



العرف الاسلامي 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
for submission to the 29th Meeting of the Follow-up
Committee of the COMCEC**

**14-15 May 2013
(Ankara, Republic of Turkey)**

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Introduction:

The year 2013 marks the 34th year of the establishment of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA) as an affiliated Institution of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

In consonance with the 10 year Programme of Action of the OIC, the ICCIA has developed its 10 Year Work Plan, as a mechanism to assist in the implementation of the OIC Programme of Action.

As the ICCIA represents the private sector within the OIC countries, it advocates the interests of the private sector at the various OIC Foras. Private Sector is the vehicle of economic growth and hence the role of the ICCIA gains more importance. It is also looked upon, to work basically as non-profit service providing organization. Based on this notion and over the years, the ICCIA is striving to assist the entrepreneurs of OIC countries in developing capacities for sustainable trade promotion and industrial development.

Within the framework of the implementation of Its Ten-Year Work Plan and in its endeavors to serve the Private Sector, the Islamic Chamber has developed many goals and also has drawn up ethical and practical aspirations upon which the advanced nations lean to go ahead towards further progress . Thus, all of the secretariats have been working on achieving these goals in various fields.

The General Secretariat of ICCIA has been undertaking activities in line with its objective by holding the following activities:-

- Organization of business forums for private sector
- Workshops, Training programs on capacity building, utilization of microfinance, developing Entrepreneurship, particularly in the youth.
- Playing a role for increasing the level of Intra Islamic Trade to 20% by 2015
- Implementing the relevant aspects of the OIC Program of Action
- Cooperating with OIC & other related International Organizations for the development of SMEs

The General Secretariat of Coordination also works closely with the OIC and all relevant Institutions to implement the 10 Year Programme of Action. It is necessary to maintain a close working relation with OIC and the relevant OIC Institutions, so as to be part of the important activities and at the same time to reinforce the standing of ICCIA, in the OIC, its Institutions and the Member countries, that ICCIA is a major Institution dealing with the private sector. It regularly submits its reports and attends some of the various economic meetings of the OIC. Through these Reports, the ICCIA puts forward the views of the private sector, with recommendations on how the role of the private sector can be further strengthened.

Mentioned hereunder are the broad areas and salient aspects of the activities.

Private Sector Meetings/Businesswomen Forums:

- The ICCIA has so far, held Fourteen (14) Private Sector Meetings. The outcome of these meetings has been productive, in providing a common platform for the business community of the 57 member states to explore greater opportunities for trading and investment. The share of intra-OIC trade in the Member States experienced an increase by 2.28% rising from 16.65% in 2009 to 17.03% in 2010. It is now hoped that this level of intra Islamic trade of about 17% would further increase, with the coming into force the Trade Preferential System among the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation” (TPS-OIC).
- Given the resources, of the 57 member states of OIC, the level of economic cooperation, is not reflective of the potentials. This can be attributed to the geographical placement and the diverse and varied socio-economic level of development of the said member states. Perhaps a cross the board approach for the member states is not feasible and applicable. Therefore, member states are encouraged to work out bilateral arrangements on granting concessions for establishing businesses and expanding trade.
- As part of the OIC Programme of Action for the economic empowerment of women, the ICCIA has held Six (6) Businesswomen Forums. These Forums provided the women the opportunity to interact with their counterparts and learn from each others success stories.
- In its endeavours for the economic empowerment of women, the ICCIA has organized the 6th Forum for Businesswomen in Islamic Countries in Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain from 12th to 14th December 2012. The Forum was organized in collaboration with the Islamic Development Bank Group (IDB), Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund / United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Industrial Development Organization, Investment & Technology Promotion Office (ITPO), Bahrain, Bahrain Businesswomen’s Society (BBS) Bahrain, Bahrain Businesswomen’s Society (BBS), Bahrain , Supreme Council for Women, Bahrain Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCCI) and Bahrain Development Bank (BDB).
- The Forum was held under the kind patronage of HRH Princess Sabika Bint Ebrahim Al Khalifa, Wife of His Majesty the King and President of the Supreme Council for Women and was attended by around 150 participants from 36 Member Countries, representatives of Islamic Development Bank Group (IDB) and International Finance Corporation (IFC) of the World Bank Group and some other local and international institutions.

