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**REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP ON
PRIVATE SECTOR COOPERATION FOR ENHANCING
INTRA-OIC TOURISM**

IZMIR, REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
10 December 2010

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1. In pursuance of the relevant resolutions of the 25th Ministerial session of the COMCEC and COMCEC Economic Summit held in Istanbul in November 2009, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Turkey in collaboration with the Association of Turkish Travel Agencies (TURSAB) organized a Workshop on “Private Sector Cooperation For Enhancing Intra-OIC Tourism” in Izmir on 10 December 2010 on the sidelines of the Travel Turkey Tourism Fair and Conference (9-12 December 2010).
2. The Workshop was attended by the public and private sector representatives from the following Members of the OIC:
 - Palestinian Government
 - The Arab Republic of Egypt
 - The Republic of Uzbekistan
 - The Republic of Sudan
 - The Syrian Arab Republic
 - The Tunisian Republic
 - The Republic of Turkey
 - The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
3. The following representatives of the OIC Subsidiary Organs, Specialized and Affiliated Institutions took part in the meeting:
 - COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO);
 - Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC);
 - Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT);
 - The Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI);Arab Tourism Organization also attended .

(The list of participants is attached in Annex-I).
4. Mr. Onur GÖZET, Head of External Relations and European Union Coordination Department, Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Turkey, as the Chairman of the Workshop delivered his opening speech. He emphasized the key role of the private sector in the success of Turkish tourism sector and declared Turkey’s readiness to share its experiences with the OIC member countries.
5. Mr. Gökten DAMAR, the representative of COMCEC Coordination Office, made a statement. In his statement, he gave background information about the OIC Tourism Cooperation. Stressing the importance of private sector in

tourism, he concluded that COMCEC would continue to encourage and support promoting cooperation among private sector institutions and organizations operating in the tourism sector.

6. Mr. Oğuzhan Yurteri, Head of Tourism Planning Department, Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Turkey, delivered a presentation entitled “An Overlook into Turkish Tourism”. In his presentation, he expressed Turkish national experience in tourism sector particularly in the fields of tourism revenues, tourist arrivals and tourism investments.
7. Mr. Koray YETİK, Secretary General of The Turkish Tourism Investors Association, made a presentation evaluating the investment climate in Turkish Tourism Sector and stressed the importance of public-private partnership. He also mentioned the criteria that would attract tourism investors.
8. Mrs. Ela ATAKAN, Director of Cooperate Affairs of Association of Turkish Travel Agencies (TURSAB) delivered a presentation on the Turkish tourism sector.

9. PROPOSALS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS

Based on the presentations and discussions, the Workshop put forward the following proposals and recommendations for the consideration of Member Countries:

9.1. Underlined the important role of the activities bringing together the private sector representatives in the enhancement of tourism cooperation among the OIC member states and thus decided on the continuation of similar workshops on a regular basis in each year.

9.2. Appreciated the proposal made by the Republic of Turkey on the establishment of OIC Tourism Platform which would regularly bring private sector representatives together to discuss potential cooperation areas and thereby contribute to tourism cooperation among the OIC member states.

9.3. Requested the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Turkey and TURSAB in collaboration with OIC General Secretariat and COMCEC Coordination Office to work on the modality and details of the OIC Tourism Platform among private sector representatives.

9.4. Emphasized the importance of Public-Private Partnership (3Ps-PPP) in the expansion and upgrading of the existing tourist capacities and activities and for the construction of new facilities of appropriate quality and service standards, using up-to-date technologies.

9.5. Called upon the OIC Member States and their private sector entities to actively participate the 1st OIC Health Expo including Health Tourism, to be held on 24-27 February 2011 in Tunis, Republic of Tunisia; and in the

Second Tourism Fair, to be held in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt, on 9-12 October 2011.

9.6. Emphasized the importance of vocational education and training in addressing the challenges facing the member countries in the domain of tourism and took note with appreciation of the SESRIC's efforts in training programmes on tourism development and high quality on job training for services staff in tourism sector, within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme.

9.7. Welcomed the visa-free travel deals among some OIC member states and called upon all member states to eliminate the existing barriers to movement of tourists in OIC countries, including simplification of visa, customs and foreign exchange procedures.

9.8. Decided to submit the Report of the Workshop on "Private Sector Cooperation for Enhancing Intra-OIC Tourism" to the 27th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC which will be held in Turkey on 10–12 May 2011.

10. The participants also expressed their profound gratitude to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Turkey and TURSAB for the perfect organization of this workshop as well as for the efforts they have made to ensure its success.
