



الجمهورية الإسلامية الليبية  
الغرفة الإسلامية للتجارة والصناعة والزراعة

Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture  
La Chambre Islamique de Commerce, d'Industrie et d'Agriculture

**Report on the Activities of the  
Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture (ICCIA)  
for 34<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of COMCEC**

**9-10 May 2018  
Ankara – Republic of Turkey**

**Report on the Activities of the  
Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture (ICCIA)  
for submission to the 34<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of  
COMCEC, 9-10 May 2018, Ankara – Republic of Turkey**

**Introduction:**

Striving to attain greater economic cooperation, has been the focus and objectives of the programmes and activities of the ICCIA. Towards this end, it has diversified its programmes in line with the needs of the Private Sector and the fast-moving economic challenges.

The activities undertaken by the ICCIA are providing a common platform to the Private Sector to interact, have B2B meetings, expand their business & investment ties. Furthermore, Training Programmes, Workshops, Forums and Private Sector Meetings are being held, which deal with topics that can enable the Private Sector to enhance their overall businesses.

The Private Sector of the 57 OIC Countries, varies from country to country, as per their economic potentials, knowledge, and business acumen. Therefore, the Islamic Chamber, organizes customized Training Programmes, which would help them upgrade their business, adopt best practices and make their business more competitive, as per International Standards and add more value.

Till date, the areas where focus has been given are development of Halal, capacity building, commodity exchange forums, business leadership development, promotion of tourism, poverty alleviation, upgrading marketing and managing skills, value-addition, gender development, promotion & development of Small & Medium Enterprises, utilization of microfinance, promoting green economy, developing Entrepreneurship through IT, particularly in women and the youth.

The ICCIA's Work Plan incorporates the overall objectives of the OIC Program of Action 2025 and the COMCEC Strategy. As part of the UN-OIC Collaboration to undertake joint activities, the, ICCIA has also been collaborating with some of the UN Agencies, with similar objectives. In this context, several initiatives have been taken with the UNDP, UN Special Unit for South-South Cooperation and the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF). These have been result oriented, as they brought about a more focused cooperation between the private sector of the South and at the same time triangular cooperation involving the South-South Countries with the North.

In its endeavours, to further expand its scope of work, the ICCIA is also keeping the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as its guidelines in its programmes and activities. Of particular reference are those related to food security, economic empowerment of women and promotion of inclusive growth.

In undertaking its programmes, the ICCIA is working in close collaboration with the General Secretariat of the OIC and its Institutions as well as other related International Organizations

on common goals & objectives. As part of a mechanism to further enhance its activities, hereunder are the broad areas and salient aspects of the ICCIA activities:

### **ENHANCING THE ROLE OF PRIVATE SECTOR:**

The Islamic Chamber has been holding Private Sector Meetings and Businesswomen Forums to provide a common platform for the business community to interact and conduct B2B Meetings. In addition, the Islamic Chamber has also been organizing Sector-wise Commodity Exchange Forums, Business Leadership Workshops.

These activities have shown concrete results as business deals have been conducted, exchange of expertise has taken place, best practices have been learnt and skills have been developed. The ICCIA has so far, held sixteen (16) Private Sector Meetings and nine (9) Businesswomen Forums.

ICCIA will organize the 10th Businesswomen Forum either in Sudan or Egypt in 2018. the 17th Private Sector Meeting for the OIC Member States will be held jointly with the Trade Exchange Forum in one of the Member countries in 2018.

### **Development of Halal:**

The issue of Halal is of great concern to all the Muslims. The concept of Halal is not merely confined to Halal food, but in the real sense, covers a wider spectrum of life. Towards this end, the Islamic Chamber has launched its programme on Halal. The ICCIA is sincerely trying to work with all the concerned, so as to work in harmony in their respective areas. The ICCIA will also organize Seminars and Conferences on Halal.

### **Upcoming Projects of the Islamic Chamber:- Sharing of Best Practices for the Benefit of the Private Sector:**

#### **1) Family Bank**

The outcome of the activities undertaken by the ICCIA for the empowerment of women has had a positive impact on skill enhancement, making of business plan, branding and marketing.

