

Original : English

**REPORT OF THE  
10<sup>th</sup> SESSIONAL COMMITTEE OF COMCEC  
(Ankara, 28 May 2007)**

1. The 10<sup>th</sup> Sessional Committee of the COMCEC was held on 28 May 2007, ahead of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Follow-up Committee Meeting of COMCEC (29-31 May 2007).
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Ferruh TIĞLI, 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)
  - Islamic University of Technology (IUT)

Some of the Turkish Institutions which are the owners of the proposed cooperation projects of the COMCEC as well as the representative of the Ankara Regional Office of the UNIDO, also attended the Meeting.

4. The Meeting adopted the following agenda items for consideration:
  1. Review of the Proposed Cooperation Projects of COMCEC.
  2. Review of the implementation of the OIC Ten-Year Program of Action adopted by the 3<sup>rd</sup> OIC Extraordinary Session of Islamic Summit held on 7-8 December 2005.
  3. Review of the Draft Agenda of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of COMCEC.
  4. Any other business.

At the outset, the General Secretariat of the OIC briefed the Committee on recent developments regarding the 2<sup>nd</sup> Experts Group Meeting on Tourism which was held in Istanbul, Turkey on 9-11 May 2007 and the Strategic Plan for Development of Tourism adopted at the Meeting. He also briefed the Meeting on the progress made so far as regards the implementation of the Plan of Action of the Cotton Producing Countries and the preparations for organising the Cotton Investment Forum scheduled for 10-12 November 2007 in Istanbul.

**Under Agenda Item 1:**

5. The COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO) made 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 issued the following recommendations regarding the following Projects:

- For the project entitled “Technical Cooperation Among Patent Offices in OIC Member States”, the representatives of the Turkish Patent Institute (TPI) and ICDT presented the latest developments of this project since the last meeting of the Sessional committee. TPI and ICDT explained that they had organised the “First Conference on Technical Cooperation Among the Industrial Property Offices in OIC Member States” on 14 and 15 December in Ankara which was attended by representatives of 16 OIC Member States in addition to ICDT, IDB, WIPO, WTO, European Patent Office (EPO) and Patent Office of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

The Conference has set up two sub-projects : “Institutional Capacity Building” to be coordinated by TPI, Turkey, “Information Technology” to be coordinated by the Moroccan Office for Industrial and Commercial Property (OMPIC), Morocco. Further, ICDT organised the Second Meeting of the Project Committee in Casablanca on 14-15 February 2007 in order to follow up the recommendations of the Conference held in Ankara on “Technical Cooperation between the Industrial Property

Offices in the OIC Member States”. This Meeting adopted the terms of reference along with a draft questionnaire drawn up by the two sub committees set up in Ankara and adopted a road map for the coming years.

The meeting decided to hold the Second Conference on “Technical Cooperation among Patent Offices in OIC Member States” from 11 to 13 July 2007 in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco. The main goal of this Conference is to adopt the work programs of the two sub-committees that were set up during the 1st Conference chiefly on the basis of the answers to the questionnaire sent by ICDT in March 2007.

The WIPO and IDB will contribute financially to the organization of this Conference; in this regard, it should be noted that WIPO will finance the participation of 13 OIC member states and IDB is in the process of examining the financing of the participation of some LDCs plus other expenses.

- For the Project entitled “Incubator Management Training among OIC Member States”, the Committee was informed by the representative of the Small and Medium Industry Development Organization of Turkey (KOSGEB) and the ICCI (the Coordinator of the Project) that they had made certain changes in the Project to render it more in line with the present status of incubators in member countries. The Committee was also informed that contacts were underway with interested parties from some member countries. The Committee welcomed the offer of the KOSGEB to host, in collaboration with ICCI and IDB, a consultative meeting on incubators for OIC member countries to bring together experts to share their experiences and develop long-term cooperation. The meeting will be held in Ankara during the second half of 2007. The ICCI is in the process of collecting names of incubators’ experts in the field of science and technology from the COMSTECH as well as from some member countries.
- 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 Committee appreciated and welcomed the announcement made by the

representative of the IDB to the effect that full financing of the feasibility study of the Project is under consideration.

