

Mobility  
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# COMCEC

## Annual Progress Report

### 2014





**Standing Committee  
for Economic and Commercial Cooperation  
of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC)**

**COMCEC  
ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT  
2014**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has been working for enhancing economic and commercial cooperation among the 57 Member States of the OIC since 1984. The programs and activities of the COMCEC are guided by the COMCEC Strategy, adopted by the 4<sup>th</sup> Extra-ordinary Islamic Summit Conference held in Makkah Al- Mukarramah on 14-15 August 2012. The Strategy has become operational in 2013.

The 29<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC, held in İstanbul, on 18-21 November 2013, has reviewed the joint efforts in the cooperation areas of the COMCEC, namely trade, transport and communications, agriculture, tourism, financial cooperation, poverty alleviation and private sector cooperation. In-depth deliberations culminated into a set of resolutions towards further deepening cooperation among the Member States in these areas. The Session welcomed the operationalization of the COMCEC Strategy and the progress achieved towards its implementation, particularly the convening of the COMCEC Working Groups, and the launch of the first project call within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding. It also requested the COMCEC Coordination Office to report the progress in the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy regularly to the COMCEC Sessions and to the Follow-up Committee Meetings. The Session also decided to hold the Ministerial Exchange of Views Session of the 30<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC as “The Role of Public Private Partnerships for the Development of the Tourism Sector in OIC Member States”.

This report aims at giving an account of the implementation status of both the COMCEC Strategy and the resolutions of the 29<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC. Since the 29<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC, the Strategy has continued to be implemented successfully. As stipulated in the Strategy, COMCEC working groups in 6 cooperation areas have convened at least two meetings during the period under review. The working groups will continue to meet at least twice a year and focus on important issues in their respective cooperation areas in future meetings.

The Working Groups have held a total of 15 meetings since the 29<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC. Overall, these meetings have resulted in 15 analytic reports, 6 sectoral outlooks, and 15 proceedings published by the COMCEC Coordination Office. All the publications regarding the working group meetings namely the analytic studies, sectoral outlooks and the meeting proceedings are available on the COMCEC website, [http://www.comcec.org/EN\\_YE/icerik.aspx?iid=250](http://www.comcec.org/EN_YE/icerik.aspx?iid=250).

On the other hand, with a view to fulfilling the mission of the COMCEC identified in its Strategy, the working groups, in their fall 2014 meetings, have also included a policy debate session in their agendas. The aim of

these sessions was to identify policy areas where public interventions would make a relatively quick and positive impact, with the ultimate aim of approximating member state policies. Following documents provided the necessary substance or the policy debate session:

- Analytic studies prepared for the specific theme of each working group meeting;
- Policy questions sent by the COMCEC Coordination Office to the member states which aimed to have a basic understanding of the member state policy profile in the particular working group meeting theme;
- The capacity inventory questionnaire, again sent by the COMCEC Coordination Office to the member states to match the needs and offerings of the member states in each cooperation/working group area, which will provide the basis for cooperation efforts in that area.

*Highlights of the Strategy's Implementation  
(Dec. 2013-Nov. 2014)*

- 15 Working Group Meetings
- 36 Publications
- Signing ceremony for the successful projects under the COMCEC Project Funding
- 2nd Annual Meeting of COMCEC Focal Points & PCM Training- 2<sup>nd</sup> Project Call

Accordingly, in the second round of working group meetings of 2014, each working group has had a policy discussion session which concluded with several policy advices pertaining to the specific theme of that meeting. These recommendations will be submitted to the 30<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC for further action.

The COMCEC Project Funding, the second implementation instrument of the Strategy was launched in September 2013, with the aim of providing grants to technical cooperation and capacity building projects proposed by the Member States which have registered to the working groups, and by the relevant OIC Institutions. While this instrument is intended to mobilize the member states and OIC institutions to realize the principles and objectives of the COMCEC Strategy, it also aims to advance the cooperation efforts to overcome the common challenges of the member states in cooperation areas. Additionally, this instrument will also improve the member states' capacity in the execution of multilateral projects. Finally COMCEC Project Funding provides a unique opportunity for the OIC Member States, stretching from South-East Asia to Maghreb, from Latin America to Caucasus, to work together on common issues.

Overall, the member states and OIC institutions have shown remarkable interest to this instrument. For the project proposals that were found eligible for COMCEC funding under the first project call, a signing ceremony was held on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014, during which operational and financial agreements were signed between the Development Bank of Turkey and the project owners. This report also gives brief information regarding the implementation status of these projects under the relevant cooperation area.

On the other hand, the CCO has received 62 project proposals for the second project call, which started on September 1, and ended on October 1, 2014. 37 of these proposals have been short-listed for further evaluation. The CCO is expected to announce the final list of eligible projects for funding in early February.

Apart from the working group meetings and COMCEC-funded projects, this report also gives information regarding various activities that were held over the course of last year that are in line with the COMCEC Strategy and organized by relevant OIC Institutions. The activities of the OIC institutions aligned with the COMCEC Strategy plays a crucial role for the effective and successful implementation of the strategy. A list of activities serving the objectives of the Strategy, and organized by the OIC institutions in 2014 is annexed to the report.



## **CHAPTER I: COOPERATION AREAS**

### **1. TRADE**

During the period under review, the Trade Working Group has held two meetings and considered issues relating to trade facilitation and trade liberalization. Additionally, OIC initiatives regarding enhancing trade among the member states were also undertaken

#### **1.1. 3<sup>RD</sup> MEETING OF THE TRADE WORKING GROUP**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Trade Working Group was held on February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014, in Ankara with the theme of “Facilitating Intra-OIC Trade: Improving the Efficiency of Customs Procedures in the OIC Member States”.

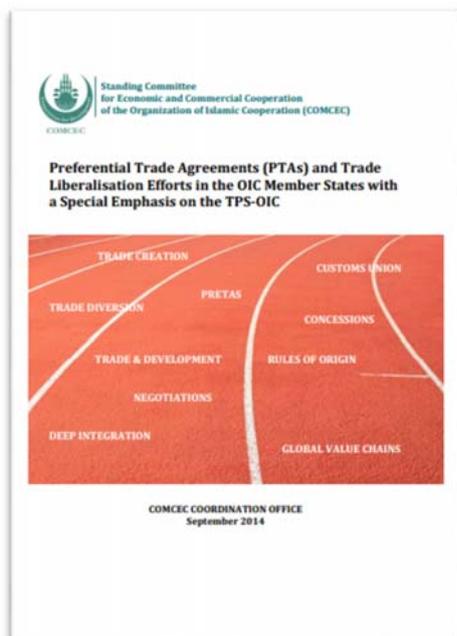
Deliberations in the meeting have focused on the current performance of the customs in the member states and ways and means to improve the customs procedures. In this regard, the analytic study specifically prepared for this meeting by the COMCEC Coordination Office provided the background for the deliberations. The meeting highlighted that despite ongoing efforts in various international platforms to improve and simplify customs procedures, progress has been limited especially in some developing and least-developed countries. The participants exchanged their views on issues hindering progress in this field such as underdeveloped legislative framework and infrastructure, inadequate financial resources, lack of adequate human resources and institutional capacity, and inefficient coordination among both the relevant government agencies and between the government and the private sector.



Furthermore, the participants discussed ways and means to undertake customs modernization and reform in the member states. In this regard, the study's findings were received positively by the member states. The working group stressed that, in terms of designing the reforms, conducting a prior needs assessment and establishing a well-functioning coordination mechanism, such as national trade facilitation bodies, and updating the legal framework to meet the demanding tasks of the modern international trade are crucial. With regard to the implementation of reforms, political will constitutes its backbone. However, setting the right institutional arrangements, promoting human resources, and allocating sufficient amount of funds are also important elements of a successfully implemented customs reform program. Finally, monitoring the implementation is also essential. Participants also agreed on that a thorough and regular review of the implementation will enable the reformers to timely identify obstacles and where needed, refine the reform program to overcome those obstacles, the study notes.

## **1.2. 4<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE TRADE WORKING GROUP**

The 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Trade Working Group was held on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014, in Ankara with the theme of "Preferential Trade Agreements and Trade Liberalisation Efforts in the OIC Member States: With Special Emphasis on the TPS-OIC". In this Meeting, the WG has focused on the underlying logic of and recent global trends in the preferential trade agreements. Furthermore, several trade agreements within the OIC Region were analyzed in-depth, including their impact on intra-OIC trade. Additionally, the participants have had an opportunity to extensively discuss the TPS-OIC System. According to the analytic study prepared for this meeting, while the TPS-OIC System proposes modest tariff reductions initially, with the utilization of fast-track option and participation of more countries to the System, its impact on intra-OIC trade will be greater.



During the policy debate session, the participants also discussed policy issues pertaining to the theme of the meeting. In this regard, three advices were made by the meeting. The first one was increasing the member state capacity for successful implementation of the PTAs. The participants stressed that to be able to take advantage of the benefits of trade liberalization process, it is necessary to develop strategies aimed at improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the institutions that are in charge of the regulation and administration of those agreements. Secondly, the meeting recommended preparing the necessary ground for the implementation of the TPS-OIC System. In this framework, the meeting called on the participating states of the TPS-OIC to undertake practical preparations for the implementation of the System, such as designating the competent body which will print the TPS-OIC Certificate of Origin, and organizing training seminars for the customs authorities. Finally the meeting recommended the member states which have not yet completed the ratification of TPS-OIC Agreements and/or

submitted their concession lists, to organize awareness-raising seminars to ensure that their constituencies are fully aware of the benefits of the System.

#### POLICY ADVICES OF THE 4<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE TRADE WG

- Increasing the member state capacity for successful implementation of the PTAs
- Preparing the necessary ground for the implementation of the TPS-OIC System
- Raising Awareness on TPS-OIC

### 1.3. OTHER TRADE-RELATED DEVELOPMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

#### ***TPS-OIC:***

TPS-OIC is the most important project of the COMCEC in the field of trade. TPS-OIC is based on three agreements, namely the Framework Agreement, the Protocol on Preferential Tariff Scheme (PRETAS) and the Rules of Origin. With the ratification of all three agreements by at least 10 Member States, the legal basis of the System is completed as of August 2011.

