

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMCEC STRATEGY

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1. Introduction:

The Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC) has been functioning as the responsible body under the OIC for enhancing economic and commercial cooperation among the OIC Member States since 1984.

In order to make the COMCEC a more fruitful platform to meet the growing needs of the OIC Member States, the 4th Extra-ordinary Islamic Summit Conference held on 14-15 August 2012 in Mecca, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has adopted the COMCEC Strategy.

The COMCEC Strategy brought a new dynamism in the efforts for enhancing economic and commercial cooperation among the OIC Member States. The Strategy does not only put forward a clear vision for the Islamic Ummah, but also defines implementation instruments for reaching its objectives. According to its new Strategy, COMCEC serves as a forum among the Member States for exchanging experiences and good practices, disseminating knowledge and approximating policies. Member States showed a great interest and support to the implementation instruments of the Strategy namely the COMCEC Working Groups and the COMCEC Project Cycle Management in the first year of the Strategy's implementation.

COMCEC Working Groups have been established in the six cooperation areas defined by the COMCEC Strategy, namely trade, transport and communications, tourism, agriculture, finance and poverty alleviation. Since the 30th Session of the COMCEC, six Working Group Meetings were held during the February-March period. The Meetings were attended by the technical experts from the Member States, which have registered to the Working Groups and representatives from the relevant international and OIC institutions. Moreover, representatives from the private sector and non-governmental organizations have also attended the meetings and shared their views on various issues. The COMCEC Coordination Office continued to conduct analytical studies for each meeting. During their meetings, the Working Groups focused on specific themes defined in the respective fields of the Strategy. In this context, the Meetings identified the common obstacles, highlighted the success stories and discussed the policy options for the Member States to address their common policy issues in these important areas. The COMCEC Coordination Office prepared Proceedings summarizing the discussions and the presentations made during the meetings. The COMCEC Working Groups will continue to convene regularly twice in Ankara, Turkey on specific themes. All the publications regarding the working group meetings namely the analytic studies, sectoral outlooks and the meeting proceedings are available on the COMCEC website, (http://www.comcec.org/EN_YE/icerik.aspx?iid=250).

The COMCEC PCM, the second implementation instrument of the COMCEC Strategy also enjoyed great interest from the Member States and OIC Institutions. After the selection of project proposals following the first project call made in September 2013, 8 projects have been implemented successfully by the Member Countries. Moreover, the COMCEC Coordination Office has evaluated the new project proposals carefully in line with the criteria which were published on the COMCEC website in September 2014. COMCEC Coordination Office announced the final list of the selected projects on the COMCEC website and 17

projects have been final-listed. With the Signing Ceremony for COMCEC Project Funding 2015, the implementation phase for these projects has commenced by April 2015. The Third Project Call will be made in September 2015.

This report summarizes the progress achieved since the 30th Session of the COMCEC towards the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy.

2. Resolutions of the 30th Session of the COMCEC on the Implementation of the Strategy

The 30th Session of the COMCEC was held on 25-28 November 2014 in İstanbul, Republic of Turkey. The Session was informed by the COMCEC Coordination Office on the progress achieved towards the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy. After fruitful deliberations, the 30th Session of the COMCEC adopted the following resolutions for ensuring the effective implementation of the COMCEC Strategy:

The Session took note of the Progress Report submitted by the COMCEC Coordination Office highlighting the progress achieved in the implementation of the Strategy, and requested the Member States and OIC Institutions to extend their full support to the implementation of the Strategy.

The Session welcomed the progress achieved in the implementation of the projects that were funded under the first call of the COMCEC Project Funding and also welcomed the second project call, made by the COMCEC Coordination Office in September 2014.

The Session requested the COMCEC Coordination Office to regularly report the progress in the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy to the COMCEC Sessions and to the Follow-up Committee Meetings.

The Session also welcomed the activities organized by the relevant OIC Institutions (SESRIC, ICDT, IDB Group, ICCIA, OISA and SMIIC) in 2014 in line with the COMCEC Strategy.

The Session requested the Member States which have not done so, to register to the COMCEC Working Groups and actively participate in the upcoming Meetings of the Working Groups and encouraged the Member States which have registered to the COMCEC Working Groups to actively participate in the upcoming Meetings of the relevant Working Groups and benefit from the COMCEC Project Funding for realizing their cooperation projects.

Moreover, the Session took note with appreciation the holding of the Second Annual Meeting of the COMCEC Working Group Focal Points, organized by the COMCEC Coordination Office on 4-5 June 2014 in Ankara.

