

REPORT
OF
THE THIRD COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING
FOR
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FRAMEWORK FOR
DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION IN THE DOMAIN OF TOURISM
AMONG OIC MEMBER STATES

Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

21-22 Rajab, 1433 H

12-13 June, 2012

1. The Meeting was held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, on 21-22 Rajab, 1433 H (12-13 June, 2012)
2. Representative of Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Turkey, Republic of Sudan, Republic of Tunisia, OIC General Secretariat and OIC Institutions, namely COMCEC, IRCICA, SESRIC, ICDT and ISESCO attended the Meeting. List of the participants is attached as Annex-I.
3. Following rendition of the Iranian National Anthem and recitation of Verses from the Holy Qur'an, the head of Iranian delegation, Mrs. Ladan Jafari Tehrani, General Director of Tourism Development, Marketing and Promotion of Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization (ICHTO), welcomed all delegations and expressed her country's appreciation to OIC Member States and Institutions for participating at the meeting. Referring to the great increase in the number of international tourists from 940 million in 2010 to 980 million in 2011, she hoped that regarding high potentials of Islamic countries in the field of

Tourism, OIC would develop and adopt appropriate and effective strategies based on development of intra-OIC Tourism flow by image building of Islamic world, branding “Halal” Tourism and also defining new products.

Adoption of Agenda and Work Program

4. The meeting adopted its Agenda and Work Program as contained in Annex II.

Progress Report on Implementation of OIC Framework for Development and Cooperation in the domain of Tourism

5. The Meeting considered and adopted the Progress Report which was presented by Mr. Abdunur M. Sekindi from the OIC General Secretariat. The presentation highlighted the various activities accomplished under the Short Term Plan and Program, including recent bilateral activities and regional projects. It also outlined various activities of the OIC institutions towards the implementation of the Framework for Development and Cooperation in the Domain of Tourism among OIC Member States.
6. The recommendations in the presentation included increased public awareness about existing tourist resources in OIC countries, support for the existing regional and bilateral tourism projects and the establishment of new ones, sensitization of members of the private sector and tour operators among Member States about the available visa concessions and calling for signing of visa abolition agreements among the OIC Member States to allow unhindered flow of tourists.
7. The Meeting called on the General Secretariat in coordination with Member States and the relevant OIC institution to consider developing a Conceptual Framework and Doctrine for coordination of tourism among Member States.

Presenting Country Report

8. Republic of Turkey and Islamic Republic of Iran presented a summary report on their policies, strategies, plans, actions and activities in the fields of developing tourism industry in their countries.

Review of Implementation of the Framework Document on Tourism and the Resolutions of the 7th session of ICTM

9. The Meeting considered the Mechanism and Criteria for the selection of OIC City of Tourism and recommended its immediate circulation among the Member States for their views to enable an early implementation of this important resolution by the General Secretariat.

10. The Meeting took note of the Mechanism and Criteria for the award of OIC Seal of Excellence for Handicrafts presented by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and recommended its submission to the General Secretariat for circulation among Member States and possible harmonization with the existing Mechanism and Criteria prepared by the OIC General Secretariat in conjunction with IRCICA.

11. The Meeting welcomed the Member States that have taken steps towards the simplification of visa, customs and foreign exchange procedures and called upon other Member States to take similar steps in order to promote intra-OIC tourism.

12. The Meeting listened to the report on establishing the OIC Centre for Specialized Training on Traditional Arts presented by the Islamic Republic of Iran and recommended that proper procedures for establishing such bodies be followed through the relevant OIC organs. It was also recommended that the relevant proposal be circulated among OIC Member States through the General Secretariat.

13. The Meeting listened to the Report on publishing the Islamic Cultural Heritage Guide Book in English and commended the efforts being made by ICHTO in this regard. It also called upon Member States and the OIC relevant institutions to render necessary cooperation for realization of this

goal. It was recommended that the related questionnaire be circulated among OIC Member States through the General Secretariat.