In order to make the TPS-OIC system operational, 10 Member States have to fulfill two conditions at the same time: The ratification of the three TPS-OIC Agreements and the submission of the list of concessions to the TNC Secretariat. As of November 2014, 12 Member Countries have signed and ratified all the three agreements and sent their list of concessions to the TNC Secretariat. These are: Bahrain, Bangladesh, Jordan, Malaysia, Morocco Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Syria (OIC Membership suspended in 2012), Saudi Arabia, Turkey,

and the United Arab Emirates. 5 of these countries are Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) members (United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and Saudi Arabia). There is a customs union among the GCC Member States which obligates its members to fulfil the dual requirement of signing and ratifying the three TPS-OIC agreements and submitting the concession lists jointly. The GCC Secretariat has submitted the list of concessions on behalf of its six members. Nonetheless, Kuwait has not yet completed the ratification of the PRETAS and the Rules of Origin. For the System to be effectual in the GCC countries, the ratification of the PRETAS and the Rules of Origin by Kuwait needs to be completed.

Since 29<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC, Bahrain has ratified the Rules of Origin, and Morocco has submitted its concessions list to the TNC Secretariat. The List of Countries signed/ratified TPS-OIC Agreements can be reached at [http://www.comcec.org/UserFiles/File/TPS-OIC/TPSOIC-PRETASStatus-Ekim\\_2014.pdf](http://www.comcec.org/UserFiles/File/TPS-OIC/TPSOIC-PRETASStatus-Ekim_2014.pdf)

Finally, for the promotion of the TPS-OIC System, relevant OIC Institutions organize various events in the member states. In this regard, the ICDT has organized sensitization events for TPS-OIC in Oman and Saudi Arabia. Furthermore, the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group considered the TPS-OIC System and discussed ways and means to expedite its full implementation.

#### **The Sixth Meeting of the OIC Consultative Group:**

The Sixth Meeting of the OIC Consultative Group on Enhancing intra-OIC Trade was held on February 3-4 2014 in Marrakesh, Kingdom of Morocco. The meeting reviewed the implementation status of the Executive Programme of the Road Map for achieving intra-OIC trade targets. The participants have also discussed the possible role of the regional organizations in promoting intra-OIC trade and the role of Member States in implementing the Executive Programme. The Meeting have adopted several recommendations including:

- To prepare a comprehensive evaluation report, which will include the shortcomings and the achievements recorded so far and recommend ways and means to further enhance cooperation and coordination among the OIC Institutions.
- To further consolidate coordination and synergy among the relevant OIC Institutions active in trade area on the implementation of joint activities;
- To sensitize the OIC Member States to benefit and make use of the existing trade products & windows facilities.

#### **Islamic Trade Fairs:**

Islamic Trade Fairs were initiated by the COMCEC in order to create awareness on the products of the Member States and to increase trade among them. The ICDT is organizing Islamic Trade Fairs in every two years in one of the OIC Member States. ICDT has organized fourteen Islamic Trade Fairs to date. The 14<sup>th</sup> Islamic Trade Fair was held on October 28<sup>th</sup> - November 1<sup>st</sup> 2013, in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran.

In addition to the Islamic Trade Fairs, sector specific exhibitions are also organized by the ICDT in the Member States. In this framework, the 2<sup>nd</sup> OIC Halal Food Exhibition was held on 16-18 December 2013 in

Sharjah, United Arab Emirates (UAE). The 7<sup>th</sup> OIC Agribusiness Expo was held on 13-16 April 2014 in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Furthermore, the 1<sup>st</sup> Exhibition on Furniture, Decoration, Household and Electrical Appliances was held on 11-14 May 2014 in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the 2<sup>nd</sup> OIC Health Expo was held on 26-29 June 2014 in Dakar, Republic of Senegal.

In its previous sessions, the COMCEC has requested the Member States to encourage their private sector to actively participate in the Islamic Trade Fairs and also requested ICDT to submit regular progress reports on trade and tourism fairs of the OIC Member States and other specialized exhibitions to the COMCEC Sessions.

### **SMIIC:**

Standard and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC) is one of the significant projects realized by the COMCEC. It is an affiliated institution of the OIC and aims at contributing to the development of quality and standards of products and services in the OIC Member States. SMIIC aims at realizing harmonized standards and eliminating technical barriers for enhancing trade among the Member Countries.

Since its establishment, the number of SMIIC Members has steadily been increasing and has already reached to 29 with the addition of 6 OIC Member States approved by the last Board of Directors of SMIIC at its meeting in November 2013. Two more OIC Member States have already applied for membership. Seven Technical Committees were established on standard formation in areas required by the OIC countries, and are actively working in line with their international counterpart organizations

SMIIC also intends to organize training and workshop programs especially for the LDC member states to enhance the standardization, accreditation, and metrology capacity in those countries.

## **2. TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS**

In 2014, the COMCEC Transport and Communications working group has held 2 meetings, focusing on multi-modal freight transport and air service industry.

### **2.1. 3<sup>RD</sup> MEETING OF THE TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group was held on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014 in Ankara with the theme of “Developing Multimodal Freight Transport (MFT) Among the OIC Member Countries: Current Implementations and Policy advices.” The Representatives of the Member States have shared their experiences, achievements, challenges and policy implementations in Multimodal Freight Transport (MFT) in their respective countries. The representatives considered the analytic study on the same subject, commissioned by the COMCEC Coordination Office specifically for this meeting.

During the Meeting, the participants also had the opportunity to consider the current situation and institutional capacity of their countries regarding the MFT and evaluate the practical recommendations in

terms of MFT. The need for strong cooperation among the Member States to have effective and sustainable MFT services in the OIC Region came into focus during the deliberations. The strong relations between volume of trade and transportation were also underlined in the Meeting.

The Meeting identified the following main challenges faced by Member Countries in implementation of MFT services:



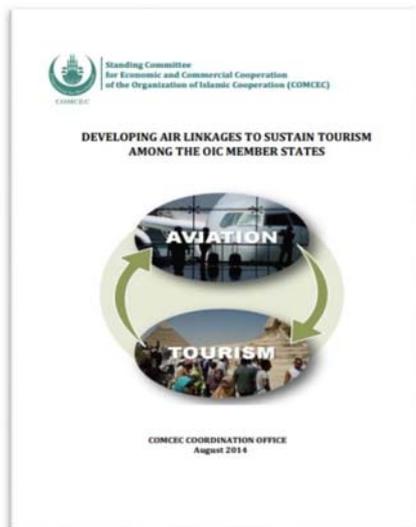
Lack of a cohesive transport policy and regulatory framework which recognizes the pivotal role of MFT services in enhancing trade and integrating the Member Countries with each other and global supply chains. This lack of recognition is mainly due to prioritization of roads and negligence of rail infrastructure, including poor rail access to ports and intermodal terminals. Furthermore, poor equipment technology and market constraints such as tough competition with road haulage and inefficient operations are among the other main challenges faced by the member states cited in the study.

The WG highlighted the following actions for the effective implementation of the MFT Services:

In terms of regulatory framework, it emphasized the competitiveness of MFT both between modes and between MFT service providers, budget prioritization of MFT, and a dedicated regulatory framework for MFT as a single mode. Quality infrastructure and efficient operation technologies are also considered a must for effective MFT services. Finally, the WG stressed providing cross-border MFT services by ensuring interoperable rail infrastructure through bilateral/multilateral agreements.

## **2.2. 4<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP**

The 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group was held on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014 in Ankara with the theme of “Developing Air Linkages to Sustain Tourism in the OIC Member Countries.” The representatives considered the analytic study on the same theme commissioned by the COMCEC Coordination Office specifically for this meeting.



At the meeting, the participants discussed the economic impact of air transportation, global trends effecting linkages between air transportation and tourism, and the state of affairs in the member states in this regard including existing incentives and barriers. All participants stressed the need for stronger cooperation among their countries for improving air linkages in the OIC Region.

The meeting elaborated the recent trends in the global aviation. These trends include liberalization of air service markets, proliferation of bilateral air service agreements, and the rise of low-cost carriers. Finally, there is a shift from north and west, to south and east in terms of air traffic over the world, following the suit in global economic activity, the study.

The Meeting identified the following major barriers facing the member states in the aviation sector: limits on operation and ownership, poor infrastructure, constraining fare regulation, high airport charges, and poor national air safety and security standards. In the face of these challenges, the member states have come up with the following policy advices to improve aviation industry and develop linkages between aviation and tourism:

The meeting called on the Member States to increase air transport liberalization in the OIC Region to improve air service markets in the member states through better competition, market-based pricing, and more efficient operations. The meeting also urged the Member States to make better use of PPPs in airport infrastructure to help them address the infrastructure gap by mobilizing private sector investment and expertise. Finally, the meeting invited the Member States to open domestic markets to low-cost carriers (LCCs) with the aim of providing important benefits to the consumers, offering them low fares, more choice as far as regional or minor destinations are concerned.

#### **POLICY ADVICES OF THE 4<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS WG**

- Increasing Air Transport Liberalization in the OIC Member States
- Making Better Use of PPPs in Airport Infrastructure
- Opening Domestic Markets to Low-Cost Carriers

### **3. TOURISM**

The Tourism working Group has held two meeting 2014. In these meetings, the WG has focused on investment climate and workforce in the tourism sector of the OIC member states. Furthermore, other

initiative to boost tourism cooperation such as OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Forum and Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers are also reported in this section.

### **3.1. 3<sup>RD</sup> MEETING OF THE TOURISM WORKING GROUP**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group was held on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014 in Ankara with the theme of “Enabling Tourism Investment Climate in the OIC Region.” The representatives considered the analytic study on the same subject, commissioned by the COMCEC Coordination Office specifically for this meeting.

The representatives have shared their experiences, achievements and challenges regarding tourism investment climate in their respective countries, and elaborated on how to provide an enabling environment for the tourism investments in the Member Countries.

The presentations and deliberations made during the meeting highlighted that governments play a crucial role for creating an enabling investment climate for tourism investors. It was stressed that creating an enabling tourism investment climate requires utilization of the full range of tools and strategies including among others, provision of clear, updated information and prompt responses to investor inquiries, updated investment promotion websites, effective coordination among relevant stakeholders, providing infrastructure (including road networks, electricity, etc.), allocation of land for specific tourism projects, effective incentive packages, easy procedures and financial support for the local tourism SMEs as well as foreign entrepreneurs and utilization of alternative investment financing options such as crowdfunding.



