

EXPLANATORY NOTE ON PURPOSE AND COVERAGE OF THE WORKSHOP

The 37th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation held in Tajikistan in 2010 adopted a resolution for the preparation of the Plan of Action for cooperation of the OIC with Central Asia and its submission to the Thirty-Eighth Session of the CFM. Accordingly, the said Plan of Action was drafted in the preparatory meetings and adopted at the High Level Regional Conference organized on the sideline of the 37th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of OIC which was held on June 28th, 2011 in Astana, Kazakhstan.

In this framework, the COMCEC Coordination Office offered to host a workshop to discuss and define possible partnership modalities to enhance cooperation of the OIC Member States with Central Asia. The said workshop is planned to be held on 22- 23 February 2012 in Ankara, Turkey.

The main objective of the workshop is to study the country partnership models implemented in Central Asia. In this framework, the workshop will focus mainly on identifying the basic obstacles/challenges in the existing technical cooperation programs/projects, sharing best practices in the field of technical cooperation and discussing the ways and means for more effective cooperation in this domain between the OIC and Central Asia.

The workshop intends to bring together the technical experts in the field of technical cooperation from the relevant public institutions in the OIC member states. Participation of these experts will enrich the discussions in the workshop. Furthermore, contribution from the aforementioned Central Asian countries on technical cooperation programs is of the utmost importance for the success of this workshop. In this regard, presentations and/or reports from relevant institutions of the Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) to introduce the existing technical cooperation programs implemented in their countries are welcome. The OIC Member States implementing technical cooperation programs in Central Asia and the relevant OIC and other international Institutions are also invited to the said workshop; and are expected to present one best practice implemented in Central Asia.

The workshop, during its working sessions, is expected to focus on the country specific technical cooperation models. During five working sessions, the participants are expected to exchange their views on the existing technical cooperation activities with each Central Asian Member States. Proceedings of each working session are given below::

1. Presentations by the representatives from the respective Central Asian State on the technical cooperation activities being implemented in his/her country with special emphasis on the OIC Member Countries and Institutions. The representatives are also expected to present the challenges faced in technical cooperation programs and expectations for the future.
2. Presentations by the OIC Member States which are partners of technical cooperation programs/projects carried out in Central Asian countries. The representatives will focus on the best practices.
3. Presentations by the International Institutions on their partnership programs with Central Asia.

4. General Discussion on the current technical cooperation activities and possible ways to move forward.

The workshop will also have a special session on possible ways and means of enhancing technical cooperation activities between OIC and Central Asia for the future. The Session will evaluate the previous country specific working sessions, deliberate on improving the efficiency of technical cooperation with Central Asia and explore partnership models for the future.