

SESRIC ACTIVITY REPORT

Towards the Implementation of COMCEC Strategy



**STATISTICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH
AND TRAINING CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES
(SESRIC/ANKARA CENTRE)**



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REPORT OF
STATISTICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH AND
TRAINING CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES (SESRIC/ OIC
ANKARA CENTRE)
ON
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMCEC STRATEGY
SUBMITTED TO
33rd SESSION OF THE COMCEC

Agenda Item No: 5-11

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Introduction

This Activity Report provides a summary of the activities that have been implemented by SESRIC towards the implementation of COMCEC Strategy to be submitted to the 33rd Session of the COMCEC, which will be held in Istanbul on 20-23 November 2017.

In brief, since the 32nd Session of the COMCEC, SESRIC studied and evaluated the economic and social developments in the member countries with a view to generating proposals for enhancing cooperation among them. The Center continued to prepare regular technical background reports and research studies on a wide range of socio-economic issues placed on the agenda of various related OIC conferences and meetings, particularly the OIC sectoral ministerial conferences and the annual sessions of the relevant standing committees. By doing so, the Centre continued to contribute significantly to the OIC policy dialogue mechanism through analysing the current situation at the OIC level and suggesting the appropriate policy actions that need to be taken in order to face the challenges and strengthen the intra-Islamic cooperation in the concerned areas.

The Center, also continued to play an important role in strengthening and improving the national statistical systems in the member countries with a view to producing better national statistics and thus helping policy-makers introducing better national policies and strategies. In this context, the Centre contributes significantly in enhancing the technical capacities of the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of the member countries by assuming the role of the Secretariat of the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom) and through the Centre's flagship Statistical Capacity Building Programme (StatCaB).

During the said period, SESRIC exerted efforts to play a significant role in enhancing south-south cooperation within the OIC community through implementing a wide-range of capacity building programs and training activities on various socio-economic areas and fields of immediate interest to the OIC member countries. Currently, the Centre has 25 sector-specific capacity building programmes covering a wide-range of areas such as finance, agriculture, health, environment, water resources, poverty alleviation, natural disaster management, youth employment, tourism, which are implemented through different modalities, including exchange of experts, training workshops, study visits and networking, and in close cooperation and collaboration with a wide range of relevant OIC, national, regional and international institutions.

In the light of the above, this report highlights the activities of SESRIC according to the COMCEC Strategy under its seven areas of cooperation namely: Intra-OIC Trade; Enhancing the Role of Private Sector in Economic Cooperation; Improving Transport and Communications; Developing a Sustainable and Competitive Tourism Sector; Increasing Productivity of Agriculture Sector and Sustaining Food Security; Alleviating Poverty and Deepening Financial Cooperation.

AGENDA ITEMS:

- 1. INTRA-OIC TRADE**

- 2. ENHANCING THE ROLE OF PRIVATE SECTOR IN ECONOMIC COOPERATION**

- 3. IMPROVING TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS**

- 4. DEVELOPING A SUSTAINABLE AND COMPETITIVE TOURISM SECTOR**

- 5. INCREASING PRODUCTIVITY OF AGRICULTURE SECTOR AND SUSTAINING FOOD SECURITY**

- 6. ALLEVIATING POVERTY**

- 7. DEEPENING FINANCIAL COOPERATION**

1. INTRA-OIC TRADE

The following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item of intra-OIC trade:

Statistical Capacity Building Programme (StatCaB)

No	Subject	Date	Beneficiary	Provider	Partner	Venue
1	Training Course on 'International Trade Statistics'	29 Nov-02 Dec 2016	Benin (National Institute of Statistics and Economic Analysis)	Cameroon (National Statistical Institute)	-	Cotonou, Benin
2	Training Course on 'International Trade Statistics'	8-10 January 2017	Afghanistan (Central Statistics Organization)	Iran (Statistical Centre of Iran)	-	Kabul, Afghanistan
3	Training Course on 'International Trade Statistics'	1-3 August 2017	Cote d'Ivoire (National Institute of Statistics)	Cameroon (National Statistical Institute)	-	Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire
4	Training Course on 'International Trade Statistics'	28-29 August 2017	Indonesia (BPS-Statistics Indonesia)	Malaysia (Department of Statistics)	-	Jakarta, Indonesia

- Related to trade, OIC Statistics (OICStat) of SESRIC includes 18 indicators which are being updated regularly.

Report on Impact of Brexit on OIC Member Countries

This study aims to investigate mainly the socio-economic ramifications of Brexit for the OIC countries and what opportunities this hold for a deeper intra-OIC cooperation.

Workshop on the Impact of Brexit on the Economies of the OIC Member States

SESRIC, in collaboration with ICDT and IDB, organized a workshop on the 'Impact of Brexit on the Economies of the OIC Member countries' on 18-19 April 2017 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The main aim of the workshop is discussing the potential impacts of Brexit on the OIC member countries. The working sessions consisting of Impact of Brexit on Foreign Trade of OIC Member countries, Financial Implications of the Brexit Decision for the OIC member countries, Impact of Brexit on Migration and Market Employment of OIC member countries were discoursed to come up with an overall conclusion and recommendations for enhancing effective EU-OIC-UK relations in the course of the Brexit process.

2. ENHANCING THE ROLE OF PRIVATE SECTOR IN ECONOMIC COOPERATION

The following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item of enhancing the role of private sector in economic cooperation:

SESRIC Announced a Joint Publication with the UNDP

On the sidelines of the 42nd IDB Annual Meeting in Jeddah, SESRIC and UNDP Istanbul International Center for Private Sector in Development (IICPSD), announced their joint publication titled “Engaging the Private Sector in Skills Development: a Best Practices Guideline and Toolkit” which is designed to guide governments, local authorities, training providers, civil society actors, industry and other key stakeholders in formulating advice on effective partnerships with companies, industry chambers, and other business support organizations, to improve the results of skills education and training. The manual and toolkit outline strategies of how the private sector can contribute to active labour market measures to complement effort of addressing the lack of relevant skills for disadvantaged youth, women and other marginalized groups.

Modeling the Youth Economic Empowerment in Palestine

SESRIC participated in a seminar, themed Modeling the Youth Economic Empowerment in Palestine, which took place on 15 May 2017 in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and was attended by Officials from IDBG member countries, development partners, donor agencies, private actors and NGOs. The seminar was organized on the sidelines of the 42nd Annual Meeting of the Islamic Development Bank Group, and discussed experiences in the field of youth employability in Palestine and other countries, as well as the importance of youth empowerment as an enabler for transformative resilience, sustainable development and economic growth. In that context, the seminar presented practical models for strengthening youth empowerment using tested and assessed examples from Palestine, Jordan, and Indonesia.

Kick-Off Meeting for the SME Development and Empowerment Project

SESRIC hosted the Kick-off Meeting for the SME Development and Empowerment Project under the “BINA INITIATIVE” in collaboration with the Libyan Programme for Reintegration and Development (LPRD) and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) in Istanbul, Turkey on 6-7 February 2017. The main objective of the meeting was to come out with an implementation plan for building a Libyan SME Incubator Centre which will help in developing the Libyan economy through supporting entrepreneurs. The development of the Libyan SME Incubator is an essential part of the BINA INITIATIVE which is a partnership program between SESRIC, LPRD and IDB that aims to help Libya, as a current fragile state, enhance its capabilities in certain determined areas.

