

COMCEC Project Funding at a Glance



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COMCEC Project Funding

- A financing mechanism introduced by COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO) in 2013
- Enables member countries and OIC Institutions to transform their ideas into projects with concrete activities, budget and timeline
- Enhances solidarity among OIC Member Countries by bringing at least 3 member countries together
- Up to \$225.000 grants for Member Countries and \$75.000 for OIC Institutions

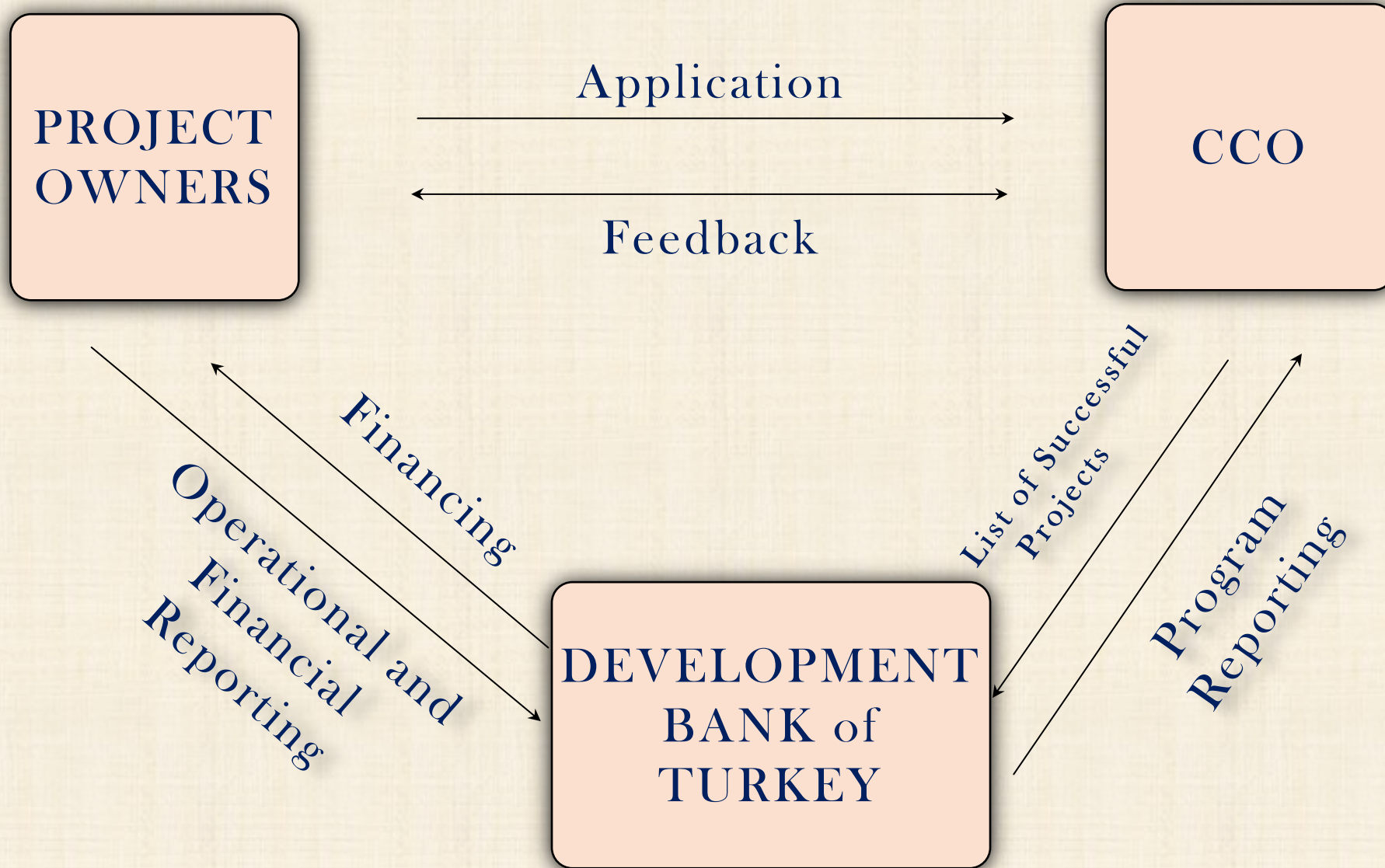
Main Characteristics

- Funding is based on **GRANTS** (No re-payment)
- Simple rules and procedures (unlike credit agreements)
- Clearly defined financial framework
- Backstopping by the **CCO** and the **Development Bank of Turkey**
- Member driven mechanism
- Payment after reporting to the **Bank**

