



الجماعة الإسلامية للتجارة والصناعة والزراعة
Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture
La Chambre Islamique de Commerce, d'Industrie et d'Agriculture

Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture (ICCIA) Progress Report for 35th Session of the COMCEC

**25- 28 November 2019
Istanbul – Republic of Turkey**

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Introduction:

ICCIA has been working in line of the OIC-2025 Programme of Action, which called for the enhancement of intra-Islamic trade, through its programmes of bringing the Private Sector together to expand their trade and contribute to enhancement of intra-Islamic trade. The share of intra-OIC trade in total trade of OIC countries constantly increased during the period 2011-2017 and reached 19.9% in 2017 compared to its level of 17.5% in 2011. ICCIA continues with its efforts to further the new intra-OIC trade target of 25% in the year 2025.

As part of its objectives, 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, series of 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.

In view of the global economic challenges and opportunities, the ICCIA has developed a strategic plan to implement its objectives, as follows:

1. To act as an **investment engine** to promote investments in OIC countries which will be through:
 - a. Organizing Forums on specialized topics, such as new technologies and other strategic sectors
 - b. Establishing new companies in sectors that need to be supported. Once such company has been established in collaboration with TOBB on Cross-Border Gates.
2. **Policy making:** Contribute to the policy-making and private sector inclusion in policy-making processes. There are two major issues:
 - a. Most of the member states are not developed yet so they need the right policies to facilitate development process of the countries.
 - b. ICCIA is building partnerships with international agencies, working for the private sector (such as IICPSD), so that knowledge, know-how and the best practices from these partnering organizations to its Member Chambers.
3. **Developing sustainable Chambers with strategic plans, through Digital transformation for the private sector.**

The ICCIA focuses on the development of Digital Transformation, taking into consideration that the Fourth Industrial Revolution is fundamentally changing the way people live and work and the way customers relate to businesses and service providers. The technologies that are leading digital transformation are the Internet of Things, artificial intelligence, 3-D printing, biotechnology, nanotechnology, quantum computing, machine learning among others. Combined use of these technologies generates changes at an exponential rate, at a great scale and scope. These technological breakthroughs are affecting every sector in every industry in every country, disrupting the established ways of doing business. These changes are

transforming how businesses produce, operate, manage and what governments regulate and how they govern, leading to a systemic change in the world. The developments in these fields build on each other and push digital transformation by creating endless possibilities to innovate and improve human lives and business practices. In this respect, the ICCIA is collaborating with the Istanbul International Center for Private Sector Development (IICPSD) to develop a program for building the capacities of the Member Chambers' to better serve their private sector.

In addition, the ICCIA also undertakes programmes, focused on promotion of intra-Islamic trade, 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, development of Halal & Halal Tourism, 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, the COMCEC Strategy and the SDGs of 2030.

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, which are under the framework of the implementation of the OIC 2025 Program of Action:

Enhancing the Role of the OIC Private Sector, through Private Sector and Businesswomen Forums:

The General Secretariat of ICCIA is developing a new strategy for the activities of ICCIA. This strategy includes the comprehensive development of the Women's Forum to be one of the most important international forums, keeping in mind the new trends in the global economic environment, focusing on the concept of the fourth industrial revolution. It also includes the transformation of the Private Sector Forum into Specialized Sector Forums that are to be held periodically to represent an integrated system of investment and commercial forums.

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.

On the lines of the Private Sector Meetings, the ICCIA is utilizing the platform of Statutory Meetings to also provide an opportunity to the participants to explore new opportunities for trade and investment. In this context, the 27th Board Meeting of the Islamic Chamber held last year in Jakarta, Indonesia on 22nd – 23rd October 2018, also organized Meetings for the Private Sector on the theme of “Inclusion in Sharia Economy: A New Paradigm”.

In addition, the same was replicated by co-organizing the Egypt Investment Forum concurrently with its 28th Board of Directors and 35th General Assembly from 2-4 March 2019 in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt.

The Forum was held under the theme of "Go Africa". Its aim was to promote trilateral cooperation in trade and investment through linking technology providers, with Arab investors and development banks and funds to implement selected projects in manufacturing, agriculture, energy, ICT, transport and value-added trade and logistics. The event brought together business leaders from Arab, Asia and Africa regions.

Forum on “Invest in Digital Economy” Amman, Jordan, on 5-6 April 2020

The ICCIA will organize a Forum on “Invest in Digital Economy”, in Amman, Jordan, on 5-6 April 2020 in collaboration with the Jordan Chamber of Commerce, Ministry of Digital Economy of Jordan and Investment Authority of Jordan. This comes under one of the OIC priority areas “ICT and Digital Information Structure”.

