

Original: English

**REPORT OF THE 13th SESSIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING
(Istanbul, 19 October 2008)**

1. The 13th Sessional Committee of the COMCEC was held on 19 October 2008, prior to the 24th Session of the COMCEC.
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 Research Center for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA)
 - Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT)
 - Islamic Development Bank (IDB)
 - International Trade and Finance Corporation (ITFC)
 - Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI)

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.- 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 reviewed the latest developments of this project since the last meeting of the Sessional Committee.

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. ICDT requested IDB’s support in this respect. The Committee requested IDB to positively consider ICDT’s request.

The TPI representative informed the meeting of two workshops on “Industrial Property Policies” and “Innovation and Promotion” to be held in 2009 in Riyadh and Kuala Lumpur respectively.

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 the workshop will be held in Ankara at the first quarter of 2009. It was agreed that the OIC General Secretariat, KOSGEB and ICCI were to exert more effort in favor of advancing this project in the member countries concerned. It was also agreed to use all channels to mobilize the member countries to actively participate in the project. The Committee also requested Member Countries to extend required support to this Project.

With respect to the Project entitled "Cooperation in the Area of Technical Development: Medium Range Regional Turbofan Airliner", the Committee agreed to have a coordination meeting on the sidelines of the Islamic Commission in Jeddah in 2009, where all the related institutions including COMSTECH should be invited to deliberate. It was also noted that there was another project within the framework of COMSTECH, hence the Coordination Meeting could discuss how to proceed so as to avoid duplication.

With reference to the Project entitled "Low Cost Imaging-Based Mapping System Applications for Monitoring of Natural and Anthropogenic Changes in OIC Member Countries' Coasts”, it was agreed that the project be revised in line with the recent advances in technology, regarding the project. The sponsor and the coordinator need to be consulted regarding their interest in the project since both were not present.

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 the sponsors should renew their interest in the project.

As for the Project entitled "Sustainable Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa", the Committee called upon ICDT to necessarily approach parties concerned to speed tender kick off with regard to the feasibility of this project in collaboration with the World Tourism Organization and the Coordination Unit. It also called upon the Coordination Unit of this Project to request IDB to start the technical assistance in order to implement this Project.

Respecting the Project entitled "Technical Cooperation in the Field of Heritage Preservation" proposed by Jordan and IRCICA as Coordinator of the project, the Committee was informed by the representative of IRCICA of the progress made in this project, by developing numerous programmes aimed to bring together the member countries for the preservation of heritage respectively. The Committee was also informed of the website for the Heritage sites in the member countries.

Sessional Committee also reviewed progress regarding the implementation of the OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railways Line Project. The General Secretariat of the OIC informed that the Eleventh Session of the Islamic Summit Conference (Session of the Islamic Ummah in the 21st Century), held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, from 6 to 7 Rabiul Awal 1429H (13-14 March 2008), adopted the Resolution on the OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railways Line, which was launched by the Government of Sudan. The Secretariat also informed that, by the virtue of this resolution, a Committee (Project Committee) comprising of the representatives of the OIC General Secretariat, IDB and the States to be crossed by the proposed railway line (i.e. Sudan, Chad, Niger, Nigeria, Mali, Burkina Faso, and Senegal) was set up in order to embark on steps of implementing the project. Moreover, the Islamic Summit Conference also decided to include the Republic of Djibouti in the feasibility study of the proposed railways line.

The General Secretariat also emphasized that, given the significance of this Project to the OIC African Member State, the 35th Session of the Council of the Foreign Ministers of the OIC (Session of Prosperity and Development), held in Kampala, Republic of Uganda, from 18 to 20 June, 2008, decided to include the Republic of Guinea, Republic of Cameroon, Republic of Uganda and Gambia in the feasibility study of the proposed railways line.

The Committee was also informed that pursuant to the resolutions of the 11th Session of Islamic Summit Conference and 35th Session of the Council of the Foreign Ministers, H.E. the OIC Secretary General took initiative to convene the First Meeting of the Project Committee on July 19-20, 2008 at the Organization Headquarters in Jeddah. During the meeting, the representatives

of the nine OIC Member States concerned as well as the OIC General Secretariat and IDB reviewed the Draft Initial Document on the project prepared by the Government of Sudan. The Committee, upon examination of the document and comprehensive deliberations on the subject, decided: a) to establish a Project Executive Committee composed of Members of the Bureau (representatives of Sudan, Nigeria, Niger and Senegal, as well as the OIC General Secretariat and IDB); b) to prepare a Draft Project Document of the OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railways Line Project on the basis of data provided by the Member States concerned; c) to prepare the Terms of Reference of its feasibility study. The documents are almost ready and will be shortly distributed among the Project Executive Committee Members. The OIC General Secretariat is consulting with the Government of the Republic of Sudan regarding the convening in Khartoum of the Expert Group Meeting and the First Ministerial Session of the Member States to be crossed by the proposed railway line before the end of this year.

6. After the presentations, the Committee had a general discussion on how to upgrade the deliberations of the Sessional Committee, so as to make them more meaningful and result-oriented. There was a need for the upgrading process and also for looking into the projects, taking into consideration the global situation and the position of Islamic countries *vis a vis* this scenario. Projects more relevant to the urgent needs of the Member states should be taken up.

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 the earliest convenience, so as to have these projects implemented. The Committee also sought approval to drop projects in which no country has shown interest.

Under Agenda Item 2: Any Other Business

8. The Representative of the ICCI was informed of the 6th OIC Task Force Meeting on SMEs held in August 2008, in cooperation with IDB, Thai Islamic Trade and Industrial Association and the Assumption University. The Committee was informed that the Task Force put forward several recommendations which included a Strategic Action Plan spelling out specific activities under each strategic element in terms of time frame and institutions concerned. The Committee took note of the Report and agreed that the Senior Officials can be similarly informed.

9. 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
9.	Dakar-Port Sudan Railways Line Project	Sudan	Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Djibouti, Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sudan and Uganda	

