



**PROGRAMME  
OF THE**

**4<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE COMCEC TRADE WORKING GROUP**  
(October 23rd, 2014, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Ankara-Turkey)

*“Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs) and Trade Liberalisation Efforts in the OIC Member States with a Special Emphasis on the TPS-OIC”*

**08.30-09.00 Registration**

**09.00-09.15 Opening Remarks**

**09.15-09.45 COMCEC Trade Outlook**

- Presentation: *Ms. Vildan Baran*  
*Planning Expert*  
*COMCEC Coordination Office*

- Views and Comments

**09.45-10.45 Rationale of Trade Liberalization and Recent Trends in PTAs**

- Presentation: *Importance of PTAs in Trade Liberalization*  
*Mr. Ramoul Kheireddine*  
*Expert*  
*UNCTAD*

- Presentation: *Recent Trends in PTAs*  
*Mrs. Mette Werdelin Azzam*  
*Technical Officer*  
*World Customs Organization (WCO)*

**Questions for Discussions**

- What is the rationale behind arranging Preferential Trade Agreements?
- What are the main impacts of PTAs on international trade?
- What are the major developments in the area of trade liberalization recently?
- What are the future prospects for PTAs?

**10.45-11.00 Coffee Break**

## **11.00-12.00 Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs) in the OIC Member States**

- Presentation: *Mr. Michael Gasiorek*  
*Researcher*  
*Sussex University-Tradesift*

### Questions for Discussions

- What is the level of trade liberalization efforts in the OIC Member Countries?
- What are the main characteristics of the PTAs in the OIC Region?
- What are the main challenges faced by the Member States in the area of trade liberalization?

## **12:00-12:45 Trade Preferential System among the Member States of the OIC (TPS-OIC)**

- Presentation: *Basic Features and Potential of the TPS-OIC*  
*Mr. Michael Gasiorek*  
*Researcher*  
*Sussex University-Tradesift*
- Presentation: *Practical Issues for the Effective Implementation of the System*  
*Mr. Houcine Rahmouni*  
*Advisor of the Director General*  
*Islamic Center for Development of Trade (ICDT)*
- Views and Comments

## **12.45-14.15 Lunch**

## **14.15-16.15 Policy Options for Successful PTAs with Special Focus on the TPS-OIC**

### **Policy Debate**

*There will be a policy discussion under this agenda item. The discussions will be based on the Analytical Study, responds to the Policy Questionnaire and the Room Document prepared for the Meeting.*

### Questions for Discussions

- How do you evaluate potential of the TPS-OIC? What would the effects of the TPS-on intra-OIC trade levels when operationalized?
- What is the level of awareness on TPS-OIC System in the OIC Member Countries?
- What measures can be taken to expedite successful implementation of the TPS-OIC?

## **16.15-16.30 Coffee Break**

## **16.30-17.50 Member Country Presentations**

### Questions for Discussions

- What are the main characteristics of the successfully implemented PTAs?
- What is your assessment regarding multilateral or regional trade liberalization efforts and their impact on your country's economy?
- What role can be played by the private sector in trade liberalization effort? How private sector's benefits from PTAs could be improved?

## **17.50-18.10 Promoting Intra-OIC Trade: Aid for Trade Initiative for the Arab States**

- Presentation: *Mr. Ayhan Karaca*

*Manager*

*International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC)*

- Views and Comments

## **18.10-18.30 Utilizing the COMCEC PCM**

-Presentation: *Mr. Deniz GÖLE*

*Expert*

*COMCEC Coordination Office*

- Views and Comments

## **18.30-18.40 Closing Remarks**