International Zakat Organization:-

A contemporary entity derived from juristic provisions for Zakat’s, highlight its social Takaful, as well as its developmental socio-economic aspects.

The Main Activities:

- The General Secretariat for Economic Affairs in collaboration with the Higher Institute for Zakat Sciences of Sudan jointly organized a training course for establishing Zakat Funds in Sierra Leone from 19-23 May 2012 in presence of the representative of the President of the Republic of Sierra Leone. The course addressed the administrative and organizational structure of Zakat Institution as “Proposed Structure” and types of collections and

expenditures of Zakat. This course comes as paving the path for actual operation of Zakat Institution of Sierra Leone.

- The General Secretariat for Economic Affairs in collaboration with the Higher Institute for Zakat Sciences of Sudan jointly organized a training course on Zakat and its role in social development. It was held in Yaoundé – Cameroon, from 23-27 June 2012 in the presence of the representative of the Ministry of Social Affairs of the Republic of Cameroon. The course addressed the administrative and organizational structure of Zakat Institution as “Proposed Structure” and types of collections and expenditures of Zakat. This course comes as paving the path for actual operation of Zakat Institution of Cameroon.
- Contacts are being made with the official authority in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and Jordan Chamber of Commerce with regard to commencing measures for establishing Zakat Institution in Jordan.
- A number of follow up correspondents & communications had been made with some African countries, which had already concluded Zakat Agreements with IZO, it is expected that some of IZO activities i.e. regional IZO branches will commence in Mauritania, Sierra Leon and Kuwait during the year 2013.
- ICCIA Economic Secretariat had drafted a principal Zakat fund’s byelaws & regulations for the Destitute and the poor (Al Fugara / Al Masakeen), and also prepared the main byelaws and regulations of the Zakat Fund for indebted persons (Algharmeen) in cooperation with Jeddah Chamber of Commerce.
- In the framework of strategic partnership with Zakat Chamber in Sudan beside the implementation of its terms and conditions, the IZO has co-organized a successful workshop promotion of Zakat Figh syllabuses in general education, as well as universities level . The workshop held under the auspices of President of Republic of Sudan. The aim of the said workshop is promoting Zakat Figh & updating the educational curricula of schools, colleges and universities in accordance with Zakat focusing also on Zakat research, promoting institutional sound researches (Ijtihad) as well as genuine shariah researches on Zakat Account and Zakat administration as well
- As per the second regional Workshop for Zakat organizations in Africa. It will be organized in 2013, Insha’Allah. The scope of partnership will be expanded to cover OIC Member Countries from outside Africa.
- Contacts have been made with our colleagues in media and public relations General Secretariat, with the purpose of designing and setting up a Zakat website, it is expected to be implemented soon Insha’Allah.

International Non Governmental Awqaf Institution:

- Within the context of improving the relations with the official and private bodies that concerned with Awqaf. The ICCIA’s Economic Secretariat has formulated a regulatory byelaws for the benefits of Jeddah Chamber of Commerce, based on the approval of Saudi Ministry of Islamic affairs and endowments, to establish Awqaf funds under the auspices of Saudi Chambers of Commerce.
- Collection of data and studding and reviewing a proposed distinguished Awqaf website is currently underway, because presently there are a number of similar Awqaf websites here and there.

Supervision on Halal Trade:

