

Original : English

**REPORT OF THE 9th SESSIONAL COMMITTEE OF COMCEC
(İstanbul, 20 November 2006)**

1. The 9th Sessional Committee of the COMCEC was held on 20 November 2006, prior to the 22nd Session of COMCEC (21-24 November 2006).

2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Ferruh TIĞLI, Acting Head of the COMCEC Coordination Office.

3. In addition to the OIC General Secretariat and the COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO), the following OIC Institutions attended the Meeting;

- Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC)
- Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT)
- Islamic Development Bank (IDB)
- Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI)

Some of the Turkish Institutions which are the owners of the proposed projects also attended the Meeting.

At the outset, The General Secretariat of OIC briefed the Committee on the recent developments regarding the holding of the 3rd EGM on the Cotton issue and the holding of the 3rd EGM on Tourism to be held in Turkey in 2007. Thereafter, the Plan of Action of the Cotton producing Countries Cooperation Development Strategy for 2007-2011, was circulated.

4. The Meeting adopted the following agenda items for consideration:
- a) Review of the Proposed Cooperation Projects of COMCEC,
 - b) Review of the implementation of the OIC Ten-Year Program of Action adopted by the 3rd Extraordinary Session of OIC held on 7-8 December 2005,
 - c) Any Other Business

Under Agenda Item 1:

5. The COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO) gave a presentation on the recent developments regarding the Project Proposals. Thereafter, the owners and the coordinators of the Project Proposals discussed recent developments of their projects.

6. The Committee took the following decisions according to the Projects:

- For the Project entitled, (Technical Cooperation Among Patent Offices in the OIC Member States), The Committee **welcomed** the signing of the MOU between the ICDT and The Patent Office of the Republic of Turkey and **took note** of the third session of the Project Committee which was held in Geneva on September 27, 2006 on the sidelines of the General Assembly, of WIPO. The Committee **also welcomed** the start-up of implementation of the project by the conference to be organized among the Patent Offices of the OIC Member States in Ankara, Turkey, on 14-16 December 2006. The Patent Office informed that 25 member states and WIPO had confirmed their participation in the said conference. The committee also **called upon** all Member States to actively participate in the said event. For the early implementation of the project, the coordinator (ICDT) and the owner of the project were asked to cooperate with the IDB, which, in principle, is interested in considering its participation in co-financing the Project.

- For the Project entitled “Networking of Incubators among OIC Member States”, the Committee was informed by ICCI and Small and Medium Industry Development Organization of Turkey (KOSGEB) that they had made certain changes in the project in order to make it more in line with the present status of incubators in the member countries. The committee was also informed that the name of the project has been amended to be called Incubator Management Training Among OIC Member States. Furthermore, contacts were being made with interested parties from some of the member countries and the project committee would be meeting in December 2006 or in January 2007. The Committee **urged** the ICCI and KOSGEB to finalize the Project Document and **called upon**

them to circulate the project proposal to the member states, IDB and any other interested financial institutions. The committee also **called on** the ICCI and KOSGEB to find ways and means to reach the focal points in those countries that have capacity in that area, as soon as possible, and report the developments to the CCO.

- For the Project entitled “Cooperation in the Area of Technical Development: Medium Range Regional Turbofan Airliner” proposed by TUSAŞ Aerospace Industries of Turkey (TAI), the COMCEC Coordination Office informed the Committee that TAI had sent the detailed project document to IDB to seek its support. After considering the document, IDB, with some conditions, would finance certain aspects of the project. Moreover in line with the request of the 8th Sessional Committee, the project proposal was translated into Arabic and sent to the OIC General Secretariat for its circulation to the interested Member States. However, no member state had shown interest. The Committee expressed its hope that by the 23rd Session of COMCEC in 2007 some member states may show interest in this project. If there is no interested country then the Sessional Committee will consider canceling the project.
- For the Project entitled “Low Cost Imaging Based Mapping System Applications for Monitoring of Natural and Anthropogenic Changes in OIC Member Countries’ Coasts”, the owner, the Scientific and Technical Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK) informed the Committee that it had contacted IUT and prepared the action plan and agreed on the budget of the project. IUT, in its capacity as the coordinator of the project, would send the complete set of documents to IDB which had already shown interest to initiate the process.
- For the Project entitled “World Gold Markets and Cooperation Prospects among Islamic Countries”, the Committee was informed by SESRTCIC, in its capacity as the coordinator of the Project, that the project proposal was circulated to the member states. The committee noted that Istanbul Gold Exchange (the owner of the Project) has already prepared an action plan to focus on some Member States which have gold market to win their interest in the project. The committee **urged** the member states to take part in the

project for its realization and **also requested** SESRTCIC to determine the focal points in those countries which have potential in gold market and report the developments to the CCO.