Training Course on ‘Reforming International Investment Agreements: An Action Plan’

SESRIC organised a training course on “Reforming International Investment Agreements: An Action Plan” which took place in Casablanca, Morocco on 23-26 January 2017, in collaboration with Islamic Development Bank Group Investment Promotion Technical Assistance Program (ITAP) of the Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC) of Islamic Development Bank Group, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and Moroccan Investment Development Agency. The objective of the training was to deepen the understanding of the participants on challenges in International Investment Agreements (IIA), to identify and examine issues, problems and interests and to ensure that the concerns of investors are adequately addressed.

3. IMPROVING TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

The following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item of improving transport and communications:

Statistical Capacity Building Programme (StatCaB)

No	Subject	Date	Beneficiary	Provider	Partner	Venue
1	Training Course on 'Transport Statistics'	28 Nov - 1 Dec 2016	Sudan (Central Bureau of Statistics)	Egypt (Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics)	-	Khartoum, Sudan
2	Training Course on 'Community Outreach Through Social Media for National Statistics Offices'	13-14 March 2017	Gabon (General Directorate of Statistics and Economic Studies)	Cote d'Ivoire (National Institute of Statistics)	-	Libreville, Gabon
3	Training Course on 'Transport Statistics'	9-10 August 2017	Uganda (Uganda Bureau of Statistics)	Nigeria (National Bureau of Statistics)	-	Kampala, Uganda

- Related to transport and communications, OIC Statistics (OICStat) Database of SESRIC includes 5 indicators which are being updated regularly.

Report on Transportation for Development

This report is prepared by SESRIC for the Second OIC conference of Transport Ministers which was held on 17-19 December 2017 in Khartoum, Republic of Sudan. This report looks at the transportation sector in OIC countries in a comparative perspective. It investigates the performance of the different modes of transportation under three broad categories: land, water and air transportation. The report also highlights the relationship between transportation and trade and tourism.

Training Workshop on Health Journalism

The 11-day "Training Workshop on Health Journalism" was organised by SESRIC in collaboration with the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) and Anadolu Agency (AA) on 08-18 August 2017 in Ankara, Republic of Turkey. The purpose of the training was to involve journalists from the OIC member countries in promoting healthcare and helping them to gain a wider understanding of the current situation of the health issues in OIC context and to equip them with health-specific skills in order to write and deliver influential stories in this area.

SESRIC signed MoU with Anadolu Agency (AA)

SESRIC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Anadolu Agency (AA) to initiate and facilitate cooperation and collaboration between both institutions in matters of common interests on 03 March 2017 in Ankara, Turkey. The MoU aims at bringing about a synergy between SESRIC and AA on capacity building directed towards staff members of news agencies across OIC member countries, as well as enhancing exchange of information and expertise among the agencies on key

issues with regards to the news industry, notably in the effort to establish an “Islamic World News Agencies Cooperation Network”.

Knowledge and Experience Sharing Workshop on “Media Literacy” in Indonesia

Knowledge and Experience Sharing Workshop on “Media Literacy” was jointly organised by SESRIC and IBRAF with the attendance of participants from national broadcasting regulatory authorities and governmental bodies on the side-line of the 5th Annual Meeting of OIC Broadcasting Regulatory Forum which was held during 20-23 February 2017. The workshop was organised by SESRIC within its mandate to create a platform for knowledge exchange and experience sharing in the field of media literacy among relevant authorities of OIC member countries, in collaboration with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Broadcasting Regulatory Authorities Forum (IBRAF), which is a Forum that endeavours to meet the need for increasing cooperation among Islamic Countries Broadcasting Regulatory against the backdrop of digitalisation and convergence.

SESRIC Launched a Short Film on Syria

The short film called “Matrix and Milieu” was launched by SESRIC on the sideline of the training course on “NGO Management”, which was organised within the framework of the OIC NGO Capacity Building Programme (OIC NGO-CaB) on 27 January 2017 in Istanbul, Turkey. As a product of three months of rigorous work, the film aimed to increase the awareness towards the Syrian refugees who put their lives in danger for crossing the Mediterranean Sea in hope of reaching Europe.

Training Course on Cross Border Activities

SESRIC organised a two day long training course on “Cross Border Activities” at the venue of the Bangladesh Railway on 21-22 December 2016 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Two experts from the Turkish State Railways (TCDD) conducted the course, with the participation of the staffs from the Mechanical, Traffic, Railway Police and Finance Departments of the Bangladesh Railway.

4. DEVELOPING A SUSTAINABLE AND COMPETITIVE TOURISM SECTOR

The following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item of developing sustainable and competitive tourism sector:

Statistical Capacity Building Programme (StatCaB)

No	Subject	Date	Beneficiary	Provider	Partner	Venue
1	Training Course on 'Tourism Satellite Accounts'	14-16 February 2017	Suriname Tourism Foundation	Malaysia (Department of Statistics)	-	Paramaribo, Suriname

- Related to tourism, OICStat database of SESRIC includes 7 indicators which are being updated regularly.

OIC Tourism Report 2017

This report examines the performance and the economic role of the international tourism sector in OIC member countries by analysing latest available data on major indicators like international tourist arrivals, international tourism receipts and expenditures. The potential role of Islamic tourism in OIC countries was also elaborated in the report. The report devotes a thematic section to discuss the potential role of the tourism sector to promote regional integration and deepen cooperation among the OIC member countries. The report also sheds light on the major challenges of tourism development and tourism cooperation among the OIC member countries and proposes some recommendations to serve as policy guidelines.

Strategic Roadmap for the Development of Islamic Tourism in OIC Member Countries

Considering the importance of Islamic tourism, the 9th Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM), held in Niamey, Republic of Niger on 21-23 December 2015 adopted a Resolution on Tourism Development among the OIC member countries, under which the ICTM decided to establish a Working Group on Islamic Tourism, which comprises of the Republic of Indonesia (Coordinator), People's Republic of Bangladesh, SESRIC, SMIIC and IUT and welcomed the offer of SESRIC to carry out a project on "Strategic Roadmap for the Development of Islamic Tourism in OIC Member Countries". As per this mandate, SESRIC started the preparations and submitted the first draft of the Roadmap Document to the OIC General Secretariat to be circulated among the Member Countries for their comments and feedback in early 2017. It is expected that the final version of the Roadmap Document will be adopted during the 10th Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM) to be held on 12-14 November 2017 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The Roadmap Document is intended to develop a framework in order to provide a systematic approach to promote cooperation among the member countries in the area of Islamic tourism.

Training Workshop on the Development and Promotion of Muslim Friendly Tourism in COMCEC Member Countries

SESRIC organized a training workshop on the "Development and Promotion of Muslim Friendly Tourism in COMCEC Member Countries" on 04-07 July 2017 in Ankara, Turkey for 15 member countries with little or no Muslim Friendly Tourism (MFT) applications and/or have weak implementations about the potential and positive impact of MFT. Funded by the COMCEC PCM Programme and implemented by SESRIC, the project titled "2016-SESRIC-205" Training Program on the Development and Promotion of Muslim Friendly Tourism in COMCEC Member Countries" was geared towards facilitating the transfer of knowledge on development and promotion of MFT in

COMCEC Member Countries by sharing the Malaysian, Turkish and other OIC advanced countries' experiences in developing successful MFT policies, regulations, standards and marketing strategies.

5th Meeting of OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum

SESRIC participated to the 5th Meeting of OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum with the theme of "Crisis Communication and Management in Tourism: Recent Challenges and Solutions in OIC Countries" which organized by The Republic of Turkey Ministry of Culture and Tourism in collaboration with the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC) and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) on 4th of May, 2017 in Istanbul, Turkey.