The analytic study prepared for and presented in this meeting revealed that OIC member countries are faced with at least four categories of common challenges in attracting and sustaining tourism investment: Governance of the tourism sector; Investment climate; Regulatory aspects, and Infrastructure. While there is some variety in between the sub-regions of the OIC, these differences are minor and relatively inconsequential, the study finds.

To overcome these challenges, the WG focused on following recommendations related with the each challenge: The governance challenges called for policy-related remedies such as defining a tourism sector strategy, strengthening cooperation between tourism authorities and security authorities, and creation of an inter-ministerial council to focus on tourism matters, also including a business council or chamber. As for the investment climate challenges, the key policy responses included that Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) provide complete information about laws, taxes, incentives and regulations relating to tourism investments;

and information on investment opportunities. Cooperation efforts within the frame work of the COMCEC could also be beneficial such capacity building for tourism investment promotion, regional planning and master planning for tourism, establishing more effective incentive schemes, and visa facilitation.

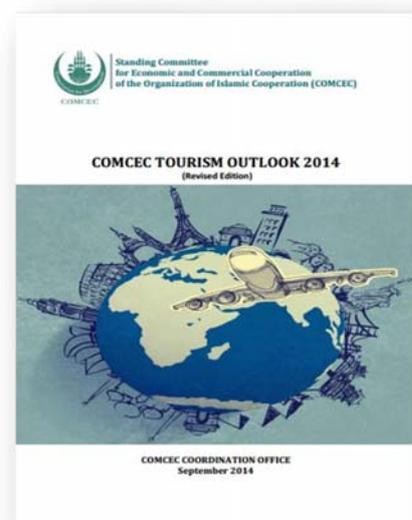
### **3.2. 4<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE TOURISM WORKING GROUP**

The 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Tourism Working Group was held on September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014 in Ankara with the theme of “Enhancing the Capacity of Tourism Workforce in the OIC Member Countries for Improved Tourism Service Quality.”

The participants considered the tourism workforce capacity in the Member States through focusing on the Analytical Study titled “Enhancing the Capacity of Tourism Workforce in the OIC Member Countries for Improved Tourism Service Quality” commissioned by the COMCEC Coordination Office specifically for the Meeting with a view to enriching the discussions. The participants also had the chance to discuss the policy options for enhancing the cooperation in this important field.

During the meeting, following challenges were highlighted as faced by the member states in developing tourism workforce capacity: Lack of long term national human resource development strategy; Absence of stakeholder partnerships in workforce skills development for tourism; Limited private sector involvement in decision-making about training and up-skilling and ineffective consultative arrangements; Skills shortages in key tourism professions; Supplier dominated training system with limited focus on workplace skills needs; and Limited confidence and understanding by employers and employees in the workforce development system.

To overcome these challenges, the Meeting recommended a six step strategy namely inform, engage, attract, develop, retain, cooperate-communicate. To turn this strategy into action, the member states will need to increase access to information by employers, workers, and people who are newly joining to the workforce; bring all stakeholders around the table in a partnership model and engaging with them; attract workforce from OIC and non-OIC countries; develop skills through extensive education and training; increase the attractiveness of working in tourism and hospitality industry; and share experience, expertise and best-practices with the fellow member states.



In terms of policy advices, the Meeting stressed the importance developing tourism workforce development strategies in the Member Countries, and supporting the effective implementation of the existing ones, and enhancing the capacity of tourism workforce in the Member Countries as two crucial policy interventions.

#### **POLICY ADVICES OF THE 4<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE TOURISM WG**

- Developing Tourism Workforce Development Strategies in the Member Countries and supporting the effective implementation of the existing ones,
- Enhancing the capacity of tourism workforce in the Member Countries

### **3.3. OIC/COMCEC PRIVATE SECTOR TOURISM FORUM**

The OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum was established in 2011 with the relevant resolutions of the 27<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC. Accordingly, the Forum has held its first meeting on 7-8 December 2012 in İzmir, Turkey.

The second meeting of the Forum was held on 16-17 December 2013, in İstanbul, Turkey with the theme of "Effective Marketing Strategies for Promoting Tourism Destinations in the OIC Region." The participants have shared their experiences, achievements and challenges in tourism marketing strategies in their respective countries and discuss cooperation opportunities.

The participants highlighted the following challenges in destination marketing in the OIC region: insufficient tourism products and lack of product diversification; poor service quality; inadequate market knowledge; negative market image and perceptions; and lengthy visa procedures. Based on the discussions and presentations, the Forum emphasized the importance of effective marketing strategies for promoting the tourism destinations in the OIC region; highlighted that effective marketing requires utilization of full range of tools available including social media, and e-marketing; and stressed the need for training and exchange programs, B2B Meetings and workshops for the private sector representatives. The third meeting of the OIC/COMCEC Private Sector Tourism Forum will be held in January 2015, in İstanbul.

### **3.4. THE 8<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE MINISTERS OF TOURISM**

The 8<sup>th</sup> Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM) was hosted by the Ministry of Tourism of the Republic of The Gambia and held on 4-6 December 2013 in Banjul, the Gambia.

The Meeting discussed various issues of cooperation in the field of tourism in the OIC member countries. It considered the draft Mechanism and Criteria for the Selection of OIC City of Tourism and the draft Mechanism and Criteria for the Award of OIC Seal of Excellence for Handicrafts, and after making several amendments, approved the both mechanisms. The Meeting also reviewed the proposal by the Islamic Republic of Iran on the Establishment of the Heritage Centre for Islamic Countries and the proposal has been decided to be

considered by existing OIC institutions IRCICA and ISESCO within their respective mandates. The Meeting welcomed the offer by the Government of the Republic of Niger to host the 9th Session of ICTM in 2015.

## **4. AGRICULTURE**

The Agriculture Working Group has held three meetings during the period under review. These meetings elaborated on foreign direct investment in the agriculture sector, the statistical capacity of the agriculture sector, and smallholders' market access.

### **4.1. 2<sup>ND</sup> MEETING OF THE AGRICULTURE WORKING GROUP**

The Second Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group was held on December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013 in Ankara with the theme of "Encouraging Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs) in the OIC Region for Increasing Agricultural Productivity."



The participants discussed the importance of FDI for agricultural productivity in the OIC Region through focusing on the Analytical Study with the same title, commissioned by the COMCEC Coordination Office specifically for the Meeting with a view to enriching the discussions. Furthermore, they have shared their experiences, achievements and challenges regarding agricultural FDI in their respective countries, and discussed how to attract more FDI to the agriculture sector in the Member Countries.

The Meeting considered various aspects of FDI in agriculture particularly large-scale agricultural investments which may result in land grabs that impoverish and reduce food security for vulnerable local populations. On the other hand, the Meeting emphasized that there are many examples of agricultural FDI making direct contributions to both food security and economic development in poor countries, and it can influence multiple actors along production chains.

Finally, the Meeting emphasized that there are several policy measures that can mitigate the risks of agricultural FDI. Ensuring proper land use planning and respect for property rights. Following measures were considered at the Meeting: Developing FDI attraction programs focusing on large scale agricultural investors; Host-country government's assessment on the economic viability and sustainability of proposed investment projects; Taxation of idle land; and establishment of an appropriate level of lease payments.

### **4.2. 3<sup>RD</sup> MEETING OF THE AGRICULTURE WORKING GROUP**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group was held on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014 in Ankara with the theme of “Improving the Statistical Capacity of the Agriculture Sector in the OIC Region.”

The participants discussed the importance of agricultural statistics in the OIC Region through focusing on the Analytical Study on the same subject, commissioned by the COMCEC Coordination Office specifically for the Meeting with a view to enriching the discussions. Furthermore, they have shared their experiences, achievements and challenges regarding agricultural statistics in their respective countries, and discussed how to improve the collection, examination and dissemination of agricultural statistics in the Member Countries.

The case studies analyzed in the meeting revealed that the main weaknesses of the agricultural statistics systems in Member Countries are poor organization, lack of resources and limited scope of statistics. Existence of a legal base, regular budget allocations, well-qualified staff, awareness of the issues, openness to international collaboration were stated as the strengths. As far as threats are concerned, lack of interest in statistics, size of informal sectors and lack of coordination are among the top issues raised. Finally, the case study members mentioned that increasing donor support, developments in information, communication and data collection technologies, periods of main surveys and censuses, and growth of agricultural markets as opportunities to be exploited.



The working group made several recommendations to improve the statistical capacity of the agriculture sector in the member states. These recommendations include: making use of the diversification of the Member Countries with regards to resources and technical capacities as a cooperation opportunity among the Member States; encouraging the Member Countries to prepare a report on the state of agricultural statistics in their countries; investing in building comprehensive and integrated online databases for agricultural statistics; integrating agricultural statistics into National Statistical Systems; and conducting a workshop to discuss integration and coordination issues, in which heads of statistics and agricultural statistics participate.

#### **4.3. 4<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE AGRICULTURE WORKING GROUP**

The 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group was held on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014 with the theme of "Facilitating Smallholder Farmers' Market Access in the OIC Member Countries."

Having considered the analytic study titled “Facilitating Smallholder Farmers' Market Access in the OIC Member Countries”, commissioned by the COMCEC Coordination Office specifically for the Meeting with a

view to enriching the discussions, the participants have deliberated on the policy options/advices for Facilitating Smallholder Farmers' Market Access and shared their experiences, achievements and challenges regarding small-scale farmers in their respective countries.



The working group emphasized that small farms produce much of the food produced in the OIC region as 37% of the region's population make a living from agriculture and 80% of the farms are smaller than 2 hectares. Accordingly, the member countries into five stages of structural transformation process (agriculture based economies, transition 1, transition 2, urbanizing and urban economies). In almost every member country, the share of the rural population is declining as labor shifts out of agriculture to other sectors. Structural transformation, that is, the shift from agriculture to industry and services sectors, can be part of a powerful dynamic that lifts rural families from poverty to prosperity. But the meeting underlined that, for this to happen, countries must evaluate where they are on the path of structural change and then create the right enabling environment and empowering smallholder farmers to engage in the growing markets.

