



الجمهورية الإسلامية للتجارة والصناعة والزراعة

Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture
La Chambre Islamique de Commerce, d'Industrie et d'Agriculture

**Report on the Activities of the
Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture (ICCIA)
for submission to the 33rd Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of COMCEC**

**10-11 May 2017
Ankara, Republic of Turkey**

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Introduction:

The ICCIA was created with the objectives of bringing about greater economic cooperation among the Member Countries, through the Private Sector. Towards this end, it has diversified its programmes in line with the needs of the Private Sector and the fast moving economic challenges

The activities undertaken by the ICCIA are providing a common platform to the Private Sector to interact, have B2B meetings, expand their business & investment ties. Furthermore, Training Programmes, Workshops, Forums and Private Sector Meetings are being held, which deal with topics that can enable the Private Sector to enhance their overall businesses.

The Private Sector of the 57 OIC Countries, varies from country to country, as per their economic potentials, knowledge, and business acumen. Therefore, the Islamic Chamber, organizes customized Training Programmes, which would help them upgrade their business, adopt best practices and make their business more competitive, as per International Standards and add more value.

Till date, the areas where focus has been given are capacity building, commodity exchange forums, business leadership development, poverty alleviation, upgrading marketing and managing skills, value-addition, gender development, promotion & development of Small & Medium Enterprises, utilization of microfinance, developing Entrepreneurship, particularly in women and the youth.

The ICCIA has also been collaborating with some of the UN Agencies, with similar objectives. In this context, several initiatives have been taken with the UNDP Unit for South-South Cooperation. These have been result oriented, as they brought about a more focused cooperation between the private sector of the South and at the same time triangular cooperation involving the South-South Countries with the North.

In its endeavours, to further expand its scope of work, the ICCIA is also keeping the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as its guidelines in its programmes and activities. Of particular reference are those related to food security, economic empowerment of women and promotion of inclusive growth.

In undertaking its programmes, the ICCIA is working in close collaboration with the General Secretariat of the OIC and its Institutions as well as other related International Organizations on common goals & objectives. As part of a mechanism to further enhance its activities, hereunder are the broad areas and salient aspects of the ICCIA activities:

ENHANCING THE ROLE OF PRIVATE SECTOR:

The Islamic Chamber has been holding Private Sector Meetings and Businesswomen Forums to provide a common platform for the business community to interact and conduct B2B Meetings. In addition, the Islamic Chamber has also been organizing Sector-wise Commodity Exchange Forums, Business Leadership Workshops.

These activities have shown concrete results as business deals have been conducted, exchange of expertise has taken place, best practices have been learnt and skills have been developed. The ICCIA has so far, held sixteen (16) Private Sector Meetings and nine (9) Businesswomen Forums.

The Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture has jointly organized with the Council of Saudi Chambers (CSC), the 9th Forum for Businesswomen in Islamic Countries, in Riyadh – Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 25th May 2016, under the theme of “Investment Opportunities in the Islamic World”. The Forum was held under the Kind Patronage of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, HRH King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud and was inaugurated by HRH Princess Nora bint Mohammed Al Saud, the spouse of HRH the Governor of Riyadh. The Forum was attended by more than 250 participants from different OIC Countries; namely Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Pakistan, Somalia, Sudan, Tajikistan, United Arab Emirates and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in addition to the representatives of the Embassies and Diplomatic Missions accredited to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as well as the representative of the OIC.

The Forum emphasized the need of access to finance for businesswomen of OIC Countries and calls upon the relevant stake-holders to extend full support in facilitating easy access to finance. The Forum underlined the significance of the establishment of joint business councils for businesswomen in the Islamic countries because of their roles in promoting investment opportunities through the private sector, and called on the relevant institutions in the Islamic countries to further intensify the support for their establishment.