The State of Tourism in the Member Countries of D-8

This report analyses and examines the trends in the major tourism indicators including tourist arrivals and tourism receipts for the D-8 member countries, as a group, during the latest five-year period for which the data are available. It investigates these trends in a comparative manner with their counterparts in the groups of the OIC, other developing and developed countries as well as with the world economy as a whole. The report also looks at the intra-D-8 Tourism trends to reveal the level of integration in the domain of tourism among D-8 Countries. Finally, the report highlights the potential of Islamic (Halal) tourism in the context of D-8 countries and will list some policy recommendations to serve as a broad guideline for policy-makers.

5. INCREASING PRODUCTIVITY OF AGRICULTURE SECTOR AND SUSTAINING FOOD SECURITY

The following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item of increasing productivity of agriculture sector and sustaining food security:

Statistical Capacity Building Programme (StatCaB)

No	Subject	Date	Beneficiary	Provider	Partner	Venue
1	Training Course on 'Agriculture Statistics'	31 Jan-3 Feb 2017	Benin (National Institute of Statistics and Economic Analysis)	Cote d'Ivoire (National Institute of Statistics)	-	Cotonou, Benin
2	Training Course on 'Agriculture Statistics'	27 Feb-1 March 2017	Chad (National Institute of Statistics and Economic and Demographic Studies)	Cote d'Ivoire (National Institute of Statistics)	-	N'Djamena, Chad
3	Training Course on 'Agriculture Statistics'	18-20 April 2017	Algeria (Office National des Statistiques)	Cote d'Ivoire (National Institute of Statistics)	-	Algiers, Algeria
4	Training Course on 'Agricultural Censuses'	2-4 May 2017	Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries of Tunisia	Jordan (Department of Statistics)	-	Tunis, Tunisia
5	Study Visit on 'Agricultural Censuses'	10-12 July 2017	Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries of Tunisia	Jordan (Department of Statistics)	-	Amman, Jordan
6	Study Visit on 'Agriculture Statistics'	14-17 August 2017	Palestine (Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics)	Turkey (Turkish Statistical Institute)	-	Ankara, Turkey

- Related to agriculture, OICStat database of SESRIC includes 23 indicators which are being updated regularly.

Workshop on Monitoring Food Security in the Context of 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda

SESRIC, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), organised the Workshop on Monitoring Food Security in the Context of 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda on 22-23 February 2017 in Ankara, Republic of Turkey. The Workshop was attended by 40 delegates from the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and line ministries of 19 OIC

member countries and 7 international organisations. The objective of the Workshop was to develop capacities of officials of the selected National Statistics Offices (NSOs) to advocate with national government leaders for the inclusion of the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) and food consumption modules in national surveys for monitoring SDG target 2.1. During the Workshop, the participants were informed about both the Prevalence of Undernourishment (POU) and the FIES methodologies, as well as the steps to implement them and the relevance of the information they provide for food security policy. The Workshop also included a data analysis session in which the participants found the opportunity to carry out analysis on FIES data.

Second Workshop on Monitoring Food Security in the Context of 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda

SESRIC, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), organised the Workshop on Monitoring Food Security in the Context of 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda on 14-15 November 2017 in Ankara, Republic of Turkey. The objective of the Workshop was to develop capacities of officials of the selected National Statistics Offices (NSOs) to advocate with national government leaders for the inclusion of the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) and food consumption modules in national surveys for monitoring SDG target 2.1.

Training Course on Seed Development: Laboratory Test and Certificates, Agriculture Combat: Plant Diseases, Pest and Weed Control

SESRIC in collaboration with the University of Khartoum in Sudan organized a Training course on “Seed Development: Laboratory Test and Certificates, Agriculture Combat: Plant Diseases, Pest and Weed Control” within the framework of the OIC Agricultural Capacity Building Programme (OICAgriCaB) on 24-25 July 2017 in Amman, Jordan. The 2 days training was provided by Dr. Mohammed Osman Idris from Sudan for the benefit of 19 experts from the Ministry of Agriculture in Jordan.

Training Workshop on Environmental Impact Assessment

SESRIC in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization of Turkey organized a Training Workshop on “Environmental Impact Assessment” within the framework of the Environment Capacity Building Programme (Environment-CaB) on 22-24 May 2017 in Ankara, Turkey. The training was attended by 24 environment experts from 14 OIC member countries, namely, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Gambia, Jordan, Maldives, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Suriname, Somalia Tunisia, Turkey and Uganda. The training included theoretical knowledge exchanging and practical course given by 5 experts from Turkey and Pakistan.

Training Course on Environmental Sensitivity Mapping in Suriname

SESRIC organised a Training Course on “Environmental Sensitivity Mapping in Suriname” within the framework of the Environment Capacity Building Programme (Environment-CaB) on 15-17 March 2017 in Paramaribo, Suriname. The training course mainly focused on the subjects of geographic information system technology, controlling the imagery, mapping and delivering the shoreline, environmental mapping and introduction to geographical information system.

Training Course on Cotton Varieties and Efficient Cultivation Technologies

SESRIC organised a training course on ‘Cotton Varieties and Efficient Cultivation Technologies’ within the framework of Capacity Building Project on Development of Cotton Sector in OIC member countries on 15-19 May 2017 in Baku, Azerbaijan. The target group of the training course were experts from Agrarian Science Consultation and Information Center, Ganca Cotton Research

Institute, Genetic Resources Institute of ANAS, State Sort Testing Commission. The training course was held for 5 days including four days for theoretical knowledge and one day for practical work where seeds from Turkey were planted to cap the programme.

Training Course on Integrated Pest Management and Crop Management

SESRIC organized a training course on “Integrated Pest Management and Crop Management” within the framework of the OIC Cotton Training Program (OIC-CTP) on 3-5 May 2017 in Kampala, Uganda. The course was provided by the Professors from Centre of Excellence in Molecular Biology, University of the Punjab, Pakistan. The target groups of this training course were experts from the Cotton Development Organization, the National Agricultural Research Organization and Operation Wealth Creation in Kampala.

MoU signed with the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock of Turkey

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed with Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock (MFAL) of the Republic of Turkey on 17 March 2017 in Ankara, Turkey in order to enhance cooperation among OIC member countries (OIC MCs) in the field of food, agriculture and livestock by means of establishing joint programmes and initiatives.

Training Course on Future Prospects of Agroforestry in Sustainable Rural/Community Development

SESRIC organised a training course on “The Future Prospects of Agroforestry in Sustainable Rural Development” within the framework of the Environmental Capacity Building Programme (Environment-CaB) on 13-15 December 2016 in Banjul, the Gambia. The training course mainly focused on agro-forestry, forest management, deforestation, reforestation/afforestation issues in gambia in particular and the world in general.

Practical and Theoretical Training Course on The Use of Advanced Technology in Cotton Production

SESRIC organised a five days training course on “The Use of Advanced Technology in Cotton Production” within the framework of the OIC Cotton Capacity Building Programme (OIC-CTP) on 12-16 December 2016 in Lahore and Multan, Pakistan. The training course mainly focused on the topics of genetic modification of cotton competent cells preparation, agrobacterium inoculum preparation and electroporation, embryo isolation and treatment, demonstration about biolistic gun, culturing of treated embryo on ms medium.

OIC Environment Report

This report discusses major environmental issues in OIC member countries against the backdrop of historic Paris Agreement on Climate Change. The report analyses the latest data and information on greenhouse gases emissions and climate change mitigation, adaptation and financing strategies in OIC countries. Based on the findings of data analysis, the report provides policy recommendations for enhancing bilateral and intra-OIC regional cooperation to address the major environmental challenges in OIC member countries.