However, a lot more needs to be done in order to enable the women to play an important role in the economic growth of their family, society and nation as a whole. It has been noted that they have the ability and a business acumen, but they lack formal training, which can further develop their capabilities.

The ICCIA as a representative of the private sector has been undertaking activities for the economic empowerment of the women as well. Towards this end, it has been organizing Businesswomen Forums, Workshops, Training Programs and Exhibitions. The Forums provide the businesswomen with a common platform to discuss their areas of cooperation and business opportunities as well as to develop culture of entrepreneurship, particularly among women and the youth.

One of the positive results of the Businessmen Forums organized by ICCIA has led to the setting up of a Family Bank in Sudan with a capital of US\$35 Million. The said

Bank's portfolio provides micro-financing on Sharia terms for start-ups, productive families, women and youth. The Bank has expanded all over Sudan with 41 branches, offering services to the targeted segment of the society.

The General Secretariat of the OIC had organized a "Workshop to Strengthen the Capacities of National Institutions concerned with the Empowerment of Women in OIC Member States" in Jeddah on 17-18 December 2017, with a view to study essential ways and means for developing capacities of the National Institutions working in the field of women empowerment in the OIC Member States.

During the said Workshop, the representative of ICCIA presented success story of the Family Bank in Sudan. In this context, the ICCIA had covered in its Report the setting-up of a Family Bank for Women in Sudan and had proposed that similar initiatives maybe introduced in other Member Countries. However, for this to take place, the regulatory framework of the interested country is necessary.

Therefore, the ICCIA called upon the General Secretariat of the OIC to look into the possibility of including a proposal / recommendation at the appropriate governmental level to provide a relevant legislative support towards this end

The ICCIA has prepared a Concept Paper on the Family Bank, with a view that similar initiatives maybe undertaken in other Member Countries. Since the forthcoming 7<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference for Women will be held in Burkina Faso, the ICCIA has called for the OIC to kindly submit the related document and proposal in the said Ministerial Conference.

## **2) Study Tour:-**

Taking into consideration, the expertise available in the OIC countries, the ICCIA has also undertaken efforts to enable the private sector of the Member States to take advantage of each other and learn best practices. In this context, the ICCIA members have viewed with great interest the State of the Art facilities and best practices of Konya Commodity Exchange, for commodities and development of industrial zones to achieve commercial and industrial growth. Therefore, the Islamic Chamber is undertaking efforts to organize a Study Tour of representatives from Sudan, Egypt, Pakistan and Uganda to visit Konya to acquire first hand knowledge on the mechanism of establishing such entities.

## **ICCIA's participation to the GSSD Expo**

ICCIA attended the Global South-South Development Expo (GSSD Expo), which was held in Antalya, Turkey, on 27-30 November 2017. The UNOSSC provided ICCIA a complementary Exhibition Booth to showcase activities and programs of ICCIA.

The ICCIA was also invited to present its Case Study on Capacity Building with the objective to scale up the Agriculture Sector and forge greater South-South Cooperation. In its presentation, ICCIA highlighted the existing problems and how best they could be addressed through knowledge sharing, expertise and best practices. The need is to build on infrastructure, particularly the Value Chain System, to build a competitive rural

economy; reference was made to the post-harvest losses & wastage and how an effective Cold Chain System can help.

The UNOSSC has very kindly offered to make a publication on the ICCIA's activities related to South-South Cooperation. UNOSSC will publish it and it will come under the circuit of UN publications. ICCIA has been preparing material for the said publication and this publication will be launched during the forthcoming GSSD Expo in 2018.

ICCIA has also participated in the Thematic Forum on "Women as Benefactors of Development through Social Entrepreneurship" which was organized by SESRIC. ICCIA made presentation in this Forum and highlighted the role of social entrepreneurship through development of this sector that women can empower themselves to be benefactors and eventually through their skills act as mentors and uplift the society at large.

ICCIA also participated in the Third Regional Networking Forum on South-South Cooperation for the Arab States, Europe and the CIS. They offered to undertake some programs for CIS countries. It will be a good opportunity to promote the Member Countries in CIS and having with them some collaboration.