The Session also commended the efforts of the Working Groups towards approximating policies among the Member States in their field of competence and welcomed the policy recommendations made by the Working Groups in their meetings held in September and October 2014.

Lastly, the Session expressed its appreciation to the COMCEC Coordination Office, SESRIC, ICDT, IDB Group, ICCIA, OISA and SMIIC for their efforts towards the implementation of

the COMCEC Strategy.

3. Implementation of the COMCEC Strategy

3.1. Meetings of the COMCEC Working Groups

In line with the relevant resolutions of the 30th Session of the COMCEC, the 5th Meetings of the COMCEC Working Groups have convened in February- March 2015 period in all cooperation areas defined in the Strategy (4th Meeting for Financial Cooperation Working Group). For each Meeting, the CCO submitted analytical studies in the theme of each WG Meeting as well as sector based Outlook reports. After the Working Group Meetings, proceeding documents were prepared to put together the discussions and outcomes of the WG Meetings. All the documents and presentations made during the WG Meetings are available on the COMCEC website. (www.comcec.org)

3.1.1. COMCEC Trade Working Group

Trade is an important catalyst for economic growth. Being aware of its importance, COMCEC has initiated many programs and projects for enhancing commercial cooperation among the Member States. Trade is also defined as one of the cooperation areas by the COMCEC Strategy.

The strategic objective of the COMCEC Strategy in the area of trade is expansion of trade among the member countries. In this regard, the Strategy identified four output areas, namely trade liberalization, trade facilitation, trade financing and trade promotion to reach its strategic objective.

In line with the relevant resolution of the 30th COMCEC Ministerial Session, the 5th Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group was held on March 26th, 2015 in Ankara, Turkey with the theme of “Improving the Role of Eximbanks /Export Credit Agencies (ECAs) in the OIC Member States.” This Working Group has come up with the following policy recommendations:

- Member States are encouraged to examine and assess the financing needs of their exporters
- Member States are invited to enhance transactional cooperation among their ECAs
- Member States are encouraged to review the soundness of their ECAs with the aim of improving the overall performance of the ECA
- Member states are called on to promote public-private dialogue within the ECA context

6th Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group will be held on September 17th, 2015 with the theme of “Establishing Well-Functioning National Trade Facilitation Bodies in the Member States.”

3.1.2. COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group

Development of the transport and communications sectors is essential for economic and social development. In this context, many countries have adopted sound policies and increased their investments towards improving transport infrastructure, institutional and human capacities. However some of the developing countries and the LDCs, including some OIC Member

States are still facing difficulties in improving the conditions in the transport and communication sectors.

The strategic objective of the COMCEC Strategy is “improving the functioning, effectiveness and sustainability of transport and communications in the Member States.” In this regard, the Strategy identified four output areas, namely regulatory framework, institutional and human capacity, transport infrastructure policies and information and communications policies.

In accordance with the relevant resolution, 5th Meeting of the Transport and Communications Working Group was held on February 12th, 2015 with the theme of “Evaluating the Ownership, Governance Structures, and Performances of Ports in the OIC Member States.” It has been observed during the meeting that private sector participation in provision of the port services, inter and intra-port competition, containerization of the cargo and implementation of the Key Performance Indexes (KPIs) in order to evaluate the efficiency of ports are some of the challenges faced by the member countries. The Working Group underscored the importance of the following advices:

- Member states are invited to enhance the private sector participation in the port sector
- Member states are encouraged to establish port regulators
- Member states are called on to promote intermodal container transportation

6th Meeting of the Transport and Communications Working Group will be held on October 22nd, 2015 with the theme of “Review of the Urban Transport in OIC Megacities”.

3.1.3. COMCEC Tourism Working Group

The COMCEC Strategy defined the strategic objective of cooperation in the area of tourism as “Developing a sustainable and competitive tourism sector in the OIC Member Countries”. To reach this objective, the COMCEC Strategy identified five output areas, namely Regulatory Framework, Capacity Building and Training Programs, Private Sector Involvement, Community-Based Tourism Programs and Marketing Strategies.

Within the framework of the operationalization of the COMCEC Strategy, the Tourism Working Group has been established and convened five times up to date.

