

SESRIC ACTIVITY REPORT
towards the Implementation of
COMCEC Strategy



**STATISTICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH
AND TRAINING CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES
(SESRIC/ANKARA CENTRE)**

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REPORT OF

**STATISTICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH AND
TRAINING CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES (SESRIC/ OIC
ANKARA CENTRE)**

ON

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMCEC STRATEGY

SUBMITTED TO

**35th MEETING OF THE
FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE COMCEC**

Agenda Item No: 4-10

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

Introduction

This report provides a summary of the activities that have been implemented by SESRIC for the implementation of COMCEC Strategy to be submitted to the 35th Meeting of the Follow-Up Committee of the COMCEC, which will be held in Ankara, Turkey on 24-25 April 2019.

The reporting period was characterized by the continuous efforts of the Centre on the implementation of the cooperation areas of COMCEC, which focus on addressing the common development problems of the Islamic Ummah and provide solutions, in accordance with the mandate of SESRIC. Through its multifaceted activities, SESRIC has benefited from an unwavering support and commitment of the OIC Member States, strategic guidance and synergy with the OIC General Secretariat, and the support of the COMCEC which, inter alia, has contributed to a functional and substantial correlation and coherence of the efforts in the OIC fora.

In brief, since the 34th Session of the COMCEC, SESRIC has studied and assessed economic and social developments in the OIC member states with a view to generating proposals to strengthen cooperation among them. The Center continued to prepare regular technical background reports and research studies on a wide range of socio-economic issues on the agendas of various OIC conferences and related meetings, particularly the sectoral ministerial conferences and the annual sessions of the relevant standing committees. In doing so, the Centre continued to make a significant contribution to the OIC policy dialogue mechanism by analysing the current situation at the OIC level and suggesting appropriate policy actions to address the challenges and strengthen intra-OIC cooperation in the relevant fields.

The Center, also continued to play an important role in strengthening and improving the national statistical systems in the member states with a view to producing better national statistics and thus helping policy-makers introduce better national policies and strategies. In this context, the Centre contributes significantly to the technical capacity building of the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of the OIC Member States by assuming the role of the Secretariat of the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom) and through the Centre's flagship Programme of the Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB).

During the period under review, SESRIC has made efforts to strengthen intra-OIC South-South cooperation, by implementing a wide-range of capacity building programmes and training activities on various socio-economic fields of immediate interest to the OIC Member States. Currently, the Centre has 28 sectoral capacity building programmes covering a wide-range of areas such as finance, agriculture, health, environment, water resources, poverty alleviation, natural disaster management, youth employment and tourism. These programmes are implemented in close cooperation with relevant OIC, international, regional, and national institutions through various modalities, including exchange of experts, trainings, workshops, study visits and networking.

Furthermore, during the period under review, the following 6 agreements (Memorandum of Understanding, Partnership Agreement, etc.) were signed between SESRIC and relevant national/international organizations in order to strengthen its ties with its partners for a better implementation of COMCEC Strategy:

No.	Partners	Date of Agreement
1.	Islamic Financial Services Board (IFSB)	22 November 2018
2.	The Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS)	27 November 2018
3.	TÜBİTAK Marmara Research Center (TÜBİTAK MAM)	13 December 2018
4.	Uyumsoft Corporation	27 December 2018
5.	Selçuk University	01 March 2019
6.	Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF)	11 March 2019

In the light of the above, this report highlights the activities of SESRIC in accordance with the COMCEC Strategy in its seven areas of cooperation namely: Intra-OIC Trade; Enhancing the Role of Private Sector in Economic Cooperation; Improving Transport and Communications; Developing a Sustainable and Competitive Tourism Sector; Increasing Productivity of Agriculture Sector and Sustaining Food Security; Alleviating Poverty and Deepening Financial Cooperation.

