

**VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING
PROGRAMME FOR OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES
(OIC-VET)**

PROGRESS REPORT



Ankara, May 2014



Vocational Education and Training Programme for OIC Member Countries (OIC-VET)

PROGRESS REPORT

The present progress report on Vocational Education and Training Programme for OIC Member Countries (OIC-VET) provides a summary of the activities which have been undertaken within the framework of the implementation of the Programme. In particular, the report focuses on the training programmes and activities which have been implemented since the Twenty Ninth Session of the COMCEC which was held in İstanbul, Republic of Turkey in November 2013.

I. BACKGROUND

The Vocational Education and Training Programme for the Member Countries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC-VET) is a programme originally designed and developed by the Statistical Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) in order to improve the quality of vocational education and training in the public and private sectors with the aim of supporting and enhancing the opportunities for individuals in the Member Countries to develop their knowledge and skills and thus to contribute to the development and competitiveness of the economies and to facilitate the sharing of knowledge between OIC Member Countries.

The 24th Session of the COMCEC held in Istanbul on 20-24 October 2008 approved the proposed implementation mechanism of Vocational Education and Training Programme for the OIC Member Countries (OIC-VET) prepared by the SESRIC and called upon the member states to incorporate their vocational training programs into the OIC-VET Programme, thereby, generating a common OIC platform for the benefits of the OIC Member Countries in this area.

Official Launch of the Vocational Education and Training Programme for OIC Member Countries (OIC-VET) was made by H.E. Abdullah Gül, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the COMCEC, at the COMCEC Economic Summit held in Istanbul, Turkey on 9 November 2009 with the participation of the heads of states and governments of the OIC Member Countries.

The First Operational Meeting of the Programme was held with the concerned OIC institutions in the area of VET in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in April 2009 to discuss monitoring and operational aspects of the OIC-VET Programme where the participating OIC institutions showed strong support for the OIC-VET Programme. Furthermore, the First Meeting of the Monitoring and Advisory Committee (MAC) of the OIC-VET held in Izmir, Turkey, in May 2009 marked the formal process imbedded in the substantive dialogues through cooperation in initiating the OIC-VET Programme.

Within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme, three implemented Pilot Projects have turned into fully-fledged sub-programmes, namely OIC International Internship Programme (OIC-ISIP), ISMEK Master Trainer Programme (IMTP) and the OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET). A number of new capacity building programmes have been also initiated by SESRIC within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme, namely Competition Authorities Capacity Building Programme (CA-CaB), Treasury Capacity Building Programme (T-CaB) and OIC Postal Services Capacity Building Programme (OIC-PSCaB).

SESRIC has been assuming the role of Executing OIC Organ with the lead responsibility for the proper implementation and management of the Programme in conformity with the decisions taken by the Monitoring and Advisory Committee, as well as bearing overall responsibility for the supervision and coordination of the National Focal Points.

II. NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS (NFPs) OF THE OIC-VET PROGRAMME

The OIC-VET Programme has currently 34 National Focal Points (NFPs) designated by the relevant national authorities of the OIC member countries in order to properly implement the programme at national level and sustain communication with SESRIC, the Executing Organ of the Programme. SESRIC have been undertaking necessary communications with the OIC Member Countries that have not designated their National Focal Points for the Programme through their respective national authorities, and requested them to designate their National Focal Points and to provide the Centre with their communications details, in order to represent their respective countries at the meetings of the Monitoring and Advisory Committee (MAC) of the OIC-VET Programme. As a result, the number of NFPs has increased steadily over time and currently the Programme has 34 NFPs in the following Member Countries:

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|----------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Afghanistan | 13. Iran | 25. Saudi Arabia |
| 2. Azerbaijan | 14. Iraq | 26. Senegal |
| 3. Bahrain | 15. Jordan | 27. Sierra Leone |
| 4. Bangladesh | 16. Malaysia | 28. Sudan |
| 5. Brunei Darussalam | 17. Maldives | 29. Syria |
| 6. Cameroon | 18. Mauritania | 30. Togo |
| 7. Comoros | 19. Morocco | 31. Tunisia |
| 8. Gabon | 20. Niger | 32. Turkey |
| 9. Gambia | 21. Nigeria | 33. United Arab Emirates |
| 10. Guinea | 22. Oman | 34. Yemen |
| 11. Guinea Bissau | 23. Pakistan | |
| 12. Indonesia | 24. Qatar | |

III. COMPLETED ACTIVITIES

A. OIC CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMMES (CBP)

During the period under consideration, the following training courses were organized by the Centre under the following various capacity building sub-programmes as follows:

1. Statistical Capacity Building Programme (StatCaB)

i. Training Course on ‘Transport and Communication Statistics’ in Senegal

The Centre organised a training course on “Transport and Communication Statistics” Agence Nationale de la Statistique et de la Démographie (ANSD) in Dakar, Senegal on 6-8 November 2013. The course was provided by Mr. Bouazza Bouchkhar, an expert from the Direction de la Statistique, Morocco and relevant staff members of ANSD participated in the training. The major aim of the training was to provide comprehensive institutional and methodological issues and data sources.

ii. Training Course on ‘Transport and Communication Statistics’ in United Arab Emirates

The Centre organised a training course on “Transport and Communication Statistics” at the Central Statistical Organization in National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) in Abu Dhabi, UAE on 24-26 December 2013. The course was provided by Mr. Bouazza Bouchkhar, an expert from the Direction de la Statistique, Morocco and relevant staff members of NBS participated in the training. The major aim of the training was to provide comprehensive institutional and methodological issues and data sources.

iii. Training Course on Statistical Database Design and Visualization Tools Development' at SESRIC

The Centre organised a training course on “Statistical Database Design and Visualization Tools Development” on 11-12 December 2013 at SESRIC Headquarters in Ankara, Republic of Turkey. The course was provided by IT department of SESRIC and attended by 30 experts from the NSOs of 16 OIC Member Countries. The training course aimed at introducing statistical database design principles with a focus on data visualisation tools development, and in particular, guiding the participants on how to deploy the SESRIC Motion Chart (SMC) Module within the IT infrastructure of their institutions.

iv. Training Course on ‘Information Society Statistics’ in Niger

The Centre organised a training course on “Information Society Statistics” in Niamey, Niger on 14-15 January 2014. The course was provided by an expert from the Direction de la Statistique, Morocco and was attended by the 20 staff members of Institute of Statistics (INS) of Niger. The training programme on “Information Society Statistics” included group work and discussion activities, and focused on institutional issues, roles of the national and international stakeholders and methodological issues.

v. Training Course on 'Science, Technology and Innovation Statistics' in Qatar

The Centre organized a training course on “Science, Technology and Innovation Statistics” on 25-27 February 2014 at the premises of the Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics in Doha. The course was provided by Dr Salim Gürbüz, an expert of Turkish Statistical Institute (TURKSTAT), and attended by 17 relevant officials of the Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics of Qatar. The training programme on “Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Statistics” covered STI Policy system and structure of R&D, innovation and GBAORD statistics in Turkey.

vi. Training Course on ‘Price Statistics’ in United Arab Emirates

The Centre organised training course on “Price Statistics” at the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates on 10-12 March 2014. The course was provided by Dr Cem Bas, an expert of the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat), and 11 experts from the NBS of UAE, Dubai Statistics Centre (DSC), and Central Department of Statistics and Information (CDSI) of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

vii. Training Course on ‘ Classifications' in Iraq

The Centre organised training course on “Classifications” at the Central Statistical Organization (CSO) in Baghdad, Republic of Iraq on 10-11 March 2014. The training course was provided by Mrs. Asmaa Abdelrasoul Mohamed Mourad, senior specialist at Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) of Arab Republic of Egypt and attended by relevant officials of CSO of Iraq. .

