Welfare

Effects of Private Sector Participation in Guinea's Urban Water Supply. Policy Research Working Paper, 2361. Wash., D.C., The World Bank, June 2000.

Easterly, William and Stanley Fischer, Inflation and the Poor. Policy Research Working Paper, 2335. Wash., D.C., The World Bank, May 2000.

Estache, Antonio and Gines de Rus (Edited by), Privatization and Regulation of Transport Infrastructure: Guidelines for Policymakers and Regulators. Wash., D.C., The World Bank, June 2000.

Ferri, Giovanni, Li-Gang Liu and Giovanni Majnoni, How the Proposed Basel Guidelines on Rating-Agency Assessments Would Affect Developing Countries. Policy Research Working Paper, 2369. Wash., D.C., The World Bank, June 2000.

The World Bank, Fuel for Thought: An Environmental Strategy for the Energy Sector. Wash., D.C., The World Bank, June 2000.

The World Bank, Klingebiel, Daniela and Jeff Ruster, Why Infrastructure Financing Facilities Often Fall Short of Their Objectives. Policy Research Working Paper, 2358.

Mattoo, Aaditya and Marcelo Olarreaga, Reciprocity Across Modes

of Supply in the World Trade Organization: A Negotiating Formula. Policy Research Working Paper, 2373. Wash., D.C., The World Bank, June 2000.

Menard, Claude and George Clarke, A Transitory Regime: Water Supply in Conakry, Guinea. Policy Research Working Paper, 2362. Wash., D.C., The World Bank, June 2000.

Newman, Constance and Sudharshan Canagarajah, Gender, Poverty, and Nonfarm Employment in Ghana and Uganda. Policy Research Working Paper, 2367. Wash., D.C., The World Bank, June 2000.

Noel, Michel, Building Subnational Debt Markets in Developing and Transition Economies: A Framework for Analysis, Policy Reform, and Assistance Strategy. Policy Research Working Paper, 2339. Wash., D.C., The World Bank, May 2000.

Thirty Seventh Annual Report 1998/1999. Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, Safat.

Valdes, Alberto (Edited by), Agricultural Support Policies in Transition Economies. World Bank Technical Paper, 470, Europe and Central Asia Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development Series. Wash., D.C., The World Bank, May 2000.

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