AGENDA ITEMS:

- 1. INTRA-OIC TRADE**
- 2. ENHANCING THE ROLE OF PRIVATE SECTOR IN ECONOMIC COOPERATION**
- 3. IMPROVING TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS**
- 4. DEVELOPING A SUSTAINABLE AND COMPETITIVE TOURISM SECTOR**
- 5. INCREASING PRODUCTIVITY OF AGRICULTURE SECTOR AND SUSTAINING FOOD SECURITY**
- 6. ALLEVIATING POVERTY**
- 7. DEEPENING FINANCIAL COOPERATION**

1. INTRA-OIC TRADE

The following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item on intra-OIC trade:

- **OIC Economic Outlook 2018 - Challenges and Opportunities towards Achieving the OIC-2025:** The report is the SESRIC’s annual analysis of the major economic trends and prospects in the OIC Member States. The report provides a wide-range of useful comparative statistics and analyses on the macroeconomic performance of OIC Member States as a group. The 2018 edition of the report also highlights the challenges and opportunities faced by OIC Member States in achieving the economic objectives stipulated in the OIC 2025 Programme of Action.
- **OIC Statistics Database (OICStat):** SESRIC hosts 19 trade-related indicators in the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat) which can be consulted at <http://www.sesric.org/oicstat.php> and is regularly updated.

2. ENHANCING THE ROLE OF PRIVATE SECTOR IN ECONOMIC COOPERATION

The following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item of enhancing the role of private sector in economic cooperation:

OIC Capacity Building Programmes (OIC-CaB):

No	Subject	Date	Beneficiary	Provider/Partner	Venue
1	Statistics Course on “Statistical Records of Establishment”	12-14 November 2018	Iraq (Central Statistical Organization (CSO))	Palestine (Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS))	Baghdad, Iraq
2	Statistics Course on “Manufacturing and Construction Statistics”	3-4 December 2018	Qatar (Planning and Statistics Authority (PSA))	Malaysia (Department of Statistics (DoS))	Doha, Qatar
3	Statistics Course on “Price Statistics”	10-12 December 2018	Qatar (Planning and Statistics Authority (PSA))	Indonesia (BPS-Statistics Indonesia)	Doha, Qatar
4	Study Visit on “Consumer Price Index (CPI)”	16-18 April 2019	Jordan (Department of Statistics (DoS))	Egypt (Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS))	Cairo, Egypt
5	Panel Discussion on “Private Sector Engagement in South-South and Triangular Cooperation for	20 March 2019	Azerbaijan, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, Sudan	SESRIC, Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA), UNDP Istanbul	Buenos Aires, Argentina

	Sustainable Development”		Tunisia, Turkey and other participants of the BAPA+40 Conference	International Center for Private Sector in Development (IICPSD) and United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)	
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- **OIC Statistical Outlook (OSO):** Since January 2019, SESRIC has been issuing the “OIC Statistical Outlook (OSO)” series, which can be accessed at <http://www.sesric.org/publications-oso.php>, as a bimonthly thematic statistical publication which will be compiled into a final compendium at the end of each year under the name the “Statistical Yearbook on OIC Member Countries”. Each OSO covers one of the categories hosted at OICStat. It provides not only the data for all OIC countries with OIC and global aggregate values, where applicable, but also brief analysis with figures reviewing the performance and progress of the OIC countries in the thematic category covered. With regard to the private sector, SESRIC has published a series of OSOs available at: <http://www.sesric.org/files/article/657.pdf>

- **OIC Women and Development Report 2018 - Enhancing Women Entrepreneurship for Development:** The report aims to promote women’s empowerment and entrepreneurship across the OIC region. It assesses the state of women in OIC area, highlights the importance of women in unlocking the economic potentials of OIC Member States, and promotes the advancement of female entrepreneurship in the private sector. The report was submitted to the Seventh Session of the Ministerial Conference on Women’s Role in the Development of OIC Member States, which was held in November 2018 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

- **Study Visit on “Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)”:** SESRIC organised a Study Visit on “Corporate Social Responsibility” for a delegation of 5 Palestinians on 26-28 February 2019 in Ankara, Turkey.

The main objectives of the study visit were to learn from Turkey's experience in shifting from passive philanthropy to the active involvement of all actors in society and to use the Turkish experience in developing the Waqf philosophy.

- **OIC Statistics Database (OICStat):** SESRIC hosts 29 indicators related to the private sector in economic cooperation within the framework of the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat) which can be accessed at <http://www.sesric.org/oicstat.php> and is updated regularly.