- For the project entitled “Setting up of Regional Companies Specialized in the Organization of Trade Fairs and Exhibitions”, ICDT requested the deletion of this project from the list as the member countries have set up their own national companies for Fairs and Exhibitions.
- As regards the project entitled “Setting up of Permanent Exhibition Halls and Organizing a Permanent Virtual Goods Exhibition on the Internet Web Site of the ICDT”, the ICDT requested the committee to delete the project as this activity has already been undertaken by it as part of its routine activity.
- For the Project entitled “Establishment of Energy Technology Network (en-tech-net) among the Member States”, the Committee was informed that the Project owner, General Directorate of Electrical Power Resource Survey and Development Administration (EIE), prepared the project profile in accordance with COMCEC format. The Committee **designated** the IUT as the coordinator of the project. Moreover, the committee **requested** the coordinator and the owner of the project to circulate the proposal to the member states and make necessary efforts to win their interest.
- For the Project entitled TURKSAT Satellite Communication and Cable TV Operation AS of Turkey (TURKSAT) two projects namely “Satellite Control and Monitoring Centre (SATCMC)” and “Low Earth Orbit Satellite” have been presented. TURKSAT briefly informed the Committee that it has already reviewed the project proposal and sent it to the ICCI for its consideration. The ICCI informed that it was studying the project and will keep the CCO and TURKSAT informed by the end of 2006. TURKSAT also stated that it contacted focal points in some member states to seek their interest in the project. The committee **requested** ICCI to consider being the coordinator of this project.

- For the Project entitled, “Creation of a Network of Cross-border Parks on Tourism and Reserves in West Africa”, proposed in the Expert Group Meeting on the implementation of the OIC Plan of Action in the area of Tourism in Tehran on 11-14 July 2005, the joint coordinators of the project are the ICDT and SESRTCIC. In this context, ICDT informed that the first project committee meeting was held in Casablanca in July 2006. During this meeting, a MOU was signed between the contracting parties outlining the action plan for the project. The second project committee meeting was held in Baku-Azerbaijan on 10th September 2006, which approved the reports on the action plan of the project.

7. The Committee was informed by CCO that the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan had already sent a project proposal entitled “The Antiquities Information System (AIS)” via the General Secretariat of the OIC. The Committee agreed to include this project in the COMCEC project list and designated IRCICA as the Coordinator.

8. After the presentations delivered regarding all the projects, the Committee expressed its concern on the slow progress of implementation of the majority of projects, despite concerted efforts of both the sponsors and the Coordinators. It was noted that this was due to the lack of interest on the part of the member states. The Committee therefore requested the member states, through their Senior Officials, to adopt a more proactive approach and call upon their focal points to contact the owners and coordinators of projects respectively, at earliest convenience, so as to get them implemented. The Committee also sought the approval of the Senior Officials to delete the projects to which no country has shown interest by the 23rd Session of COMCEC.

Under Agenda Item 2:

The OIC General Secretariat gave a brief on the demarches pursued in this respect. The Committee also took note of the efforts made by the OIC Institutions towards the implementation of the OIC Ten Year Program of Action. Furthermore, the Committee noted that this being a separate agenda

item of the Senior Officials, the OIC Institutions would deliver their presentations as regards efforts they have exerted for the implementation of the 10 year Program of Action.

Under Agenda Item 3:

The Committee then concluded with a word of thanks.

LIST OF THE PROJECT PROPOSALS

Serial No	Project Proposals/Ideas	Proposing State/ Institution	Interested Country	Coordinator
1.	Technical Cooperation Among Patent Offices in the OIC Member States	Turkey	Kazakhstan, Syria, Morocco Bangladesh, Pakistan and Yemen	ICDT
2.	Incubator Management Training Among OIC Member States	Turkey		ICCI
3.	Cooperation in the area of Technical Development: Medium Range Regional Turbofan Airliner.	Turkey	Kazakhstan	
4.	Low Cost Imaging-Based Mapping System Applications for Monitoring of Natural and Anthropogenic Changes in OIC Member Countries Coasts	Turkey	Bangladesh/ Turkey	IUT
5.	World Gold Markets and Cooperation Prospects among Islamic Countries	Turkey		SESRTCIC
6.	Setting up of Regional Companies Specialized in the Organization of Trade Fairs and Exhibitions.	ICDT	Burkino Faso	ICDT
7.	Setting up of Permanent Exhibition Halls and Organizing a Permanent Virtual Goods Exhibition on the Internet Web Site of ICDT.	ICDT		ICDT
8.	Establishment of Energy Technology Network (en-tech-net)	Turkey		IUT
9.	Satellite Control and Monitoring Centre (SATCMC)	Turkey	Turkey	
10.	Low Earth Orbit Satellite	Turkey	Turkey	
11.	Creation of a Network of Cross-border Parks and Reserves in West Africa	Guinea	Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal, Sierra Leone	ICDT/SESRTCIC
12.	Technical Cooperation in the Field of Heritage Preservation	Jordan		IRCICA