

Original: English

REPORT OF THE 15th SESSIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING

(Istanbul, 4 November 2009)

1. The 15th Sessional Committee of the COMCEC was held on 4 November 2009, prior to the 25th 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 Center for Islamic Countries (SESRIC)
 - Islamic Center for the Development of Trade (ICDT)
 - Islamic Development Bank (IDB)
 - 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 and some country representatives 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 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 informed the meeting that the project could not be executed in accordance with its work program due to delays regarding the organization of the two workshop activities which were planned to take place in the first or second quarter of 2009. The Turkish Patent Institute (TPI) reiterated its invitation to the host authorities of Saudi Arabia and Malaysia to organize respective workshops and requested the assistance of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to facilitate the process. However, the Turkish Patent Institute (TPI) has not so far received any information from these host countries. The Committee called upon ICDT and TPI to wait for a response from host countries until the end of 2009 and if there will be no response, it is agreed that Turkey will host these two workshops.

Concerning the Project entitled “Incubator Management Training among OIC Member States”, Representatives of ICCI and the Small and Medium Industry Development Organization of Turkey (KOSGEB) informed the Committee that despite their dedicated efforts, no member country has come forward to take part in the project. Bearing in mind the importance of the project for the member countries, the Committee discussed other initiatives to have it implemented. It was agreed that the OIC General Secretariat be requested to contact member countries to the effect of deciding on who could host a meeting of the incubators, which would enable the parties concerned to determine how they can help each other.

With respect to the Project entitled “Pre-Feasibility Study on Determining the Need for Regional Aircraft in OIC Member Countries”, the Representative of the Anadolu University briefed the Committee on the background of this project in order to avoid any misunderstanding concerning the given project. IDB Representative informed the Committee that there has already been a similar study undertaken by the OIC which concluded that it

would not be feasible to enter into the aircraft manufacturing market due to excessive competition and availability of cheaper alternative from China in the near future. The Committee emphasized the importance of this project for the member countries and requested the Anadolu University to revise the project proposal and approach the IDB through outlining the terms of reference, objectives, and expected outcomes of the said project.

As for the project entitled “Sustainable Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa”, the Representative of ICDT informed the Committee about the latest developments relating to the said project. The Steering Committee of the Project held two meetings, one was in Casablanca on 9-10 July 2009 and the other in Astana, the Republic of Kazakhstan, on 3 October 2009 and approved the programme of activities (2009-2010). It also decided to hold a briefing on the feasibility study and the awareness-raising seminar for funding agencies with regard to the financing of the project in Dakar, Senegal from 10-14 March 2010. The Committee expressed its satisfaction to attest to some progress towards the implementation of the said project.

With respect to the project entitled “Dakar-Port Sudan Railway Line Project”, the Representative of the OIC General Secretariat made a presentation informing the Committee of the progress made on the project and added that an expert group meeting is due to be held in Jeddah on 16-17 November 2009 as well as a Ministerial meeting that will be held on 9-10 December 2009 in Sudan, to discuss pre-feasibility study and financing.

Under Agenda Item 2:

5. Under this agenda item, the Committee discussed two project proposals suggested by the OIC General Secretariat and two more new ones submitted by the COMCEC Coordination Office.

6. The two project proposals submitted by the OIC General Secretariat were as follows:

- i) “The Establishment of the Islamic Air Transport Organization”
- ii) “The Establishment of the Federation of Islamic Road Transport Associations”

The Committee welcomed the proposals on account of their significance for the promotion of trade and agreed to add them on the Project proposals list. The Committee also requested that the OIC General Secretariat to prepare the design of the project profile as per the prescribed format for its submission to the 16th Sessional Committee.

7. The two project proposals submitted by the COMCEC Coordination Office were:

- i) “Launching a Grand OIC/IDB Scholarship Programme in Major Academic Fields”
- ii) “Establishment of a Dynamic COMCEC B2B Web Portal”

The Committee welcomed the proposals and agreed that concerning the scholarship programme, financial institutions and the business community will be approached to contribute to the project. The Committee also noted that the IDB already has its own scholarship programmes. However, The Committee, keeping in mind that the COMCEC Coordination Office has sent a letter to the OIC General Secretariat and the IDB on the idea, decided that the COMCEC Coordination Office would continue its follow-up with the IDB for possible enhancement of the IDB’s existing scholarship programmes to include in them economic and trade related areas as well.

As for the project relevant to the web portal, it was agreed that all the OIC institutions maintaining similar databases, may cooperate with the COMCEC Coordination Office to establish the said website. The COMCEC Coordination Office will send the project proposal to all OIC institutions for review and comments.

8. 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 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 , Uganda and Guinea Bissau	OIC General Secretariat
6.	The Establishment of the Islamic Air Transport Organization	OIC General Secretariat		
7.	The Establishment of the Federation of Islamic Road Transport Associations	OIC General Secretariat		