3. IMPROVING TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

The following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item on improving transport and communications:

OIC Capacity Building Programmes (OIC-CaB):

No	Subject	Date	Beneficiary	Provider/Partner	Venue
1	Workshop on “Reform and Development in the Post Services”	12-14 November 2018	Algeria, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Sudan	SESRIC, Universal Postal Union (UPU), and the Telecommunications and Post Regulatory Authority of Sudan	Khartoum, Sudan
2	Regional Workshop on “Electronic Postal Service Payments”	26-28 February 2019	Algeria, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Mauritania, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Libya and Sudan	SESRIC, Universal Postal Union (UPU) and La Poste Tunisienne	Tunis, Tunisia
3	Training on “Philately and International Reply Coupon”	16-18 April 2019	Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Libya, Sudan, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen and Palestine	SESRIC, Universal Postal Union (UPU) and La Poste Tunisienne	Tunis, Tunisia

- **OIC Statistics Database (OICStat):** SESRIC hosts 24 transport and communication-related indicators in the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat) which can be accessed at <http://www.sesric.org/oicstat.php> and is updated regularly.

4. DEVELOPING A SUSTAINABLE AND COMPETITIVE TOURISM SECTOR

The following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item on developing sustainable and competitive tourism sector:

OIC Capacity Building Programmes (OIC-CaB)

No	Subject	Date	Beneficiary	Provider/Partner	Venue
1	Training Course on “Halal Tourism and Muslim-Friendly Hospitality Service”	13-15 November 2018	Uzbekistan (The state Committee for Tourism Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan)	SMIIC, SESRIC	Tashkent, Uzbekistan

2	Seminar on “Halal Tourism in OIC Countries”	16 November 2018	Uzbekistan (The state Committee for Tourism Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan)	SMIIC, SESRIC	Samarkand, Uzbekistan
3	Statistics Course on “Tourism Statistics”	4-6 December 2018	Brunei (Department of Economic Planning and Development (JPKE))	Indonesia (BPS-Statistics Indonesia)	Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei
4	Panel Session on “Prospects and Challenges in Halal Tourism in the Islamic World”	04 April 2019	Tourism authorities of OIC Member States	SESRIC and Turkey (Kastamonu University)	Antalya, Turkey

- **OIC Statistics Database (OICStat):** SESRIC hosts 7 tourism-related indicators in the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat) which can be accessed at <http://www.sesric.org/oicstat.php> and is updated regularly.

5. INCREASING PRODUCTIVITY OF AGRICULTURE SECTOR AND SUSTAINING FOOD SECURITY

The following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item on increasing agricultural productivity and sustaining food security:

OIC Capacity Building Programmes (OIC-CaB)

No	Subject	Date	Beneficiary	Provider/Partner	Venue
1	Study Visit on “Sustainable Aquaculture in OIC Countries”	03-07 December 2018	Malaysia, Palestine & Qatar (Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry Malaysia) (An- Najah- N- University Palestine, Al-Quds University, Ministry of Agriculture Platine) (Environment Science Center Qatar University, Aquaculture Section Fisheries Department of Ministry of Municipality and Environment of Qatar)	Turkey (Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry)	Antalya, Turkey

2	Technical Mission on “Investigation of Vegetable Growing Techniques in Uganda”	12-14 March 2019	Uganda (Islamic University In Uganda)	Turkey (Alata Horticultural Research Institute)	Mbale and Kampala, Uganda
3	Statistics Course on “Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Statistics”	11-12 April 2019	Azerbaijan (State Statistical Committee)	Turkey (Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat))	Baku, Azerbaijan
4	Training Course on “Design and Engineering of Cold Storages and Design and Engineering of Hydroponic Greenhouse”	22-26 April 2019	Afghanistan (Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock)	Turkey (Alata Horticultural Research Institute)	Mersin, Turkey

- **OIC Statistics Database (OICStat):** SESRIC hosts 64 agricultural in the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat) which can be accessed at <http://www.sesric.org/oicstat.php> and is updated regularly.

