



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 35th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC**

**Ankara, Republic of Turkey
24-25 April 2019**

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Introduction:

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 ICCIA focusses on promotion of intra-Islamic trade, 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, development of Halal 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, the COMCEC Strategy and the SDGs of 2030.

In line with the OIC Plan of Action (2005-2015) which called for the enhancement of intra-Islamic trade, the ICCIA through its programmes of bringing the Private Sector together to expand their trade, contributed to the enhancement of intra-Islamic trade. The share of intra-OIC trade in total trade of OIC countries constantly increased during the period 2011-2017 and reached 19.9% in 2017 compared to its level of 17.5% in 2011. ICCIA continues with its efforts to further the new intra-OIC trade target of 25% in the year 2025.

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:

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.

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.

4th Egypt Investment Forum on the Sidelines of the Statutory Meetings Cairo, Egypt, 2nd to 4th March 2019

The 28th Board of Directors and 35th General Assembly Meetings of Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA) were held in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt, on 3-4 March 2019. The General Assembly Meeting approved the planned activities of the Chamber for the year 2019.

In order to give more value to its Statutory Meetings, the Islamic Chamber also co-organizes Private Sector Investment Forums, which aim to promote economic cooperation through trade and investment.

Hence, on the sidelines of the Board and General Assembly Meetings, the ICCIA has also co-organized with the Federation of Egyptian Chambers of Commerce (FEDCOC) the 4th Egypt Investment Forum, held in Cairo, Arabic Republic of Egypt from 2nd to 4th March 2019. The Forum was held under the Egyptian Presidency of the African Union on the theme of "Go Africa". The aim was to promote trilateral cooperation in trade and investment through linking technology providers, with Arab investors and development banks and funds to implement selected projects in manufacturing, agriculture, energy, ICT, transport and value-added trade and logistics. The event brought together business leaders from Arab, Asia and Africa regions.

Setting-up of Companies:

In its initiatives to facilitate the private sector of the Member Countries, the Islamic Chamber will be establishing the following independent projects:

- (a) Halal Company
- (b) Company for establishment and management of the Cross Border Gates
- (c) Company for Agricultural Products and Commodity Exchange.
- (d) Events Management Company.

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

In line with various resolutions of the Council of Foreign Ministries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC-CFM) and the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC), as per the resolution of the 27th Board of Directors Meeting of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA) held in Jakarta, on 22nd October 2018, the General Assembly approved the establishment of the OIC Arbitration Centre in Istanbul as ICCIA's affiliated institution and authorized the President of ICCIA Shaikh Saleh Abdullah Kamel, to:

- Sign all documents regarding the establishment of the Center,
- Carry out and execute the necessary proceedings thereof,
- Represent ICCIA in all stages including the foundation stage of the OIC Arbitration Centre in Istanbul under the Turkish laws
- Transfer any of those powers to one of the Vice Presidents or any Member from the Members of the Board of Directors or the Secretary General of ICCIA, or entrust them with the same, if the necessity arises.

Development of Halal:

The issue of Halal is of great concern to all the Muslims. In the establishment of the Halal Company by the ICCIA, it will not compete with its members but will work for organizing the market and focus on accreditation, supervision and evaluation. The company will have a mobile application with the objectives of setting up of the standard for the interested company in a manner that ensure its preciseness. Furthermore, the ethical dimension is the foremost motivation to the Project, before any commercial dimension. The objective is to reach to the end consumer and satisfy that the product is compliant to the Shariah. In its endeavors, 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.

Regional Workshop on Trade Preferential System among the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (TPS – OIC) and the Multilateral Trading System Khartoum –Republic of Sudan, 17-18 December 2018

The Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture (ICCIA) in collaboration with the Islamic Center for Development of Trade (ICDT) and the Ministry of Trade of Republic of Sudan had organized the “Regional Workshop on Trade Preferential System among the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (TPS/OIC) and the Multilateral Trading System” in Khartoum – Republic of Sudan, on 17-18 December 2018.

The objective of the Workshop was to raise awareness about the importance of Trade Preferential System among the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (TPS/OIC) and its protocols and the recent development of the Multilateral Trading System including Sudan's accession to WTO. This Workshop was very beneficial as it explained the Trade Preferential System for the Private Sector, which can be instrumental in expanding the trade relations between the Member Countries.

ICCIA made a presentation on the “Role of the Private Sector on the Operationalisation of the TPS/OIC” and highlighted its due role for increasing the level of Intra Islamic Trade as well as

in creating awareness about the various OIC agreements for enhancing economic cooperation, particularly the Trade Preferential System among the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (TPS-OIC).

