



الجمهورية الإسلامية الليبية
الغرفة 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 34th Session of the COMCEC**

**26- 29 November 2018
Istanbul – Republic of Turkey**

Report on the Activities of the
Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture (ICCIA)
for submission to the 34th Session of the COMCEC
26 – 29 November 2018, Istanbul – Republic of Turkey

Introduction:

Striving to attain greater economic cooperation, has been the focus and objectives of the programmes and activities of the ICCIA. 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 development of Halal, capacity building, commodity exchange forums, business leadership development, promotion of tourism, poverty alleviation, upgrading marketing and managing skills, value-addition, gender development, promotion & development of Small & Medium Enterprises, utilization of microfinance, promoting green economy, developing Entrepreneurship through IT, particularly in women and the youth.

The ICCIA's Work Plan incorporates the overall objectives of the OIC Program of Action 2025 and the COMCEC Strategy. As part of the UN-OIC Collaboration to undertake joint activities, 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, UN Special Unit for South-South Cooperation and the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF). 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, which are under the framework of the implementation of the OIC 2025 Program of Action for the year 2018:

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.

On the lines of the Private Sector Meetings, the ICCIA is utilizing the platform of Statutory Meetings to also provide an opportunity to the participants to explore new opportunities for trade and investment. In this context, the 27th Board Meeting of the Islamic Chamber held in Jakarta, Indonesia on 22nd – 23rd October 2018, also organized Meetings for the Private Sector on the theme of “Inclusion in Sharia Economy: A New Paradigm”.

The Sessions covered “Opportunities for Investment in OIC Countries (with a special focus on Infrastructure Development in Indonesia)”, “Development of Halal Economy for OIC Countries”, “Economic Empowerment of Businesswomen” and “Digital Economy - A Dynamic Concept for OIC Countries”. The objectives of these sessions were to highlight the opportunities available in the specific areas, in the OIC Countries.

During the B2B Sessions, representatives of the Private Sector showed interest in the available investment and trading opportunities in Indonesia and other OIC Countries. After the deliberation, MOUs for cooperation were signed between the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) & Indonesian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KADIN) and Saudi Indonesian Business Council and Indonesian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KADIN) to further promote trade, tourism, investment, and economic cooperation between their members and the private sector in general.

Development of Halal:

The issue of Halal is of great concern to all the Muslims. The concept of Halal is not merely confined to Halal food, but in the real sense, covers a wider spectrum of life. Towards this end, the Islamic Chamber has launched its programme on Halal. The ICCIA is working with all the concerned, so as to work in harmony in their respective areas. The ICCIA will also organize Seminars and Conferences on Halal.

During the Board of Directors Meeting of the ICCIA held in Jakarta, Indonesia on 22-23 October 2018, ICCIA made a presentation on the significance of the Halal market and the initiatives it has taken. On a study made by the ICCIA it was seen that about 55% of the Halal market food products are bearing logos of Halal that is not issued by parties who are not certified or accredited by an authenticated halal authority. In order to rationalize the Halal market, the ICCIA proposed the following measures to be taken:

- Specialized Advisory Bodies
- Specialized Bodies for Specifications and Standards
- Bodies for Issuance of Halal Certificates
- Training Institutions (for training inspectors and specialists)
- One Universal Umbrella (One Halal Logo)

The Islamic Chamber is working on the above strategy and seeks to integrate and deal with all eligible entities in the Halal market without excluding any entity or obligating it to join.

Upcoming Projects of the Islamic Chamber:-
Sharing of Best Practices for the Benefit of the Private Sector:

1) **Family Bank**

The outcome of the activities undertaken by the ICCIA for the empowerment of women has had a positive impact on skill enhancement, making of business plan, branding and marketing.

However, a lot more needs to be done in order to enable the women to play an important role in the economic growth of their family, society and nation as a whole. It has been noted that they have the ability and a business acumen, but they lack formal training, which can further develop their capabilities.

The ICCIA as a representative of the private sector has been undertaking activities for the economic empowerment of the women as well. Towards this end, it has been organizing Businesswomen Forums, Workshops, Training Programs and Exhibitions. The Forums provide the businesswomen with a common platform to discuss their areas of cooperation and business opportunities as well as to develop culture of entrepreneurship, particularly among women and the youth.

One of the positive results of the Businessmen Forums organized by ICCIA has led to the setting up of a Family Bank in Sudan with a capital of US\$35 Million. The said Bank's portfolio provides micro-financing on Sharia terms for start-ups, productive families, women and youth. The Bank has expanded all over Sudan with 41 branches, offering services to the targeted segment of the society.

The General Secretariat of the OIC had organized a "Workshop to Strengthen the Capacities of National Institutions concerned with the Empowerment of Women in OIC Member States" in Jeddah on 17-18 December 2017, with a view to study essential ways and means for developing capacities of the National Institutions working in the field of women empowerment in the OIC Member States.

