

Original: English

REPORT OF THE 16th SESSIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING

(Antalya, 9 May 2010)

1. The 16th Sessional Committee of the COMCEC was held on 9 May 2010, prior to the 26th 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)
 - 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- Task Force Meeting on Enhancing Intra-OIC Trade.
- 4- Preparations for the Mid-term Review of the TYPOA.
- 5- 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”, The Representative of the Turkish Patent Institute informed the Committee about recent developments regarding the organization of two workshops. With the assistance of WIPO, The Turkish Patent Institute reiterated the invitation to the host authorities of Saudi Arabia and Malaysia to organize these workshops. The host authorities of Saudi Arabia declared that they will arrange the said workshop on 12-13 October 2010, in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. However, Turkish Patent Institute has not received any information from Malaysia in this regard.

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 “The Incubator Management Forum in Islamic Countries” will be held in October 2010, in Ankara, Republic of Turkey. The Committee appreciated close cooperation between the ICCI and the Small and Medium Industry Development Organization of Turkey (KOSGEB). The representative of the IDB declared its readiness to cooperate with ICCI and the KOSGEB to further cooperation in this important area. In this regard, the Committee requested the ICCI and KOSGEB to convey the outcomes of the said meeting to the IDB for consideration of its contribution.

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 of the Republic of Turkey informed the Committee about recent developments and proposed a new formulation of the project. According to this new formulation, the project name is changed from “Pre-Feasibility Study on Determining the Need for Regional Aircraft in OIC Member Countries” to “Study on Air Transportation Infrastructure and Industry in OIC Member States.” In coordination with SESRIC, civil aviation database would be established. The Committee welcomed the project proposal in its new formulation and emphasized that it would complement the objective of the project entitled “The Establishment of the Federation of Islamic Air Transport Associations.” The Committee also requested the Anadolu University to circulate the project profile form through SESRIC, the coordinator of the project, to all member states to explore their interest in the project and submit to the next Sessional Committee Meeting.

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 that the feasibility study of the project has already been finalized and added that the Steering Committee is planning to organize a Donor Conference in Dakar before the end of 2010 with the aim of raising necessary funds for the implementation of the said project. The Committee expressed its satisfaction with the ICDT’s successful follow-up on the implementation process.

With respect to the project entitled “Dakar-Port Sudan Railway Line Project”, the Representative of the OIC General Secretariat informed the Committee of the progress made on the project and added that “Stakeholders Meeting of the Dakar-Port Sudan Railway Line Project” is due to be held in Jeddah on 26 May 2010 to discuss financing. The representative of the ICCI informed the Committee that the Islamic Chamber has incorporated this project into its ventures and FORAS, the financial arm of the ICCI, has already initiated its contacts in this respect.

Concerning the Projects entitled “The Establishment of the Federation of Islamic Air Transport Associations” and “The Establishment of the Federation of Islamic Road Transport Associations,” the Representative of the OIC General Secretariat informed the Committee that pursuant to the resolution of the 25th COMCEC Session, the General Secretariat has revised the two project proposals and circulated them to all Member States for consideration and opinion. The General Secretariat received feedbacks from Afghanistan, Egypt, Jordan, Turkey and Senegal. The Committee requested the General Secretariat to continue obtaining views and suggestions from the Member States which have not done so to complete evaluation and draft relevant projects for submission to the 17th Sessional Committee Meeting. In addition, the Committee emphasized the necessity to establish a Working Group and requested the OIC Institutions to actively participate in it to ensure the successful implementation of the projects.

Under Agenda Item 2:

5. Under this agenda item, the Committee deliberated on the two project proposals of the COMCEC Coordination Office namely “Launching a Grand OIC/IDB Scholarship Programme in Major Academic Fields” and “Establishment of a Dynamic B2B E-Marketplace Web Portal”

The Committee welcomed the proposals and agreed to add them on the Project proposals list. Concerning the scholarship programme, the Representative of the COMCEC Coordination Office briefed the Committee on ongoing consultations with the IDB on this issue. The Committee welcomed the IDB's proposal to form a Task Force comprising of IDB, COMCEC Coordination Office and SESRIC to launch a scholarship programme under OIC-VET, covering of trade, finance and economy. The Committee requested the Task Force to study the details of the proposed programme and submit the project profile form to the 17th Meeting of the Sessional Committee.

As for the project entitled "Establishment of a Dynamic B2B E-Marketplace Web Portal", the Representative of the COMCEC Coordination Office made a presentation informing the meeting about the prepared project profile form. COMCEC Coordination Office informed the Committee that MUSIAD, the Independent Industrialists and Businessmen Association of the Republic of Turkey was ready to build and operate this web-portal in coordination with ICCI, ICDT and COMCEC Coordination Office. The representative of the ICDT and ICCI expressed their readiness to give support in this regard.

Under Agenda Item 3:

6. Under this agenda item, the Representative of the ICDT informed the Committee about the Consultative Meeting to be organized on 31 May- 1 June 2010 by the ICDT and ITFC in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco. The meeting will review the implementation of the Executive Program and consider new proposals to be included in the Road Map.

Under Agenda Item 4:

7. Under this agenda item, the Committee decided to hold a preparatory meeting on 28-30 July 2010 with the participation of the OIC Institutions operating in the area of economic cooperation with a view to discuss challenges encountered in implementing the TYPOA. The Committee requested the OIC Institutions to prepare reports on reviews of their past five-year activities of the TYPOA and circulate them to other OIC Institutions by the 20th of July 2010. These reports will be reviewed by the said meeting. The report of this meeting will be submitted to the 26th Session of the COMCEC.

Under Agenda Item 5:

8. Under this agenda item, the ICDT suggested a new proposal on Technical Cooperation among the OIC Member States in the field of competition policies and regulations. The Representative of the ICDT informed the Committee that in collaboration with IDB, Turkey, Tunisia and other interested countries, ICDT would launch this technical assistance program. The Committee welcomed the proposal and requested ICDT to study the details of the said technical assistance program and to submit the project profile form to the 17th Meeting of the Sessional Committee.

9. The Committee finally reviewed the agenda items of the COMCEC in connection with their activities. The representatives agreed that some of the agenda items of the COMCEC need further elaboration and may be moved to the agenda of the Sessional Committee.

10. 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.	Study on Air Transportation Infrastructure and Industry in OIC Member Countries	Turkey		SESRIC
4.	Creation of a Network of Cross-border Parks and Reserves in West Africa	Guinea	Benin, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso (Observer)	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 Federation of the Islamic Air Transport Associations	OIC General Secretariat		
7.	The Establishment of the Federation of Islamic Road Transport Associations	OIC General Secretariat		
8.	Launching a Grand OIC/IDB Scholarship Programme in Major Academic Fields	COMCEC Coordination Office		
9.	Establishment of a Dynamic B2B E-Marketplace Web Portal	COMCEC Coordination Office		MUSIAD with ICCI, ICDT and CCO