6. ALLEVIATING POVERTY

The following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item on alleviating poverty:

OIC Capacity Building Programmes (OIC-CaB)

No	Subject	Date	Beneficiary	Provider/Partner	Venue
1	GIT Training Course on ERCP Technique	03 September-28 December 2018	Turkey (3 Syrian doctors)	SESRIC, OIC-SHPA and Turkey (Ankara Education and Research Hospital)	Ankara, Turkey
2	Second Workshop on “Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in OIC Member States”	6-7 November 2018	Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Sudan, Chad, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Indonesia, Kyrgyz, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Togo, Uganda, Uzbekistan and Turkey	SESRIC	Ankara, Turkey
3	Training Course on “Occupational Safety and Health”	7–8 November 2018	Palestine	Turkey (Institute of Occupational Health and Safety, Research and Development, under the Ministry	Ramallah, Palestine

				of Family, Labor and Social Services of Republic of Turkey)	
4	Study Visit on “Education Statistics”	12-14 November 2018	Uganda (Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS))	Mozambique (Office for National Statistics (INE))	Kampala, Uganda
5	Study Visit on “Income and Consumption Statistics”	13-15 November 2018	Egypt (Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS))	Saudi Arabia (General Authority for Statistics (GASTAT))	Cairo, Egypt
6	Training Course on “Disaster and Prehospital Medicine”	18-29 November 2018	Sudan (Ministry of Health of Sudan)	Turkey (TIKA, MoH of Turkey, MoH of Sudan)	Khartoum, Sudan
7	Statistics Course on “Sustainable Development Statistics”	26-28 November 2018	Malaysia (Department of Statistics (DoS))	Azerbaijan (State Statistical Committee (SSC))	Baku, Azerbaijan
8	Training Course on “Intensive Care & Infection Control”	26 November-14 December 2018	Chad, Djibouti, Mauritania, Palestine and Sudan	Turkey (Ministry of Health of Turkey)	Ankara, Turkey
9	Workshop on “International Forced Migration: Challenges and Opportunities”	15-17 December 2018	Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Chad, Egypt, Gambia, Guyana, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mauritania, Morocco, Pakistan, Palestine, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Uzbekistan and Yemen	SESRIC and Turkey (Turkish Red Crescent Youth, Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University, Greater Municipality of Ankara and Migration Policy Application and Research Center)	Ankara, Turkey
10	Technical Mission on “Sustainable Development Statistics”	24-26 December 2018	Azerbaijan (State Statistical Committee (SSC))	Tajikistan (Agency on Statistics under President of the Republic of Tajikistan)	Dushanbe, Tajikistan
11	Training Course on “Fundamental OSH for Supervisor”	25-26 December 2018	Turkey (Institute of Research and Development of Occupational	Malaysia (National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Malaysia)	Ankara, Turkey

			Health and Safety, (ISGUM))		
12	Training Course on “Emergency Preparedness & Response Plan”	27-28 December 2018	Turkey (Institute of Research and Development of Occupational Health and Safety, (ISGUM))	Malaysia (National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Malaysia)	Ankara, Turkey
13	Statistics Course on “Education Statistics”	7-9 January 2019	Bangladesh (Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS))	Gambia (Gambia Bureau of Statistics (GBOS))	Serre Kunda, Gambia
14	The Start-up Meeting of the “Capacity Development of Africa City of Technology”	27-28 January 2019	Sudan (Africa City of Technology (ACT))	SESRIC, IsDB, Turkey (TIKA, TUBITAK Marmara Technopark (MARTEK), Uludağ University Technology Development Zone (ULUTEK))	Khartoum, Sudan
15	Career Development Training Course for OIC Interns	03-04 February 2019	Côte D’ivoire	SESRIC, Ensar Foundation, Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities (YTB), Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB)	Istanbul, Turkey
16	Statistics Course on “Living Conditions, Poverty and Cross-Cutting Social Issues”	4-6 February 2019	Indonesia (BPS-Statistics Indonesia)	Azerbaijan (State Statistical Committee (SSC))	Baku, Azerbaijan
17	Training Course on “Disaster and Prehospital Emergency Medicine”	25 February-1 March 2019	Djibouti (Ministry of Health of Djibouti) and Chad (Ministry of Health of Chad)	Turkey and Sudan (TIKA, MoH of Turkey, MoH of Sudan)	Djibouti and Chad
18	Statistics Course on “Sustainable Development Statistics”	4-6 March 2019	Uganda (Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS))	Somalia (Directorate of National Statistics (DNS) under the Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development of Somalia)	Mogadishu, Somalia