5th Meeting of the Tourism Working Group was organized on February 5th, 2015 with the theme of “Travel Facilitation for Enhancing Mobility in the OIC Member States.” In this Meeting, the representatives from the Member Countries, international organizations and private sector underlined some important challenges faced in the Member Countries in facilitating travel. Accordingly, insufficient air linkages, reciprocal actions in response to visa policies of other nations and cost of leveraging new and existing technologies in travel facilitation are the main challenges mentioned in the TWG Meeting. In response to these obstacles, the 5th Meeting of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group has come up with some policy recommendations as follows:

- Encouraging Visa Facilitation among the Member Countries
 - Improving the delivery of information
 - Facilitating the processes for obtaining visas
 - Lowering or eliminating visa application fees

- Differentiating treatment to facilitate tourist travel
- Promoting eVisa programs
- Developing air linkages and increasing the airline capacity
 - Partnering with airlines to expand access to visitor markets
 - Incorporating airlines into the destination's tourism profile
 - Making better use of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in airport infrastructure

6th Meeting of the Tourism Working Group will be held on September 3rd, 2015 with theme of “Effective Marketing Strategies: Innovative ICT Solutions.”

3.1.4. COMCEC Agriculture Working Group

Agriculture sector plays a significant role in many developing countries including most of the OIC Member States. In many Member States, the level of dependence on agriculture for economic development is very high. In this regard, COMCEC gives utmost importance to the development of agriculture sector in the Member States.

The COMCEC Strategy defined the agriculture sector as one of the six cooperation areas. The strategic objective of cooperation in this sector is increasing the productivity of agriculture sector and sustaining the food security in the OIC Member Countries. For this purpose, the Strategy defined increasing productivity, regulatory framework and institutional capacity, reliable and up-to-date data, market performance and access as the output areas in this area.

Since the 30th Session of the COMCEC, Agriculture Working Group has held its 5th meeting on March 5th, 2015 in Ankara with the theme of “Improving Institutional Capacity: Strengthening Farmer Organizations in the OIC Member Countries”. In this Meeting, representatives from the Member Countries and some non-governmental organizations underlined the importance of farmer organizations with regards to their role in information, knowledge and technology sharing. Moreover, the need to enhance greater access to domestic and foreign markets, to enable production planning, and to improve communication and information access among all stakeholders was also highlighted in the Meeting. In this respect, 5th Meeting of COMCEC Agriculture Working Group put forward the following policy recommendations:

- Research and extension services of the farmer organizations need to be improved for increasing agricultural productivity.
- The capacity of farmer organizations to access to agricultural market information and dissemination of the market information to their members needs to be improved.

The 6th Meeting of the Agriculture Working Group will be held on October 8th, 2015 with the theme of “Promoting Agricultural Value Chains in the OIC Member States.”

3.1.5. COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group

Poverty alleviation efforts have been occupying an important place on the COMCEC agenda. The COMCEC Strategy defines Poverty Alleviation as one of its cooperation areas. According to the COMCEC Strategy, the objective of cooperation in this important area is eradicating extreme poverty and hunger in the member countries. With this view, the Strategy

identified four output areas, namely Aid Effectiveness, Productive Capacity of the Poor, Effective Utilization of Financial Resources and Monitoring Poverty.

Since the 30th Session of the COMCEC, the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group has held its 5th Meeting.

5th Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group was held on February 26th, 2015 in Ankara with the theme of “Activation Policies for the Poor in the OIC Member States.” The participants discussed that jobless growth and poor quality jobs that do not pay enough wages (or are concentrated in the informal sector) are unlikely to support for moving people out of poverty. Public Employment Services (PES) aim to provide job search support and refer training programmes to the beneficiaries to be able to find decent jobs. However, the capacity of the institutions responsible for the PES in the member states is not sufficient to provide these services. Furthermore, youth unemployment is an important challenge among the poor people in the Member Countries and skills mismatch is seen as one of the main causes of the youth unemployment. Skills mismatch is also a significant problem in labour market in the Member Countries. The Meeting came up with the following policy advices to be submitted to the 31st Session of the COMCEC.

- Increasing the capacity of the institutions providing Public Employment Services (PES) in the Member Countries through enhancing the quality and quantity of the human resources and developing information technology (IT) infrastructure of the PES institutions as well as ensuring an effective partnership with the relevant stakeholders in delivering activation measures
- Promoting employer engagement in the preparation/implementation of the activation programmes through establishing a sound mechanism for ensuring the active involvement of the relevant stakeholders, and conducting employer surveys to identify the skill-needs in the labor market.

The 6th Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group will be held on September 10th, 2015 with the theme of “Improvement of Basic Services Delivery in the OIC Member States”.