ICCIA will organize the 10th Businesswomen Forum either in Sudan or Egypt in 2017 and the 17th Private Sector Meeting for the OIC Member States in Madina Munawwara, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the year 2017, to mark the celebrations of the Madinah Munawwara as the Capital of Tourism for OIC Countries for the year 2017; and the 18th Private Sector Meeting for the OIC Member States will be held in the State of Kuwait, alongwith the Islamic Trade Fair in the year 2018.

Study on Textile and Garment Industry in OIC Countries:

Taking into consideration that textile is playing an important role in the economies of the OIC Countries, the Islamic Chamber has also initiated a study on Textile and garment industry in OIC Countries. The study deals with an overview of the textile and garment industry and covers numerous opportunities and markets that can be tapped. It further mentions the key initiatives undertaken by the OIC Countries to promote the textile and garment industry.

The textile and clothing market is a key sector of international trade that provides significant growth opportunities particularly in developing countries. The global clothing market is expected to increase at a CAGR of 2.9%, from USD2,119bn in 2014 to USD2,515bn in 2020. The textile and readymade garment is a major industry in many countries and contributes greatly to the economic growth of the respective countries. Within the OIC Countries the textile industry is mostly concentrated in Turkey, Pakistan, Egypt, Bangladesh and Indonesia. Globally the industry is mostly concentrated in China, India and other countries. However, a large portion of textile manufacturing in China is moving to very low-cost countries in Africa, as well as Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Mauritius, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and others. Currently, there is growing demand for clothing for men and women in the thriving OIC economy. In 2014, the 57 Countries that form the

OIC accounted for 7.9% of global value sales of apparel and footwear. This share is expected to grow up to 8.4% in 2016, up to 8.8% in 2017 and up to 9.1% in 2018.

The Islamic Corporate Masfaq for Growth & Job Creation:

Al-Masfaq is an initiative of the Islamic Chamber focusing on facilitating the private sector to conduct businesses from one common platform. It is a model for collaboration between the Chambers of Commerce and the ICCIA. The first implementation of the idea commenced in Saudi Arabia, with the collaboration of Jeddah Chamber of Commerce & Industry (JCCI). The ICCIA hopes to replicate this model with numerous OIC Member States and Chambers of Commerce.

Its main goal is to develop the economy and to provide job opportunities by way of developing an investment map of the city, where Al-Masfaq operates, so as to give a clear picture to the potential investors to explore the real and feasible investment opportunities. It also aimed at being the one-stop-shop that provides all the needful permission, licenses and NOCs that are needed from all the investment concerned governmental authorities. Al-Masfaq will be a place where youth with creative ideas can meet entrepreneurs who are willing to assist in investment and wellbeing of the community. The major role of Al-Masfaq is not only the investment, but also to gather people under one roof and to facilitate procedures and create development in the various fields of economic activities.

Innovation and Excellence Award (ITQAN):

In addition to holding Private Sector Forums, Workshop and Seminars, the Islamic Chamber has also set-up the Excellence Award Project (ITQAN). Excellence Award "ITQAN" is Biennial (two yearly) award granted by the ICCIA with the objective of enhancing spirit of competitiveness amongst the companies and firms of private sector, in pursuance to achieve the highest standards of excellence, innovation, quality and to compete with the best global firms and companies.

The objectives of the Award, is to strengthen the value of ITQAN amongst the corporations, and to encourage innovation for creating job opportunities and reduce unemployment among Islamic States. Moreover, to publicizing the successful practices of the firms and to motivate firms and companies to compete as well as to develop their operations and performance, so as to increase commercial exchange amongst Islamic Countries.

During the 24th Meeting of the ICCIA Board of Directors, held in Konya, Turkey on September 2016, the representative of Qatar Chamber of Commerce and Industry made a detailed presentation on the proposed Executive Plan and it was approved by the ICCIA Board of Directors. It will be hosted by the State of Qatar and the Qatar Chamber of Commerce & Industry in Doha and a Task Force will carry out the initial arrangements. The Selection process of the Award will be over four stages: (1) Pre-Submission Process (2) Presentation & Initial Screening Process (3) Field Visits & Evaluation (4) Selection of the Winners & Award Ceremony. The ITQAN Award will cover the three following categories: (1) Subsidiary Sectors (2) Major Sectors (3) Sectoral Awards.