Purpose and Function of the COMCEC Project Funding

- Operationalization of the COMCEC Strategy
- Enhancing multilateral cooperation
- Increasing institutional and human capacity
- Improving joint solutions for common problems
- Strengthening operational skills on international projects
- Supporting the policy environment for the policy recommendations adopted by the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions

Actors and Roles



Basic Rules

- Membership to the relevant working group
- At least 3 Member Countries (1 project owner + 2 partners)
- Project design according to the Program Implementation Guidelines
- Project topics should be in line with:
 - Principles of the COMCEC Strategy
 - Strategic Objective of the relevant cooperation area
 - Output Areas of the relevant cooperation area
 - Sectoral Themes stated in the Program Implementation Guidelines
 - Policy Recommendations adopted by the COMCEC Ministerial Session

The Link Between Working Groups and COMCEC Project Funding

- COMCEC Project Funding provides an operational instrument to realize policy recommendations produced in the Working Groups and adopted in the COMCEC Ministerial Session
- Sectoral themes in the Project Funding Mechanism are determined by considering themes and policy advices of the Working Groups
- Only Working Group members can submit a project proposal
- Regular and active participation to the relevant Working Group is one of the criteria for evaluation of project proposals

Major Steps of the COMCEC Project Funding Process

<u>Description</u>	<u>Timeline</u>
✓ CCO issues a call for project proposals	Early September
✓ POs submit their preliminary proposals to the CCO	End of September
✓ CCO makes <u>preliminary</u> appraisal and declares the short list on COMCEC website	October
✓ POs submit the <u>final</u> version of project fiche to the CCO	Mid-December
✓ CCO evaluates the final project proposals	Mid-December to Mid-January
✓ CCO declares the final list of projects on COMCEC website	End of January

Project Proposals in the Past Three Years

- 209 project proposals submitted by Member Countries and OIC Institutions during three-year period
- 31 projects were implemented in 2014, 2015 and 2016
 - 5 Tourism projects

Project Proposals in the Fourth Call

- 57 project proposals have been submitted by 20 OIC member countries and 2 OIC institutions
- 33 projects were short listed
- 15 projects will be funded in 2017
 - 4 Tourism projects
 - Gambia
 - Mozambique
 - Sudan
 - SESRIC

Projects Implemented in 2014



Project Title: Cities of Common Cultural Heritage

Project Owner: Azerbaijan

Partner Countries: Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Turkey and Uzbekistan

Project Purpose: The objective of this project was to increase touristic arrivals to the regarding COMCEC region by exchange of good practices in the relevant sphere and by developing and promoting joint tourism products in 4 partner countries (Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Turkey and Uzbekistan).



Activities: Assessment of potentially attractive cultural-historical sites and common cultural heritage in the target countries for developing a joint tourism product (including expert's on-site visits), Drafting of an interim assessment report, Organization of a three day workshop, Publication of the final report on a newly developed tourism product.

Projects Implemented in 2014 (cont'd)



Project Title: Improving Statistical Capacities of Tourism Sector in COMCEC Mediterranean and Gulf Region

Project Owner: SESRIC

Partner Countries: Albania, Iraq, Jordan, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen



Project Purpose: The objective of the project was identification of the statistical capacities and needs in tourism statistics in Albania, Iraq, Jordan, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen (selected COMCEC Countries in the Mediterranean and Gulf Regions) with an aim to improve Tourism Satellite Accounts and evidence-based policy making on tourism.

Activities: Preparation, circulation, and evaluation of questionnaires in order to make a needs assessment in the regarding countries, Organization of several training programs, Organization of a workshop.

Projects Implemented in 2015



Project Title: Strengthening Community Resilience through eco-tourism.

Project Owner: The Gambia Tourism Board

Partner Countries: Senegal and Guinea Bissau

Project Purpose: Building resilient communities in The Gambia, Senegal and Guinea Bissau through eco-village practices

Activities: Eco-village design (EDE) education (training of the trainers), Report on EDE practices



Projects Implemented in 2016



Project Title: Enhancing the Capacity of Craft Producers in the OIC Member Countries

Project Owner: The Gambia Tourism Board

Partner Countries: Senegal and Mali

Project Purpose: The objective of the project is to build the capacity of craft producers to be innovative in designing and packaging craft products as well as facilitating a sufficient transfer of knowledge among OIC member countries. This will be done in solidarity with the craft sectors of Mali and Senegal by incorporating resources and efforts, sharing experiences and best practices to address common challenges and improve tourism service quality in OIC member countries.