During the said Workshop, the representative of ICCIA presented success story of the Family Bank in Sudan. In this context, the ICCIA had covered in its Report the setting-up of a Family Bank for Women in Sudan and had proposed that similar initiatives maybe introduced in other Member Countries. However, for this to take place, the regulatory framework of the interested country is necessary.

Therefore, the ICCIA called upon the General Secretariat of the OIC to look into the possibility of including a proposal / recommendation at the appropriate governmental level to provide a relevant legislative support towards this end.

The Preparatory Workshop of the 7th Session of the Ministerial Conference on Women's Role in the Development of OIC Member States, held on 28-29 June 2018 in Burkina

Faso, while welcoming the initiatives of the Family Bank, recommended that the ICCIA may streamline the document, so that the Bank may have a greater impact for an effective socio-economic empowerment of women.

The ICCIA has done the needful in this respect and has submitted the revised Concept Paper, with a view that similar initiatives maybe undertaken in other Member Countries. The Project will be submitted in the forthcoming 7th Session of the Ministerial Conference on Women's role in the Development of OIC Member States to held in 30th November to 1st December 2018 in Burkina Faso. The ICCIA has called for the Conference to adopt a Resolution calling for the possibility of establishing similar entities in other OIC Countries, for the benefit of the women and family.

Furthermore, in view of the useful and practical approach of the Family Bank in the field of Microfinance, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) has published the Success Story of the Family Bank in its publication "Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development", which was translated into several languages and distributed globally, it was launched on 12th September 2018, in New York on the occasion of the UN South-South Cooperation Day (soft copy in digital form).

2) Study Tour:-

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 members have viewed with great interest the State of the Art facilities and best practices of Konya Commodity Exchange, for commodities and development of industrial zones to achieve commercial and industrial growth. Therefore, the Islamic Chamber is undertaking efforts to organize a Study Tour of representatives from Sudan, Egypt, Pakistan and Uganda to visit Konya to acquire first hand knowledge on the mechanism of establishing such entities. Arrangements are underway.

ICCIA's participation to the GSSD Expo

Taking into consideration, ICCIA is working in close collaboration with the UN Office for South-South Cooperation for building capacities and scaling up the economies of the developing countries of the South. In this context, the ICCIA has been actively participated in the Global South-South Development Expo (GSSD Expo) in the previous years, which showcases these initiatives.

The GSSD Expo for the year 2018 will be held in New York on 28-30 November 2018. Supporting the projects of the ICCIA for the developing OIC Countries, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC). The UNOSSC and the ICCIA have a longstanding and productive partnership. As a result, the UNOSSC is publishing the first edition of "South-South in Action" publications, that has a dedicated focus on the Private Sector. The publication has been designed as a platform for partners to present, promote, and share the successful solutions that have led to the overcoming of development challenges. The theme is "Scaling-up Private Sector

Enterprises in OIC Member Countries”. This will be launched during the forthcoming GSSD Expo in November 2018.

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

Following the proposal of the H.E. President of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, during the 13th Islamic Summit held in Istanbul in 2016, to set-up an OIC Arbitration Center in Istanbul, the ICCIA in collaboration with TOBB has undertaken several steps. In this context, TOBB has made presentation to the Members of the in the Board of Directors Meeting of the ICCIA. Thereafter, it was called that further study be made. During the 33rd COMCEC Meeting, COMCEC welcomed the proposal of ICCIA and TOBB to convene a series of task force meetings in 2018 to finalize technical preparations for the establishment of the Center and requested ICCIA and TOBB to submit a report to the 34th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee and 34th Session of the COMCEC.

In line with the paragraph 75 of the Resolution of the Thirty-Third Session of the COMCEC, TOBB and the ICCIA hosted two Task Force Meetings on setting-up of the ICCIA affiliated OIC Arbitration Center in Istanbul; the 1st Meeting was held on 13th April 2018 and the 2nd Meeting was held on 9th July 2018. These Meetings were attended by high level experts from international organizations dealing with international arbitration. In addition, the representatives of some Member Chambers of the OIC Countries also contributed to the discussions. After in-depth deliberations, the Task Force agreed on the importance of such a center which would serve the business community of the OIC Countries and Istanbul with its distinctive cultural, economic and political surroundings is a perfect and suitable place to host this Centre. The Task Force has also reviewed the proposed statute of the Center, which was submitted to the 27th Board of Directors Meeting of the ICCIA held in Jakarta on 22nd October 2018. The Board, on the basis of H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of the Republic of Turkey’s proposal, approved the establishment of the OIC Arbitration Centre, affiliated to the Islamic Chamber in collaboration with TOBB in Istanbul. The Board Members expressed their appreciation to the efforts exerted by TOBB in this regard.