6. ALLEVIATING POVERTY

The following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item of alleviating poverty:

Statistical Capacity Building Programme (StatCaB)

No	Subject	Date	Beneficiary	Provider	Partner	Venue
1	Training Course on 'Health Statistics'	25-29 December 2016	Sudan (Central Bureau of Statistics)	Palestine (Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics)	-	Khartoum, Sudan
2	Training Course on 'Gender Statistics'	17-18 January 2017	Djibouti (Department of Statistics and Demographic Studies)	Morocco (Department of Statistics)	-	Djibouti City, Djibouti
3	Training Course on 'Gender Statistics'	29-31 January 2017	Bangladesh (Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics)	Indonesia (BPS-Statistics Indonesia)	-	Dhaka, Bangladesh
4	Training Course on 'Labour Cost Statistics'	6-7 March 2017	Indonesia (BPS-Statistics Indonesia)	Turkey (Turkish Statistical Institute)	-	Jakarta, Indonesia
5	Training Course on 'Environment Statistics'	20-22 March 2017	Qatar (Ministry of Development Planning & Statistics)	Turkey (Turkish Statistical Institute)	-	Doha, Qatar
6	Training Course on 'Population and Migration Statistics'	28-30 March 2017	Benin (National Institute of Statistics and Economic Analysis)	Senegal (National Agency of Statistics and Demographics)	-	Cotonou, Benin
7	Study Visit on 'Environment Statistics'	24-26 April 2017	Morocco (Department of Statistics)	Jordan (Department of Statistics)	-	Amman, Jordan
8	Training Course on 'Education Statistics'	2-4 May 2017	Educational Center of ISESCO in Chad	Sudan (Central Bureau of Statistics)	-	N'Djamena, Chad
9	Training Course on 'Living Conditions and Poverty Statistics'	16-18 May 2017	Benin (National Institute of Statistics and Economic Analysis)	Mali (National Institute of Statistics)	-	Cotonou, Benin
10	Training Course on 'Energy Statistics'	2-4 July 2017	Sudan (Central Bureau of Statistics)	Egypt (Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics)	-	Khartoum, Sudan

11	Training Course on 'Health Statistics'	9-10 July 2017	Maldives (National Bureau of Statistics)	Bangladesh (Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics)	-	Male, Maldives
12	Study Visit on 'Price Statistics'	17-19 July 2017	Iraq (Central Statistical Organization)	Jordan (Department of Statistics)	-	Amman, Jordan
13	Training Course on 'Health Statistics'	18-20 July 2017	Algeria (Office National des Statistiques)	Tunisia (National Institute of Statistics)	-	Algiers, Algeria
14	Training Course on 'Price Statistics'	18-20 July 2017	Brunei (Department of Economic Planning and Development)	Bangladesh (Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics)	-	Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei
15	Training Course on 'Gender Statistics'	18-20 July 2017	Benin (National Institute of Statistics and Economic Analysis)	Cote d'Ivoire (National Institute of Statistics)	-	Cotonou, Benin
16	Training Course on 'Social Protection Statistics'	25-27 July 2017	Cote d'Ivoire (National Institute of Statistics)	Tunisia (National Institute of Statistics)	-	Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire
17	Training Course on 'Population and Migration Statistics'	7-9 August 2017	Iran (Statistical Centre of Iran)	Indonesia (BPS-Statistics Indonesia)	-	Tehran, Iran
18	Training Course on 'Business Statistics'	15-17 August 2017	Uganda (Uganda Bureau of Statistics)	Gambia (Gambia Bureau of Statistics)	-	Kampala, Uganda
19	Training Course on 'Health Statistics'	22-24 August 2017	Malaysia (Department of Statistics)	Indonesia (BPS-Statistics Indonesia)	-	Putrajaya, Malaysia
20	Training Course on 'Population and Housing Censuses; Registers of Population, Dwellings and Buildings'	22-24 August 2017	Brunei (Department of Economic Planning and Development)	Indonesia (BPS-Statistics Indonesia)	-	Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei
21	Training Course on 'Education Statistics'	11-13 September 2017	Pakistan (Pakistan Bureau of Statistics)	Malaysia (Department of Statistics)	-	Islamabad, Pakistan
22	Technical Mission on 'International Statistical Classifications'	11-12 September 2017	Bahrain (Information and eGovernment Authority)	Jordan (Department of Statistics)	-	Manama, Bahrain
23	Technical Mission on	13-14	Bahrain	Jordan	-	Manama,

	‘International Standard Classification of Occupations’	September 2017	(Information and eGovernment Authority)	(Department of Statistics)		Bahrain
24	Training Course on ‘Health Statistics’	18-20 September 2017	Pakistan (Pakistan Bureau of Statistics)	Indonesia (BPS-Statistics Indonesia)	-	Islamabad, Pakistan
25	Training Course on ‘Entrepreneurship Statistics’	18-20 September 2017	Kazakhstan (Committee on Statistics of the Ministry of National Economics)	Turkey (Turkish Statistical Institute)	-	Almaty, Kazakhstan
26	Study Visit on ‘Income and Consumption Statistics’	19-21 September 2017	Libya (Libyan Bureau of Statistics and Censu)	Tunisia (National Institute of Statistics)	-	Tunis, Tunisia
27	Training Course on ‘Metadata’	19-21 September 2017	Benin (National Institute of Statistics and Economic Analysis)	Cameroon (National Statistical Institute)	-	Cotonou, Benin
28	Training Course on ‘Business Surveys’	4-6 October 2017	Suriname (General Bureau of Statistics)	Turkey (Turkish Statistical Institute)	-	Paramaribo, Suriname
29	Training Course on ‘Household Surveys’	23-25 October 2017	Suriname (General Bureau of Statistics)	Uganda (Uganda Bureau of Statistics)	-	Paramaribo, Suriname

- Related to poverty alleviation, OICStat database of SESRIC includes 22 indicators on Demography, 42 indicators on Education, 5 indicators on Energy, 5 indicators on Environment, 10 indicators on Gender, 21 indicators on Health, 6 indicators on Industry and Manufacturing, 21 indicators on Infrastructure, 22 indicators on Labour Force and Occupational Safety, 8 indicators on Money and Prices, 34 indicators on National Accounts, 10 indicators on Science, Technology and Innovation, 10 indicators on Tobacco Control, 18 indicators on Water, which are being updated regularly.

Prevention and Mitigation of Natural Disasters in Afghanistan

This study provides a comprehensive overview of the past natural disasters and offer strategic approaches in preventing and mitigating the potential disasters in Afghanistan. It also includes analyses of the state-of-the-art approaches in response to and recovery from these disasters and provide relevant recommendations. The analyses focuses on the most vulnerable people in crisis-laden and disaster-prone areas.

Humanitarian Crises in OIC Countries: Drivers, Impacts, Current Challenges and Potential Remedies

This report reviews the current humanitarian crises in the OIC countries as well as in non-OIC countries involving Muslim communities. It highlights the main drivers and impacts of humanitarian crises in a broader perspective. The report focuses on four main drivers as the root causes of humanitarian crises. These are armed conflicts, occupation and oppression; political and economic stability and governance; climate change and natural hazards; and epidemics. While studying the major consequences of humanitarian disasters, five key areas for the assessment of the impacts are reflected in this report. These are human deprivation; state fragility; economic collapse; human rights violation; and migration and displacement. The overall objective of this report is to develop a diagnostic approach on the major humanitarian crises in the OIC member countries through promoting joint initiatives on strengthening resilience to humanitarian crises and advocating collaborative actions for strengthening the institutional capacities of the countries that experience/d devastating natural disasters and man-made crises.

OIC Labour Report 2017

This report provides a detailed account of labour market conditions in the OIC member countries with a view to identifying and assessing the fundamental problems and challenges in the labour markets of the OIC countries. The report also discusses some important aspects of labour market policy and developments. These include problem of labour market inactivity, labour market policies for reducing unemployment, employment of persons with disabilities and economic reintegration of ex-offenders and displaced people.