- On the sidelines of its General Assembly Meetings held in Istanbul – Turkey, on 11th April 2012, the ICCIA had signed a number of agreements with a number of member chambers and federations as well as other organizations working in the field of Halal Trade and this come to emphasize the common objectives between the ICCIA and these organizations and chambers in supporting, promoting and enhancing commercial exchange of trade and services among OIC Member States and Islamic minorities in countries that are not members of the OIC. Furthermore, it underline the necessity of coordination between the ICCIA and this organization in the field of supervision and controlling issuance of Halal Certificate and attestation of the same, so as to ensure proper implementation of Halal Standards that are approved by the ICCIA which are based on the Standards of the OIC Group of Halal Experts. The signing of these agreements is an activation of the ICCIA's role, which commenced practical steps for promotion of benefits of strengthening Halal Trade and creating awareness about the religious significance of eating Halal Products by Muslims. The organization signed the agreements are:
 - Council of Saudi Chambers of Commerce and Industry
 - Mauritania Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture
 - Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) and the Pakistan Halal Products Development Board (PHPDB)
 - Irish Islamic Chamber of Commerce
- Upon the regulations of the Board of Directors of ICCIA for activation and issuance of Halal Food Certificates, the Council of Saudi Chambers of Commerce, coordinated with the Saudi Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Saudi Authority for Food and Drugs. A joint task force comprised of ICCIA and the said Saudi Authorities to discuss ways and means for unifying the situation at the level of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- The work is completed for launching the ICCIA Website on supervision of Halal Food Commerce and Industry, very soon. The website aimed at educating the Muslim layman about the concept of Halal food and the Islamic jurisdictions on food, what is permissible and not permissible to be eaten by Muslims. It also aims at educating the companies working in halal products about the sharia compliant authentic conditions, so as to be a methodology for them to adhere to while producing their food products, as well as publicizing the standards approved by the OIC. The website would also open avenues for cooperation and participation with all entities concerned with Halal Food in OIC States and informs them about ICCIA's activities in this field.
- Participation and co-sponsoring of the 1st International Conference & Exhibition on Halal Food Control, which was organized by the Saudi Food and Drug Authority, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from 12-15 February 2012 in Riyadh, which was attended by a number of researcher and concerned institutions that are working in research control from various countries of the world, particularly Muslim States with the objective of coming up with recommendations that would contribute in strengthening the movement of trade among the States and unifying the requirements and conditions of Halal Food as well as ways for control and supervision of the same.

- Efforts are underway to draft a trilateral MOU on cooperation in the field of Halal Trade and Industry between ICCIA, Council of Saudi Chambers and the Food and Drug Authority of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- Another Draft MOU to be signed with Brazilian Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
- Negotiations are going on with the World Muslim League about cooperation in the field of Halal.
- Participation in the 1st Gulf Halal industry & its services conference, which was held in Kuwait. The agenda of the said conference were centered on Shariah, Scientific, Economics and Halal trade dimensions. Agreements were concluded with a number of experienced halal institutions. The ICCIA President had attended the said conference and delivered the ICCIA word.
- A meeting was held with Arab Chinese Association & Cultural Exchange Council & Ningxia International trade certificate center for Halal food. The main agenda of the said meeting was to foster and reactivation of Halal trade exchange between China and OIC member countries an elementary understanding was reached to conclude a comprehensive agreements in this regard. The agreement has been prepared and shall be soon signed with the said Council.
- A meeting was held with Arab-Brazil chamber of commerce representative, with the aim of collaboration in the field of Halal trade. The meeting minutes was signed by both parties. The most important areas of deliberation were:
 - Exchange of data that concern the relevant activities which will be organize by both parties.
 - An understanding was reached to foster and increase the volume of trade exchange between Brazil and Islamic countries as well as encouraging the Brazilian investments in the Islamic countries.
 - An understanding was reached on formulation of collaboration protocol in the domain of halal products to use ICCIA's Logo in accordance with detailed procedures which will be discussed mutually later on.
- Within the context of a regulatory mechanism of the basis of how to distribute the net income and proceeds generated from halal trade on a preliminary draft was prepared to serve the project of Halal manufacturer and Halal trade with the Islamic World. It is considered as ICCIA investment activity in the domain of Halal the said activity is thought to resemble a crucial source of income to ICCIA that generates a considerable. The arrangements with the bodies that will carry out the project is currently underway it is expected to be accomplished by the next year.
- Official procedures has commenced for registering the ICCIA's logo of Halal.
- A booklet on the subject of ICCIA's supervision on Halal Food Commerce and Industry has been prepared and published. It also covers the Islamic Chamber's methodology on the subject.
- A considerable part of the material of Halal promotion booklets were completed.