3.1.6. COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group

In recent years, COMCEC has intensified its efforts for enhancing cooperation among the member states in the area of financial cooperation. The COMCEC Strategy has identified financial cooperation as one of its cooperation areas with the strategic objective of deepening financial cooperation among the Member Countries. The Strategy also identified four output areas to reach the objectives, namely regulatory and supervisory cooperation, capital flows, visibility of financial markets and training R&D activities and statistics.

COMCEC Finance Working Group has been established as part of the COMCEC Strategy. Since 30th Session of the COMCEC, The Fourth Meeting of the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group was held on 19th March, 2015 in Ankara with the theme of “Improving Banking Supervisory Mechanism in the OIC Member Countries.” The participants have deliberated on the institutional framework for financial inclusion in the Member Countries, barriers on enhancing financial inclusion and measures for reducing financially excluded population. As an outcome of the Meeting, some policy recommendations for enhancing financial inclusion were highlighted as follows:

- A unified credit risk data collection strategy for the OIC Member Countries needs to be developed for reducing risks during episodes of economic turbulence and risk assessment capacity of the OIC Member Countries as well as OIC Member Countries should be developed in line with the international best practices.
- An Effective Deposit Insurance Scheme for the Banking Sector needs to be developed for achieving a higher degree of financial stability and financial inclusion.
- A Regulatory and supervisory Framework needs to be developed specifically for Islamic Banking in order to benefit from the significant growth potential of Islamic Banking System.

3.2. The COMCEC Project Funding

The COMCEC Project Funding is one of the two implementation instruments of the COMCEC Strategy, which aims at providing funding to the COMCEC Projects in the form of grants. The Strategy introduces a well-defined project cycle management with a clearly identified financial mechanism. The COMCEC Projects to be submitted by the Member States and the OIC institutions under the COMCEC Project Funding will serve to the realization of the objectives of the Strategy and to the mobilization of human and institutional resources of the Member States.

The COMCEC Coordination Office made the First Project Call in September 2013 and many Member States and OIC Institutions submitted their project proposals. 8 final listed projects have been successfully implemented. Table 1 demonstrates the list of implemented projects in 2014.

Table 1: The List of Implemented Projects in 2014

No	Country	Cooperation Area	Project Title
1	AFGHANISTAN	Trade	Capacity Building in Trade Institutions of the Central Asian Countries of COMCEC
2	AZERBAIJAN	Tourism	Cities of Common Cultural Heritage
3	CAMEROON	Finance	Workshop On The Challenges Of Electronic Payment Systems In West and Central African States
4	ICDT	Trade	International Seminar on Developing National& Regional Approaches to Enhancing Innovation Support Commercialization of R&D Results and Patents Among the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Member States
5	INDONESIA	Trade	SMEs in the Borderless Era, Shaping Opportunity to the Global Value Chain
6	PAKISTAN	Agriculture	Pakistan Bioremediation Model for wastewater treatment and capacity building program among OIC countries
7	SESRIC	Poverty Alleviation	Enhancing National Capacities in Poverty Statistics of COMCEC Member Countries
8	SESRIC	Tourism	Improving Statistical Capacities of Tourism Sector in COMCEC Mediterranean and Gulf Region

For 2015 Implementation Year of COMCEC Project Funding, the Second Project Call was made in September 2014. The public institutions of the Member Countries which had registered to the Working Groups and OIC Institutions operating in the field of economic and

commercial cooperation were invited to submit their preliminary project proposals. The Member States and OIC Institutions showed great interest to the COMCEC Project Funding.

After the completion of the evaluation of the submitted project proposals, the COMCEC Coordination Office announced the final list of projects selected for financing in March 2015. Table 2 below shows the Final List of Projects to be financed by the COMCEC Coordination Office for the year 2015.