14. The Meeting considered the Report of the 2nd Workshop on relevant Public and Private Sectors and welcomed the establishment of the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Forum and urged Member States to encourage public and private entities operating in tourism domain to join the Forum and contribute to its development.

15. The Meeting took note of the Report on Islamic Health Tourism and highly appreciated the efforts being made by the Islamic Republic of Iran in promoting this important type of tourism. It further appealed to Member States and the OIC relevant institutions to render the necessary support for these efforts.

16. The Meeting listened to the Report on Preparation of CHTN to play role in the field of cultural heritage and tourism among OIC Member states and highly appreciated the efforts being made by the Islamic Republic of Iran. It was recommended that the launching of the News Agency be announced to the Member States and its report be circulated through the General Secretariat and called for the support of IDB for this project.

17. The Meeting considered the Report on Preparation of the Draft Tourism Occupational Skill Standards (TOSS) prepared by ICHTO.

18. The Meeting took note of the Report on Designing OIC's Tourism Education and Training Network and welcomed the establishment of the Network by ICHTO, Islamic Republic of Iran. Based on Article 5.3.1, Section iv, the Meeting called upon IDB and the other relevant institutions to cooperate with this network.

19. The Meeting listened to the Report presented by Islamic Republic of Iran on Setting up an Open-ended Working Group on Ecotourism and highly appreciated the efforts being made by Islamic Republic of Iran. It was recommended that a questionnaire for membership of Member States to this Working Group would be circulated through OIC General Secretariat.

Reports by OIC Institutions

20. The Meeting considered the Reports presented by the following OIC Institutions: IRCICA, SESRIC, ICDT and ISESCO on their various contributions to the implementation of the OIC Framework Document on Tourism and highly appreciated their efforts. The presentations by these institutions are attached.

Vote of Thanks

21. The Meeting expressed its thanks and gratitude to the ICHTO, the Government and people of the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the Third Coordination Meeting and for the warm reception and brotherly hospitality accorded to all the delegates.

Suggestions and Recommendations

- 1- The ICTM is hence requested to look into ways and means to facilitate and accelerate the establishment of the branches of the Islamic Countries Health Tourism Association (ICHTA) in their respective countries through cooperation and consultation with their relevant organizations and authorities.
- 2- The ICTM participating delegates are urged to call on their respective tourism and health authorities to contribute to the Health Information Center of Islamic Countries (HICOIC) by assigning principal and associate focal points in order to enrich the database for promotion and arrangement of health tourism initiatives among member countries.
- 3- The ICTM is requested to make the concerted efforts and consultations in order to pursue the regular holding of the Conference on Health Tourism in Islamic Countries (CHTIC) and sideline exhibitions annually in prospective OIC member countries to follow up the trend of convergence of the Health Tourism collaborations among member countries.
- 4- Given the lack of proper information and accurate data on Health Tourism in Islamic Countries the OIC in collaboration and consultation with the ICTM are requested to prepare updated reports and statistical data regarding the

health tourism trends and development in member countries for benefit of the health tourism activities in OIC member countries.

- 5- The Islamic Countries Tourism Ministers Meeting (ICTM) are called to look into and take into consideration establishment of Medical and Health visas for people who seek to travel to their respective countries for remedy and medical purposes.
- 6- The ICTM adopt strategies to design and promote the Islamic Countries Medical Accreditation System in order to be taken on by medical centers, hospitals and clinics in the Islamic world to enhance the trend of health tourism in the Islamic world by bringing about more trust and reliability.
- 7- The Meeting recommends active participation of OIC Member States in the following OIC tourism events:
 - 2nd OIC Tourism Fair (20-23 December 2012) in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt.
 - 1st OIC Halal Food Expo scheduled for 10-12 December 2012 in Sharjah, United Arab emirates.
 - 1st Handicrafts Exhibition on 11-14 April 2013 in Casablanca, Kingdom Morocco.
8. The Meeting recommends displaying winning works of the OIC seal of Excellence of Handicrafts at the ICDT Business Centre.
9. The Islamic Republic of Iran proposed that the relevant website of CHTN: www.en.chtn.ir be linked to the OIC website homepage.