The objectives of the Forum are to establish a specialized international grouping in Jordan and to establish the largest platform in the OIC Countries for investments in future technologies. The Forum will focus on introducing Jordan as a country with a distinct infrastructure in business technology and to benefit from the modern trends of investors to direct them to new entrepreneurs, which creates strong investment opportunities combining innovation and capital.

Businesswomen Forum:

In line with the OIC priority area of “Advancement and Empowerment of Women”, the Islamic Chamber has been organizing Businesswomen Forums in various OIC Countries. However, to give further impetus to this initiative, the ICCIA will be re-launching the Forums with a new international dimension, which will make it one of the mega Businesswomen Forums in the world, related to the empowerment of women. The framework to develop the new content of these Forums, is being prepared, which will include conferences and several other accompanying activities.

ICCIA lays a special focus on empowerment of women, which also falls within the SDGs and OIC priority areas. In continuing these efforts, ICCIA is partnering with global players, advocating these principals and through this partnership mega events will be held with special themes focusing on scaling up women-led enterprises and start-ups. The forthcoming Businesswomen Forum, will be held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, in collaboration of the Federation of UAE Chambers of Commerce & Industry and Emirates Business Women Council in the year 2020.

Arab Private Sector Forum
Beirut, Lebanon 16-17 January 2019:

The ICCIA attended the Arab Private Sector Forum, which was held on 16-17 January 2019 in Beirut in preparation for the Fourth Arab Economic and Social Development Summit. It was organized jointly by the League of Arab States, Union of Arab Chambers, Union of Lebanese Chambers and the “Al-Iktissad wal Aamal” Group. The Forum was inaugurated by H.E. Mr. Saad Hariri, Lebanon’s Prime Minister and attended by more than 400 participants from 24 Arab and foreign countries. It was also attended by some senior Lebanese and Arab Ministers, Lebanese Deputies, Ambassadors, Diplomats, Delegations from Arab Chambers and Joint Chambers, Arab Businessmen and Investors, and Representatives from International and Regional Organizations.

The Forum addressed five themes, namely: (1) the role of the private sector and financing institutions in sustainable development, intra-trade and reconstruction, (2) the Fourth Industrial Revolution and the next economic phase, (3) Arab Women and Economic Empowerment, (4) Entrepreneurship and Small and Medium Enterprises: Key to the Transition to Knowledge Economy and (5) Lebanon and the Partnership after the Cedar Conference.

The ICCIA addressed a new concept, of the role of family businesses in the development of entrepreneurship. Family run companies can do a lot for entrepreneurship, since they have accumulated experiences on business models, corporate & bank relations, assist in recruitment, networking and infrastructure.

This concept can be developed in several ways, such as searching for new investment with the entrepreneurs; giving them priorities; launching investment funds & non-profit projects to support their work and establish specialized businesses incubators.

1st Arab Corporate Citizenship Forum
Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. 23rd January 2019:

As part of its programmes and activities to promote, the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture (ICCIA) is also looking into other areas of cooperation, with other likeminded institutions, addressing common issues for the overall benefit of the Members of the Islamic Chamber.

In this context, the ICCIA co-organized the “1st Arab Corporate Citizenship Forum” under the title "Towards Sustainable Growth", in Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. on 23rd January 2019 in collaboration with the CSR Arabic, Emirates Businesswomen Council and the Economic Businesswomen Council, Egyptian Chambers of Commerce, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), UNIDO Network of Investment and Technology Promotion Offices (ITPO), Arab International Center for Entrepreneurship and Investment. A large number of businessmen, NGOs and government representatives attended the said Forum.

The Forum discussed the mechanisms of corporate citizenship, and how to turn companies to be responsible towards its communities and shareholders as well. The Forum also focused on the role of women entrepreneurs in changing the culture of their countries and empowering women and youth in achieving sustainable growth. The Forum also addressed the green economy and its impact on sustainable development, as well as discussing the impact of using new and renewable energies such as wind and solar energy in different industries in order to achieve sustainable development.

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

In its joint meeting of the 28th Board of Directors and 35th General Assembly, held in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt, in March 2019. ICCIA declared the commencement of the work in its independent project through the WAQF Company, which include:

- (a) Halal Company
- (b) Company for establishment and management of the Cross Border Gates

The ICCIA is now in the process of getting interested parties to be partners in these projects.

Formation of OIC Arbitration Centre:

The COMCEC mandated the ICCIA to set-up OIC Arbitration Centre, affiliated to the Islamic Chamber in collaboration with TOBB in Istanbul, which would serve the business community of the OIC Countries. This project is an excellent example of the successful partnerships between the ICCIA and its distinguished members, TOBB in particular.

