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UPDATE ON ANKARA CENTRE ACTIVITIES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF SESRTCIC HOLDS ITS 22ND MEETING IN ANKARA

The Twenty-second Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC) was held in Ankara, Republic of Turkey, on October 13-15, 1999. The Meeting was attended by delegates from Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Turkey. The Director General Ambassador Erdinç Erdün and the representative of the OIC General Secretariat attended as ex officio members of the Board.

The Director General Erdinç Erdün opened the Meeting and welcomed the members of the Board of Directors to Ankara and expressed his pleasure to have the Board Members once again gathered to

evaluate the work of the Centre during the past year and to deliberate on its future activities. He pointed out that their deliberations would provide valuable input to the Centre's activities. The Director General then presented the report on the activities of the Centre since the last Meeting. During the deliberations held on the Report of the Director General, the members of the Board discussed in detail the financial difficulties created by the non-payment by some member countries of their mandatory contributions to the budget of the Centre. The Board members made various suggestions and recommendations in this regard.

The Director General then presented the proposed Budget of the Centre for the Financial Year 2000/2001, which

included as an integral part the Work Programme of the Centre for the same year starting on 1 July 2000. The Meeting, after extensive deliberations, approved the 2000/2001 Budget and Work Programme for onward submission to the appropriate OIC fora.

The Meeting made a number of recommendations. It welcomed and endorsed the initiative taken by the Centre and which consisted in undertaking country visits in order to secure payment of contributions to the Centre's Budget through direct contacts with the concerned authorities in the member countries. It also urged the Centre to expand its efforts aimed at developing modalities to secure funds by selling its publications and services.

On the other hand, while appreciating the Centre's work in training and technical cooperation in various OIC regions, the Meeting urged the Centre to further intensify its training activities. In this

respect, it was suggested that the member countries might fully finance their own participation in some of the training programmes announced by the Centre.

The Meeting also requested the Centre to consider the possibilities of facilitating member countries' participation in each other's population, social and economic censuses and surveys to exchange views and expertise. In this respect, it was proposed that the Centre might consider preparing a questionnaire on future censuses, starting with population, circulate it to member states and disseminate the information obtained to other member countries so that they can benefit from each other's experiences.

The Meeting requested the member states' National Statistical Institutions to provide the Centre with all information and statistics available to them in electronic form to strengthen the Centre's ongoing efforts to propagate useful data among member states.

THE 15TH COMCEC MEETING DECIDES THAT THE THEME OF THE NEXT EXCHANGE OF VIEWS SESSION OF THE COMCEC WILL BE "STRENGTHENING SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES FACING GLOBALISATION AND LIBERALISATION"

The 15th Session of the COMCEC was held on 4-7 November 1999, in İstanbul, Turkey. The Ministerial Session was preceded by the Meeting of Senior Officials on 4-5 November 1999. Delegations from 40 OIC member states attended the Meeting. The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and Bosnia-Herzegovina participated in the Session as observers and the Republic of Macedonia participated as a guest. The meeting was also attended by the OIC General Secretariat and the following OIC institutions: the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC), the Islamic Centre for the Development of

Trade (ICDT), the Islamic Institute of Technology (IIT), the Islamic Research Centre for History, Culture and Art (IRCICA), the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), the Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC) and the Islamic Chamber for Commerce and Industry (ICCI). Representatives from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) and the Federation of Consultants from Islamic Countries (FCIC) were also present at the Meeting. The Meeting was chaired by Dr. Akin İzmirlioğlu, Under-

secretary of the State Planning Organisation of Turkey.

The Opening Ceremony of the 15th Session of the COMCEC was held under the chairmanship of H.E. Süleyman Demirel, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the COMCEC. H.E. Süleyman Demirel and H.E. Azeddine Laraki, Secretary General of the OIC addressed the Session. The Heads of Delegation of Syria, Azerbaijan and Cameroon made statements on behalf of the Arab, Asian and African OIC Groups of member states respectively.

After the Opening Ceremony, the Ministerial Session was held under the Chairmanship of H.E. Devlet Bahçeli, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State. 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. Thereafter, the heads of various delegations presented their country reports on "Human Resource Development for Sustained Economic Growth and Progress in Member Countries."

The Ministers, subsequently, adopted the Resolutions based on their deliberations on the Agenda Items of the 15th Session. Meanwhile, a Symposium was also organised within the framework of the celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the establishment of the IDB. At a special ceremony, during the Closing Session, the Statute of The Islamic Institute of Standards and Metrology (SMIIC) was signed by Turkey, Syria and Palestine.