Table 2: Final List of Projects to be Financed through the COMCEC Project Funding in 2015

No	Country	Cooperation Area	Project Title
1	CHAD	Agriculture	Project for support to the Agricultural training centers in Chad
2	INDONESIA	Agriculture	Improving the income of small and medium scale farmers in OIC Member State through Integrated Farming System
3	SURINAME	Agriculture	Gaps for greenhouse vegetable Crops; Principles for tropical climate areas
4	TURKEY	Agriculture	The establishment of database, network connection and web pages of smallholders/family farmer's agricultural cooperatives between COMCEC member states.
5	UGANDA	Agriculture	Strengthening Irrigation Schemes to Build Capacity of smallholder farmers in Agriculture Water Management
6	GAMBIA	Financial Cooperation	Capacity Building on Islamic Financial Instruments
7	MALAYSIA	Financial Cooperation	Islamic Capital Market Capacity Building Programmes
8	CAMEROON	Poverty Alleviation	Building productivity capacities of agriculture small scale producers of the coffee and cocoa within some Central African and West African States through the improvement of phytosanitary practices
9	IRAN	Poverty Alleviation	The Role of Community-Based Rehabilitation in Poverty Reduction: A Comparative Study among Iran, Malaysia , and Indonesia
10	SESRIC	Poverty Alleviation	Improving Statistical Capacities of OIC Member Countries in Poverty Statistics
11	SURINAME	Poverty Alleviation	Design and implementation of the Management Information System for SSN's within the Ministry
12	AZERBAIJAN	Tourism	Promotion of the Cities of Common Cultural Heritage
13	GAMBIA	Tourism	Strengthening Community Resilience through Eco tourism
14	GAMBIA	Trade	Capacity-building and Institutional Strengthening of The Gambia Standards Bureau for the Adoption and Implementation of OIC/SMIIC Halal Standards and related Conformity Assessment
15	ITFC	Trade	Trade Facilitation Program for Central Asian Member Countries of OIC
16	QATAR	Trade	Trade Agreements and Economic Diversification in Qatar, Opportunities and Challenges for Entrepreneurs
17	TURKEY	Transport and Communications	Measuring and Benchmarking of "PMPI (Passenger Movement Performance Index)" among the OIC countries

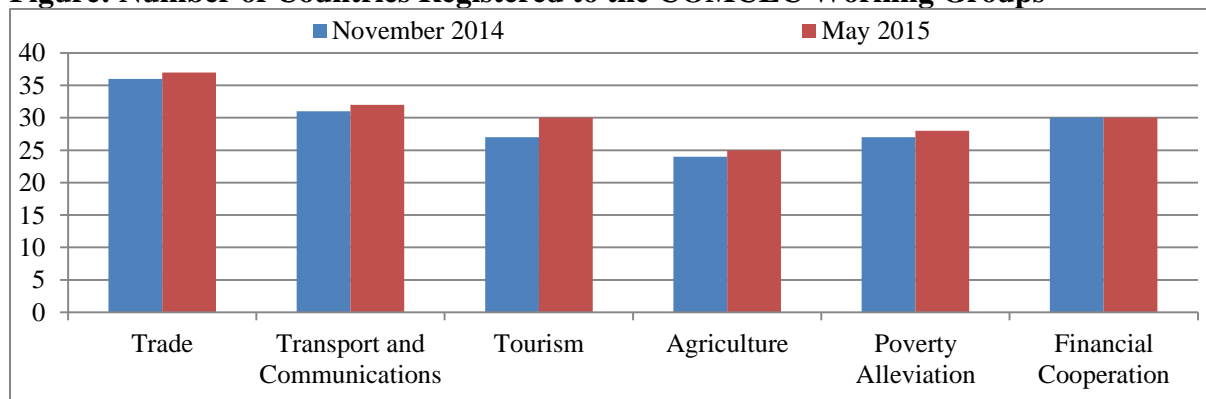
For the successful projects, a signing ceremony was held in Ankara, Turkey on March 30th, 2015. During the ceremony, operational and financial agreements were signed between the Development Bank of Turkey and the project owners. Accordingly, the implementation phase of the successful projects has started. Moreover, Project Management Training Programme was held on the sidelines of the Signing Ceremony.

The third project call will be made in September 2015.

3.3. Notification of the Focal Points to the COMCEC Working Groups

Participation in the COMCEC Working Groups is voluntary. The Member States wishing to participate in the COMCEC Working Groups need to register and notify their focal points for each working groups. During November 2014-May 2015 period, the number of registered Member Countries increased in almost all the Working Groups. The Figure below illustrates the number of countries registered for the working groups. The total number of Member States which registered at least one of the working groups reached 43.

Figure: Number of Countries Registered to the COMCEC Working Groups



For enhancing communication and coordination among the focal points of WGs, COMCEC Coordination Office will organize the 3rd Annual Focal Points Meeting on 10-11 June 2015 in Ankara, Turkey. The Meeting will provide an opportunity to the Focal Points to share their views and suggestions to improve the cooperation efforts under the WGs. Moreover, a training programme on the COMCEC PCM will be held on the sidelines of the Meeting.