ICCIA Halal Accreditation Center:

The First Meeting of the ICCIA Committee of the Halal Accreditation Centre, was held in Cairo – Arab Republic of Egypt on May 2016 and made the outlines of the project.

During the 24th Meeting of the ICCIA Board of Directors, held in Konya, Turkey on September 2016, the representative of Qatar Chamber of Commerce and Industry made a detailed presentation on the proposed Executive Plan and it was approved by the ICCIA Board of Directors. The Center will be hosted by the State of Qatar in Doha and a Task Force will carry out the initial arrangements. ICCIA Member institutions from Qatar, Egypt and Sudan have recently obtained an initial consent from their respective countries to undertake ICCIA Halal Certification.

Formation of OIC Arbitration Centre as per the Recommendation of COMCEC:

During the 24th Meeting of the ICCIA Board of Directors, held in Konya, Turkey on September 2016, the representative of the Union of Turkish Chambers (TOBB) made a detailed presentation on the proposed Formation of OIC Arbitration Centre as per the Recommendation of COMCEC. It will be hosted by the Republic of Turkey and TOBB in Istanbul, as an affiliated organization of ICCIA. The Center may also be equipped to extend training to the Member Countries.

ICCIA Website:

ICCIA endeavors to utilize the information technology and the internet by operating a dynamic portal that interacts with the locals and international clients, taking into consideration the various categories/interests of users/clients in accordance to the services that are provided to them in an interactive and user-friendly approach. ICCIA's portal is a comprehensive source of updated contents that highlight the economic affairs in the Islamic World, which aims to play a major role in enhancing the intra OIC-trade through the information and services that it offers. The portal also provides detailed investment profiles about the members. This will help the potential investors to make right decisions about their investment options. The goals and objectives of the website are:

- To be a reference point for the key economic information related to the member countries
- To be a source of statistics and related reports, covering the member countries
- To be a platform for launching new projects and ideas
- To be a communication medium between members while fostering their common grounds and interest
- To introduce the chambers, their countries and projects
- To be a platform for marketing and advertising
- To Facilitate communication between ICCIA and the general public.

Cooperation with International Organizations:

ICCIA continues to explore new avenues of cooperation with international organizations, such as:

- Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF);
- United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC);
- United Nations Industrial Development Organization, Investment & Technology Promotion Office (ITPO), Bahrain

As a result of this cooperation, the above Institutions, whenever possible, extend technical support in organizing Training Programs and Workshops and by sponsoring the participants and resource persons.

In view of the above cooperation, the ICCIA participated in the Global South-South Development Expo (GSSD Expo), held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 31st October to 3rd November 2016 and signed an MOU with the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)

The ICCIA participated as an entity that deals with the private sector and provided solutions for creating avenues for South-South cooperation, for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the areas of trade, industry, agriculture and commodity exchange. The ICCIA cooperation with the United Nations South-South Cooperation Office (UNSSCO) in the areas of common interest, with focus on the areas of the private sector through programs that deals with capacity building, promoting women's entrepreneurship, job creation, developing creative economies and commercial tourism, establishing computerized trade information networks and so forth.

Taking into consideration that SMEs play a major role in the economies of the OIC Countries, the ICCIA has undertaken numerous initiatives in this respect. In this context, the ICCIA has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Bahrain SMEs Society. The objectives of the MOU, is to serve as a framework for technical cooperation and strengthen all possible joint efforts that are aimed at enhancing SMEs in the member countries in general and the Kingdom of Bahrain in particular.

Tourism:

Tourism has been playing an important role in the economic environment of the Member Countries. The OIC has been organizing the Ministerial Meetings on Tourism and efforts are being deployed to promote tourism among the OIC Countries. The Islamic Chamber, being the main representative of the Private Sector, was mandated to organize Tourism Forums for the private sector.