The two sides established a joint team that undertook all the infrastructure work and finally concluded the hosting agreement with the Turkish government. After completion of the necessary procedures, The Arbitration Center will be established, which includes:

- 1) Setting-up of Office for the Arbitration Center, in Istanbul.
- 2) Contracting with the International Expert Group to develop:
 - Arbitration and Mediation Rules.
 - Executive Regulations.
 - Capacity building mechanisms for arbitrators and mediators at the level of the OIC countries
 - Arbitration competitions for university students.
- 3) Formation of the Board of Trustees.
- 4) Formation of the Board of Directors.
- 5) Appointing the Executive Director of the Center and senior staff.

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);
- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- Istanbul International Center for Private Sector in Development (IICPSD).

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.

2nd High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40 Conference):

The Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture (ICCIA) represented the Private Sector at the 2nd High Level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation - (Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA+40) held in Buenos Aires on 20th - 22nd March 2019 and was given the single honor to make a statement on behalf of the Private Sector in the Opening Session.

The Islamic Chamber emphasized the role of private sector as the engine of growth, playing a vital role in the overall global economic agenda. It highlighted the engagement of the private sector in the development agendas of many international organizations, which reflects the impact of the private sector as a driver of sustainable and inclusive economic growth, job creation and poverty alleviation. ICCIA further emphasized on the need to support developing countries through South-South and Triangular Cooperation for strengthening the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and creating an enabling environment for sustainable industrialization. It called for the private sector needs to be involved in public private dialogue at the level of policy formulation. It further underlined the need to establish a framework to understand the need of the private sector in the global south and to boost the potentials of the private sector as a driver of sustainable development.

On the Sidelines of the Conference, the Islamic Chamber organized a Side-Event under the title of the "Role of the OIC Institutions for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation among 57 Member Countries" on 19th March 2019 in Buenos Aires. The objective of the event was to learn of the activities of the OIC Institutions in the promotion of South-South Cooperation and to review the trends in South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the OIC Region and at the

same time study the progress made by the International entities, supporting and promoting South-South Cooperation, to identify new partnerships and to learn best practices.

The BAPA+40 Conference provided the ICCIA an opportunity to network with the organizations having similar objectives and discussed the possibility of having partnership to undertake some projects for the benefit of the ICCIA Member Chambers.

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.

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 9th 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. The portal facilitates 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>

Regional Workshop on Trade Preferential System among the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (TPS – OIC) and the Multilateral Trading System Khartoum – Republic of Sudan, 17-18 December 2018

The Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture (ICCIA) in collaboration with the Islamic Center for Development of Trade (ICDT) and the Ministry of Trade of Republic of Sudan had organized the “Regional Workshop on Trade Preferential System among the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (TPS/OIC) and the Multilateral Trading System” in Khartoum – Republic of Sudan, on 17-18 December 2018.

The objective of the Workshop was to raise awareness about the importance of Trade Preferential System among the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (TPS/OIC) and its protocols and the recent development of the Multilateral Trading System including Sudan’s accession to WTO. This Workshop was very beneficial as it explained the Trade Preferential System for the Private Sector, which can be instrumental in expanding the trade relations between the Member Countries.

ICCIA made a presentation on the “Role of the Private Sector on the Operationalisation of the TPS/OIC” and highlighted its due role for increasing the level of Intra Islamic Trade as well as in creating awareness about the various OIC agreements for enhancing economic cooperation, particularly the Trade Preferential System among the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (TPS-OIC).

The Workshop recommended to expedite the ratification formalities of TPS/OIC and call upon the concerned authority in the Ministry of Industry and Trade to urgently undertake the necessary steps to complete the needful for obtaining the consent of the Cabinet and the approval of the Parliament as soon as possible.

2nd Arab African Conference and Exhibition for Businesswomen
13-14 February 2019, Marrakesh, Kingdom of Morocco

ICCIA participated in the “2nd Arab African Conference and Exhibition for Businesswomen” held on 13th – 14th February 2019 in Marrakesh, Kingdom of Morocco, The Conference was organized by the Arab Union for Industrial Exports Development in cooperation with UNIDO / ITPO Bahrain, under the theme “Achieving the SDGs through Supporting Women Entrepreneurs”, and under the patronage of the His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco.

The Conference highlighted policies that empower women by providing technical support, training and banking services such as flexible loans, government support of emerging sectors in the labor market and protection of women from exploitation. Furthermore, it also shed light on economic empowerment efforts to improve Arab & African women’s ability to access business experts, capacity building and on the job training centers in the industrial sector. The ICCIA underlined its role in the empowerment of women among the 57 OIC Countries.