19	Training Course on “Intensive Care & Infection Control”	11 - 29 March 2019	Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Gambia, and Albania	Turkey (Ministry of Health of Turkey)	Ankara, Turkey
20	Training Course on “Disaster and Prehospital Emergency Medicine”	23-27 March 2019	Somalia (Ministry of Health of Somalia)	Turkey (TIKA, MoH of Turkey)	Mogadishu, Somalia
21	Study Visit on “Mortality Statistics”	27-29 March 2019	Turkey (Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat))	Azerbaijan (State Statistical Committee (SSC))	Ankara, Turkey
22	Study Visit on “Living Conditions, Poverty and Cross-Cutting Social Issues”	2-3 April 2019	Niger (National Institute of Statistics (INS))	Chad (National Institute of Statistics and Economic and Demographic Studies (INSEED))	Niamey, Niger
23	Medical Observership Programme	01-26 April 2019	Palestine	Turkey (Doctors Worldwide)	Istanbul, Turkey

- Workshop on “Transforming Tobacco Questions for Surveys (TQS) Data to Action”:** SESRIC, in collaboration with the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the CDC Foundation, organised the Workshop on ‘Transforming Tobacco Questions for Surveys (TQS) Data to Action’ on 12-15 November 2018 in Ankara, Turkey. The objective of the workshop was to provide additional information and technical support to the OIC countries in integrating TQS into their ongoing surveys and to provide countries with the opportunity to prepare a Tobacco Brief and a dissemination and mobilization plan for tobacco control.
- Achieving Peace & Security in a World of Turmoil - An Arduous Challenge for the OIC:** The report was prepared at the request of OIC General Secretariat. It focuses on changes in the OIC security environment and the new challenges that arise from them, mainly with regard to preventing, managing and resolving conflicts. It aims to contribute to the OIC’s efforts in de-escalating tensions within and around its member states, which is a fundamental prerequisite for sustainable economic development and growth.

- **People with Disabilities and Special Needs in OIC Countries:** The OIC area hosts millions of people with special needs. The report reviews the evidence on the situation of these people, with a view to serving as a reference document in the efforts to prepare the OIC Strategy on People with Special Needs.
- **Situational Analysis of Street Living Children and Street Working Children in OIC Countries:** The report is prepared at the request of Islamic Fiqh Academy. The objective of this report is to provide an overview of the situation of children living and working on the streets in the OIC Member States. The report examines five OIC Member States along with the major causes of the phenomenon of street children and provides some key policy recommendations on how to deal with the phenomenon of street children.
- **Draft Plan of Action on the Improvement of the State of the Elderly in OIC Member States:** The document serves as a roadmap on how to reduce the initial shock of ageing on the OIC Member States and improve the quality of life of the elderly. The Draft Action Plan was submitted to the OIC General Secretariat in November 2018, and presented at the “Workshop for the Validation of the Plan of Action on the Improvement of the State of the Elderly in OIC Member States”, held on 24-25 January 2019 in Niamey, Niger.
- **SESRIC Research Seminar on “Street Living Children and Street Working Children in OIC Countries”:** The seminar took place on 25 January 2019 at the SESRIC premises in Ankara, Turkey. The event provided an opportunity for academics, policy-makers and experts in the field to discuss the main causes and challenges facing street children, with a view to formulating feasible and effective policies to address the phenomenon of street children at the OIC level.
- **SESRIC Research Seminar on “Achieving Peace and Security in a World of Turmoil: An Arduous Challenge for the OIC”:** The seminar was held on 8 February 2019 at the SESRIC premises in Ankara, Turkey, with the aim of better understanding on the impacts of current security challenges on the socioeconomic development in the OIC area.
- **SESRIC Research Seminar on “the Role of Women in Development of OIC Member States”:** The seminar took place on 15 March 2019 at the SESRIC premises in Ankara, Turkey. It provided a valuable platform to share main findings of the SESRIC’s OIC Women and Development Report 2018, and to exchange ideas on ways and means to address related challenges at the OIC level.
- **OIC International Internship Programme (OIC Intern):** The OIC Intern Programme, a SESRIC initiative, aims to facilitate the entry of students into the labour market by offering them an internship opportunity to develop their knowledge and skills in the workplace. During the pilot period in 2018, 308 students were recruited in the companies and firms to complete their internships. Additionally, introductory events to Chambers of Commerce and Industry in various cities in Turkey were organised. Furthermore, the applications of

the OIC International Internship Program (OIC INTERN) for 2019 have started to receive applications from students pursuing bachelor, master and doctoral studies in Turkish universities.