Accordingly, the meeting made the following recommendations to effectively linking smallholders to markets: creating the right environment for improving access to markets, investment in transport, telecommunications and energy infrastructure, improving access to finance, establishing producer organizations, associations or cooperatives, and finally promoting the contract farming.

The meeting also had a session for discussing various policy options for facilitating smallholder farmers' market access. The outcomes of this session were as follows: The meeting called on the OIC Member Countries to promote necessary steps to facilitate collective action by groups of farmers, including fostering the growth of effective producer organizations, associations, and cooperatives with the aim of promoting the establishment of the producer organizations and increasing the effectiveness of the existing ones. Second, the meeting invited the government to facilitate disseminating technical and market information to smallholder farmers thereby enabling them to explore, learn, and carry out their own value chain analysis and develop their own marketing plans through participatory approaches. Finally, taking into account the role of contract farming in helping small-scale farmers to enter markets that are normally out of their reach, the meeting encouraged the member countries to facilitate contract farming for the smallholder farmers.

## POLICY ADVICES OF THE 4<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE AGRICULTURE WG

- Promoting the Establishment of the Producer Organizations and Increasing the Effectiveness of the Existing Ones
- Disseminating Technical and Market Information to Smallholder Farmers
- Encouraging Contract Farming

## 5. POVERTY ALLEVIATION

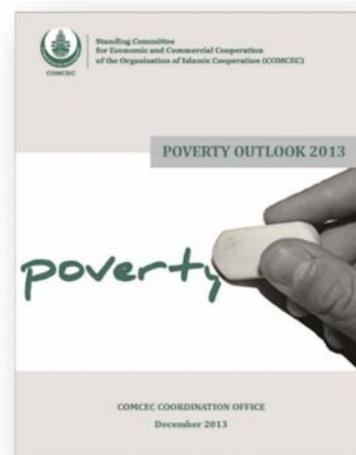
During the period under review, the Poverty Alleviation Working Group has held three meetings. These meetings dealt with the issues of; targeting mechanisms of the social safety net systems, monitoring mechanisms of the social safety net systems, and institutional systems of the social safety net programs in the OIC Region. In this progress with regard to the other poverty alleviation initiatives within the framework of the COMCEC is also reported.

### 5.1. 2<sup>ND</sup> MEETING OF THE POVERTY ALLEVIATION WORKING GROUP

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group was held on December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013 in Ankara with the theme of “Targeting Mechanisms of the Social Safety Net Systems in the OIC Region.”

The Meeting considered the social safety nets and their targeting mechanisms in the Member States on the basis of the analytical study on the same subject, prepared by the COMCEC Coordination Office specifically for the Meeting with a view to enriching the discussions. The participants have shared their experiences, achievements and challenges that they faced in targeting the poor. The Meeting also provided an opportunity to the representatives to learn the experiences of local authorities and international institutions in targeting mechanisms of social safety net systems.

Some important findings of the meeting regarding the targeting mechanisms of the social safety nets in the OIC Region are as follows: Targeting should be contextual and need based; Lack of coordination and diffusion of responsibilities to different government agencies and the involvement of a multiplicity of agents can result in duplication, low coverage, leakage and misappropriation; Fiscal constraints inhibit program reach and delivery; Insufficient institutional capacity and technical ability adversely affect implementation of SSN programs; and finally SSN Programs themselves are not a panacea for poverty reduction, they have to be accompanied by other development and infrastructure advances.

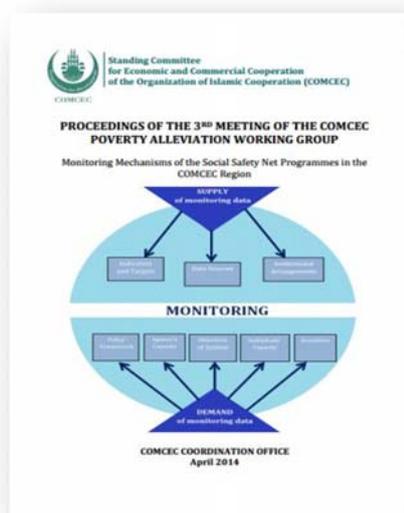


The working group also made some recommendations regarding overcoming these obstacles and challenges. These recommendations include: Building institutional capacity to improve SSN design and implementation to and reduce leakage; Identifying the poor through implementing appropriate targeting mechanisms linked to good quality data; Monitoring and Evaluation by putting systems in place to understand what works and to share best practice; and Holding Governments to account through increasing the inclusiveness of the design of the SSN programs through the involvement of local people in their development and implementation.

## 5.2. 3<sup>RD</sup> MEETING OF THE POVERTY ALLEVIATION WORKING GROUP

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group was held on April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014 in Ankara with the theme of “Monitoring Mechanisms of the Social Safety Net Systems in the OIC Region”.

The Meeting considered the social safety nets and their monitoring mechanisms in the Member States on the basis of the analytical study on the same topic, commissioned by the COMCEC Coordination Office specifically for this Meeting with a view to enriching the discussions. The Representatives of the Member States have shared their experiences, achievements and challenges in monitoring the social safety net programs in the OIC Region particularly in their respective countries.



At the meeting, following general observations were made regarding monitoring mechanisms of the social safety nets: In countries where the overall policy framework supported performance-based and result-oriented management and budgeting –with sector plans feeding into a national development plan – it was more likely that SSNs had monitoring systems in place that could feed into government decision-making processes; In several countries, donor influence was cited as a driving factor that was pushing a ‘culture of accountability; In many cases, SSN programs were not being implemented through independent agencies, but through branches or departments within Ministries with negative consequences for monitoring; and a focus on capacity-building and training was often at its strongest when donor money or support allowed it.

The key recommendations of the Meeting were the following: On the supply side: Improve results frameworks; Improve design of indicators; Improving access to and triangulation between different data sources; Where possible, improve use of Program MIS; Improving institutional arrangements for implementation of monitoring activities. On the demand side: Linking in to the wider policy framework; Increase the implementing agency’s capacity and political freedom and releasing budget constraints; Focus and clarify the objectives of the monitoring system; and Invest on individuals’ capacity and commitment through training and strong incentives.

### 5.3. 4<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE POVERTY ALLEVIATION WORKING GROUP

The 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group was held on September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014 in Ankara, Turkey with the theme of “Institutional System of the Social Safety Net Programmes in the OIC Member Countries”.

The Meeting considered the social safety nets (SSNs) and their institutional systems in the OIC Member Countries on the basis of the analytical study titled “Institutional System of the Social Safety Net Programmes in the OIC Member Countries” which was prepared by the COMCEC Coordination Office specifically for the Meeting with a view to enriching the discussions. The representatives of the member countries have shared their experiences, achievements and challenges in institutional system of the SSN programs in their respective countries.

The working group discussed key characteristics and challenges of main components of SSN programs in the member states. Regarding the policy making process, it has been found that in high income countries SSN policy making processes are relatively simple, since the policy-making process is led mainly by a ministry which is also the main implementing actor, and the SSN programs and actors are less fragmented. In middle income countries SSN policy-making processes are part of a larger reform of social protection, which sometimes coincides with the precautions taken towards external shocks. And in low income countries, SSN programs are designed and introduced mostly as a response to an external shock and donors play important role in these countries' SSN systems including policy-making process.



Some recommendations discussed during the meeting include: Clearer division of tasks and roles of institutions; A single and powerful coordination unit; Increasing the role local authorities to increase flexibility and targeting; A more efficient monitoring mechanism; Enhanced human resources; A dynamic database for better targeting the poor population; and less overlap in SSN programs and responsibilities of SSN institutions.

After considering challenges and case studies, the participants focused on mainly two issues at the policy discussion session; increasing the capacity of the human resources in the SSN system, and promoting the establishment of Management Information System/ expanding the coverage of the existing ones in the

#### **POLICY ADVICES OF THE 4<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE POVERTY ALLEVIATION WG**

- Increasing the capacity of the human resources in the SSN system
- Promoting the establishment of Management Information System /expanding the coverage of the existing ones in the member countries

member countries. The working group highlighted that increasing human capacity in the SSN systems is crucial for the effectiveness of SSN programs. Regarding the second issue, participants stressed that Management and Information Systems (MISs) are important for ensuring the effective implementation of SSN programs.

#### **5.4. OIC COTTON PLAN OF ACTION**

Within the framework of the OIC cotton initiative, the OIC Five-Year Cotton Action Plan (2007-2011) was prepared and endorsed by the 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the COMCEC. The period of the Plan was extended for a further five years by the 26<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC (2011-2016). Under the Cotton Action Plan, the Project Committee and Steering Committee were formed. Until now, six Steering Committee and four Project Committee meetings have been held.

With a view to overcome,ng the challenges faced in the implementation of the projects within the framework of the plan of action, and referring to the relevant resolution of the 29<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC, the 30<sup>th</sup> Follow-up Committee reiterated its request to the IDB to organize the 5<sup>th</sup> Project Committee Meeting as soon as possible with a view to exploring the possibility, in collaboration with the project owners, of redesigning the cotton projects that are yet to be financed, in such a format that may render them eligible for applying for different schemes of financing as soft projects.

The Fifth Meeting of the Project Committee of the OIC Cotton Action Plan will be held on 16 November 2014 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. During the meeting, presentations will be made by the project owners and discussions will be made to redesign these projects as soft projects to facilitate their implementation.

#### **5.5. OIC-VET PROGRAM**

Vocational Education and Training Program for the OIC Member Countries (OIC-VET) was initiated by the SESRIC in 2009 with a view to improving the quality of vocational education and training in the Member Countries.

A major component of the VET program is OIC Capacity Building Programmes (CBPs), which are continuous short term training programs that aim to enhance the capacity of the relevant national institutions in various areas and fields in the member countries through matching the needs and capacities of these institutions. Some of the fields in which CBPs are implemented include statistics, agriculture, environment, water resources management, multilateral trade systems, central banks, skill development for youth, health, information and communications technology, e-government, poverty alleviation, and tourism. Over the last year, SESRIC has organized more than 50 capacity building programs within the framework of the VET.