Other activities:

- **Islamic Mega Bank**

As part of ICCIA's 10 Year Work Plan regarding the establishment of Emar International Bank and through the initiative of H.E. Shaikh Saleh Kamel, President of Islamic Chamber, an agreement has been signed for the Union of founding shareholders of the Islamic Mega Bank with the State of Qatar, represented by the Ministry of Economy and Finance and the IDB Group.

- **Revival of Ethical Values**

By the Grace of Allah, the preparation of a number of complete methodologies of ethical values for professions has been prepared, and they covered the following:

- Professional Values for Teachers
- Professional Values for Doctors
- Professional Values for Marketers
- Professional Values for Advocates
- Professional Values for Business Administrations
- Professional Values for Accountants
- Professional Values for Engineers
- Professional Values for Nurses

Development of Value chain in Agribusiness and Food Security in OIC Member States:

- In view of the importance of food security for the OIC Countries, there is a need for value addition. This is further signified by adding name of "Agriculture" to the nomenclature of the Islamic Chamber, the Chamber needs to undertake some initiatives in this respect. There is the need of value addition and value chain and food security wherein the Islamic countries can play a major role as there is plenty of local production but unfortunately due to lack of capabilities and technical expertise of the manufacturing sector, the local production cannot make the desired contribution to the revenue. ICCIA can take some steps to transfer expertise and know-how and financing from the developing countries to the countries which need such assistance. For this a study needs to be prepared to evaluate the overall needs of the OIC countries in terms of food security and then find how they can be met through what means and procedures.
- In addition, the ICCIA is also approaching various entities for the holding of a Workshop on Value Chain Analysis. In this context, the IDB has stated that they will inform when the Workshop can be incorporated in their Budget.
- The Agribusiness Development Forum (ABDF) which was one of the outcomes of the Workshop has been established. The broad objective of the ABDF is to provide a cohesive platform for all agri players in Pakistan, at the micro, meso and macro levels. The ABDF will provide a voice to policy level concerns, as well as incubation for innovative pilot projects at the grassroots level, utilizing a hybrid value chain approach. The first and second series of the Forum of have already been held in Lahore and Karachi, Pakistan. It is hoped that similar Forums be developed in other member countries as well. In this context the cooperation of Academia and Multinationals in Agro processing are sought. Once again, the ICCIA has been approaching the Multinationals and the Academia in some of the member states, but due to financial constraints, these Forums are not being held in the member states.

- However during the 15th Board of Meeting held in Istanbul, the President of Sudanese Businessmen and Employers Federation showed their interest in holding the a Workshop on Agribusiness and Food Security. The General Secretariat is in contact with the said Federation regarding the holding of the Workshop.

Cooperation with SS-Gate:

- In order to expand its activities to cover not only the OIC region but other regions, where there is a large Muslim population, the ICCIA is cooperating with South-South Global Assets and Technology Exchange (SS-GATE). It is a virtual and physical platform where entrepreneurs in developing countries can interact and obtain needed technology, asset and finance in a secure environment. SS-GATE facilitates realization of actual business transaction through a market mechanism, offering both on-line and off-line end-to-end supporting services.
- The ICCIA receives projects from the private sector of the member countries and uploads them on the SS-Gate System for possible financing or joint venture partners.
- The SS-Gate Website on projects is ready to receive any projects from the member chambers of ICCIA. It is also ready to impart training to the Chamber personnel as to how to upload projects as per their format on the SS-Gate system.
- On the initiatives of the ICCIA, SS-Gate delegation visited Jeddah and had a consultation meeting with IDB Group. The said meeting agreed upon several potential areas of collaboration between IDBG / ICCIA and SS-GATE for the economic cooperation among the OIC member states.

Cooperation with International Organizations:

- ICCIA continues to explore new avenues of cooperation with international organizations, such as:
 - Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF);
 - Special Unit for South-South Cooperation of the United Nations Development Program (SUSSC-UNDP);
 - Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
 - International Finance Corporation of the World Bank Group.
 - United Nations Industrial Development Organization, Investment & Technology Promotion Office (ITPO), Bahrain
- 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.