The Meeting agreed that the 16th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee would be convened on 9-11 May 2000 in İstanbul. It also agreed that the 16th Session of the COMCEC would be held in İstanbul in October 2000, and that the exact dates of this meeting would be communicated to the member states in due course.

Furthermore, the Ministers decided that "Strengthening Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Facing Globalisation and Liberalisation" would be the theme of the exchange of views of the next session of the COMCEC. The Meeting also requested the SESRTCIC in collaboration with related OIC institutions to organise a workshop on the topic and submit its report thereon to the next session.

DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SESRTCIC MAKES OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE STATE OF UNITED ARAB EMIRATES AND MEETS THE MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND COMMERCE

According to Resolution 52 adopted by the Fifteenth Session of the COMCEC held in İstanbul on 4-7 November 1999, next year's exchange-of-views session of the COMCEC meeting will be devoted to the topic of "Strengthening Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Facing Globalisation and liberalisation." During the deliberations which were held in this respect, H.E. Sheikh Fahim Bin Sultan Al-Qasimi, Minister of Economy and Commerce of the United Arab Emirates,

kindly offered to organise the workshop

related to the said topic in collaboration with the concerned OIC institutions.

Thereafter, Director General Ambassador Erdinç Erdün and Mr. Selim İlkin, Director of the Technical Cooperation Department of the Centre visited Abu Dhabi on 18-23 December 1999 and were received by H.E. Sheikh Fahim Bin Sultan Al-Qasimi with a view to initiating the

preparatory work of the workshop. The SESRTCIC delegation also had a working session with experts at the Ministry of Economy and Commerce and at the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and

Industry. As a result, it was decided that the workshop would be held in Abu Dhabi on 21-22 May 2000 in collaboration with the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

OIC NEWS

OIC FINANCE CONTROL ORGAN HOLDS ITS 20TH SESSION IN JEDDAH

The Finance Control Organ of the OIC held its 20th Session from 6 to 14 November 1999, in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, to audit the accounts of the OIC General Secretariat and its Subsidiary Organs.

Assistant Director General, Dr. Abdelrahman Zeinelabdin and Chief of Finance Section, Mr. Coşgun Enginel, represented SESRTCIC at the Session.

OTHER MEETINGS

CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF OIC COUNTRIES ON THE THIRD MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE OF THE WTO STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF CONSULTATIONS AMONG OIC MEMBER STATES

The Consultative Meeting of OIC member countries on the Third Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) took place at the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Headquarters in Jeddah on 16-17 October 1999. Mr. Oker Gürler, Director of the Research Department of the Centre represented SESRTCIC at this meeting.

Representatives from the OIC member states, the OIC General Secretariat, the Islamic Centre for the Development of Trade (ICDT), and the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) attended the Meeting. Representatives from the

WTO and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) were also present at the Meeting. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Munir Zahran, a well-known Egyptian Specialist on the multilateral trade negotiations conducted within the framework of the GATT and the WTO.

Speakers from the IDB and Egypt summarised the recent developments which occurred within the framework of the WTO and particularly the Built-in Agenda, with special emphasis on the problems relating to the implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreements.

The WTO representative informed the Meeting about the issues relating to the accession procedures and negotiations. A speaker from the Bangladeshi Mission in Geneva discussed the problems faced by the Least Developed Countries in relation to international trade and investment issues.

Then, experts from the UNCTAD presented separate studies on Agriculture, Trade and Investment, and Trade in Services that were undertaken in collaboration with the IDB. After the deliberations on these vital topics, the

Meeting emphasised the importance of consultations among the OIC Member States, and co-ordination of their positions during the Seattle Conference in the USA and the following new round of multilateral trade negotiations.

SESRTCIC JOINTLY ORGANISES A REGIONAL TRAINING SEMINAR IN TUNISIA ON THE CHARACTERISATION AND ANALYSIS OF RANGE-DEPENDENT SMALL RUMINANTS PRODUCTION SYSTEMS IN THE NEAR-EAST REGION

The Regional Training Seminar on the Characterisation and Analysis of Range-dependent Small Ruminants Production Systems in the Near-East Region took place in Medenine, Tunisia, from 8 to 12 November 1999. The seminar was organized by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations/Regional Office for the Near East (FAO-RNE) with the contribution of the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC), the International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) and the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (ICAMAS). Mr. Selim İlkin, Director of the Technical Cooperation Department of the Centre, represented SESRTCIC at the seminar.

The training seminar was inaugurated by the Regional Governor of the District of Medenine who addressed the meeting. Mr. İlkin also made a short introductory presentation especially with regard to SESRTCIC's main activities. 19 participants from 7 different OIC countries have attended this seminar.