OIC Health Report 2017

The OIC Health Report 2017 evaluates the health performance of OIC member countries by analysing the trends in major health indicators at the OIC group level as well as at the individual country level. The report is mainly structured around the six thematic areas of cooperation identified under the OIC Strategic Health Programme of Action (OIC-SHPA) 2014-2023. At the end, the report provides some policy implications for OIC member countries to overcome the challenges facing them in developing sustainable health systems.

Elderly and People with Special Needs in OIC Member Countries

This report looks at the profile of elderly people and people with special needs in three sub-groups: people with mental disabilities, people with psychological special needs, and people with physical disabilities. For each group of people, specific policy recommendations are listed by benefiting from the best-practices being implemented in different countries to address needs of these people with a view to improving their overall well-being. The report also provides a detailed discussion on existing cultural and social barriers (e.g. norms and prejudices) for elderly people and people with special needs in OIC member countries, and concludes with concrete policy recommendations in this context.

Labour Market Strategy Proposal

The 3rd Session of the Islamic Conference of Labour Ministers (ICLM) held in Jakarta, Indonesia in 2015 requested SESRIC to prepare a strategy proposal for labour market in OIC member countries. The draft document proposes five areas of cooperation: encouraging participation to labour market; enhancing employability; protecting the workers' safety and well-being; promoting labour productivity; and reducing unemployment. It will be submitted to the 4th ICLM to be held in Saudi Arabia in November 2017.

Meeting of the Delegates of the National Statistical Offices of the OIC Member Countries

SESRIC, in its capacity as the Secretariat of the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom), organised the Annual Meeting with the Delegates of National Statistical Offices of OIC member countries on 8 March 2017 as a side event meeting of the 48th Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission in New York, USA. The meeting was attended by a total of 34 participants (26 representatives from 17 OIC member countries including Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Cameroon, Egypt, Guyana, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Senegal, and Tunisia together with 6 international and regional agencies including AITRS, GCCStat, IDB, SESRIC, UNESCWA, and UNSD). During the meeting, SESRIC statistical activities and how to expand the spectrum of these activities to cover SDG indicators were discussed.

OPHI Summer School on Multidimensional Poverty Measurement & Analysis

The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) in partnership with Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) organised the OPHI Summer School on ‘Multidimensional Poverty Measurement & Analysis’ on 3 – 15 July 2017 in Marrakesh, Kingdom of Morocco. The purpose of this intensive summer school was to provide a technical and practical introduction to multidimensional poverty measurement with a strong emphasis on the Alkire-Foster method.

Workshop on Tobacco Questions for Surveys (TQS): Data Analysis & Dissemination

The Workshop on ‘Tobacco Questions for Surveys (TQS): Data Analysis and Dissemination’ was organised by SESRIC in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and CDC Foundation on 16-17 August 2017 in Ankara, Republic of Turkey. The said workshop had the objective to share the knowledge and experiences encountered throughout the integration process of TQS into ongoing surveys and provide comprehensive information and technical support to the OIC member countries in the way forward. The workshop was attended by 38 delegates from the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and Ministries of Health of 13 OIC member countries including Cameroon, Chad, Cote d’Ivoire, Gabon, Gambia, Indonesia, Mali, Palestine, Qatar, Sierra Leone, Suriname, Tajikistan and Turkey. The representatives of the CDC Foundation, the World Health Organization (WHO) Headquarters, WHO Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (WHO-EMRO), WHO Turkey Office and Turkish Green Crescent (YESILAY) also participated in the workshop.

Regional Meeting of Labour Statisticians in Preparation for the 20th ICLS

The ‘Regional Meeting of Labour Statisticians in Preparation for the 20th International Conference on Labour Statisticians (ICLS)’ was organised by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in collaboration with SESRIC and GCC-STAT on 9 - 11 October 2017 in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman. The main purpose of this preparatory regional meeting was to bring the consultation and technical discussions to countries in the region, to ensure that the revised draft standard to be prepared by the ILO adequately reflects the labour markets and labour force data priorities of the region.

High-level Meeting of the Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network

SESRIC was invited to deliver a distinguished keynote address at a high-level meeting of a leading network of senior policymakers hosted by the International Poverty Reduction Centre of China (IPRCC) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) from the University of Oxford. The meeting took place on 17-19 October 2017 in Beijing, China. This annual high-level meeting allowed government ministers to share innovative work and exchange lessons-learned, including what works and what does not in this new field.

OIC Statistical Briefing Based on the 2016 Human Development Report

The Human Development Report Office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP HDRO) announced its “Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Statistical Briefing Based on the 2016 Human Development Report” on 12 July 2017 in New York, USA. The Statistical Briefing is a first step in paving the way for cooperation between SESRIC and UNDP HDRO for exploring the possibility towards the preparation of the OIC Human Development Report.

SESRIC and General Directorate of Statistics and Economic Studies (DGSEE) of Gabonese Republic signed MoA

The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) and the General Directorate of Statistics and Economic Studies (DGSEE) of Gabonese Republic signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) to facilitate collaboration and cooperation between both institutions within the framework of the project titled “Integration of the ‘Tobacco Questions for Surveys (TQS)’ into the National Surveys in Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Member States”. The MoA was signed on the sideline of the Workshop on ‘Tobacco Questions for Surveys (TQS): Data Analysis & Dissemination’ which was held on 16-17 August 2017 in Ankara, Republic of Turkey.

Health in Africa Congress

Health in Africa Congress was organised by the Federation of Islamic Medical Associations (FIMA) in collaboration with the Turkish Ministry of Health, Hayat Foundation, and Istanbul Medeniyet University on 20-21 July in Istanbul, Turkey. The scientific congress addressed the themes of “Health Challenges in Africa and the Way Forward”, “Modernization, Globalization and Health in the African Context”, “Humanitarian and Healthcare Aid in Africa”, “Health Education in Africa”, “Health Organization in Africa”, and “Turkey and Africa”. The Congress gathered together government representatives, decision makers, NGO members, relief organizations and academics from all over the world.

SESRIC Signed MoU with the World Bank

The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the World Bank to initiate and facilitate statistical collaboration and cooperation between the two institutions. The MoU was signed on 19 July 2017 on the margins of the Special Event on the ‘Data Revolution for the Sustainable Development Goals’ at the 61st ISI World Statistics Congress in Marrakech, Morocco.

SESRIC Attended to the Data Revolution for the Sustainable Development Goals Panel

SESRIC attended to the Special Event on ‘The Data Revolution for the Sustainable Development Goals’ as a pannelist level on 19 July 2017 which was hosted by the High Commission for Planning of the Kingdom of Morocco and the Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics of the State of Qatar in the margins of the 61st ISI World Statistics Congress (WSC).

Training Course on Project Cycle Management (PCM)

SESRIC organised the training course on “Project Cycle Management (PCM)”, in collaboration with the Ministry for EU Affairs of the Republic of Turkey at SESRIC Headquarters in Ankara, Turkey on 3 January 2017 and 10-11 January 2017 respectively. The course was designed for developing skills of the participants in project preparation, project design, project implementation, as well as monitoring and evaluation of the implemeting projects. The training course was provided and facilitated by senior experts of the Ministry for EU Affairs.