3.4. Activities by the OIC Institutions Serving to the Objectives of the Strategy

In the area of tourism, Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Turkey organized 3rd Meeting of the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum on 29-30 January 2015 with the theme of “International Branding of Tourism Destinations in the OIC Member Countries.” The Forum underlined the importance of multi-stakeholder engagement as a critical success factor for tourism branding particularly through utilizing Public Private Partnerships and highlighted the importance of experience sharing, technical cooperation and capacity building programs among the Member Countries on tourism destination branding. On the sideline of the Forum, the private sector representatives of the Member Countries had the opportunity to conduct B2B Meetings with their counterparts.

Some important developments also took place in the area of trade during this time period. The implementation of the TPS-OIC, which is the flagship project of the COMCEC in the area of trade, is about to start. In its 30th Ministerial Session held in 25-28 November 2014, the COMCEC has welcomed and applauded the finalization of the requirements for the operationalization of the TPS-OIC System and requested the Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) to consider convening its session in 2015. It also requested the TNC Secretariat to circulate the concessions lists among the participating states of the TPS-OIC.

Toward that end, the COMCEC Coordination Office, in cooperation with the Turkish Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges, organized a training seminar on 26-27 January 2015, in Ankara to review the preparations of the 12 participating states for the

operationalization of the TPS-OIC, especially its protocol on the Rules of Origin. The CCO also sent a questionnaire to the participating states to assess the time required for the finalization of the necessary preparations in these countries for the full implementation of the System.

Moreover, the ICDT and Integration Department of the IDB, in collaboration with the Ministry of Economy of Republic of Turkey and CCO, jointly organized a training seminar on TPS/OIC and its protocols for the benefit of the Executives of the countries of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) in Istanbul in April 7th to 9th, 2015.

With regard to the Consultative Group of the Executive Programme for Enhancing intra-OIC Trade, the seventh and final meeting of the Consultative Group was held on 2-3 March 2015 in Marrakesh, Morocco. The 30th Session of the COMCEC thanked the ICDT and other members of the Consultative Group for their efforts towards enhancing intra-OIC trade, and requested the Group to successfully conclude the implementation of the Executive Programme in 2015. The Session also requested the ICDT, in collaboration with other relevant OIC Institutions, to prepare a comprehensive evaluation report on the implementation of the Road-Map and submit it to the 31st Follow-up Committee Meeting and the 31st Session of the COMCEC.

In the area of agriculture, ICCIA organized a Workshop on Capacity Building on Value Chain Analysis for Agri-Business in Ankara, Turkey on December 1st to 3rd, 2014. This Workshop was attended by 16 Member Countries and representatives from international organizations, FAO, COMCEC and SESRIC.

ICCIA will organize the 17th Private Sector Meeting, in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, along with the 15th Islamic Trade Fair, which will be organized by the ICDT from 8-12 November 2015. In addition, the 8th Forum for Businesswomen will be organized in 2015.

The COMCEC Coordination Office and the OIC Institutions will continue organizing activities with a view to contributing to realize the objectives of the Strategy during the remaining part of 2015.

4. Conclusion

The COMCEC Strategy has brought a new dynamism to economic and commercial cooperation efforts under the auspices of the COMCEC. The COMCEC Working Groups, being one of the implementation instruments of the Strategy provided the opportunity for the Member States to discuss important issues at the technical level in the cooperation areas. During the past meetings of the Working Groups, the discussions focused on identifying the common obstacles, sharing the success stories and exchanging views on possible policy options for addressing common problems in the respective fields.

Since the 30th Session of the COMCEC, 6 Working Group Meetings have been held in Ankara, Turkey. The Meetings which have been participated by the representatives from the Member States, OIC Institutions, relevant international institutions, NGOs and the private sector, focused on important issues in six cooperation areas. The Meetings considered thematic research reports and sectoral outlooks prepared for the meetings and experiences of the Member States and International institutions.

Moreover, within the implementation of the COMCEC Project Funding, the first period has been successfully finalized with the completion of 8 projects by the Member Countries and OIC Institutions in 2014. For the second implementation year, 2015, the Second Project Call was made in September 2014 and after the evaluation of submitted project proposals from the Member Countries and OIC Institutions, 17 projects have been final listed. With the Signing Ceremony for COMCEC Project Funding 2015, the implementation phase for these projects has commenced in April 2015. The Third Project Call will be made in September 2015.