SME Development among Member States and CIS Countries:

- In the area of SMEs the ICCIA has several initiatives and is in the process of realizing them.
- In addition the ICCIA in collaboration with KOSGEB, is trying to undertake training programmes in the CIS countries. However, some of the member chambers in these countries have responded, expressing their financial constraints, due to which they are unable to cooperate.

- The ICCIA is also in contact with the ICD of the IDB Group, who have special funds for SME developments in the CIS countries. The ICCIA offered to find relevant parties for these Funds, for proper utilization and monitoring. In this context, the ICCIA contacted the member chambers of Morocco, Jordan and Egypt, where ICD wants to explore the possibilities. Response is awaited.

Cooperation with International Finance Corporation (IFC) of World Bank Group:

- In order to utilize the experience and expertise of International Agencies, such as, the International Finance Corporation (IFC) of World Bank Group. ICCIA intends to benefit from IFC's expertise and experience in alleviating poverty and improve their lives through mobilizing other sources of finance for private enterprise development.
- Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) are an essential focus of IFC's work. Supporting them is one of the most important ways IFC achieves its goal of *creating opportunity where it's needed most*.
- ICCIA may cooperate with IFC in the area of SMEs development. Since SMEs are critical for the economic and social development of emerging markets. They play a major role in creating jobs and generating income for low income people; they foster economic growth, social stability, and contribute to the development of a dynamic private sector. ICCIA formulated Strategic Plan for the Development of this pivotal sector, and therefore looks forward to a fruitful cooperation with IFC in realizing the maximum possible objectives of this Strategic Plan.
- IFC has in many countries supported the SMES, where, they focused on the local produce and now the particular commodity has become the top industry.

OIC Plan of Action for Cooperation with Central Asian:

- As part of the Work Plan for the CIS countries, the ICCIA, has been in touch with its member chambers. In this connection, in implementation of the ICCIA Strategic Plan on SMEs and in compliance of the recommendation of the 28th Meeting of the Follow up Committee of COMCEC, ICCIA is planning to organize a 2-day Training Program for the Development of SME Sector of the CIS Countries, in collaboration with the Small and Medium Sized Enterprises Development Organisation (KOSGEB) of Turkey.
- However despite all efforts, including sponsoring their travel to attend Workshops and Forums, the follow up or participation on their own is not very encouraging.
- In order for the Work Plan for the CIS countries to be effectively implemented, serious engagement and commitment from the relevant stake holders in the said countries is necessary.

Creating awareness of the utility of the various OIC Agreements:

- The ICCIA also intends to hold Seminar(s) for the private sector to explain to them the utility and benefits of the various OIC Agreements for the promotion of intra-Islamic trade. In this context, ICCIA invites all OIC Institutions to cooperate in this endeavor. During the 15th Board of Meeting held in Istanbul, the President of Sudanese Businessmen and Employers Federation showed their interest in holding the Seminar on creating awareness of the OIC Agreements. The General Secretariat is in contact with the said Chamber regarding the holding of the Seminar.

Promotion of Entrepreneurship in OIC Member States:

- Entrepreneurship is an important aspect of economic growth and the backbone of any country for its development. It is one of the most important vehicles for improvement in the economic wellbeing of individuals and societies. Studies have shown a positive relationship between entrepreneurship and aggregate economic growth. Fostering entrepreneurship in the OIC Member States is part of ICCIA's capacity building policy that aims at by providing networking opportunities to enter and expand business.
- The ICCIA is undertaking activities that would directly or indirectly lead to develop the economies of the Member states.
- In collaboration with a Karachi based School of Learning (OHSOL), ICCIA organizes a series of training programs on entrepreneurial development. In addition, an International Entrepreneurship Congress has been also held.
 1. This program targets young entrepreneurs and focus, on how entrepreneurship triggers, fuels and propels the engine of economic growth towards self-reliance, progress and prosperity.
 2. It also aims to uplift the spirit of change and leadership and to encourage the youth to find imaginative and innovative ways to seek solutions to the many problems plaguing OIC developing countries and to ultimately change the vicious circle of poverty into a virtuous circle of prosperity.
- A detailed plan is under process and the idea is to develop specific modules that suits the conditions of a number of less developed member countries and implement the same in collaboration with the member chambers and through sponsorship of some local banks and financial Institutions.
- The ICCIA has held a Training Programme on Entrepreneurship Development for OIC Countries in Sharjah, UAE, from 18th to 20th March 2013, in collaboration with the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF) / United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry. This Training Programme has provided a platform for the participants of the member states, to further enhance their knowledge, skills and taught them how to establish / expand their businesses so as to eventually contribute to poverty alleviation and capacity building. The major Recommendations of the Training Program are given here below:-
 - To call upon the Chambers of Commerce to set-up Incubation Centers to encompass pre-incubation, incubation and post-incubation services, so as to facilitate new businesses.
 - To organize specialized forums, conferences, workshops and training program for sharing best practices and facilitating linkages between local, regional and international organizations.
 - To establish Entrepreneurship Network of OIC Countries through a BLOG. This will give them ample opportunities to stay in touch with each other and also to exchange experiences across cultures. This BLOG can be used as a platform to invite entrepreneurs for exchange of not only business ideas but also the venture capital.
- Taking into consideration that the lower income people need to be educated and enlightened about doing business, the General Secretariat in collaboration with a local NGO (KASHF Foundation) organized a two day workshop, for people from the grass root level. For most of the participants it was the first time that they had seen the inside

of an office and had been taught about spending and saving and how best to use their resources and limited capital. The workshop laid emphasis on ethics of doing business and also focused on doing business with the available raw materials to cut cost and also those items which are required all the year round. It is hoped that in the near future the concept of targeting the grass root level could be promoted in other member countries as well.

- The General Secretariat of Coordination calls upon member chambers to show their interest in organizing such workshops within their Chambers, for the above mentioned strata of people.

OIC Chamber Academy Program:

- ICCIA in collaboration with the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) and International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC) initiated a program for enhancing the capabilities of Chamber of the OIC Member Countries. This networking and capacity development program was designed exclusively for the senior and top level management of the Chambers of OIC Member States with a view to support their institutional development as well as enhancing cooperation and collaboration among them. This intensive training program not only helps the participants update and improve their knowledge on core businesses of the chambers but also provides them the information on the innovative products and services developed by the successful chambers around the world. The first program was held on 20-24 June 2011 and the second Program was held on 9-12 October 2012 Ankara- Turkey.

WIEF-ICCIA Web-Reach Internet Marketing Workshop:

- The World Islamic Economic Forum (WIEF) Foundation, a not-for-profit organization based in Kuala Lumpur, organizes the annual World Islamic Economic Forum and runs programmes of the various initiatives of the Foundation that strengthen people partnership and knowledge exchange between Muslim and non-Muslim communities across the globe. The foundation aims to tackle global problems strictly from a business perspective, and to build bridges through business between the Muslim and non-Muslim world. ICCIA jointly with WIEF is organizing the Web-Reach Internet Marketing Workshop in Karachi, Pakistan in the later half of 2013 or else the first half of 2014. The Workshop will help businesses achieve online presence and increase their market reach via various online marketing strategies.

Development of Intra-Islamic Trade and Promotion of Ecommerce:

- The activities of the ICCIA, with regards of Business Forum, Workshops continue with the support of other Organisations, the Islamic Development Bank, the UN Agencies etc. These activities generate an average income but are proving to be an important platform for the business community to interact and discuss on a bi-lateral and multi-lateral basis their avenues of cooperation.

Media & Information:

- E-Magazine
- Website
- Newsletter
- Press Releases
- T.V Interviews
- Zakat Foundation of Egypt

Firstly: E-Magazine

- It contributes to achieving and publicizing the goals and activities of the Chamber and its members through promotion of their activities.
- Each issue highlights one of the Islamic countries and its wealth, resources and the available opportunities in it.
- It is sent to the federations of chambers of commerce in the OIC member countries, embassies, businessmen and the relevant bodies.
- In view that the Internet become the foremost and most effective means of communication and commercial exchanges, we found that the E-Magazine will be more practical and effective than the printing magazine. Therefore, w.e.f. April 2013, the General Secretariat for Media and Information will regularly publish its E-Magazine on monthly basis. The website of the Magazine is www.chambermag.com.