The fifth meeting of the Monitoring and Advisory Committee of the VET Program will be held in Ankara on 12-13 November 2014., with the aim of reviewing the progress of actions and activities, and deliberate on the modalities for closer collaboration in ongoing OIC-VET projects and programs. More information on OIC-VET can be reached at [www.oicvet.org](http://www.oicvet.org).

## **5.6. ISFD AND SPDA**

Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) is a Special Fund within the IDB, which was officially launched in 2007 with the aim of contributing to the reduction of poverty in the Member States. It focuses on human development, agriculture and rural development, basic infrastructure and micro enterprises. The principle target capital of the Fund is USD10 billion. As of 30 September 2014, the level of pledged capital contributions to the ISFD stands at US\$2.68 billion, committed by 44 member countries (US\$1.68 billion) and the IDB (US\$1.0 billion). The total amount of received contributions so far is US\$2.26 billion, of which US\$700 million was paid by the IDB and US\$1.56 billion by member countries.

ISFD has thus far supported 64 operations (US\$382.4 million) since its inception, with funding from its income; and co-financing from the IDB, beneficiary governments and other partners including Technical Assistance (TA) Grants. The cumulative total cost of the approved operations is estimated at US\$2.2 billion. The Fund contributed 17.4% of the total cost (US\$382.4 million), while the remaining amount of US\$ 1,819.6 million was co-financed by IDB and other partners. The main sectors of focus have been (i) Agriculture (incl. Rural Development), which accounted for around 43 percent of the ISFD financing, and (ii) Education (incl. VOLIP), which accounted for around 24 percent of the ISFD financing.

The Special Programme for the Development of Africa (SPDA) is another initiative within the IDB, which was initiated in 2008 with a view to spurring economic growth, reinvigorating agricultural production and creating employment opportunities in the African Member Countries. The average level of funding for the SPDA is set as USD 12 billion for a five-year period. The implementation of this initiative, which had a five-year time frame (2008-2012), deepened in 2013, as the program transitioned from the approval stage to the implementation stage. Out of the total approval of \$5.01 billion approved under the Program, \$472 million was disbursed by IDB Group to the 22 SPDA beneficiary member countries, bringing the cumulative disbursements to \$1.6 billion or 31.6 percent of the total approvals.

## **6. FINANCIAL COOPERATION**

The COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group has held three meetings during the period under review. In this three meetings, the working group has focused on enhancing capital flows, enhancing financial inclusion, and risk management of Islamic financial instruments in the OIC member states. Furthermore, progress regarding OIC Stock Exchanges Forum, COMCEC Capital Markets Regulators Forum, and OIC Central Banks Meetings is given in this section.

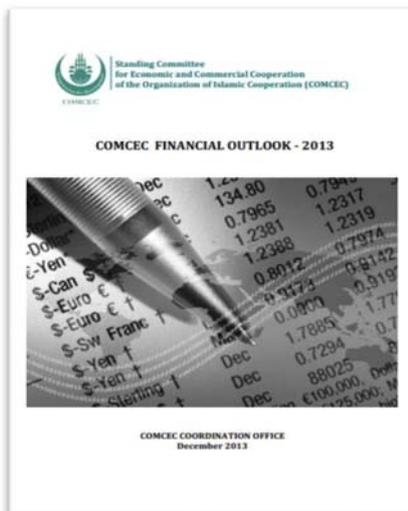
### **6.1. 1<sup>ST</sup> MEETING OF THE FINANCIAL COOPERATION WORKING GROUP**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group was held on December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013 in Ankara with the theme of “Enhancing Capital Flows in the OIC Region”.

The Meeting considered enhancing capital flows among the Member States on the basis of the analytical study on the same subject, commissioned by the COMCEC Coordination Office specifically for the Meeting with a view to enriching the discussions. The representatives have shared their experiences, achievements and challenges on the subject in their respective countries.

The analytic study examined the situation in the member countries by grouping the countries into the four income groups, namely high, upper-middle, lower-middle, and low income groups. In the low-income group, countries remain largely dependent on overseas development assistance (ODA) and are only able to attract small amounts of foreign direct investment (FDI). Low levels of infrastructure, weak governance and political instability characterize several of these countries. For countries within the lower-middle income and upper-middle income groups, there are a number of challenges which are shared, such as underdeveloped equity markets, limited technical capacity to develop and implement financial reforms, and weak investor confidence due to political transition and associated uncertainties. On the other hand, some countries in these groups have strong and established banking systems which are highly liquid and able to provide capital to

businesses. High income countries with well-regarded financial policies and judicial systems, have put a raft of measures in place to attract capital flows, such as free trade zones, which remove limits on foreign ownership and on repatriation of profits, as well as providing fiscal incentives. However, these countries also have some problems such as ownership remaining highly concentrated in the hands of large, powerful family-owned conglomerates. Furthermore, stock markets are limited in size.



Some of the recommendations stressed in the working group which can help member countries enhance capital flows in a safe and sustainable manner include: Changing general investor perception of risk and business environment e.g. roadshows, information dissemination, etc.; Developing and implementing guidelines and regulations relating to financial markets; Improving efficiency and

depth of the capital market; Improving the business environment through policies to enhance political effectiveness; Identifying and eliminating policy barriers relating to mobility and treatment of foreign capital flows such as opening up more to foreign ownership and relaxing capital controls prudently; and introducing investor-friendly fiscal measures such as the creation of free trade zones and provision of tax benefits.

## 6.2. 2<sup>ND</sup> MEETING OF THE FINANCIAL COOPERATION WORKING GROUP

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group was held on March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014 in Ankara with the theme of “Enhancing Financial Inclusion in the OIC Countries”.

The Meeting considered the theme of enhancing financial inclusion in the OIC Countries on the basis of the analytical study on the same subject, commissioned by the COMCEC Coordination Office specifically for the

Meeting with a view to enriching the discussions. The representatives of the Member States have shared their experiences, achievements and challenges in the field of financial inclusion in their respective countries. The experts from the International Institutions have also shared their perspectives on the global and regional trends in financial inclusion with the participants.

The analytic study examined the situation in the member countries by grouping them into three groups according to their GNI per capita income levels, namely low size, average size, and high size. With regard to the low size countries, the major barriers against financial inclusion are low, unpredictable and irregular income level, weak private sector, lack of collateral for lending, inadequate access to financial sector providers, low financial literacy and awareness, low need for a financial product or service, poor financial and legal infrastructure and existence of shadow economy. Secondly, for the average size countries, inadequate lending/financing strategies, lack of suitable products, inadequate access to financial system, competition in the financial markets, cost concerns, inadequate qualified personnel and improvement needs for financial infrastructure are main barriers. Thirdly, for the high size group, voluntarily exclusion (cultural and religious), involuntarily exclusion (women, young population and immigrants) and improvement needs for financial infrastructure are major barriers as well.

In terms of policy advices, the working group underlined the common strategies for financial inclusion that the establishment of national financial inclusion strategies for each Member Countries, increasing financial literacy, realization of financial consumer protection, as well as utilization of mobile financial services, microfinance and microcredits, agent banking and Islamic banking should be prioritized for achieving financial inclusion targets in the Member Countries. Additionally, financial education, improving lending strategies, more SME finance, promoting cost-effective financial services and boost the competition in the financial markets should also be taken into consideration as complimentary steps.

### **6.3. 3<sup>RD</sup> MEETING OF THE FINANCIAL COOPERATION WORKING GROUP**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Financial Cooperation Working Group was held on October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014 in Ankara with the theme of “Risk Management in Islamic Finance Instruments.” At the meeting, the analytical study on the same subject was considered, which was commissioned by the COMCEC Coordination Office specifically for the Meeting with a view to enriching the discussions. The representatives of the Member States have shared their experiences, achievements and challenges in the field of risk management in Islamic finance in their respective countries.

The working group examined the risk management practices specific to the Islamic finance industry. It focused on risk management practices at both the institutional and infrastructure levels. In addition, it compared the bank performance of conventional and Islamic banks in several key regions and compares risk management practices in Islamic banks across regions. The results provided key insights into the current trends and effectiveness of risk management processes in the Islamic finance industry.



Additionally, an analysis was conducted regarding the risk management practices of several Islamic banks across geographic sub-regions of the OIC. The most important risk is operational risk, followed by credit risk, liquidity risk, and mark-up risk. Results showed that banks in the developing MENA and the Southeast Asian countries exhibit better risk management practices and policies, when compared to other regions. Lack of understanding, unavailability of Islamic money markets, and the limited regulatory framework in handling problem loans are identified as three

major problems. These problems are closely connected to the types of risks inherent in financial institutions.

In the policy discussion section of the Meeting, the member states have come up with the following recommendations: Developing necessary legal and institutional infrastructure for the Islamic Financial Services Industries (IFSI); Developing Islamic finance strategies at national level; Increasing financial literacy and awareness on Islamic finance, and developing human capacity; and diversification of Islamic financial instruments and services.

#### **POLICY ADVICES OF THE 4<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE FINANCIAL COOPERATION WG**

- Developing Necessary Legal and Institutional Infrastructure for the Islamic Financial Services Industries (IFSI)
- Developing Islamic Finance Strategies at National Level
- Increasing Financial Literacy and Awareness on Islamic Finance, and Developing Human Capacity
- Diversification of Islamic Financial Instruments and Services

#### **6.4. OIC STOCK EXCHANGES FORUM**

The cooperation among Stock Exchanges has been initiated by the COMCEC in 2005. Accordingly, the OIC Member States' Stock Exchanges Forum was established. The Forum focuses on the harmonization of the

rules and regulations governing market operations, as well as opening communication channels for the stock exchanges of the OIC Member Countries and relevant institutions.

The Forum has achieved remarkable progress in deepening cooperation among the Stock Exchanges of the Member States. It has successfully finalized the S&P OIC/COMCEC Index, which has been launched during the 28th Session of the COMCEC. The Index measures the performance of 50 leading companies from the 19 Member States. During the period under review, efforts for promoting and increasing the visibility of the Index as well as issuing derivative financial products based on the Index continued. The 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Forum will be held on November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014 in İstanbul. The details regarding the Forum activities are available on the Forum web-site. ([www.oicexchanges.org](http://www.oicexchanges.org))

### **6.5. COMCEC CAPITAL MARKET REGULATORS FORUM**

In line with the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC, the COMCEC Capital Markets Regulators Forum was established in 2011 to increase coordination and cooperation in regulatory and legal infrastructure with a view to achieving more harmonized policies and regulations among the Member Countries. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Forum will be held on November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014 in İstanbul. The Forum undertakes its work under four task forces namely, "Capacity Building", "Market Development", "Islamic Finance" and "Financial Literacy". The details regarding the Forum activities are available on the Forum web-site ([www.comceccmr.org](http://www.comceccmr.org)).