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.

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);

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.

The ICCIA as a representative of the private sector contributes in their programmes and provides 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. ICCIA's cooperation with the United Nations South-South Cooperation Office (UNSSCO) focuses on the private sector, through programs that deal with capacity building, promoting women's entrepreneurship, job creation, developing creative economies and commercial tourism, establishing computerized trade information networks and others.

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.

Activities in Promotion of Tourism:

Tourism is an important area which is contributing substantially in the GDP of some of the OIC Countries. Therefore, the OIC and the COMCEC have incorporated this sector in their Program of Action and Strategy, respectively.

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. The Forum is expected to be held in Cairo, Egypt.

Establishment of an “Islamic Tourism Portal”

The Executive Program, for the implementation of the framework for development and cooperation in the domain of Tourism among Member States, which was approved by the 9th Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers, held in Dec. 2015 in Niger called upon ICCIA and ICDT to create an “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. In this respect, ICCIA has prepared a section on Islamic Tourism, which has been launched on 20th October 2017.

The portal will facilitate in increasing public awareness about the OIC Countries. This information would focus on 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. The Section covers information related to various aspects of tourism of the OIC Member countries. The link is as follows:-

<http://tourismar.iccia.com>; <http://tourism.iccia.com>

In addition, the ICCIA is also working in collaboration with ICDT on the subject matter as per the Ministerial Resolution.

Training Program on “Technology Entrepreneurship Advocacy and Management of Business Incubation & Technology Parks”

Business incubation is one of the most popular SME support system being used around the globe. With ever increasing technology startups, these incubators have transformed into purpose specific technology parks that are specially designed for technology-based startups. Governments, academia, and business chambers need to contribute to the cause of entrepreneurship development by setting up more and more SME support systems including innovation centers supported by business incubators, technology parks, ITC centers, and industrial parks etc.

The most relevant of above mentioned SME support systems today is the incubation centers, innovation centers, and technology parks that need to be set up by government organizations, universities, and business chambers to facilitate young startups. However, it is felt that these institutions need expert support and guidance to conceive, develop, and successfully run self-sufficient incubation centers and technology parks.

The Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture (ICCIA) as per its mandate is striving for promotion of trade, poverty alleviation and capacity building in the OIC Member States. In view of the above, a 3-day Training Program on “Technology Entrepreneurship Advocacy and Management of Business Incubation & Technology Parks” has organized in Istanbul, Turkey on 23-25 April 2018, in collaboration with the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation (PGTF) and Union of Turkish Chambers of Commerce & Industry (TOBB).

The key objectives of the Training Program were the following:

- To highlight the importance of developing entrepreneurial culture in OIC countries;
- To emphasize the policy advocacy for initiating technology based startups and creating ecosystem for such startups;
- To understand the conceptualization, establishment & development process, management, and importance of business incubators and technology parks as key

components of SME support systems and ecosystem with a special focus on OIC countries;

- To learn cross-country best practices for the management of business incubators and technology parks;
- To understand the process of converting the startups into commercial organizations;
- To combat poverty and move towards self-reliance and prosperity.

Workshop on Promoting Green Growth and Technology in Food-Water and Energy Nexus for OIC Countries – Challenges and Opportunities

Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture (ICCIA) in collaboration with the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation (PGTF) will organize a Workshop on “Promoting Green Growth and Technology in Food-Water and Energy Nexus for OIC Countries – Challenges and Opportunities” in 2019 in one of the Member Countries.

The objectives of the Workshop is to combat poverty and move towards self-reliance and prosperity under climate change and to highlight the importance of developing green economy and technology in OIC Countries and to integrating green economy & technology into planning, policy formulation & programs development process by incentivizing the users and making necessary institutional arrangement as well as to promote green economy & technology that: minimizes degradation of the environment; safe for use and promotes healthy and improved environment; zero or low GHG emissions; conserves energy and natural resources and promotes use of renewable energy resources.

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.

The ICCIA is in touch with the Union of Turkish Chambers, to hold the said Forum in Turkey at a mutually convenient date.

Upcoming Activities:

1. Workshop on Promoting Green Growth and Technology in Food-Water and Energy Nexus for OIC Countries – Challenges and Opportunities, first half of 2019
2. Chambers of Commerce Forum for OIC 2019.
3. Specialized Workshops/Training Programmes to be held in 2019
 - Promotion of Cottage Industries through SMEs
 - Scaling-up existing Enterprises through Skill Development
 - Exploring destinations for Health Tourism
4. The 17th Private Sector Meeting for the OIC Member States/Trade Exchange Forum, 2019.
5. 10th Businesswomen Forum in Islamic Chamber in 2019.