The Workshop recommended to expedite the ratification formalities of TPS/OIC and call upon the concerned authority in the Ministry of Industry and Trade to urgently undertake the necessary steps to complete the needful for obtaining the consent of the Cabinet and the approval of the Parliament as soon as possible.

Arab Private Sector Forum
Beirut, Lebanon 16-17 January 2019:

The ICCIA attended the Arab Private Sector Forum, which was held on 16-17 January 2019 in Beirut in preparation for the Fourth Arab Economic and Social Development Summit. It was organized jointly by the League of Arab States, Union of Arab Chambers, Union of Lebanese Chambers and the “Al-Iktissad wal Aamal” Group. The Forum was inaugurated by H.E. Mr. Saad Hariri, Lebanon’s Prime Minister and attended by more than 400 participants from 24 Arab and foreign countries. It was also attended by some senior Lebanese and Arab Ministers, Lebanese Deputies, Ambassadors, Diplomats, Delegations from Arab Chambers and Joint Chambers, Arab Businessmen and Investors, and Representatives from International and Regional Organizations.

The Forum addressed five themes, namely: (1) the role of the private sector and financing institutions in sustainable development, intra-trade and reconstruction, (2) the Fourth Industrial Revolution and the next economic phase, (3) Arab Women and Economic Empowerment, (4) Entrepreneurship and Small and Medium Enterprises: Key to the Transition to Knowledge Economy and (5) Lebanon and the Partnership after the Cedar Conference.

The ICCIA addressed a new concept, of the role of family businesses in the development of entrepreneurship. Family run companies can do a lot for entrepreneurship, since they accumulated experiences on business models, corporate & bank relations, assist in recruitment, networking and infrastructure.

This concept can be developed in several ways, such as searching for new investment with the entrepreneurs; giving them priorities; launching investment funds & non-profit projects to support their work and establish specialized businesses incubators.

1st Arab Corporate Citizenship Forum
Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. 23rd January 2019:

As part of its programmes and activities to promote, the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture (ICCIA) is also looking into other areas of cooperation, with other likeminded institutions, addressing common issues for the overall benefit of the Members of the Islamic Chamber.

In this context, the ICCIA co-organized the “1st Arab Corporate Citizenship Forum” under the title “Towards Sustainable Growth”, in Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. on 23rd January 2019 in collaboration with the CSR Arabic, Emirates Businesswomen Council and the Economic Businesswomen Council, Egyptian Chambers of Commerce, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), UNIDO Network of Investment and Technology

Promotion Offices (ITPO), Arab International Center for Entrepreneurship and Investment. A large number of businessmen, NGOs and government representatives attended the said Forum.

The Forum discussed the mechanisms of corporate citizenship, and how to turn companies to be responsible towards its communities and shareholders as well. The Forum also focused on the role of women entrepreneurs in changing the culture of their countries and empowering women and youth in achieving sustainable growth. The Forum also addressed the green economy and its impact on sustainable development, as well as discussing the impact of using new and renewable energies such as wind and solar energy in different industries in order to achieve sustainable development.

2nd Arab African Conference and Exhibition for Businesswomen 13-14 February 2019, Marrakesh, Kingdom of Morocco

ICCIA participated in the “2nd Arab African Conference and Exhibition for Businesswomen” held on 13th – 14th February 2019 in Marrakesh, Kingdom of Morocco, The Conference was organized by the Arab Union for Industrial Exports Development in cooperation with UNIDO / ITPO Bahrain, under the theme “Achieving the SDGs through Supporting Women Entrepreneurs”, and under the patronage of the His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco.

The Conference highlighted policies that empower women by providing technical support, training and banking services such as flexible loans, government support of emerging sectors in the labor market and protection of women from exploitation. Furthermore, it also shed light on economic empowerment efforts to improve Arab & African women’s ability to access business experts, capacity building and on the job training centers in the industrial sector.

The ICCIA made a presentation on the “Best Practices for supporting Women Entrepreneurs” and highlighted its role in the areas of capacity building, business leadership development, poverty alleviation, development of agriculture, value chain, upgrading marketing & managing skills, value-addition, gender development, promotion & development of Small & Medium Enterprises, utilization of microfinance, promoting green economy, developing Entrepreneurship through IT, with a focus on women.

Promotion of Tourism:

In view of the importance of tourism as a sector that can contribute considerably to the economies of the OIC Countries, the Islamic Chamber has set-up a portal on Tourism. This portal creates awareness for potential visitors, on places of interest and other relevant information.

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

One of the positive results of the Businesswomen 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 Project was submitted to the 7th Ministerial Conference on Women’s Role in the Development of OIC Member States, held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, in November 2018.