### **6.6. MEETINGS OF OIC CENTRAL BANKS AND MONETARY AUTHORITIES**

In line with the relevant resolution of the COMCEC, the cooperation among the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the Member Countries has been revitalized. Since 2009, the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the member states have regularly convened with a view to sharing experiences and enhancing institutional and human capacity in this field. Accordingly, three working groups were established in the following areas: Payment Systems, Macro-Prudential Regulations, and Liquidity Management in Islamic Finance. The 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of OIC Central Banks and Monetary Authorities was held on 27-28 November 2013 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia with the theme of "Impact of Recent International Financial Regulatory Reforms on OIC Countries."

The 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of OIC Central Banks and Monetary Authorities was held on 5-6 November 2014 in Indonesia with the theme "Financial Stability through Macro-prudential Policy and Financial Market Deepening among OIC Countries".

## **CHAPTER II: MEMBER STATES' INVOLVEMENT IN COOPERATION EFFORTS**

### **2.1 COMCEC PROJECT FUNDING**

COMCEC Project Funding is one of the two new instruments introduced by the COMCEC Strategy. Within this framework, the CCO made the first project call September 2 and November 1, 2013. Accordingly, 98 project proposals were received by the CCO. After an extensive review, 15 projects were found eligible for financing. A signing ceremony was held on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014 in Ankara. During the ceremony, operational and financial agreements were signed between the Development Bank of Turkey and the project owners. Successful projects are implemented in 2014. Detailed information and the status of progress as of November 2014 regarding these projects are given below.

The CCO has made the second project call during 1-30 September 2014. As a result, 62 project proposals were reviewed by the CCO. After the initial review, 37 projects were short-listed for further evaluation.

## Projects Being Implemented in 2014

### I. Capacity Building in Trade Institutions of the Central Asian Countries of COMCEC

**Project Owner:** Afghanistan

**Sector:** Trade

**Project Purpose:** The aim of the project is to analyze, using survey and secondary data, how promotion of export potential and access to finance problems of SMEs in Afghanistan particularly dealing with the OIC Member countries can be solved.

### II. Cities of Common Cultural Heritage

**Project Owner:** Azerbaijan

**Sector:** Tourism

**Project Purpose** The aim of this project is to promote the common cultural heritage in the OIC Region by exchange of practices in the relevant sphere and by developing and promoting joint tourism products in 4 countries (Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Turkey and Uzbekistan).



### III. The Workshop on the Challenges of Electronic Payment Systems in West and Central African States

**Project Owner:** Cameroon

**Sector:** Finance

**Project Purpose:** The objective of this project is mainly to promote monetary coherence so that monetary and financial systems in three member countries (Cameroon, Benin and Togo) can interact with a flexible and conducive intervention.

### IV. International Seminar on Developing National & Regional Approaches to Enhancing Innovation Support Commercialization of R&D Results and Patents Among the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Member States

**Project Owner:** ICDT

**Sector:** Trade

**Project Purpose:** The purpose of the project is to increase capacity of participants and sharing this experience with other stakeholders through publishing and distributing analytical study report.

#### **V. SMEs in the Borderless Era, Shaping Opportunity in the Global Value Chain**

**Project Owner:** Indonesia

**Sector:** Trade

**Project Purpose:** Main objectives of this project are to raise awareness in member countries on the internationalization of SMEs in the Global Value Chain (GVC), to encourage the internationalization of SMEs and as a result to promote international trade.



#### **VI. Pakistan Bioremediation Model for wastewater treatment and capacity building program among OIC countries**

**Project Owner:** Pakistan

**Sector:** Agriculture

**Project Purpose:** The objective of this project is to build capacity for effective biological treatment and management of wastewater to maintain healthy environment and living.

#### **VII. Enhancing National Capacities of OIC Member Countries in Poverty Statistics**

**Project Owner:** SESRIC

**Sector:** Poverty Alleviation

**Project Purpose:** The objective of this project is to highlight the nature and causes of poverty and to formulate strategies for strengthening capacities in the compilation, production and dissemination of poverty statistics, and overall, contributing to the national statistical systems (NSS) of the OIC countries in terms of poverty alleviation, monitoring poverty and aid effectiveness.

#### **VIII. Improving Statistical Capacities of Tourism Sector in COMCEC Mediterranean and Gulf Region**

**Project Owner:** SESRIC

**Sector:** Tourism

**Project Purpose:** The objective of this project is identification of the statistical capacities and needs in tourism statistics in Albania, Iraq, Jordan, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, a, conducting short-term training programs based on identification results and organizing a Workshop on Tourism Satellite Accounts with the participation of national and international experts.

### **CHAPTER III: PRIVATE SECTOR COOPERATION**

Development of the private sector and enhancing private sector cooperation is key for the successful implementation of the COMCEC Strategy and for the realization of its principles and objectives. This section

gives brief information regarding main private sector activities within the umbrella of the COMCEC in the last year.

## **1. Private Sector Meetings/ Businesswomen Forum**

The Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA) regularly organizes Private Sector Meetings in different OIC Member Countries with the objective of bringing the Private Sector in the forefront of economic development and reports the outcomes of the meetings to the COMCEC Sessions.

The 16<sup>th</sup> Private Sector Meeting for OIC Member Countries under the theme “Benefits of Trade Preferential System TPS-OIC for the Promotion of Intra- Islamic Trade” was held on 19-20 March 2014 in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates. The Meeting provided an opportunity to give detailed information to the private sector by highlighting the benefits of TPS-OIC for the promotion of Intra-Islamic trade. The ICCIA also organized a Seminar for the private sector to explain to them the utility and benefits of the various OIC Agreements for the promotion of intra-Islamic trade.

At the end of the Forum, the Sharjah Economic Declaration was unanimously adopted. The Declaration covered common obstacles being faced by the private sector, such as obtaining finance in easy terms, facilitation of procedures, support services for the SME sector, and legislative and institutional support, and provided some recommendations to address these issues.

Furthermore, the ICCIA regularly organizes Businesswomen Forums in the Member Countries. The 8th Businesswomen Forum will be held in the second half of 2014. Through the Businesswomen Forum, The ICCIA has been focusing on the need to economically empower the women towards greater self-reliance and economic independence.

## **2. Other Private Sector-Oriented Activities of the ICCIA**

The ICCIA will be organizing a Workshop on Capacity Building on Value Chain Analysis for Agri-Business for OIC Countries in collaboration with the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF) and Statistical, Economic & Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) in Ankara-Turkey in December 2014. The main focus of the Workshop will be on value-chain, agro-processing Farm-to-Fork spectrum activities that can be carried out using relatively simple technologies.

Furthermore, as follow-up of the seminar held in April 2014 on “Introduction of Islamic Banking and Finance” in Uganda, the ICCIA will organize “Training and Capacity Building for High Level Practitioners in Uganda” in the last quarter of 2014, in order for the trainees to have access to all areas of Islamic banking and finance industry.

## **CHAPTERIV: PREPARATIONS FOR THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS SESSION**

Exchange of views sessions are held regularly at the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions. The 29<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC decided the theme of the Ministerial Exchange of Views of the next COMCEC Session as “The Role of Public Private Partnerships for the Development of the Tourism Sector in OIC Member States”.

In accordance with the resolution of the 29<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC, a preparatory workshop was organized jointly by SESRIC and the COMCEC Coordination Office on September 30<sup>th</sup> – October 1<sup>st</sup> 2014 in Ankara, Turkey.

Following important issues were focused during the workshop:

- Tourism Outlook of the OIC Member Countries,
- Tourism PPPs: Trends, Models and Implementation Areas,
- Common Issues and Challenges in Implementing PPPs in the OIC Member Countries,
- Tourism PPPs in Practice: Success Stories from the OIC Member Countries

In the light of the above issues and presentations as well as the discussions during the workshop, the participants made a set of policy advices that would lead to create a favourable environment conducive to the effective and efficient PPPs for the development of sustainable tourism sector. These recommendations are made at both the national and OIC cooperation levels.

The national level recommendations included: to develop strong and effective political and legal institutions with efficient regulatory environment and legal code; to provide incentives to the corporate investors to encourage them to enter PPPs agreements with the government in tourism projects, and to support awareness rising and capacity building programmes for the private sector in the field of PPPs. The OIC Cooperation level recommendations included: to benefit from the operational instruments of the COMCEC Strategy through actively participating in the cooperation endeavours under the COMCEC Tourism Working Group and submitting concrete cooperation projects within the framework of the COMCEC Project Funding, and to develop joint PPP projects and benefit from the IDB Group's and other relevant OIC institutions' facilities for this purpose. The report of the workshop can be reached at:

<http://www.sesric.org/comceceworkshop.php>

## **CHAPTER V: 30<sup>TH</sup> FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE MEETING**

The Thirtieth Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC was held on 7-8 May 2014 in Ankara, Turkey. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the Members of the Follow-up Committee namely, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Palestine, Egypt, Qatar, Kazakhstan, Mali, Pakistan, Kuwait, Indonesia and Niger. The Meeting reviewed the implementation status of the resolutions of the 29<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC, based on the reports submitted by the relevant institutions. After fruitful deliberations, the Meeting adopted recommendations and prepared the Draft Agenda of the 30<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC.

The report of the 30<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC can be reached at

<http://www.comcec.org/UserFiles/File/30.isedak-izleme/Report/30FC-eng-D.REP.pdf>

The 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Sessional Committee was also held as a sideline event during the Follow-up Committee Meeting with the participation of the representatives of the relevant OIC Institutions. The report of the 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Sessional Committee can be reached at:

[http://www.comcec.org/UserFiles/File/24.oturum-komite/24th\\_meeting\\_report.pdf](http://www.comcec.org/UserFiles/File/24.oturum-komite/24th_meeting_report.pdf)

## **CHAPTER VI: 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COMCEC FOCAL POINTS**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Focal Points Meeting of the COMCEC Working Groups (WG) was held on 4-5 June, 2014 in Ankara, Turkey. The Meeting was attended by 98 participants from 37 Member States which have notified their focal points for the COMCEC Working Groups.