Forum/Workshop for Public and Private Investors in the area of Tourism Development

In pursuance of the mandate given by OIC, through Executive Program for the implementation of the Framework for Development and cooperation in the domain of Tourism among Member States, adopted by the 9th Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers, held in December 2015 in Niger, called upon the ICCIA to join efforts with Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC), Iran & Bangladesh to organize the “Forum for Public and Private Investors in the area of Tourism Development”. The objectives of the Forum will be to strengthen the role of Public Private Partnerships for the Development of the Tourism Sector in OIC Member States, as well as to highlight the ample investment opportunities in the Tourism sector of OIC Countries.

It was decided during the 1st Meeting of Trade and Investment Sub-Committee of the Annual Coordination Meeting of the OIC Institutions, that the Forum on Tourism will be held concurrently with the 3rd Tourism Fair of OIC, from 18-21 October 2017 in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt. ICCIA is in touch with the ICDT regarding organizing the said Forum.

Contributing to the Establishment of an “Islamic Tourism Portal”

The ICCIA is also called upon, through the above Executive Program, to join efforts with the ICDT to create “OIC Tourism Portal” or “OIC Internet Guide for Tourism” in three languages for the dissemination of information on tourism related issues in the OIC countries. The portal will facilitate in increasing public awareness in the OIC countries about existing tourist attractions, resources and facilities in the Islamic world with a view to encouraging tourists’ visits to other Islamic countries by providing full information to potential visitors. A Joint Task Force has been created for this purpose, it comprises representatives from ICCIA, ICDT & SESRIC.

Workshop on Key Infrastructure Development for Rural Growth for OIC:

Economies of the majority of the OIC Countries are largely rural based. But overall, the performance of rural economies spurred by agriculture sector is not promising. The challenge for OIC Countries, rural development strategy is to increase profitability, competitiveness and income earning capacity in a market-driven system for a large size of population, dependent upon agriculture for their livelihoods. In view of the above, the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture (ICCIA) had organized a Workshop on “Key Infrastructure Development for Rural Growth for OIC Countries”. The Workshop was held in collaboration with the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation (PGTF), Food & Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) and Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) in Istanbul, Turkey on 24-26 April 2017.

The objective of the Workshop was to provide an overall review of problems, issues and strategic option in developing a backbone and supporting infrastructure for rural development. The thrust of the workshop was on Cold Chain System and other related infrastructure in developing a competitive rural economy. The Workshop aimed to highlight the importance to facilitate the development of clusters of profitable small-medium-and large-scale farms and associated agribusinesses in selected Corridors from OIC region.

The Workshop was attended by the 23 participants from 14 countries, representing all regions of the OIC, namely Arab, Arica, Central Asia and South-East Asia. The participating countries were from Afghanistan, Cote d’Ivoire, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Palestine, Niger, Sudan, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Uganda and Turkey. In addition, representatives of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and Statistical, Economic & Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) were also participated.

Specialized Workshops on Business Leadership and Entrepreneurship Development:

The Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA) has been undertaking activities that would directly or indirectly lead to develop the economies of the OIC Member Countries. ICCIA organizes Training Programmes, Workshops, Seminars and Conferences on capacity building, poverty alleviation, upgrading marketing and managing skills, value-addition, gender development, promotion & development of Small & Medium Enterprises, utilization of microfinance, developing Entrepreneurship.

Similarly, ICCIA plans to organize specialized workshops on Business Leadership and, Training Program on Entrepreneurship Development through IT for OIC Countries with the objective of creating opportunities for self-employment and contribute in the economic wellbeing of individuals and societies; as well as strengthening the trade and industrial base

of OIC Countries; and to combat poverty & move towards self-reliance & prosperity as well as to learn about the qualities required in the senior management of businesses.

In this context, Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA) in collaboration with Cambridge Advisors Network & Mimsoft, has organized Training Programs for Women Skill Development and Networking at ICCIA Headquarters, in Karachi, in August and October 2016.