- **Media Workshop on “Organ Donation and Transplantation”:** Within the framework of Thematic Area 6 on “Information, Research, Education and Advocacy” of the OIC Strategic Health Programme of Action 2014-2023, SESRIC cooperated with the Turkish Transplant Foundation and other partners for the organization of the workshop. Seventy-four journalists from 35 countries met in Istanbul, Turkey from 16 to 18 January 2019 to participate in the “Media Workshop on Organ Donation and Transplantation”. They shared their knowledge and experience in the field of organ donation and transplantation in their respective countries.
- **Project on “Strengthening Coordination and Capacity Building on Preparedness and Response for Health Emergencies in OIC Member States”:** With the collaboration of SESRIC, the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA), the Ministry of Sudan and the Ministry of Turkey, this project offers an excellent opportunity to strengthen coordination and capacity building in health emergency preparedness and response in OIC Member States. The project aims to strengthen the capacity of health personnel in health emergencies in OIC Member States. It is planned to organize 12 training sessions during 2019 as part of this project for African countries.
- **OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap:** SESRIC, in its capacity as the Executing Organ /agency of the OIC-VET Programme, was entrusted by the Workshop on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in OIC Member Countries: Needs and Capacity Assessment” which was held on 09-11 May 2016 in Ankara, Turkey, to prepare a strategic roadmap on TVET as a framework for cooperation among relevant stakeholders to strengthen TVET system in OIC Countries especially by facilitating and promoting the intra-OIC transfer of knowledge and expertise. By four working groups comprising of experts from member states, “OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap” was adopted during the “Second Workshop on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in OIC Member States” which was held on 5-6 September 2018 in Ankara, Turkey. The OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap, which comprises 2020-2025, will be submitted to the 35th Ministerial Session of the COMCEC for adoption by the competent authorities of OIC Member States.

Moreover, with a view to ensuring a structured implementation of the roadmap, three projects were identified as follows:

1. Project on “Enhancing Labour Mobility through Referenced National Qualification Framework”
2. Project on “Capacity Development and Knowledge Sharing in TVET Teacher Education”
3. Project on “Private Sector Engagement in Skills Development”

Project implementation processes were to be launched by 2019 under the coordination of the working groups.

- **Project on “Digital Skills Development in OIC Countries”:** The project on “Digital Skills Development in OIC Countries”, which was developed by SESRIC, was selected for funding following a two-stage evaluation process as part of the financing of the COMCEC Project in 2019. The project lasts 3 months and aims to create a platform for OIC Countries to better understand the impacts, challenges, and opportunities of the new work concept, identify best practices in e-skills development and increase the capacity of participants from relevant Ministries and/or Digital Transformation Platforms of the OIC Countries.
- **OIC Statistics Database (OICStat):** SESRIC hosts 5 poverty indicators in the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat) which can be accessed at <http://www.sesric.org/oicstat.php> and is updated regularly.

7. DEEPENING FINANCIAL COOPERATION

The following activities were implemented by SESRIC under the agenda item on deepening financial cooperation:

OIC Capacity Building Programmes (OIC-CaB)

No	Subject	Date	Beneficiary	Provider/Partner	Venue
1	Statistics Course on ‘Banking, Insurance, and Financial Statistics’	26-28 November 2018	Jordan (Department of Statistics (DoS))	Tunisia (National Institute of Statistics (INS))	Amman, Jordan
2	Training Course on Monetary Policy Formulation	02-03 April 2019	Azerbaijan (Central Bank of Azerbaijan)	Turkey (Central Bank of Turkey)	Baku, Azerbaijan
3	Technical Mission on ‘Government Finance Statistics’	22-24 April 2019	Brunei (Department of Economic Planning and Development (JPKE))	Malaysia (Department of Statistics (DoS))	Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei

- **International Symposium on Financing for Development:** SESRIC and IsDB jointly organized the International Symposium on Financing for Development on 22-23 November 2018 in Istanbul, Turkey. The event provided an opportunity for relevant stakeholders to exchange views on the relationship between access to finance and economic development, and to reflect on innovative financial solutions that promote economic growth.

- **OIC Statistics Database (OICStat):** SESRIC hosts 50 financial indicators in the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat) which can be accessed at <http://www.sesric.org/oicstat.php> and is updated regularly.
- **OIC Statistical Outlook (OSO):** In the area of finance, SESRIC has published a series of OSOs available at: <http://www.sesric.org/files/article/655.pdf>