

Original: English

## **REPORT OF THE 14<sup>th</sup> SESSIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**(İzmir, 11 May 2009)**

1. The 14<sup>th</sup> Sessional Committee of the COMCEC was held on May 11th, 2009, prior to the 25th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee 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 Center for Islamic Countries (SESRIC)
  - Islamic Center for the Development of Trade (ICDT)
  - Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Group
    - Solidarity Fund
    - International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC)
  - Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI)

Some Turkish Institutions, owners of the proposed cooperation projects of the COMCEC, also attended the Meeting.

The Meeting agreed on the following agenda items for consideration:

1. Review of the Proposed Cooperation Projects of the COMCEC.
2. New Project Proposals.
3. Any Other Business.

### **Under Agenda Item 1:**

4. The COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO) made a presentation on recent developments regarding the Project Proposals. Thereafter, coordinators and owners of Project Proposals 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 introduced to the project since the last meeting of the Sessional Committee. ICDT and the TPI informed the meeting that there is a delay in the implementation of three project activities which were planned to be implemented in 2009. These activities namely are:

- i. The Inter-regional Workshop on Industrial Property Policies, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (first/second quarter of 2009).
- ii. The Inter-regional Workshop on Innovation and Promotion, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (first/second quarter of 2009).
- iii. Portal dedicated to Intellectual Property Information (PI) in the OIC Member Countries. The project will be hosted by ICDT.

As far as workshops are concerned, the Committee called upon the TPI and ICDT, first, to reiterate their invitation to the host authorities of Saudi Arabia and Malaysia to organize respective workshops and, second, to open the door to other Countries to host the meetings. In this regard, the TPI and ICDT are to request the assistance of WIPO and IDB in order to facilitate the implementation of all these projects.

Concerning the Project entitled "Incubator Management Training among OIC Member States", ICCI (the Coordinator of the Project), informed the Committee about the current situation of the project. Since no actions have been taken concerning this project, the Committee invited coordinating institutions to take necessary measures to implement it; otherwise, the Committee proposed to drop this project from Project Proposal List in its next meeting.

With respect to the Project entitled "Cooperation in the Area of Technical Development: Medium Range Regional Turbofan Airliner", the Representative of the Anadolu University informed the Committee about the latest developments of this projects. A representative from the OIC General Secretariat also informed the Committee about the relevant meeting that took place on the sidelines of the Islamic Commission in Jeddah in 2009.

After this presentation, a representative from Anadolu University informed the Committee about the background of this project in detail in order to avoid any misunderstanding concerning this project. In this regard, it is understood that entitling the project “Cooperation in the Area of Technical Development: Medium Range Regional Turbofan Airliner” during COMCEC sessions may cause confusion, due to another project proposal of similar nature studied under COMSTECH. To this end, the Committee decided to change the project name

to “Pre-Feasibility Study on Determining the Need for Regional Aircraft in OIC Member Countries”.

A representative from Anadolu University also informed the Committee that the project evaluated by COMCEC will consider only economic aspects for the development of regional airliners. Such aspect include the marketability of the airliner and its demand in OIC Member Countries or other countries; it does not take into consideration technical aspects. During implementation, if the abovementioned project achieved good results, then a second project should be started with the participation of at least five to six member countries to turn it into a full-scale feasibility study. The results of the “pre-feasibility” and “feasibility” studies can act as the basis for a production feasibility study; this is the way it is done by major aerospace manufacturers.

As mandated by the previous meeting of the Committee, CCO contacted the owners of the projects entitled "Low Cost Imaging-Based Mapping System Applications for Monitoring of Natural and Anthropogenic Changes in OIC Member Countries' Coasts", "Satellite Control and Monitoring Centre" (SATCMC) and "Low Earth Orbit Satellite". The Committee decided to drop these project from the project proposals list because of the lack of interest expressed by the Member Countries, Financial burdens involved and heavy workload imposed on the owners.

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 Republic of Korea (Korean Agency for International Development) and the UNWTO ST-EP Foundation granted some funds (US\$ 425,000 and US\$ 50,000, respectively) to undertake the feasibility study of this project; and to delivery of the report of the research firm “Sécheresse Consultants” regarding phase 1 of the study pertaining to the diagnostic assessment during the meeting held in Madrid in February 2009. Furthermore it should be duly noted that the OIC General Secretariat sent a verbal note to the IDB Group requesting it to provide additional financial contributions for the implementation of the said project.

Regarding the Project entitled "Technical Cooperation in the Field of Heritage Preservation" the Committee decided to drop this project from the project proposal list because IRCICA has been developing numerous programs aimed at bringing together the member countries for the preservation of heritages. This mission is in IRCICA’s natural domain of competence.

Regarding the project “implementation of the OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railways Line Project”, the General Secretariat of the OIC informed the Committee that it organized a meeting in Jeddah in April 20-21, 2009 to finalize the draft project document based on the country data received from Member Countries concerned.

Now all country data were received by the General Secretariat except the one of Cameroon. Also, the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya applied for membership of the Project. The final draft of the Project Document has been distributed on all Member Countries concerned. The General Secretariat of the OIC with the collaboration of the Government of the Republic of Sudan will organize a Ministerial level meeting on this important project in Khartoum, Republic of Sudan before the end of year 2009. The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) is requested to finance the consultant needed to prepare the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the pre-feasibility study of the project before the Khartoum Meeting.

6. Regarding the remaining projects, the Committee requested the member countries 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.

**Under Agenda Item 2:**

7. The Representative of the General Secretariat briefed the Committee about two new project ideas, the First one is the Freight-Forwarders Associations to increase OIC Intra-Trade, especially in relation to Cross border Trades, including Mutual recognition, Custom Certification of Conformity and Single Window Custom (One-Stop-Shop). The Second one is on the association of Airline Companies of OIC Member Countries, especially in the areas of cargo, to boost OIC Intra-Trade.

8. A representative from CCO also raised two other project ideas; one is about establishing an e-market place enhancing intra-OIC trade. The other one is on establishing a grand OIC/IDB scholarship program in major academic fields to educate future trade bridgers. The Committee requested CCO to communicate officially with IDB and OIC on this project proposal for required action.

9. The Committee welcomed these ideas and requested the General Secretariat and CCO to present the concept papers on the above projects to the next Meeting of the Sessional Committee.

**Under Agenda Item 3:**

10. The COMCEC Coordination Office briefed the Committee on the preparations for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the COMCEC. The Committee noted with satisfaction the preparations to that end.

11. The Committee then concluded its work with a word of thanks.

**LIST OF THE PROJECT PROPOSALS**

<b>Serial No</b>	<b>Project Proposals/Ideas</b>	<b>Proposing State/ Institution</b>	<b>Interested Country</b>	<b>Coordinator</b>
1.	Technical Cooperation Among Patent Offices in the OIC Member States	Turkey	Kazakhstan, Syria, Morocco, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Yemen	ICDT
2.	Incubator Managers Training Among OIC Member States	Turkey		ICCI
3.	Pre-Feasibility Study on Determining the Need for Regional Aircraft in OIC Member Countries	Turkey	Kazakhstan	SESRIC
4.	Creation of a Network of Cross-border Parks and Reserves in West Africa	Guinea	Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal, Sierra Leone	ICDT/SESRIC
5.	Dakar-Port Sudan Railway Line Project	Sudan	Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Djibuti, Gambia, Guinea, Libya, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sudan and Uganda	OIC General Secreteriat