ICCIA also held a bilateral meeting with Mr. George Chiedek, Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), during which ICCIA & UNOSSC exchanged views on future cooperation. Mr. George Chiedek expressed the UNOSSC keenness to continue this cooperation with the Islamic Chamber.

### **Formation of OIC Arbitration Centre as per the Recommendation of COMCEC:**

Following the proposal of the H.E. President of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, during the 13th Islamic Summit held in Istanbul in 2016, to set-up an OIC Arbitration Center in Istanbul, the ICCIA in collaboration with TOBB has undertaken several steps. In this context, TOBB has made presentation to the Members of the Board of Directors Meeting of the ICCIA. Thereafter, it was called that further study be made. During the 33rd COMCEC Meeting, COMCEC welcomed the proposal of ICCIA and TOBB to convene a series of task force meetings in 2018 to finalize technical preparations for the establishment of the Center and requested ICCIA and TOBB to submit a report to the 34th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee and 34th Session of the COMCEC.

In line with the paragraph 75 of the RESOLUTION OF THE THIRTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE COMCEC, TOBB and the ICCIA hosted the First Task Force Meeting on setting-up of the ICCIA affiliated OIC Arbitration Center in Istanbul was held in Turkey on 13th April 2018. The Meeting was attended by high level experts from international organizations dealing with international arbitration. In addition, the representatives of some member chambers of the OIC Countries also contributed to the discussions. After in-depth deliberations, the Task Force agreed on the importance of such a center which would serve the business community of the OIC Countries and Istanbul with its distinctive cultural, economic and political surroundings is a perfect and suitable place to host this Centre. TOBB and ICCIA will convene the Second Task Force Meeting in the Second half of 2018 in order to exchange views on the further technical details of the Arbitration Centre. The Report is submitted to the 34th Session of the Follow-up Committee of COMCEC.

### **ICCIA Website:**

ICCIA endeavors to utilize the information technology and the internet by operating a dynamic portal that interacts with the locals and international clients, taking into consideration the various categories/interests of users/clients in accordance to the services that are provided to them in an interactive and user-friendly approach. ICCIA's portal is a comprehensive source of updated contents that highlight the economic affairs in the Islamic World, which aims to play a major role in enhancing the intra OIC-trade through the information and services that it offers. The portal also provides detailed investment profiles about the members. This will help the potential investors to make right decisions about their investment options. The goals and objectives of the website are:

- To be a reference point for the key economic information related to the member countries
- To be a source of statistics and related reports, covering the member countries
- To be a platform for launching new projects and ideas
- To be a communication medium between members while fostering their common grounds and interest
- To introduce the chambers, their countries and projects

### **Cooperation with International Organizations:**

ICCIA continues to explore new avenues of cooperation with international organizations, such as:

- Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF);
- United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC);

As a result of this cooperation, the above Institutions, whenever possible, extend technical support in organizing Training Programs and Workshops and by sponsoring the participants and resource persons.

The ICCIA as a representative of the private sector contributes in their programmes and provides solutions for creating avenues for South-South cooperation, for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the areas of trade, industry, agriculture and commodity exchange. ICCIA's cooperation with the United Nations South-South Cooperation Office (UNSSCO) focuses on the private sector, through programs that deal with capacity building, promoting women's entrepreneurship, job creation, developing creative economies and commercial tourism, establishing computerized trade information networks and others.

Taking into consideration that SMEs play a major role in the economies of the OIC Countries, the ICCIA has undertaken numerous initiatives in this respect. In this context, the ICCIA has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Bahrain SMEs Society. The objectives of the MOU, is to serve as a framework for technical cooperation and strengthen all possible joint efforts that are aimed at enhancing SMEs in the member countries in general and the Kingdom of Bahrain in particular.

### **Activities in Promotion of Tourism:**

Tourism is an important area which is contributing substantially in the GDP of some of the OIC Countries. Therefore, the OIC and the COMCEC have incorporated this sector in their Program of Action and Strategy, respectively.