Activities:

- Training program (4 modules)
- Organization of workshop



Projects Implemented in 2016 (cont'd)



Project Title: Short Course on Strategies in Enhancing Tourism Workforce in Community-Based Tourism (CBT) within OIC Member Countries

Project Owner: Islamic Tourism Centre Malaysia

Partner Countries: Palestine, Maldives, The Gambia, Senegal, Pakistan, Indonesia and Brunei Darussalam

Project Purpose: The objective of the project is to discuss, study and enhance the understanding on the concept of human capital enhancement in CBT from the perspectives of sustainable tourism development and planning and the impact of the program on the socio-economy, environment and community of the country.

Activities:

- Training program
- Study tours
- Preparation of brochure



Our Expectations from Focal Points

- Inform all relevant national institutions about COMCEC Project Funding
- Start to think about new project ideas and potential partner countries before project submission process starts
- Utilize working group meetings to find project ideas and potential partners for next year
- Try to find relevant project personnel from other countries whenever necessary
- Feel free to reach CCO for consulting about project ideas and other issues

How to Prepare for the Project Submission

- Must be a focal point or through the focal point
- Own a username and password
- Check the reference materials on the PCM webpage
- Think about the topics supported by the COMCEC Project Funding (please see page 20 of the Program Implementation Guidelines)
- Conceptualize your project
- Start searching for project personnel
- Fill out the online project fiche
- Feel free to contact CCO (pcm@comcec.org)

Common Characteristics of Successful Project Proposals

- Sufficient and informative project summary
- Sound project activities and relevant details about them
- Qualified Human Resources in line with Program Implementation Guidelines Requirements
- Detailed and well-designed work plan
- Realistic cost estimations in the budget and sufficient explanations for them
- Project Owner's cooperation and communication with CCO
- Active participation to the relevant Working Group

Tourism Topics Supported by the COMCEC Project Funding

- Visa facilitation
- Developing basic guidelines for improving the basic Muslim Friendly Tourism (MFT) related services
- Increasing awareness of MFT market among the travel industry stakeholders
- Developing healthcare services and facilities for the MFT market
- Launching alliance among the Muslim-friendly travel agents/ tour operators
- Developing a national Muslim Friendly Tourism strategy
- Conducting government-led MFT-focused destination marketing
- Developing bilateral tourism cooperation within the OIC through technical knowledge exchange and joint promotion efforts for MFT destinations
- Developing Muslim Friendly Tourism (MFT) Regulations for Accommodation Establishments
- Risk and Crisis Management and Recovery from Crisis in Tourism Sector
- Utilizing the Technology in Visa Facilitation
- Improving tourism statistics

Online Project Management Information System



The screenshot shows the COMCEC website interface. At the top, there are language options (EN, FR, TR) and a search bar. The main header features the COMCEC logo and the text "Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation". Below the header is a navigation menu with items: COMCEC, Cooperation Areas, Programs & Projects, Working Groups, PCM, Documents, Archive, Members, and Contact Us. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column features a large banner for "COMCEC ProjectFunding" with the text "The Fourth Project Proposal Call for the COMCEC Project Cycle Management (PCM)". The right column contains a "NEW PCM COMCEC Project Funding" button, which is circled in red. Below this button is a red arrow pointing to a "COMCEC 31st Ministerial Session" announcement. At the bottom left, there is an "Announcements" section with a table of events.

Announcement	Date	Venue
The 8th Meeting of the Tourism Working Group: "Muslim Friendly Tourism (MFT) Developing and Marketing MFT Products and Services in the OIC Member States". Click for the Draft Agenda and Draft Programme .	September 1st, 2016	Ankara/Turkey
The 8th Meeting of the Trade Working Group: "Improving the Cross Border Cooperation among the OIC Member States for Facilitating Trade". Click for the Draft Agenda .	October 8th, 2016	Ankara/Turkey

Direct Access: project.comcec.org

Please use COMCEC main page and click on Project Funding Button




Online Project Management Information System (cont'd)

Please access the Online Project Submission System via using specified usernames and passwords



ONLINE PROJECT FICHE



COMCEC
Project Funding
Project Management Information System

LOG IN

Username

Password

LOGIN

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THANK YOU

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