

Original: English

REPORT OF THE 12th SESSIONAL COMMITTEE OF COMCEC

(Antalya, 12 May 2008)

1. The 12th Sessional Committee of the COMCEC was held on May 12th, 2008, prior to the 24th COMCEC Follow-up Committee Meeting.
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 (SESRIC)
 - 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, attended the Meeting.

The Meeting agreed on the following agenda items for consideration:

1. Review of the Proposed Cooperation Projects of COMCEC.
2. The new project proposals by ICCI on the setting up of two Funds, one for Research and Technology and the other for Investment.
3. Review of the Draft Agenda of the 24th Session of COMCEC.
4. Any Other Business

Under Agenda Item 1:

4. The COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO) made a presentation on recent developments regarding the Project Proposals. Thereafter, Project Proposals' coordinators and owners discussed the said developments.

5. The Committee made the following recommendations on the Projects;

Regarding the Project entitled "Technical Cooperation Among Patent Offices in OIC Member States", Representatives of the Turkish Patent Institute (TPI) and ICDT presented the latest developments of this project since the last meeting of the Sessional Committee. Within the framework of their programme of activity to strengthen the Institutional Capacity Building which was adopted by the 2nd Conference on "Technical Cooperation among Industrial Property Offices in the OIC Member States" held in Casablanca from 11th to 13th July 2007, the TPI and ICDT, together with the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and the Islamic Development Bank Group, have jointly organized an inter-regional workshop on Geographical Indications on 3-4 April 2008 in Ankara, Republic of Turkey.

The main purpose of this Workshop was to equip participants with the scope of protection credited by geographical indications alongside detailed international agreements providing for protection measures, examples of applications in model countries, introduction of non-governmental organizations working on geographical indications, and putting in place of discussion platforms among national officials in the OIC Member States who are responsible for registering and administering geographical indications. The Workshop also allowed participants to seek answers to their queries on GIs and share their experiences with participating professionals from relevant international organisations, including WIPO and the Institut National de l'Origine de la Qualité (INAO) of France. Participants from Bangladesh, Benin, Guinea, Morocco, Mozambique, Uzbekistan, Uganda, Sudan, Senegal, Turkey and Yemen attended the said Workshop.

In addition, the ICDT informed the Committee that it will set up, in close collaboration with the Morocco Patent Institution (OMPIC), a Portal designated for Intellectual Property Information (PI) in the OIC Member States.

- This Portal will provide access to the general information on the IP in the OIC Member States, in terms of laws, inquiry forms, procedures and search engines in connection with brands at first stage and later on, to be extended to other fields of the IP.
- It will also contain an extranet as platform for discussions and information exchange between the staff of the Industrial Property Offices.
- Assistance will be extended to the LDCs to enable them to have access to the Extranet and participate in the information-disseminating process within the portal.

The TPI and ICDT informed the meeting that the duration of this project shall be extended in the bid to finalize the remaining activities included in the business plan adopted by the 2nd Conference on “Technical Cooperation among the Industrial Property Offices in the OIC Member States”. The Committee welcomed the progress made as far as this project was concerned. The Committee recommended that the duration of the project be extended for two more years pending the completion of its planned activities.

Concerning the Project entitled "Incubator Management Training among OIC Member States", the Representatives of the Small and Medium Industry Development Organization of Turkey (KOSGEB) and the ICCI (the Coordinator of the Project), informed the Committee that due to unforeseen circumstances, the workshop which was to be held in April 2008 had been postponed to a later date to take place during the second half of 2008 prior to the 24th Session of COMCEC and the Incubators Management Forum in 2009. The Committee was also informed that necessary support was lacking with regard to the role of member countries in the said project. It was therefore agreed that the OIC General Secretariat, KOSGEB and ICCI will exert more effort in favor of advancing this project in the member countries concerned.

With respect to the Project entitled "Cooperation in the Area of Technical Development: Medium Range Regional Turbofan Airliner", the Representative of the Anadolu University (the new project team leader) reported that it has already submitted to IDB the changes made in the project team and the tasks entrusted to its staff. The Representative of the CCO stated that the latter and the Turkish Treasury (IDB Governor) had already turned in their support letter to the IDB regarding the given change. The Committee had supported and requested that

CCO and the Turkish Treasury re-send the same letters to the Department of the Cooperation Office of IDB at the earliest. The Committee designated SESRIC as the Coordinator of this project. The Committee also agreed that this project and another one belonging to the same strand, and which are being conducted within the framework of COMSTECH, shall be coordinated by the OIC General Secretariat to prevent any duplication.