The objectives of the seminar were as follows:

- To strengthen the development capacity of national and regional research and training institutions and the food and agriculture policy analysis organs, through better understanding of the system's perspective and its use in the characterisation, diagnosis and analysis of the complex issues involved and in the promotion of sustainable agricultural development,
- To review the manual according to participants' feed back, and
- To disseminate training materials to the concerned institutions and policy analysis organs in the Region.

The seminar included topics such as: Systems approach; Range Livestock Production in the Near East Region; Data Collection; Data Handling and Analysis;

SESRTCIC CO-SPONSORS IN YEMEN A SEMINAR ON SAMPLING TECHNIQUES

The Training Seminar on Sampling Techniques took place in Sana'a, Yemen, from 24 November to 5 December 1999. It

was organised by SESRTCIC, in collaboration with the Central Statistical Organisation of the Republic of Yemen and the Statistics Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNSD/DESA). Assistant Director General Dr. Abdelrahman Zeinelabdin and Mr. Hakan Konaç, Researcher at the Research Department of the Centre represented the SESRTCIC at the Seminar.

A total of 15 participants (11 from Yemen and four from Arab Countries) attended the Seminar. The training was composed of a series of lectures on sampling methodology, and group work where principles and techniques taught during the lectures were applied. This was followed by topical discussions and questions and answers sessions on relevant sampling issues and their field

applications in the countries of the participants.

The Training Seminar was very successful. The trainer praised the professional qualities of the participants and indicated his satisfaction that the right persons were chosen to participate. On their part, the participants also expressed their satisfaction and indicated that this was one of the most useful training programmes they have attended.

Dr. Zeinelabdin seized the opportunity offered by the Seminar to get in touch with the Chairman of the Central Statistical Organisation of the Republic of Yemen and to discuss with him various modalities of future cooperation between the two institutions. The Chairman of the Central Statistical Organisation expressed the desire that the Centre explore the possibilities of organising two future Training/Workshop/Seminars in Yemen, one on Geographical Information Systems and the other on the applications of the 1993 System of National Accounts (SNA).

CENTRE'S AGENDA FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2000

JANUARY

22-26 January 2000: 23rd Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs (Jeddah).

FEBRUARY

19-23 February 2000: 28th Session of the Permanent Finance Committee (Jeddah).

economic and Sectoral policies on Rural Poverty” (Ankara).

28 February-8 March 2000: Training programme on “The Impact of Macro-

ANKARA CENTRE PUBLICATIONS

Latest Publications

- Training Opportunities in OIC Countries 2000.
- Journal of Economic Cooperation, October 1999.
- InfoReport, October 1999; English, French and Arabic editions.
- Documents for the Fifteenth Session of the COMCEC.
- Documents for the Twenty-third Session of Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs.

WHAT'S NEW IN THE CENTRE LIBRARY

Latest Acquisitions

The following is a selection among the publications acquired by the Centre during the last quarter of 1999:

Adams, Richard H., **Nonfarm Income, Inequality, and Land in Rural Egypt.** Policy Research Working Paper, 2178. Wash., D.C., The World Bank, September 1999.

Burnside, Craig, Martin Eichenbaum and Sergio Rebelo. **Prospective Deficits and the Asian Currency Crisis.** Policy Research Working Paper, 2174. Wash., D.C., The World Bank, September 1999.

Diwan, Ishac and Radwan A. Shaban (Editors), **Development under Adversity: The Palestinian Economy in Transition.** Wash., D.C., The World Bank, March 1999.

Fawzy, Samiha and Ahmed Galal (Editors), **Partners for Development:**

New Roles for Government and Private Sector in the Middle East & North Africa. Wash., D.C., The World Bank, September 1999.

Greening Industry: New Roles for Communities, Markets, and Governments. A World Bank Policy

Research Report. Wash., D.C., The World Bank, 2000.

Hinkle, Lawrence E. and Peter J. Montiel, **Exchange Rate Misalignment: Concepts and Measurement for Developing Countries.** Wash., D.C., The World Bank, 1999.

Jack, William, **Principles of Health Economics for Developing Countries.** Wash., D.C., The World Bank, October 1999.

Mattoo, Aaditya, **Financial Services and the World Trade Organization: Liberalization Commitments of the Developing and Transition Economies.** Policy Research Working Paper, 2184. Wash., D.C., The World Bank, September 1999.

Meenai, S.A., **The Islamic Development Bank: A Case Study of Islamic Co-**

operation. Kegan Paul International, London, 1989.

Ng, Francis and Alexander Yeats, **Production Sharing in East Asia: Who Does What for Whom, and Why?** Policy Research Working Paper, 2197. Wash., D.C., The World Bank, October 1999.

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