The Training Programs were attended by start-ups, young entrepreneurs and students from universities studying business administration and management. The objective of these programs is to impart training, knowhow and utilization of best practices, so as to promote entrepreneurial skills for women and youth, who are doing business or are planning to start businesses. These programs discussed latest concepts of enterprise development for setting-up of small scale business ventures as well as to provide networking opportunities to the participants. As a result of these initiatives, the participants were provided with a platform to get first-hand knowledge about different aspects of entrepreneurship, and how, to expand their existing businesses and further market their products and services.

In view of the positive impact of these training programs and the success stories, the ICCIA also plans to replicate similar training programmes in other interested member countries.

Workshop on Development of SMEs in OIC Countries:

The economies of today are focusing on SMEs as a viable and feasible option for growth, innovation and prosperity for the developing countries. However, despite the fact that SMEs are such an important sector of the economy, yet their growth and development is not in proportion to their importance.

Taking into consideration that SMEs form the backbone of the economies of the OIC Countries, the ICCIA is working on programs for the development of SMEs. In this context, ICCIA, in collaboration with the SMEs Development Authorities of the OIC Countries, will be organizing the Specialized Workshops on the Development of SMEs in OIC Countries in 2017.

ICCIA is also looking into the possibility of setting-up an Incubation Center in its premises in Karachi, Pakistan. It is intended to be a self-financed project that would serve in supporting startups and would extend training services to some youth on how to set-up their own businesses. It will be a pilot project and if required, similar projects can be suggested for replication in other interested Member Countries.

Sharing of Best Practices for the Benefit of the Private Sector:

Taking into consideration, the expertise available in the OIC countries, the ICCIA has also undertaken efforts to enable the private sector of the Member States to take advantage of each other, and learn best practices. In this context, the ICCIA has viewed with great interest the latest State of the Art facilities and best practices of Konya, for the exchange of commodities and development of industrial zones to achieve commercial and industrial growth. Therefore, the Islamic Chamber seeks to introduce these initiatives, in collaboration with the Union of Turkish Chambers (TOBB) and the Konya Chamber of Commerce and Konya Commodity Exchange, in other OIC Countries.

Towards this end, the ICCIA in coordination with the Union of Turkish Chambers (TOBB) and the Konya Chamber of Commerce and Konya Commodity Exchange is working on the modalities on implementing these initiatives. In this context, during the joint meeting of the 25th Board of Directors and 33rd General Assembly of the ICCIA held on 12th April 2017, in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, the representative of Sudan requested for delegation of group for training in commodity exchanges and to benefit from Turkey, in this regard. Sudan is considered one of the major producers of gum Arabic, sesame and peanuts. The President of TOBB, welcomed and offered to host the trainees and facilitate their mission.

Chambers of Commerce Forum:

In continuation with the concept of learning from other Chambers, the ICCIA will hold Forums for the Chambers of Commerce. The aim is to grant opportunity to the Chambers of Commerce to project their success stories, global experiences, so that the other Chambers may benefit from their best practices. To grant awards in the name of the Islamic Chamber for successful experiences of each Member Chamber in its area of expertise.

Upcoming Activities:

- The 17th Private Sector Meeting of the OIC Countries, Madina Munawara, 2017.
- The 18th Private Sector Meeting for the OIC Member States, State of Kuwait 2018.
- 10th Businesswomen Forum in Islamic Chamber, Sudan /Egypt 2017.
- Training Program on Entrepreneurship Development through IT for OIC Countries to be held in 2017.
- Training Program on “Technology Entrepreneurship Advocacy and Management of Business Incubation & Technology Parks”, 2018
- Trade Exchange Forum/Exhibition (Sector-wise)
- Innovation & Excellence Award (ITQAN).
- Specialized Workshop/Training Program on (Development of SMEs / Skill Development / Food Security / Textile & Garments/ Renewable Energy).
- Forum/Workshop for Private Sector Investors on Development of Islamic Tourism on 18-21 October 2017 in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt
- Chambers of Commerce Forum.