Meeting on Scaling up and enhancing partnership for sustainable results among IDB Member Countries

Islamic Development Bank (IDB) organised a meeting on “Scaling up and enhancing partnership for sustainable results among IDB Member Countries” in collaboration with the International and Technical Cooperation Agencies (I&TCA) at IDB Headquarters in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on 14-15 December 2016. SESRIC participated in the meeting with the purpose of sharing its actual and potential contribution on south-south and triangular cooperation for the benefit of OIC member countries and share its willingness to establish new partnerships, as well as to agree on joint projects and innovative practical solutions that might be implemented bilaterally, multilaterally and within the diverse institutional partnerships and networks so as to best contribute towards the implementation of the OIC 2025 Programme of Action and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

Training on Effective Leadership and Management of Development Organizations

SESRIC in collaboration with the Institute of NGO Leadership and Management in Pakistan organized a training on “Effective Leadership and Management of Development Organizations” which was held on 02-05 May 2017 in Islamabad, Pakistan. The main aim of the training was to strengthen the leadership and management capacities of the development organizations and NGOs based in Pakistan. The training gave to participants the necessary skills to respond to the multidimensional challenges and opportunities facing their organizations and communities. Designed as an experiential leadership lab, the program provided a stimulating and supportive climate for exploring the pressing issues facing current and future nonprofit leaders.

8th Dakar International Exhibition of Health and Medicine Equipment

Centre International du Commerce Extérieur du Sénégal organized the ‘8th Dakar International Exhibition of Health and Medicine Equipment’ on 28 June to 1 July 2017 at the Exhibition grounds of CICES in Dakar, Senegal. This event was organized within the framework of OIC Strategic Health Programme of Action (OIC-SHPA) 2014-2023. The Expo offered a framework of annual meeting exhibitions and scientific exchanges for the professionals of health from Senegal and foreign countries, operating in the sectors of medical equipment, pharmaceuticals products and public health.

Capacity Development Training on South-South & Triangular Cooperation for the Representatives of Technical Cooperation Agencies

SESRIC in collaboration with United Nation Office for South-South Cooperation, the Islamic Development Bank and United Nations System Staff College organized a capacity building training on “South-South & Triangular Cooperation (SS & TC)” on the sidelines of the “Astana Economic Forum” which was held on 12-14 June 2017 in Astana, Kazakhstan. The purpose of the training programme was to provide the participants with a common understanding of the theory and practice to help promote the South-South and Triangular Cooperation in their respective countries in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Subregional Workshop on Data and Statistics for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for High-Level Official Statisticians

The United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (UNSIAP) in collaboration with the State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan organised the Subregional Workshop on Data and Statistics for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for High-Level Official Statisticians on 30-31 May 2017 in Baku, Azerbaijan. The objective of the workshop was to enhance the capacity of heads of National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and their senior managers to provide leadership of National Statistical Systems (NSSs) to prioritize actions for the accelerated development of a solid

framework of SDGs indicators and statistical data meeting the requirements of the 2030 Agenda, with a focus on the need to enhance the skills base of staff through various activities.

First Meeting of the OIC-VET Working Group on Qualification and Quality Assurance System and Occupational Standards

SESRIC organized the First Meeting of the Working Group on Working Group on Qualification and Quality Assurance System and Occupational Standards on 24-25 May 2017 in Ankara, Turkey. The objective of the Working Group was to develop the comprehensive multinational TVET strategy action plan for OIC Member Countries. Working groups were established in accordance with the decision taken at the workshop on “Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in OIC Member Countries: Needs and Capacity Assessment” which was held on 09-11 May 2016 in Ankara, Turkey. The main objective of these working groups were to develop cooperation among the institutions in order to improve the quality of TVET systems in line with the Sustainable Development Goals of 2030 Agenda as well as the OIC 2025 Programme of Action.

Improving Lives and Wellness in OIC Countries: Prevention, Early Detection & Treatment of Cancer

The spread of cancer has become a major public health concern in OIC member countries, which is adversely affecting socio-economic efforts of government and partners. More than half of the OIC member countries lack the capacities to tackle chronic diseases or address their major underlying causes. To highlight this challenge and in line with the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) mission of fostering comprehensive human development in its MCs, a side event on “Improving Lives and Wellness in OIC Countries: Prevention, Early Detection & Treatment of Cancer” was held on 16 May 2017, during the 42nd Annual Meeting of the Islamic Development Bank Group. The event hosted a number of First Ladies from OIC MCs who made opening remarks where they renewed their commitment to expand cancer prevention and control. This was followed by a panel discussion hosting leading speakers from governments, NGOs, universities and development institutions was moderated SESRIC.

Improving Occupational Health and Safety in Mauritania-Support for Legislation Development: Study Visit to Mauritania

As part of continued efforts of SESRIC to realize the objectives of the “Improving Occupational Health and Safety in Mauritania” project, The Centre in collaboration with the General Directorate of Occupational Health and Safety (DGOHS) operating under the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of the Republic of Turkey (MoLSS) organized a study visit to The National Occupational Health Office (ONMT) on 14-19 May 2017 in Nouakchott, Mauritania. The study visit, which was the final stage of the legislation background improvement component of the capacity building project, was successfully completed by the experts of DGOHS and as a result of series of consultation and technical work, draft legislation and regulation sets were submitted to the ONMT for its further action for the adaptation. Additionally, prepared regulation drafts were shared with the stakeholders from Workers’ Unions, public and private sector for providing the contributions of social partners to the process. Last but not the least, an easily understandable guideline which describes the draft legislation was prepared in an attempt to introduce the final legislation draft to the stakeholders of workers, employers and government.

Workshop on Key Infrastructure Development for Rural Growth for OIC Countries

SESRIC participated in the Workshop on Key Infrastructure Development for Rural Growth for OIC Countries, organized by Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA), in collaboration with the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation (PGTF), Food and

Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) and the Union Chamber and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) on 24-26 April 2017, in Istanbul, Turkey. The aim of the workshop was to spell out the need for the OIC member countries to develop an appropriate infrastructure for a competitive and sustainable supply chain, which is the key for poverty reduction and rural growth. During the technical sessions, SESRIC made a presentation on State of Agricultural and Rural Development in OIC member countries.

Joint Planning Meeting for the Second Regional Networking Forum and Capacity Development Training for Technical Cooperation Agencies

The Joint Planning Meeting for the Regional Networking Forum and Capacity Development Training for Technical Cooperation Agencies was hosted by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) Istanbul Office on 13-14 February 2017 in Istanbul, Turkey. Together with SESRIC, the meeting was participated by the Astana Regional Hub of Civil Service in Astana (RHCS), Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan (MNE), and the Islamic Development Bank Group (IDB). The main aim of the meeting was to initiate necessary preparations for the planned Second Regional Networking Forum and the capacity building training which will be held in Astana on the sidelines of the Astana Economic Forum in Kazakhstan.

General Guidelines on Occupational Safety and Health

The Resolution of the Standardization Department regarding the adoption of the new OIC/SMIIC Standard on “General Guidelines on Occupational Safety and Health” was announced by the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC). SESRIC intensively contributed to the preparation process of the guidelines together with its working partners. The aim of the guidelines are to set common standards to be implemented across the OIC region where the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC) seeks to ensure the protection of consumers and the interoperability of products, and also to strengthen marketplace position of the OIC member countries in the global economy while fostering innovation and free trade initiatives.

Workshop on the Implementation of the SDG Indicator Framework in the ESCWA Region

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in collaboration with the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD) organised the Workshop on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Indicator Framework on 5-6 April 2017 in Beirut, Republic of Lebanon with the participation of 13 ESCWA member countries including Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mauritania, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, and Yemen and regional and international agencies including GCCStat, ILO, SESRIC, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN HABITAT, UNICEF, UN Resident Coordinator’s Office, UN Women, and WHO.