### **Forum/Workshop for Public and Private Investors in the area of Tourism Development**

In pursuance of the mandate given by OIC, through Executive Program for the implementation of the Framework for Development and cooperation in the domain of Tourism among Member States, adopted by the 9<sup>th</sup> Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers, held in December 2015 in Niger, called upon the ICCIA to join efforts with Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC), Iran & Bangladesh to organize the “Forum for Public and Private Investors in the area of Tourism Development”. The objectives of the Forum will be to strengthen the role of Public Private Partnerships for the Development of the Tourism Sector in OIC Member States, as well as to highlight the ample investment opportunities in the Tourism sector of OIC Countries. The Forum will be held in Cairo, Egypt in 2018.

### **Establishment of an “Islamic Tourism Portal”**

The Executive Program, for the implementation of the framework for development and cooperation in the domain of Tourism among Member States, which was approved by the 9<sup>th</sup> Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers, held in Dec. 2015 in Niger called upon ICCIA and ICDT to create an “OIC Tourism Portal” or “OIC Internet Guide for Tourism” in three languages for the dissemination of information on tourism related issues in the OIC Countries. In this respect, ICCIA has prepared a section on Islamic Tourism, which has been launched on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

The portal will facilitate in increasing public awareness about the OIC Countries. This information would focus on existing tourist attractions, resources and facilities in the Islamic world with a view to encouraging tourists’ visits to other Islamic countries by providing full information to potential visitors. The Section covers information related to various aspects of tourism of the OIC Member countries. The link is as follows:-

<http://tourismar.iccia.com>; <http://tourism.iccia.com>

### **Training Program on “Technology Entrepreneurship Advocacy and Management of Business Incubation & Technology Parks”**

Business incubation is one of the most popular SME support system being used around the globe. With ever increasing technology startups, these incubators have transformed into purpose specific technology parks that are specially designed for technology-based startups. Governments, academia, and business chambers need to contribute to the cause of entrepreneurship development by setting up more and more SME support systems including innovation centers supported by business incubators, technology parks, ITC centers, and industrial parks etc.

The most relevant of above mentioned SME support systems today is the incubation centers, innovation centers, and technology parks that need to be set up by government organizations, universities, and business chambers to facilitate young startups. However, it is felt that these institutions need expert support and guidance to conceive, develop, and successfully run self-sufficient incubation centers and technology parks.

The Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture (ICCIA) as per its mandate is striving for promotion of trade, poverty alleviation and capacity building in the OIC Member States. In view of the above, a 3-day Training Program on “Technology Entrepreneurship Advocacy and Management of Business Incubation & Technology Parks” has organized in Istanbul, Turkey on 23-25 April 2018, in collaboration with the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation (PGTF).

The key objectives of the Training Program were the following:

- To highlight the importance of developing entrepreneurial culture in OIC countries;
- To emphasize the policy advocacy for initiating technology based startups and creating ecosystem for such startups;
- To understand the conceptualization, establishment & development process, management, and importance of business incubators and technology parks as key components of SME support systems and ecosystem with a special focus on OIC countries;
- To learn cross-country best practices for the management of business incubators and technology parks;
- To understand the process of converting the startups into commercial organizations;
- To combat poverty and move towards self-reliance and prosperity.

### **Chambers of Commerce Forum:**

In continuation with the concept of learning from other Chambers, the ICCIA will hold Forums for the Chambers of Commerce. The aim is to grant opportunity to the Chambers of Commerce to project their success stories, global experiences, so that the other Chambers may benefit from their best practices. To grant awards in the name of the Islamic Chamber for successful experiences of each Member Chamber in its area of expertise.

### **Upcoming Activities:**

1. The 17<sup>th</sup> Private Sector Meeting for the OIC Member States/ Trade Exchange Forum, 2018.
2. 10<sup>th</sup> Businesswomen Forum in Islamic Chamber, Sudan /Egypt 2018.
3. Specialized Workshop/Training Program to be held in 2018: -
  - Promotion of Cottage Industries through SMEs
  - Scaling-up existing Enterprises through Skill Development
  - Exploring destinations for Health Tourism
4. Workshop on Promoting Green Growth and Technology in Food-Water and Energy Nexus for OIC Countries – Challenges and Opportunities, first half of 2019
5. Chambers of Commerce Forum, 2018.

\*\*\*\*\*