viii. Training Course on ‘ Balance of Payments and International Trade Statistics ' in Bangladesh

The Centre organised training course on “Balance of Payments and International Trade Statistics” at the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 18 -20 March 2014. The course was provided by Mr. Eyüp Mehmet Dinç an expert from the Turkish Statistical Institute (TURKSTAT) and was attended by 21 relevant experts from BBS.

ix. Training Programme on 'Data Dissemination and Data Warehousing' in Oman

The Centre organised training course on “Data Dissemination and Data Warehousing” at the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) in Muscat, Oman from 30 March to 1 April 2014. The course was provided by Ms Medine Akyıldız an expert from the Turkish Statistical Institute (TURKSTAT) and was attended by the relevant experts from NCSI.

x. Training Course on ‘ Environment Statistics ' in Saudi Arabia

The Centre organized a training course on “Environment Statistics” at the Central Department of Statistics and Information (CDSI), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on 14-16 April 2014. The course was provided by Mr Hüseyin Şentürk, an expert from the Turkish Statistical Institute (TURKSTAT), and was attended by the related staff members of the CDSI.

2. Water Resources Capacity Building (Water-CaB) Programme

i. Workshop on "International Integrated Basin Management"

The Centre in collaboration with the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs of the Republic of Turkey and the Turkish Water Institute (SUEN) organised a workshop on "International Integrated Basin Management" in Istanbul, Turkey, on 25-26 February 2014. High level managers from 18 countries participated in the workshop including 14 OIC Member Countries namely Djibouti, Tunisia, Algeria, Palestine, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Jordan, Sudan, Azerbaijan, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Albania and Turkey.

3. Capacity Building Programme for Central Banks (CB-CaB)

i. Training Seminars on 'Short-term Forecasting at Central Banks' and 'Inflation Targeting Practices' in Turkey

The Centre organised, in cooperation with Istanbul School of Banking, two consecutive training programmes on 'Short-term Forecasting at Central Banks' and 'Inflation Targeting Practices' in Istanbul, Turkey, on 25-29 November 2013, within the framework of OIC Central Banks Capacity Building Programme (OIC-CB-CaB). The short term forecasting course was provided by Mahmut Günay and M. Utku Özmen and the inflation targeting practices course was provided by Salih Fendoğlu, Mahmut Günay and M. Utku Özmen with the participation of members of Central Banks of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Uganda and Yemen.

ii. Training Programme on 'Risk Management in Islamic Financial Institutions' in Iraq

The Centre organised a training programme on "Risk Management in Islamic Financial Institutions" at the Central Bank of Iraq on 3-5 March 2014, within the framework of OIC Central Banks Capacity Building Programme (OIC-CB-CaB). The Course was provided by Mr. Abdul Samad, Member Shairah Compliance Department, AlHuda CIBE, with participation of relevant experts of Central Bank of Iraq.

iii. Training Programme on 'Balance of Payments Statistics' in Yemen

The Centre organised a training programme on "Balance of Payments Statistics" at the Central Bank of Yemen Republic on 24-25 March 2014, within the framework of OIC Central Banks Capacity Building Programme (CB-CaB). The seminar was provided by Mr. Serdar Erkılıç, Deputy Director, Statistics Department, Balance of Payments Division of Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey with participation of relevant members of Central Bank of the Republic of Yemen.