SESRIC signed MoU with TODAIE

SESRIC and Public Administration Institute for Turkey and Middle East (TODAIE) signed a Memorandum of Understanding, signaling a commitment by both institutions to enhanced co-operation. The MoU which tied together the two institutions in formal collaboration is aimed at mutual cooperation in the field of research, statistics, capacity building, publications and other relevant areas. The signing ceremony took place on Thursday, 30 March 2017 at the SESRIC headquarters in Ankara.

International Trade Unionism and Social Policy Training Programme

The Certificate Ceremony for International Trade Unionism and Social Policy Training Programme was held on 25 May 2017 in Ankara, Turkey. During the ceremony, certificates of participation were distributed to 25 participants attending from 25 different confederations of the OIC member countries. The two months programme provided the participants with a chance to improve their awareness and knowledge with issues related to trade unionism and social policy.

International Workshop on Trade Unionism and Social Policy

SESRIC, in collaboration with MEMUR-SEN and TODAİE, organized an international workshop on “Trade Unionism and Social Policy” on 17-18 May 2017 in Ankara, Republic of Turkey. The workshop was organized on the margins of “International Trade Unionism and Social Policy Certificate Programme”, a two-month training programme organized in partnership with SESRIC, MEMUR-SEN and TODAİE, aimed at obtaining a common background with respect to labour and international relations, improve external relations capacity of confederations, facilitate exchange of knowledge and experience, and provide a ground for the establishment of cooperation among the confederations.

Project Consultation Meeting on Global Muslims Diaspora

SESRIC hosted a consultation meeting on “The Global Muslim Diaspora Project” (GMD) on 28 March 2017 at its headquarters in Ankara, Turkey. The meeting was attended by Ambassadors of OIC member countries as well as representatives from host countries. The Global Muslim Diaspora Project (GMD) aims at mapping the societal, economic, and legal presence and influence of Muslim communities in predominantly non-Muslim societies. The meeting informed the participants about the scope, methodology and outputs of the project, and collected the comments and suggestions from the audience.

Strengthening Coordination and Capacity Building on Preparedness and Response for Health Emergencies in OIC Member Countries: Sudan Study visit

Under Thematic Area 5 on Emergency Health Response and Interventions of the Strategic Health Programme of Action (SHPA), SESRIC organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Health of Turkey a study visit for 5 delegates from the Ministry of Health of Sudan on 6-8 March 2017 in the cities of Ankara and Izmir, Turkey. The study visit aimed to present the health emergencies facilities of the Ministry of Health of Turkey in Ankara, Urfa and Izmir and discuss ways and means for developing a project on “Strengthening Coordination and Capacity Building on Preparedness and Response for Health Emergencies in OIC Member Countries” to improve health status of Ummah in health emergencies.

Second Regional Networking Forum on South-South and Triangular Cooperation

The Second Regional Networking Forum for the Arab States, Europe and the CIS on South-South and Triangular Cooperation was jointly organised by SESRIC, UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), Islamic Development Bank (IDB), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and a number of other key regional and global stakeholders on 15 June 2017 in Astana, Kazakhstan. The Forum was hosted by the Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan with the support from the Regional Hub of Civil Service in Astana and within the framework of the Astana Economic Forum. The more specific thematic focus of the Forum was on the role of South-South Cooperation in promoting Green Economy partnerships in implementing the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

OIC Ministerial Conference on the Marriage and Family Institution and the Preservation of its Values in Member Countries

SESRIC attended to The First Session of the Ministerial Conference on Strengthening Marriage and Family Institution and Preserving its Values in OIC Member Countries which was held on 8-9 February 2017 in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under the theme “Towards an OIC Approach to Empower the Marriage and Family Institution and the Preservation of its Values”. The topics of the conference included a review of the member countries’ efforts in the area of empowering the marriage and family institution, diagnosing the challenges faced by the Member countries in the area of preventing the values of the family institution and suggesting appropriate solutions and mechanisms for the activation of the family’s role in achieving the objectives of sustainable development in the Member Countries.

Theoretical and Practical Training Course on Occupational Safety and Health

SESRIC organised a Theoretical and Practical training course on ‘Occupational Safety and Health’ within the framework of Occupational Safety and Health Capacity Building (OSHCaB) Programme of OIC member countries on 30 January–02 February 2017 in Kampala, Uganda. The course was provided by 2 experts from Ministry of Labour and Social Security, Republic of Turkey. The target group of this training course were experts from Federation of Uganda Employers , National Organisation of Trade Unions (NOTU), Nakawa Vocational Training Institute, College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology, Makerere University, National Social Security Fund (NSSF).

Study Visit and Training Course on Occupational Safety: Risk Assessment in Uganda

SESRIC organised a training course on “Occupational Safety” on 09-12 January 2017 in Kampala, Uganda. The training course was provided by the OSH experts at the General Directorate of Occupational Health and Safety (DGOHS) under the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of the Republic of Turkey with the attendance of participants from the Occupational Safety Department of the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Republic of Uganda.

Capacity Development Training for Syrian NGOs in Istanbul

SESRIC, Ilke NGO Academy, Ensar Vaqf, OIC Humanitarian Affairs Department (OIC ICHAD) and Syrian Associations Platform jointly organised a training course on “NGO Management” within the framework of the OIC NGO Capacity Building Programme (OIC NGO-CaB) on 27-29 January 2017 in Istanbul, Turkey. The training course was delivered by academicians from the universities of the Republic of Turkey with the participation of relevant members of the Syrian NGOs. The training course on “NGO management” focused on the topics of volunteer management, media communication, financial management, organisational management, project management, law of associations and association accountancy.

Training on Emergency Obstetrics and C-Section in War

Under Thematic Area 3 on Maternal, New-born and Child Health and Nutrition and Thematic Area 5 on Emergency Health Response and Interventions of the Strategic Health Programme of Action (SHPA), SESRIC organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Health of Turkey (MoH) and the Union of Medical Care and Relief Organisations (UOSSM) an on-site training on Emergency Obstetrics and C-Section in War for a period of two weeks on 17-31 January 2017 for the benefit of 2 Syrian doctors and 4 midwives at Zeynep Kamil Obstetrics and Gynecology Hospital in Istanbul, Turkey.

Training Course on Health and Safety Management System and Risk Assessment Methodologies in Palestine

SESRIC organised a training course on ‘Health and Safety Management System and Risk Assessment Methodologies’ in collaboration with the Tunisian Occupational Safety and Health Institute (TOSHI), at the Ministry of Labour, State of Palestine on 9-13 January 2017 in Ramallah, Palestine. The training course was provided by Mr. Abdelmajid Hidri, Director of Safety Department and Mr. Sassi Mohsen, Safety Expert of TOSHI with the attendance of relevant safety experts from the Ministry of Labour, State of Palestine.

First Meeting of the Working Group on Preparation of Strategic Plan on OIC-VET

SESRIC organised the First Meeting of the Working Group on Preparation of Strategic Plan on OIC-VET on 20-21 December 2016 in Ankara, Turkey. The objective of the Working Group was to develop the Roadmap and Terms of Reference (ToR) for the preparation of a comprehensive multinational strategic plan for OIC member countries, and was attended by senior experts, working in this specific area from TVET authorities from OIC member countries which are member of the working group, as well as the relevant OIC Institutions.

Improving Occupational Health and Safety in Mauritania-Support for Legislation Development: Study Visit to Mauritania

SESRIC organised in collaboration with the General Directorate of Occupational Health and Safety (DGOHS) operating under the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of the Republic of Turkey (MoLSS) a study visit to the National Occupational Health Office (ONMT) on 19-23 December 2016 in Nouakchott, Mauritania. The overall aim of the project was to improve Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) legislation structure of the state by utilizing the expertise of the DGOHS, as a resource center. The study visit was organised as a diagnostic purpose for the first leg of the project namely “Support for Legislation Development”.