- For the Project entitled “Low Cost Imaging-Based Mapping System Applications for Monitoring of Natural and Anthropogenic Changes in OIC Member Countries’ Coasts”, the representative of the IUT informed the Committee that the proposal was circulated to all member states. Having received the consent of the implementing authority, Institute of Water and Flood Management (IWFM) of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, cost details and implementation steps were chalked out. Detailed analysis was prepared by the Scientific and Technical Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK), IUT and IWFM and the financing request was sent to IDB through the General Secretariat of the OIC. IDB is actively studying the financing proposal and would like to receive some more information before taking the final decision.
- For the Project entitled “World Gold Markets and Cooperation Prospects among Islamic Countries”, it is because no interested country was named to sponsor the Project for the last three years, the Committee recommended dropping this project from the list.
- For the projects entitled respectively “Setting Up of Regional Companies Specialized in Organization of Trade Fairs and Exhibitions” and “Setting up of Permanent Exhibition Halls” and “Organizing a Permanent Virtual Goods Exhibition on the INTERNET Web site of the ICDT”, the Committee recommended dropping these projects from the list; since the first one is well performed either by the public or the private sector in many countries while the second project is already partially implemented by ICDT since the year 2000.
- For the Project entitled “Establishment of Energy Technology Network (en-tech-net) among the Member States”, the Committee noted that there no concrete development as far as this project was concerned has been reported and recommended dropping it from the list of COMCEC projects.

- For the Projects entitled “Satellite Control and Monitoring Centre” (SATCMC) and “Low Earth Orbit Satellite” proposed by the Satellite Communication and Cable TV Operation of Turkey (TURKSAT), it is due to the absence of the representative of TURKSAT that the Committee recommended postponing decision on these projects until the next Sessional Committee Meeting.
  
- For the project entitled “Creation of a Network of Cross Border Parks and Reserves in West Africa”, ICDT’s representative, in its capacity as the OIC coordinator of this Project in collaboration with SESRTCIC, presented the latest development of this crucial project which involves 9 African countries. In compliance with the recommendations of the Project Committee Meeting held in Casablanca from 10 to 12 July 2006, the Second Meeting was held in Baku, Azerbaijan, 2006, on the 10<sup>th</sup> of September 2006. This meeting approved, among others, the reports of both the regional coordinator and ICDT as well as the terms of reference of the feasibility study of the Project in terms of financing and recommended the sending, within the shortest time possible, of a Ministerial delegation of Member States to IDB with a view to bringing further to attention the importance of this project and prompting financial contribution to it.

The Minister of Tourism and Handicraft of the Republic of Guinea, in its capacity as the owner of this Project, has paid a visit to IDB in December 2006. This visit was successful and the IDB requested each country party to the Project to submit a separate financial application through its governor within the IDB Board of Governors. Five countries have so far applied, according to the latest news.

- For the project entitled “Technical Cooperation in the Field of Heritage Preservation” proposed by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the OIC General Secretariat will be in contact with Jordan and IRCICA (the Coordinator of the Project) and inform the Committee on the developments regarding this Project as soon as possible.

7. After the presentations delivered regarding all the projects, the Committee expressed its concern over the slowdown of the implementation of some of the projects. It was noted that this was due to 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 project owners and coordinators respectively, at earliest convenience, so as to get them implemented. The Committee also sought the approval of the senior officials to cancel, by the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of COMCEC, projects in which no country has shown interest.

**Under Agenda Item 2:**

8. The representative of the OIC General Secretariat presented an overview on the implementation of the items relating to the economic cooperation of the OIC Ten-Year Program of Action. These are the increasing intra-OIC trade, the IDB activities and poverty alleviation. In order to reach the 20% target of intra-OIC trade stipulated for in the Ten-Year Program of Action, the COMCEC Coordination Office briefed the Committee on its strategy that consisted of the following three dimensions: the realisation of the TPS-OIC target by January 2009, the IDB's International Trade Finance Cooperation (ITFC) and enhancing the production capacity and competitiveness of the OIC member countries.

9. The representative of the UNIDO informed the Committee that UNIDO had prepared a draft proposal on technical cooperation between UNIDO and the OIC to be discussed with the OIC General Secretariat, CCO, SESRTCIC and ICDDT. This proposal mainly contains three areas, namely trade capacity building, poverty alleviation (cotton) and technical assistance to SESRTCIC and ICDDT. The Committee recommended that the draft proposal of the UNIDO be further amended and developed by the Task Force on Enhancing Intra-OIC Trade for its submission to the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of COMCEC.

10. The Committee recommended that the CCO prepare a draft TOR of the Task Force. Within the framework of this Task Force on Enhancing Intra-OIC Trade, the IDB offered hosting an EGM on this issue.

**Under Agenda Item 3:**

11. The CCO informed the Committee that the draft agenda and the work program of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the COMCEC will be discussed during the 23<sup>rd</sup>

Session of the Follow-up Committee Meeting and that the CCO will make a presentation on the subject.

**Under Agenda Item 4:**

12. The Committee then concluded its work 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

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