The annual focal points meetings are designed to provide an opportunity for member states to provide their comments and observations regarding the both instruments of the Strategy: Working Groups. And the COMCEC Project Funding Mechanism. Through these interactive gatherings, communication and collaboration will be improved between

the Secretariat and the Member States, resulting in better realization of the goals and objectives of the Strategy. Accordingly, during the meeting, the COMCEC WG Focal Points have shared their experiences and views regarding the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy and expressed their suggestions with regard to improving the implementation.

As a sideline event of the Meeting, the COMCEC Coordination Office has organized a training program on the COMCEC Project Funding. At the training, COMCEC WG Focal Points had the opportunity to make an exercise on project preparation.

**LIST OF ACTIVITIES**  
**ORGANIZED BY THE OIC INSTITUTIONS ALIGNED WITH THE COMCEC STRATEGY**  
*(December 2013- December 2014)*

No	Host Institution	Theme of the Activity	Type of the Activity	Relevant Cooperation Area	Partners	Date	Venue	Completed <i>(Please put an X)</i>	Not Completed <i>(Please put an X)</i>
1.	SESRIC	Training Programme on Artificial Insemination and Embryo Transfer	Capacity Building, Study Visit	Agriculture	Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock of Turkey, IDB and Ministries OIC Member Countries	January 2014	Turkey		X
2.	SESRIC	Expert Group Meeting on Islamic Banking and Finance Statistics	EGM	All Cooperation Areas	IDB	January 2014	Ankara-Turkey		X
3.	SESRIC	Short-term Training on System National Accounts 2008	Training	Financial Cooperation	Turkey	January 2014	Saudi Arabia		X
4.	SESRIC	Training on Livestock Management: Animal Diseases and Combat with Animal Diseases	Capacity Building	Agriculture	Ministry of Agriculture of Iraq	February	Saudi Arabia		X

No	Host Institution	Theme of the Activity	Type of the Activity	Relevant Cooperation Area	Partners	Date	Venue	Completed <i>(Please put an X)</i>	Not Completed <i>(Please put an X)</i>
5.	SESRIC	Training on Water Resources Management	Capacity Building	Agriculture	Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs of Turkey	March	Iraq		X
6.	SESRIC	6th Meeting of the Delegates of the National Statistical Offices of the OIC Member Countries	Meeting	All Cooperation Areas		6 March 2014	New York, USA	X	
7.	SESRIC	Training on Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries Statistics	Training	Agriculture	National Statistics Office of Iran	August 2014	Afghanistan		X (postponed)
8.	SESRIC	Biotechnology Studies	Training	Agriculture	Agriculture and Rural Development Support Agency, Turkey	May 2014	Azerbaijan		X
9.	SESRIC	Training on Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries Statistics	Training	Agriculture	National Statistics Office of Iran	June 2014	Kazakhstan		X (postponed)
10.	SESRIC	Training on Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries Statistics	Training	Agriculture	National Statistics Office of Indonesia	August 2014	Bangladesh		X (postponed)
11.	SESRIC	Training on Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries Statistics	Training	Agriculture	National Statistics Office of Turkey	17-18 June 2014	Uganda	X	

No	Host Institution	Theme of the Activity	Type of the Activity	Relevant Cooperation Area	Partners	Date	Venue	Completed <i>(Please put an X)</i>	Not Completed <i>(Please put an X)</i>
12.	SESRIC	Training on Business and Agricultural Censuses and Registers	Training	Agriculture	National Statistics Office of Turkey	September 2014	Iran		X (postponed)
13.	SESRIC	Training on Price Statistics	Training	Financial Cooperation	National Statistics Office of Iran	15-17 September 2014	Afghanistan	X	
14.	SESRIC	The 2014 Meeting of OIC Central Banks and Monetary Authorities	Meeting	Financial Cooperation	Central Bank of Indonesia	5-6 November 2014	Surabaya, Indonesia	X	
15.	SESRIC	Strategic Role of Investor Relations (How to Design an IR Plan)	Training	Financial Cooperation	Borsa Istanbul	June 2014	Bahrain		X
16.	SESRIC	Training on Social Accounting Matrices (SAMs)	Training	Financial Cooperation	National Statistics Office of Morocco	17-19 June 2014	Mauritania	X	
17.	SESRIC	Company Awareness and Corporate Strategy Evaluation	Training	Financial Cooperation	Borsa Istanbul	October 2014	Senegal		X
18.	SESRIC	Risk Management	Training	Financial Cooperation	Central Bank of Tunisia	August 2014	Iraq	X	
19.	SESRIC	Strategic Role of Investor Relations	Training	Financial Cooperation	Borsa Istanbul	June 2014	Bahrain		X (postponed)

No	Host Institution	Theme of the Activity	Type of the Activity	Relevant Cooperation Area	Partners	Date	Venue	Completed <i>(Please put an X)</i>	Not Completed <i>(Please put an X)</i>
		(How to Design an IR Plan)							
20.	SESRIC	Public Finance and Operations of Debt Management	Training	Financial Cooperation	Undersecretariat of Treasury of the Prime Ministry of the Republic of Turkey	September 2014	Jordan		X (postponed)
21.	SESRIC	Risk Management	Training	Financial Cooperation	Central Bank of Tunisia	03-05 March 2014	Iraq	X	
22.	SESRIC	Poverty Alleviation Projects	Training	Poverty Alleviation	BAPPENAS, Indonesia	May 2014	Suriname	X	
23.	SESRIC	Regional Poverty Reduction Policies	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Ministry of Family and Social Policy of the Republic of Turkey	29 April – 1May	Kuwait	X	
24.	SESRIC	Rural Development Projects	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Ministry of Family and Social Policy of the Republic of Turkey	27 – 28 May	Gambia	X	
25.	SESRIC	First Expert Group Meeting on Enhancing National Capacities in Poverty Statistics of COMCEC Member Countries	EGM (COMCEC PCM)	Poverty Alleviation	COMCEC, OIC Member Countries	07-08 August 2014	Ankara, Turkey	X	

No	Host Institution	Theme of the Activity	Type of the Activity	Relevant Cooperation Area	Partners	Date	Venue	Completed <i>(Please put an X)</i>	Not Completed <i>(Please put an X)</i>
26.	SESRIC	AIDS Recognition and Protection	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Doctors Worldwide	June 2014	Niger		X
27.	SESRIC	Recognition and Prevention of Diabetes	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Doctors Worldwide	May 2014	Mauritania		X
28.	SESRIC	Training of Trainers - MNCH	Training	Poverty Alleviation	OIC, IDB, WHO, UNFPA, JHPIEGO	October 2014	SESRIC HQ Ankara, Turkey		X
29.	SESRIC	World Tobacco Conference	Conference	Poverty Alleviation	The Union	February 2015	UAE		X
30.	SESRIC	Tobacco Leadership Course for Adults	Training	Poverty Alleviation	WHO, Ministry of Health of Turkey, TAPDK	October 2014	Turkey		X
31.	SESRIC	Tobacco Control Movement for Youth and Adults	Training	Poverty Alleviation	NU	July 2013 – July 2014	Indonesia	X	
32.	SESRIC	Poverty Alleviation Projects	Training	Poverty Alleviation	BAPPENAS, Indonesia	06-08 May 2014	Suriname	X	
33.	SESRIC	Regional Poverty Reduction Policies	Training	Poverty Alleviation	Ministry of Family and Social Policy of the Republic of Turkey	29 April – 30 April 2014	Kuwait	X	
34.	SESRIC	Workshop on “The Role of Public-Private Partnerships for the Development of the Tourism Sector in	Workshop	Tourism	COMCEC Coordination Office	30 September – 1 October 2014	SESRIC HQ Ankara, Turkey,	X	

No	Host Institution	Theme of the Activity	Type of the Activity	Relevant Cooperation Area	Partners	Date	Venue	Completed <i>(Please put an X)</i>	Not Completed <i>(Please put an X)</i>
		OIC Member States”							
35.	SESRIC	Training on Tourism Statistics	Training	Tourism	National Statistics Office of Morocco	September 2014	Cameroon		X (postponed)
36.	SESRIC	Training on Tourism Statistics	Training (COMCEC PCM)	Tourism	National Statistics Office of Jordan, COMCEC	To be decided	Yemen		X (postponed)
37.	SESRIC	Management of Tourism in Protected Areas	Training	Tourism	Senegal	June 2014	Lebanon		X
38.	SESRIC	Workshop on “The Role of Public-Private Partnerships for the Development of the Tourism Sector in OIC Member States”	Workshop	Tourism	COMCEC Coordination Office	30 September – 1 October 2014	SESRIC HQ Ankara, Turkey,	X	
39.	SESRIC	Training on Business Surveys on Service Sector Statistics	Training	Trade, Agriculture	National Statistics Office of Turkey	25-27 August 2014	Kazakhstan	X	
40.	SESRIC	Training on Manufacturing Statistics	Training	Trade, Finance	National Statistics Office of Jordan	August 2014	UAE		X (postponed)

No	Host Institution	Theme of the Activity	Type of the Activity	Relevant Cooperation Area	Partners	Date	Venue	Completed <i>(Please put an X)</i>	Not Completed <i>(Please put an X)</i>
41.	SESRIC	Training on Information Society Statistics	Training	Transportation and Communication	National Statistics Office of Turkey	September 2014	Saudi Arabia		X (postponed)
42.	SESRIC	Training on Data Dissemination, Data Warehousing	Training	All Cooperation Areas	National Statistics Office of Turkey	September 2014	Qatar		X (postponed)
43.	SESRIC	Training on Population and Housing Censuses; Registers of Population; Dwellings and Buildings	Training	All Cooperation Areas	National Statistics Office of Turkey	August 2014	Malaysia		X (postponed)
44.	SESRIC	Training on Geographic Information Systems (GIS)	Training	All Cooperation Areas	National Statistics Office of Morocco	September 2014	Libya		X (postponed)
45.	SESRIC	Training on Environment Statistics (including Environment Satellite Accounts)	Training	All Cooperation Areas	National Statistics Office of Turkey	27-28 May 2014	Albania	X	
46.	SESRIC	Training on Statistical Programs; Coordination within Statistical Systems	Training	All Cooperation Areas	National Statistics Office of Turkey	June 2014	Indonesia		X (postponed)
47.	SESRIC	Training on Population and Housing Censuses;	Training	All Cooperation Areas	National Statistics Office of Turkey	June 2014	Qatar		X (postponed)