Knowledge Sharing Workshop on Tobacco Control Policies for OIC Member Countries

SESRIC in collaboration with the Ministry of Health of Turkey and the Turkish Green Crescent Society organised the “Knowledge Sharing Workshop on Tobacco Control Policies for OIC Member Countries” on 14-16 December 2016 in Istanbul, Turkey. The workshop gathered experts from the Ministries of Health and Ministries of Finance in OIC member countries, who are responsible for evaluating, drafting, enforcing, and implementing tobacco control policies; and represented a platform for sharing knowledge on the essentials of comprehensive tobacco control policies and best practices for the tobacco policy implementation.

Moving from MDGs to SDGs: Prospects and Challenges for OIC Member Countries

As the international community move from Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), there is a need to evaluate the achievements of OIC member countries in terms of MDGs and review the prospects and challenges towards achieving the newly adopted SDGs. In this context, this study provides a comprehensive analysis of the progress towards achieving the MDGs in OIC member countries based on the latest statistics and information. The study also identified some major challenges and prospects for achieving the SDGs in OIC member countries.

7. DEEPENING FINANCIAL COOPERATION

The following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item of deepening financial cooperation:

Statistical Capacity Building Programme (StatCaB)

No	Subject	Date	Beneficiary	Provider	Partner	Venue
1	Training Course on 'Government Finance, Fiscal and Public Sector Statistics'	6-8 Dec 2016	Brunei (Department of Economic Planning and Development)	Indonesia (BPS-Statistics Indonesia)	-	Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei
2	Training Course on 'Banking, Insurance, and Financial Statistics'	8-11 January 2017	Bangladesh (Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics)	Iran (Statistical Centre of Iran)	-	Dhaka, Bangladesh
3	Study Visit on 'Banking, Insurance, and Financial Statistics'	17-19 July 2017	Indonesia (BPS-Statistics Indonesia)	Turkey (Turkish Statistical Institute)	-	Ankara Turkey
4	Study Visit on 'Government Finance, Fiscal and Public Sector Statistics'	1-3 August 2017	Uganda (Uganda Bureau of Statistics)	Turkey (Turkish Statistical Institute)	-	Ankara Turkey

- Related to finance, OICStat database of SESRIC includes 16 indicators which are being updated regularly.

Workshop on Development Finance Statistics

SESRIC in collaboration with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) organised the Workshop on Development Finance Statistics on 12-13 July 2017 in Ankara, Republic of Turkey. The Workshop was attended by 46 delegates from the Ministries of Finance, Ministries of Foreign Affairs, National Development Assistance Agencies, National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and other relevant governmental institutions of 18 OIC member countries as well as representatives from international organisations including Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and UNDP Regional Centre for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). The objective of the workshop was to introduce the key concepts and methodologies on development finance statistics, identify existing obstacles and challenges of integrating development finance statistics into national statistical systems (NSSs) and data reporting, and exchange experiences and share good practices among participating countries.

Consultative Meeting on Developing Islamic Finance Industry Database for OIC Member Countries

SESRIC organised Consultative Meeting (CM) on Developing Islamic Finance Industry Database for OIC member countries on 24 September 2017 in Muğla, Republic of Turkey. National Statistical Offices, Central Banks and Monetary Authorities, Capital Market Authorities, Insurance Supervisory Authorities of OIC member countries and international organisations were attended the CM. The main objectives of the CM are to brief the National Statistical Offices and Financial Regulatory and Supervisory Authorities of OIC member countries about the SESRIC Project on Developing Islamic Finance Industry Database and ultimately gather feedback from the representatives of the stakeholders.

Training Course on Money and Banking Statistics in Somalia

SESRIC organized the Training Course on “Money and Banking Statistics” at Central Bank of Somalia (CBS) during 19-21 December 2016. The training course focused on the topics of institutional units and sectors, characteristics and classification of financial instruments, stock, flows and accounting rules, money, liquidity, credit and debt, compilation framework for monetary statistics and standardized report forms.

The Fourth International Islamic Economics and Finance Summer School

The Fourth International Islamic Economics and Finance Summer School was organized on 10-14 July 2017 in Istanbul, Turkey. The programme lasted for five days and covered theoretical lectures and practical activities. Coming from different countries and with strong credentials, the training staff have consisted of expert academicians and professional practitioners who have publications on national and international level. The programme was attended by participants who have interest in the field of Islamic economics, finance and banking as well as the candidates of economics, political sciences, business and theology background.

First Meeting of the TOSSD Task Force

The First Meeting of the Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD) Task Force was organized by the Development Co-operation Directorate (DCD) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in collaboration with the OECD Statistics Directorate and with the support of the United Nations (UN) Statistics Division and UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development (IATF) on 6 July 2017 at OECD Conference Centre in Paris, France. The Meeting was attended by the National Statistics Offices (NSOs) of Colombia, France, Mexico, Philippines, Senegal, South Africa, and United Kingdom; OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) and non-DAC providers from Canada, Costa Rica, Denmark, European Union (EU), France, Japan, and United States of America (USA); and partner country development policy makers from Bangladesh, Ghana, and Timor Leste.

Seminar on Modeling the Youth Economic Empowerment in Palestine

SESRIC participated in a seminar, themed Modeling the Youth Economic Empowerment in Palestine, which took place on 15 May 2017 in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The seminar was attended by officials from IDBG Member countries, development partners, donor agencies, private actors and NGOs. The seminar was organized on the sidelines of the 42nd Annual Meeting of the Islamic Development Bank Group, and discussed experiences in the field of youth employability in Palestine and other countries, as well as the importance of youth empowerment as an enabler for transformative resilience, sustainable development and economic growth. In that context, the seminar presented

practical models for strengthening youth empowerment using tested and assessed examples from Palestine, Jordan, and Indonesia.

Regional Seminar on Financial Inclusion Strategies in South Asia: Methodology and Perspectives

SESRIC participated in a regional seminar on “Financial Inclusion Strategies in South East Asia: Methodology and Perspectives” to be jointly organized by Association of National Development Finance Institutions in Member Countries of the Islamic Development Bank (ADFIMI) and Zarai Taraqati Bank Limited on 28 – 29 March 2017 in Islamabad, Pakistan. The overall objective of the two-day program was to create awareness on the importance of financial inclusion, as well as to assess the state of financial inclusion in South Asia and study the good practices in conventional and Islamic Microfinance and Micro Takaful application in South Asia Region.

SESRIC Participated in the Conference on Soundness Indicators for Conventional and Islamic Finance

The Statistical, Economic, Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Cooperation (SESRIC) participated in the Conference on Soundness Indicators for Conventional and Islamic Finance jointly organised by the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF), the International Fund (IMF), and the Islamic Financial Services Board (IFSB) on 1-2 March 2017 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. The Conference was attended by the representatives of Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of 17 OIC member countries including Bahrain, Brunei, Egypt, Jordan, Libya, Malaysia, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tunisia, Turkey, and UAE. Representatives of European Central Bank, Islamic Development Bank, and National Statistical Office of Sudan also attended the Conference.

Workshop on Sukuk and Islamic Liquidity Management

Workshop on “Sukuk and Islamic Liquidity Management” was jointly organised by SESRIC, Istanbul School of Central Banking (İMB) and the World Bank Global Islamic Finance Development Center (GIFDC) on 12-14 December 2016 in Istanbul, Turkey. 30 participants from 18 countries attended the workshop. The workshop covered the topics of sukuk structures and securitization, regulation and supervision of sukuk markets, liquidity management and sukuk markets, international sovereign sukuk market, current practices and country experiences on sukuk and islamic liquidity management.