Secondly: ICCIA Website (www.iccionline.net)

- A new design for the ICCIA main website was launched in May 2009, it contains information on the Chamber, its objectives, mission, plans, information on member chambers, and general information on member countries that covers geography, typography, history, investment climate and opportunities in general.
- According to the international statistics of 2012, the average of visitors, reached 2085950, which means exceeded 2 million visitors.
- At the beginning of 2013, the number of visitors increased by 290122..
- The total number of countries that enter the website is 138 countries.
- The Website is available in three languages Arabic/English/French. It contains a complete database on member chambers and countries.
- There are information on all projects and activities of the Islamic Chamber that is updated instantly, as well as a comprehensive coverage by photographs and video for all major events and conferences of the Chamber and the interviews with its leadership.
- Link for investors that provides all needful information including investment law and climate in Islamic countries. Enough information about the countries.
- There is space for advertisement i.e. accessible as per the comprehensive plan for the products of the Secretariat and it is presently operating with more than an advertisement.

Newsletter

- The newsletter of the Chamber has been created since July 2008. It is issued in Arabic and English languages. It's website presently being updated, so as to publish the first issue in a new shape w.e.f. April 2013.
- It includes fixed sections, covering the economic news of the Chamber, federations of the chambers of commerce in the OIC member countries, and the whole world.
- It is sent to the federations of chambers in the OIC countries, some companies, businessmen, major economic institutions and relevant bodies.
- Its graphic design is periodically changed.

Press Releases

Issuance of different news and press releases, in addition to communication with the printed and electronic newspapers.

T.V Interviews

Through the various types of media, the Secretariat endeavors to publicize the Chamber and its goals through intensive media exposure for the Chamber's leadership.

Zakat Foundation of Egypt:-

Activate the Egyptian model of the International Zakat Organization (Zakat Foundation of Egypt). The major areas where the Zakat Foundation of Egypt functions as follows:

(Health - Education - Development (Training - Employment - Takaful - Gharmeen))

➤ Firstly Health:

With Zakat, we combat diseases and care for confronting illness with the objective of improving the health condition of the Egyptian community in every province.

- (1) Project of equipping and developing intensive care unit in the emergency section of the medical college of Bine Suef under the name of Egyptian Zakat Foundation.
- (2) Project for combating blindness and undertaking several caravans for a number of less developed provinces with the help of Maghreby Noor Foundation.
- (3) Treating ophthalmology patients, conducting surgical operations and other areas of sickness and providing them with the necessary treatment.
- (4) Project for purchasing cardiology valves in collaboration with cardiology unit of Qasar Al-Ainy Hospital.
- (5) Activating the Project of Health Amana, with Rabia Al-Adawia Society Hospital and Al-Maghreby Eye Hospital by way of transferring cases that needs medical treatment in all types of cases.

➤ Secondly Education:

With Zakat, we teach our children and invest in them as a weapon through which we combat ignorance and literacy. We do so through several activities and projects that are adopted by the Foundation for supporting education and providing conducive environment for students.

- (1) Annual distribution of school bags that include: Bag + School requirements in all provinces of Arab Republic of Egypt for both primary and secondary phases.
- (2) Payment of school fees for incapable student in a number of provinces.
- (3) Provision of school uniform and sportswear to orphan children annually in the celebration of the Orphan Day in collaboration with a number of welfare societies.
- (4) Protocol of Cooperation has been signed with the University of Ain-Shams for payment of school fees for a number of incapable students of Commerce College. And also payment has been made for accommodation fees in the University City for a big number of girl students.

➤ **Thirdly Development:**

We work for achieving the development goal of the Foundation as we work for providing job opportunities and establishing small projects for the needy and poor, so as to help them move from a segment that deserves Zakat to a segment that pays Zakat through all development programs.

(1) **Training**

A project for vocational training that covers stitching and providing stitching machines in collaboration with the Productive Family Society and to finance purchase of stitching machines to the trainees so as to enable them produce and have a constant income for themselves and families.