4. Stock Exchanges Capacity Building Programme (SEP)

i. Training Programme on 'Islamic Debt and Equity Markets' in Pakistan

The Centre organised a training programme on "Islamic Debt and Equity Markets" at the Islamabad Stock Exchange on 10-11 February 2014, within the framework of OIC Capacity Building Programme for Stock Exchanges (OIC-SEP). The Course was provided Mr. Majid

Pireh, Islamic Finance Lecturer, Tehran Stock Exchange of Iran, with participation of relevant members of the Islamabad Stock Exchange of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

5. Competition Authorities Capacity Building Programme (CA-CaB)

i. Training Course on 'Competition Law and Policy' in Gambia

The Centre organised, in collaboration with the Competition Authority of the Republic of Turkey, a training course on “Competition Law and Policy” within the framework of the OIC Capacity Building Programme for Competition Authorities (OIC-CA-CaB) on 27-28 March 2014 in Serrekunda, Gambia. The course was provided by Mr. Çağlar Deniz Ata, Senior Competition Expert and Mr. Nevruz Özdemir, Competition Expert, Turkish Competition Authority and attended by several experts from the Gambia Competition Commission.

ii. Training Course on 'Competition Law and Policy' in Azerbaijan

The Centre organised, in collaboration with the Competition Authority of the Republic of Turkey, a training course on “Competition Law and Policy” within the framework of the OIC Capacity Building Programme for Competition Authorities (OIC-CA-CaB) on 3-4 April 2014 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

6. IbnSina Programme for Health Capacity Building (IbnSina-HCaB)

i. Training Programme: 'AIDS Recognition and Prevention' in Nouakchott

The Centre organised a training programme on "AIDS Recognition and Prevention" within the framework of the IbnSina Health Capacity Building Programme (IbnSina-HCaB) at the National Office of Occupational Medicine in Nouakchott, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, on 7-8 November 2013. The Course was provided by Dr. Ali Müsevitoğlu, a medical specialist in Turkey.

7. OIC Poverty Alleviation Programme (OIC-PAP)

i. Training Course on 'Regional Poverty Reduction Policies' in Jordan

The Centre organised, in collaboration with the Ministry of Family and Social Policies of Turkey, a training course on “Regional Poverty Reduction Policies” within the framework of the OIC Capacity Poverty Alleviation Programme (OIC-PAP) on 25-27 November 2013 in Amman, Jordan. The course was provided by Mr. Nevzat Fırat Kunduracı and Mr. Abdalbaki Çakmak, Family and Social Policies Experts, and attended by experts from the Healthy Villages, Ministry of Health, Jordan.

ii. Training Course on 'Rural Development Projects' in Comoros

The Centre organised, in collaboration with the Ministry of Economy and Finance of Burkina Faso, a training course on “Rural Development Projects” within the framework of the OIC Poverty Alleviation Programme (OIC-PAP) on 26-28 November 2013 in Moroni, Comoros. The course was provided by Nyamba Bertin, Director of Financial Services, and attended by several experts from the Economic Advisory Committee of Comoros.

B. CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS

i. Brainstorming Session of the Transfer of Knowledge and Expertise in the Field of Science and Technology among the OIC Member Countries

The Centre hosted the Brainstorming Session on the Transfer of Knowledge and Expertise in the Field of Science & Technology among the OIC Member Countries, on 09 January 2014 in Ankara, Turkey, at its headquarters with the participation of experts and managers from the Centre for Innovation and Technology Cooperation (CITC) of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Group, OIC Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH), D-8 Technology Transfer & Exchange Network (TTEN) and SESRIC. The aim of the brainstorming session was to discuss the possibilities and modalities of transferring knowledge and expertise in the field of science and technology, and to develop new concrete, feasible and practical proposals for increasing and enhancing cooperation in the field of science and technology among the OIC Member Countries.

ii. Consultative Meeting on Development of Cooperation Activities in the area of Maternal, Newborn and Child Health in OIC Member Countries

The Centre hosted the Consultative Meeting on Development of Cooperation Activities in the area of Maternal, Newborn and Child Health in OIC Member Countries. The main objective of session is to discuss the potential activities in the field of MNCH to OIC Member Countries, with the purpose of the discussing, among others, the ways and means for integrating and coordinating the efforts of the participating institutions towards promoting the transfer of knowledge and expertise to OIC Member Countries; so that services in the area of MNCH would be accessible by all communities and contribute more to the wellbeing of OIC citizens. The workshop developed potential activities to be conducted using the available materials toward reducing death of mothers during pregnancy and delivery; and reducing death of infants.