With reference to Project entitled "Low Cost Imaging-Based Mapping System Applications for Monitoring of Natural and Anthropogenic Changes in OIC Member Countries' Coasts", the IUT Representative made it clear to the Committee that the project needs to be modified due to technological changes. The Committee requested that the owner of the project, TÜBİTAK, host Bangladeshi authorities concerned and the IUT (3-5 focal points of the project) at its headquarters to discuss the details of the project and to inform the COMCEC Coordination Office at the earliest.

As regards 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), the Committee recommended that these projects be kept on the Project List for consideration by the 24th Session of COMCEC.

As for the Project entitled "Sustainable Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa", the Committee was informed by ICDT that the Steering Committee of this project has held so far seven meetings consecutively in Dakar (March 2005), Bamako (May 2006), Casablanca (July 2006), Baku (September 2006), Accra (October 2007), Carthagène De Indias (November 2007) Casablanca (March 2008).

The aim of the last meeting was to take stock of the progress achieved in the implementation of the project and to update the Future Activity Programme 2008/2009. This meeting was attended by: Guinea, Mauritania, Mali, Senegal, the Regional Coordinator of the Project, the OIC General Secretariat, the World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), and the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC).

The previous meetings approved the terms of reference for the feasibility study of the 4-component project already presented for financing and recommended their submission to the IDB. The Minister of Tourism and Handicrafts of the Republic of

Guinea, in his capacity as the Coordinator of this Project, has paid a visit to the Governor of IDB in December 2006. Following this visit, the IDB requested countries engaged in the Project to respectively submit separate financial applications through its governor within the IDB Board of Directors. Five countries have applied so far. The Committee also noted that the OIC General Secretariat had sent a verbal note to IDB requesting that further financial contribution be provided for the implementation of the said project.

The Committee was informed that the Korean Agency for International Development has graciously channeled a financial contribution worth US \$ 425,000 to undertake the feasibility study of this project plus the UNWTO ST-EP Foundation's US \$ 50,000.

Respecting the Project entitled "Technical Cooperation in the Field of Heritage Preservation" proposed by Jordan, the OIC General Secretariat will be in contact with Jordan and the IRCICA (the Coordinator of the Project) to keep the Committee informed whether or not they are still interested to keep the project on the list.

6. After the presentations, the Committee expressed its satisfaction vis-à-vis the progress achieved in projects number 1, 3 and 7.
7. Regarding the remaining projects, the Committee **requested** the member states 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 have these projects implemented. The Committee also sought approval to drop projects in which no country has shown interest.
8. The Committee recommended that interested member states be involved in future meetings of the Sessional Committee.
9. In addition, in line with the relevant resolution of the 11th OIC Summit, the Committee took note of the Dakar/Port-Sudan Railway Line Project.

Under Agenda Item 2:

10. The Representative of the ICCI informed that HE Saleh Kamel, Chairman of the ICCI, had initiated proposals on setting up two funds, namely The Fund for Research and Technology and The Fund for Investment. The Committee was notified that the ICCI

Chairman is currently holding meetings with the Heads of State to seek their support and thereafter requisite studies were to be prepared. Meanwhile, regarding the Project on Investment, the Committee was informed about the FORAS Investment Company which had been established in several member countries, supported by feasibility studies, business plans and investment maps. The Committee welcomed the efforts of the ICCI Chairman in taking concrete steps towards promoting economic cooperation through establishing companies in the member countries.

Under Agenda Item 3:

11. Under this agenda item, the COMCEC Coordination Office informed the Committee about the idea behind the new formulation of the draft agenda of the 24th Session of COMCEC. The Committee agreed to submit the new version of the draft agenda to the 24th Follow-up Committee for consideration.

Under Agenda Item 4:

12. Under the agenda item of any other business, the OIC General Secretariat briefed the Committee on the 12th Private Sector Forum to be organized jointly by the Uganda Chamber of Commerce and the ICCI from 16 – 18 June 2008 in Kampala, Uganda. The Sessional Committee was also informed about the Forum on Agro-Industry to be organized by Mali in 2008. The Sessional Committee took note of the above-mentioned Forums. The Committee further took note of the recommendations of the Steering Committee First Meeting on the implementation of the OIC Cotton Plan of Action.

13. 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	SESRIC
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.	Satellite Control and Monitoring Centre (SATCMC)	Turkey	Turkey	
6.	Low Earth Orbit Satellite	Turkey	Turkey	
7.	Creation of a Network of Cross-border Parks and Reserves in West Africa	Guinea	Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal, Sierra Leone	ICDT/SESRT CIC
8.	Technical Cooperation in the Field of Heritage Preservation	Jordan		IRCICA