Arab British Economic Summit 2019 “A Shared Vision”
London – 3rd July 2019

ICCIA actively participated in the Arab-British Economic Summit 2019, which was held in London, England, on 3rd July, under the theme of “A Shared Vision”. The Summit attracted hundreds of senior business executives, diplomats, government officials and investors with an interest in building stronger economic and commercial relations between the UK and the Arab World. The Summit succeeded in bringing together business representatives from all over the Arab World and across the regions of the UK to discuss their shared vision of working together to achieve common prosperity and to seize on the enormous opportunities that are opening up in key sectors. The event was heralded as one of the largest and most successful business events ever organised by the Arab British Chamber of Commerce (ABCC) in its more than 40 year history of promoting Arab-British trade and commercial collaboration.

ICCIA was part of a panel with IFAD and addressed the challenges and opportunities being faced by the OIC Member Countries and presented possible solutions.

Workshop on Strategic Commodities (Tomatoes and Hazelnuts)
3-4 October 2019, Baku, Azerbaijan

In line with the OIC Programmes of Action for Development of Strategic Agricultural Commodities, the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA) organized a Workshop on Strategic Commodities (Tomatoes and Hazelnuts) on 3-4 October 2019, in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan. The Workshop was organized in collaboration with the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and National Confederation of Entrepreneurs (Employers) Organizations of the Republic of Azerbaijan (ASK).

The workshop addressed some critical areas, in the value chain, faced during harvesting and post-harvesting period by the farmers and exchanged best practices and expertise. The Workshop aimed towards regional and global integration of trade. The overall recommendations focused on the policy makers to facilitate the farmers in the various stages

to make their production cost effective and with value addition. The participants welcomed the establishment of the Islamic Food Security Organization (IOFS), under the umbrella of the OIC and call upon it, to involve the private sector through the ICCIA to devise strategies addressing the challenges and to adopt sustainable agricultural practices.

The Workshop was attended by more than fifty local and foreign participants from five CIS Countries namely: Kazakhstan Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan. In addition, the representative from Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) and Islamic Development Bank Group (IsDB) were also participated. The solutions as given by the participants are pertinent and need consideration.

Workshop on Promoting Green Growth and Technology in Food-Water and Energy Nexus for OIC Countries – Challenges and Opportunities

Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture (ICCIA) in collaboration with the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation (PGTF) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) will organize a Workshop on “Promoting Green Growth and Technology in Food-Water and Energy Nexus for OIC Countries – Challenges and Opportunities” in Pakistan in 2019.

The objectives of the Workshop is to combat poverty and move towards self-reliance and prosperity under climate change and to highlight the importance of developing green economy and technology in OIC Countries and to integrating green economy & technology into planning, policy formulation & programs development process by incentivizing the users and making necessary institutional arrangement as well as to promote green economy & technology that: minimizes degradation of the environment; safe for use and promotes healthy and improved environment; zero or low GHG emissions; conserves energy and natural resources and promotes use of renewable energy resources.

Chamber Academy Program for OIC Countries:

In view of the important role played by Chambers of Commerce in promoting trade, Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture (ICCIA) in collaboration with the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) have jointly designed the Chamber Academy Program for the OIC Member Countries.

It is a professional capacity development programme, exclusively designed for the senior and top-level management of the Chambers of Commerce / Unions / Federations of the OIC Member States with a view to support their institutional development as well as enhancing cooperation and collaboration among them. This program will not only help the participants update and improve their knowledge on core businesses of the chambers but also provide them the information on the innovative products and services developed by the successful chambers around the world. It is an intensive training programme that provides the participants the platform to:

- share knowledge on innovative services provided for corporate world
- exchange benchmarks on core business of the chambers
- find partners for joint projects
- discover new project ideas
- learn about new areas of innovation from leading Chambers around the world

The programme content focuses on the Leadership and Management of Chambers. It addresses the key challenges that the Chamber Executives will face, it is planned to be held as a series of Workshops. First such will be held in Istanbul, Turkey either last quarter of this year or the first of 2020.

Upcoming Activities:

1. Specialized Workshops/Training Programmes to be held in 2019/2020:-
 - Workshop on Alliance with the Private Sector for Sustainable Development, Istanbul, Turkey, 9th December 2019
 - The Promotion of Cottage Industries through SMEs
 - Scaling-up existing Enterprises through Skill Development
 - Exploring destinations for Health Tourism
 - Workshops on Strategic Commodities (Cassava), Nigeria, 2019/2020
 - Training Program on Digital Transformation in Istanbul, Turkey, 2020
2. Forum on “Invest in Digital Economy”, Amman, Jordan, 5-6 April 2020
3. Forum on Traditional Handicraft, Kingdom of Morocco, 2020
4. Forum on Entrepreneurship and Start-ups, 2020
5. 10th Businesswomen Forum in Islamic Chamber in United Arab Emirates in 2020