C. PUBLICATION AND DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES

i. Training Cooperation e-Newsletter

Training Cooperation e-Newsletter is a semi-annual periodical of SESRIC, which brings together training and technical cooperation activities under the OIC-VET Programme, and aims at constituting a basic connection arena that enhances and strengthens relationships among related institutions of the OIC Member States targeting mainly the training institutions and professionals as well as the related regional and international organisations worldwide. Training Cooperation e-Newsletter Vol.5 No.1 (January 2014) and Vol.5 No.1 (April 2014) issues has been prepared and electronically published.

IV. ONGOING AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

A. OIC Postal Services Capacity Building Programme (OIC-PSCaB)

i. Symposium on ‘E-Commerce and Postal Services: Mutual Expectations’ in Turkey

Within the framework of OIC-VET Programme, OIC Postal Services Capacity Building Programme (OIC-PSCaB) SESRIC will organise symposium on E-Commerce and Postal Sector: Mutual Expectations during 25-28 May 2014 in Fethiye, Turkey. During the symposium presentations will be made on three major themes: “E-Commerce from the perspective of Operators in the Postal Sector”, “E-Commerce from the Perspective of Other Stakeholders in the Postal Sector” and “Future of the E-Commerce from the Perspective of Different Regions”, by the participants from international, national and regional institutions.

B. ISMEK Master Trainer Programme (IMTP)

ISMEK Master Trainer Programme, which was developed jointly by SESRIC and the Centre for Art and Vocational Training Courses of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality (ISMEK) to provide intensive free training courses to master trainers from OIC Member Countries continues in various subjects under different categories.

C. Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET)

OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET) is a transnational networking project under OIC-VET among similar local, national and regional institutions operating in public and civil domain in the OIC Member Countries with the aim of establishing closer cooperation for sharing knowledge and experience, conducting joint research and training, and organising new initiatives, projects and programmes in the field of OSH.

D. Skill Development for Youth Employment (SDYE) Programme

Skill Development for Youth Employment (SDYE) Programme is a SESRIC initiative under the framework of OIC-VET Programme in order to contribute to the solution of the unemployment problem through improving necessary skills for the current labour market.

E. SESRIC Tobacco Free OIC Initiative

i. ‘Tobacco Control Movement for Youth and Adults’ in Indonesia

Launched in June 2013 in partnership with Nahdatu’l-Ulama (NU), the largest civil society organisation in Indonesia, the ‘Tobacco Control Movement for Youth and Adults’ project aims at promoting health of Indonesians through tobacco control programme through building awareness on danger of smoking and exposure to second-hand (passive) smoking among NU's officials and teenage groups and create smoke-free indoor environment in all NU's establishments. While achieving this objective, NU's officials and teenage groups will become a role model for the community. The project also seeks to establish smoke free environments by implementing regulation at schools, both Islamic boarding schools and public schools, and also at communities, which can prevent children, youth and teenagers

from second-hand smoking and discourage them to initiate smoking, while establishing smoke-free NU's health care preventing non-smokers and in particular teenagers from exposure to second-hand smoke and promoting smoke-free environments at accessible places.

F. International Student Internship Programme (OIC-ISIP)

The OIC International Student Internship Programme (OIC-ISIP) is a special international internship programme developed under the OIC-VET Programme to enhance the quality of workforce employed in OIC Member Countries and strengthen integrity and convergence of labour markets, and promote competitiveness of OIC economies through increasing knowledge and skills of university students about to enter into the labour market.

G. SESRIC Internship Programme

This programme offers internships to highly motivated and successful young people interested to learn more about the economic and social issues that affect communities around the Islamic World. The programme provides university students opportunities to study and work that provide hands-on experience, as well as to improve their skills and experience of working in an international environment. Internships are available during each period of the year, which is open to students who are nationals of the OIC Member Countries.