The Conference has adopted a Resolutions calling for the possibility of establishing similar entities in other OIC Countries, for the benefit of the women and youth. In this context, the Islamic Chamber in contact with the IDB Group to assist in holding Training Programmes in concerned Member Countries to familiarize to adopt the best practices of the Family Bank of Sudan.

The UNIDO Investment and Technology Promotion Office (UNIDO/ITPO) in Bahrain has also shown their interest to assist Training Programme that can be held on the establishment of Microcredit entities on the line of Family Bank.

Similarly, Arab Union for Industrial Exports Development, Egypt is also offering to work with the ICCIA to provide training on areas of common interest, particularly in the African Countries. They have also showed the possibility of undertaking some training programmes in CIS Countries.

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.

ICCIA’s participation to the GSSD Expo

ICCIA is enhancing its scope of work and representing the Private Sector at international Foras. In view of its close collaboration with the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) for building capacities and scaling up the economies of the developing countries, the ICCIA has participated at the Global South-South Development Expo (GSSD Expo 2018) held in New York on 28-30 November 2018. During its intervention at the Solution Forum on Promoting Sustainable Development through engaging Youth and Women in the South-South Cooperation, the ICCIA highlighted its programmes and activities with regards to engaging youth and women for promoting South-South Cooperation.

In view of the activities and exemplary cooperation, the Islamic Chamber has with the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), it has been given the honor, to be the first Institution representing the Private Sector of the OIC Countries, to have a publication on its activities with a dedicated focus on the Private Sector. This Magazine is published in collaboration with UNOSSC and was launched during the Global South-South Development Expo 2018, held in the Headquarters of the UN on 28-30 November 2018. The launching was attended by officials of the UN, representatives of International Organizations, Civil Society, NGOs and representatives of the Corporate Sector.

Over the years, publications dedicated to South-South cooperation issues have either been academic, formal United Nations reports, proceedings of meetings and seminars, or findings from research work. However, of late the UNOSSC (formerly, the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation) in collaboration with other institutions, has published documents, under the theme of South-South in Action. These series of publications highlight the activities of UNOSSC partnering institutions focusing on South-South Cooperation. In this context, the UNOSSC has also dedicated a publication entirely on the activities of the Islamic Chamber under the theme of South-South in Action Scaling up Private Sector Enterprises in OIC Member Countries.

2nd High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40 Conference):

The Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture (ICCIA) represented the Private Sector at the 2nd High Level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation - (Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA+40) held in Buenos Aires on 20th - 22nd March 2019 and was given the single honor to make a statement on behalf of the Private Sector in the Opening Session.

The Islamic Chamber emphasized the role of private sector as the engine of growth, playing a vital role in the overall global economic agenda. It highlighted the engagement of the private sector in the development agendas of many international organizations, which reflects the impact of the private sector as a driver of sustainable and inclusive economic growth, job creation and poverty alleviation. ICCIA further emphasized on the need to support developing countries through South-South and Triangular Cooperation for strengthening the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and creating an enabling environment for sustainable industrialization. It called for the private sector needs to be involved in public private dialogue at the level of policy formulation. It further underlined the need to establish a framework to understand the need of the private sector in the global south and to boost the potentials of the private sector as a driver of sustainable development.

On the Sidelines of the Conference, the Islamic Chamber organized a Side-Event under the title of the “Role of the OIC Institutions for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation among 57 Member Countries” on 19th March 2019 in Buenos Aires. The objective of the event was to learn of the activities of the OIC Institutions in the promotion of South-South Cooperation and to review the trends in South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the OIC Region and at the same time study the progress made by the International entities, supporting and promoting South-South Cooperation, to identify new partnerships and to learn best practices.

The BAPA+40 Conference provided the ICCIA an opportunity to network with the organizations having similar objectives and discussed the possibility of having partnership to undertake some projects for the benefit of the ICCIA Member Chambers.

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) will be organizing a Workshop on “Promoting Green Growth and Technology in Food-Water and Energy Nexus for OIC Countries – Challenges and Opportunities” in collaboration with the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation (PGTF) and FAO Regional Office for Near East and North Africa in Cairo-Arab Republic of Egypt in June 2019.

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 in 2019.

Upcoming Activities:

1. Workshop on Promoting Green Growth and Technology in Food-Water and Energy Nexus for OIC Countries – Challenges and Opportunities, second half of 2019
2. Chambers of Commerce Forum for OIC 2019.
3. Specialized Workshops/Training Programmes to be held in 2019
 - Entrepreneurship Development
 - 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.