(2) **Employment**

This project aims to realizing the principle of social takaful and implementing development programmes that would lead to enhancing the living standards of individuals, families and youth and to support development activities in the neediest areas, specially the shantytowns and slum areas with the objective of enhancing the socio economic condition of the population of those areas by providing necessary financing for micro-enterprises that would provide job opportunities for downtrodden youth and families and jobless single mothers or those who are under paid and want to enter the free work market, in addition to the marginalized poor people who are doing low wage jobs, micro-enterprises owners who want to expand their activities, people with special needs who have the desire and the ability for work and production.

(3) **Takaful**

- Social Takful Campaign during the holy month of Ramadan. This projects cover the Zakat shares of (Poor, Needy and the New Converts), their number reaches quarter million needy annually.
- Assist those who are subject to natural disasters.
- Development of infrastructure (supply of clean drinkable water and connecting sanitary lines to the houses of poor families in villages and shantytowns, installation of street lights and connecting electricity for houses as well as roofs).

(4) **Al-Gharmeen (those in bondage and in debt)**

To activate the share of Al-Gharmeen, this is one of the eight, Zakat recipient categories, by paying of the debts of imprisoned mothers.

➤ **The most important future project of the Foundation:**

- (1) Project of “Sponsor Poor Village” (to contribute to developing some poor villages by way of connecting clean drinkable water lines, electricity and providing roofs for their houses and reconstructing damaged houses as means for making the major needs of the poor family).
- (2) Project of “Knowledge is a Power” in collaboration with Life Makers Society (eradicating illiteracy of 120,000 illiterate persons at the first phase with participation of 15,000 volunteers during a period of 8 months in nine provinces namely: Cairo, Giza, Alexandria, Almanofia, Alsharqia, Alsowais, Bine Suef, Alminia and Sohag)

- (3) Paying of debts of Al-Gharmeen (to complete of clearance of debts of imprison women and facilitate their release, particularly those who took loans due to their poverty).
- (4) Small projects (to support efforts of Egyptian Foundation for SMEs)
- (5) To spread awareness on Zakat significance (by organizing several seminars and training courses, so as to emphasize the awareness goal of the Foundation, which is to spread awareness on the importance of Zakat duty as a major pillar of Islam).
- (6) Holy month of Ramadan (to undertake social takaful campaign throughout the holy month of Ramadan, this project covers the following categories of Zakat recipients: Needy, Poor and New Converts) which is about a quarter million needy per year.
- (7) Education (complete distribution of school bags that include: Bag + School requirements in all provinces of Arab Republic of Egypt for both primary and secondary phases – complete payment of school fees for incapable student – complete provision of school uniforms and sportswear for orphans annually).
- (8) Health care (complete establishment of intensive care unit in the emergency section of the medical college – treatment of ophthalmology patients, conducting surgical operations and other areas of sickness and providing them with the necessary treatment – combating blindness and undertaking several caravans for a number of less developed provinces).

Business Owners Union of OIC countries

The tirelessly Endeavor to achieve the objectives of the ICCI's Ten-Year Work Plan is the main concern of every trader all over the Islamic countries through the largest portal in the OIC countries

Portal's Advantages

- Provides the opportunity for the chambers' members, organizations, trade clubs, NGOs, business owners and entrepreneurs in the Islamic countries to take part in activating the Objectives of the Ten-Year Work Plan.
- Encourages communication and acquaintance among the business owners in the 57 Islamic States so as to increase trade and investment exchange amongst the countries.
- Presents the opportunities and deliberate projects conducted by the offices of the Union Advisory members in the Islamic countries.
- Displays the opportunities of commercial agencies and goods of the Union's manufacturing companies in the Islamic world.
- Helps the companies operating in the Islamic countries to increase their sales in the non-Muslim countries

Key Activities

- Since May 2011, BOU has been inviting chambers' members, trade associations and organizations to join up the Portal.
- The BOU has started entering information about the chambers and trade associations on the Portal's Data Bank in September, 2011
- The process of registration and classification of the members' deliberate projects on the Portal of Business Owners Union has been conducted since October, 2011.