No	Host Institution	Theme of the Activity	Type of the Activity	Relevant Cooperation Area	Partners	Date	Venue	Completed <i>(Please put an X)</i>	Not Completed <i>(Please put an X)</i>
		Registers of Population; Dwellings and Buildings							
48.	SESRIC	Training on Millennium Development Goals Indicators	Training	All Cooperation Areas	National Statistics Office of Oman	June 2014	Saudi Arabia		X (postponed)
49.	SESRIC	Training on Statistical Confidentiality and Disclosure Protection	Training	All Cooperation Areas	National Statistics Office of Uganda	June 2014	Nigeria		X (postponed)
50.	SESRIC	Training on Metadata and Process Management	Training	All Cooperation Areas	National Statistics Office of Turkey	28-29 August 2014	Azerbaijan	X	
51.	SESRIC	7 <sup>th</sup> International Postal Symposium “E-Commerce and Postal Sector: Mutual Expectations”	Symposium	All Cooperation Areas	The General Directorate of Post and Telegraph Organization (PTT) - Turkey	26 – 28 May 2014	Turkey	X	
52.	SESRIC	Postal Financial Services	Training	All Cooperation Areas	Tunisian Post of Tunisian	October 2014	Senegal		X
53.	SESRIC	Training on Household Surveys	Training	All Cooperation Areas	National Statistics Office of United Arab Emirates	September 2014	Malaysia		X (postponed)

No	Host Institution	Theme of the Activity	Type of the Activity	Relevant Cooperation Area	Partners	Date	Venue	Completed <i>(Please put an X)</i>	Not Completed <i>(Please put an X)</i>
54.	SESRIC	Training on Data Dissemination, Data Warehousing	Training	All Cooperation Areas	National Statistics Office of Turkey	11-13 August 2014	Azerbaijan	X	
55.	SESRIC	Training on Geographic Information Systems (GIS)	Training	All Cooperation Areas	National Statistics Office of Egypt	August 2014	Djibouti		X (postponed)
56.	SESRIC	Training on Science, Technology and Innovation Statistics	Training	All Cooperation Areas	National Statistics Office of Turkey	10-12 September 2014	Kazakhstan	X	
57.	SESRIC	Domestic Postal Services	Training	All Cooperation Areas	The General Directorate of Post and Telegraph Organization (PTT) –Turkey	October 2014	Kuwait		X
58.	SESRIC	Technology Exchange Exhibition	Exhibition	All Cooperation Areas	CITC Iran, COMSTECH, IDB, TTEN (D8)	June 2014	Saudi Arabia	X	
59.	SESRIC	Occupational Health and Safety	Workshop	All Cooperation areas	Ministry of Labour in Turkey, SMIIC, IDB	04 May 2014	Istanbul, Turkey	X	
60.	ICCIA	Workshop on Capacity Building on Value Chain Analysis for Agri-Business	Workshop	Agriculture	MCs, PGTF	December 2013	Sudan		X

No	Host Institution	Theme of the Activity	Type of the Activity	Relevant Cooperation Area	Partners	Date	Venue	Completed <i>(Please put an X)</i>	Not Completed <i>(Please put an X)</i>
61.	ICCIA	Seminar on Creating awareness of the utilities and privileges of various OIC Agreements (TPS-OIC)	Seminar	Trade	MC's	March	Sharjah, U.A.E.		X
62.	ICCIA	WIEF-ICCIA Web-Reach Internet Marketing Workshop	Workshop	Trade	The World Islamic Economic Forum (WIEF)	2014	Pakistan		X
63.	ICCIA	8 <sup>th</sup> Forum for Businesswomen in Islamic Countries	Forum	Poverty Alleviation	MC's, IDB	2014	To be determined		X (re-scheduled for 2015)
64.	ICCIA	The Food Trade Exchange Meeting Between Saudi Arabia and other Islamic Countries	Meeting	Trade, Agriculture	ICCIA, Jeddah Chamber of Commerce & Industry	5-6 Nov. 2014	Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia		X (New)
65.	ICCIA	Training Workshop on Enterprise Development	Training	Capacity Building	ICCIA	24-26 June 2014	Islamabad, Pakistan	X	
66.	ICCIA	Workshop on Capacity Building on Value Chain Analysis for Agri-Business for OIC Countries	Workshop	Agriculture	ICCIA/SESRIC	1-3 Dec. 2014	Ankara, Turkey		X (will be held as scheduled)

No	Host Institution	Theme of the Activity	Type of the Activity	Relevant Cooperation Area	Partners	Date	Venue	Completed <i>(Please put an X)</i>	Not Completed <i>(Please put an X)</i>
67.	ICCIA	Workshop on Enterprise Development & Investment Promotion (EDIP)	Workshop	Capacity Building	ICCIA / UNCCI / UNIDO	2014	Kampala, Uganda		X (New)
68.	ICCIA	Workshop on Development of SMEs in Uganda	Workshop	Poverty Alleviation	ICCIA/KOSGEB	2015	Kampala, Uganda		X (re-scheduled for 2015)
69.	ICDT	Seminar on SMEs Internationalization and exports Strategies in WAEMU and CEMAC Countries	Seminar	Trade	Ministry of Commerce of Côte d'Ivoire	27-31 January 2014	Abidjian		X
70.	ICDT	Deepening Regional Cooperation and Integration for Sustainable Development	Seminar	Trade	Ministry of Commerce, Industry and New Technologies of Morocco	January 2014	Rabat, Morocco		X
71.	ICDT	Seminar on the outcomes of the WTO Ministerial Conference	Seminar	Trade	IDB Group	January 2014	Casablanca, Morocco		X
72.	ICDT	Training Seminar on E-marketing for Women entrepreneurs	Seminar	Trade	WIEF	18-24 February 2014	Casablanca, Morocco		X

No	Host Institution	Theme of the Activity	Type of the Activity	Relevant Cooperation Area	Partners	Date	Venue	Completed <i>(Please put an X)</i>	Not Completed <i>(Please put an X)</i>
73.	ICDT	6th Meeting of the OIC Consultative Group for Enhancing Intra-OIC Trade	Seminar	Trade	OIC Institutions	3-4 February 2014	Marrakesh, Morocco	X	
74.	ICDT	1st OIC TPOs for English Speaking Countries	Seminar	Trade	Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Sharjah	19-28 March 2014	Sharjah, UAE	X	
75.	ICDT	Seminar on the impact of TPSOIC Agreement on WAEMU Countries' economies	Seminar	Trade	WAEMU Secretariat	March 2014	Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso		X
76.	ICDT	Seminar on NTBs in OIC Member Countries	Expert Group Meeting	Trade	IDB Group	March 2014	Casablanca, Morocco		X
77.	ICDT	Seminar on the impact of TPSOIC Agreement on WAEMU Countries' economies	Seminar	Trade	WAEMU Secretariat	Last Quarter 2014	Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso		X
78.	ICDT	Seminar on NTBs in OIC African Member States	Seminar	Trade	IDB Group	18-20 November 2014	Casablanca, Morocco		X

No	Host Institution	Theme of the Activity	Type of the Activity	Relevant Cooperation Area	Partners	Date	Venue	Completed <i>(Please put an X)</i>	Not Completed <i>(Please put an X)</i>
79.	ICDT	2 <sup>nd</sup> OIC Tourism Fair	Fair	Trade	Ministry of Tourism of Tunisia	19-21 October 2015	Sharjah, UAE		X
80.	ICDT	7th Exhibition of Agribusiness Industries of the OIC Member States	Fair	Trade	Al Harithy Company	11-14 May 2014	Jeddah, KSA	X	
81.	ICDT	1 <sup>st</sup> Exhibition on Furniture, Decoration, Household and Electrical Appliances in the OIC Member States	Fair	Trade	Al Harithy Company	11-14 May 2014	Jeddah, KSA	X	
82.	ICDT	Awareness-raising and training seminars on the TPS/OIC	Training Seminar	Trade	Ministry of Economy and Trade	Postponed	Ramallah, Palestine		X
83.	ICDT	Workshop on Export Auditing and Capacity Building for SMEs Competitiveness	Training Seminar	Trade	Federation of GCC Chambers	1—3 September 2014	Manama, Bahrain	X	
84.	ICDT	Seminar on Developing National & Regional Approaches to Enhancing Innovation Support and Commercialization	Training Seminar	Trade	COMCEC, WIPO, OMPIC	11-13 June 2014	Casablanca, Morocco	X	

No	Host Institution	Theme of the Activity	Type of the Activity	Relevant Cooperation Area	Partners	Date	Venue	Completed <i>(Please put an X)</i>	Not Completed <i>(Please put an X)</i>
		of R&D Results and Patents among the OIC Member States							
85.	ICDT	2 <sup>nd</sup> OIC Health Expo	Fair	Trade	Ministry of Commerce and informal sector of Senegal	26-29 June 2014	Dakar, Senegal	X	
86.	ICDT	Training Seminar for the benefit Private Enterprises and Public administrations of the Sultanate of Oman on TPS/OIC	Training Seminar	Trade	Supreme Council for Planning of Sultanate of Oman	15-16 September 2014	Muscat, Oman	X	
87.	ICDT	Training Seminar in TPS/OIC, PRETAS and ROO Protocol f	Training Seminar	Trade	Ministry of Commerce and Industry	24-25 September 2014	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia	X	
88.	ICDT	Seminar on competition policies in the OIC Member Countries: current status and prospects	Seminar	Trade	Ministry of Trade and Handicraft of Tunisia	November 2014	Tunis, Tunisia		X
89.	ICDT	3 <sup>rd</sup> OIC -Asia Business Forum and 5 <sup>th</sup> OIC World Biz and 2 <sup>nd</sup> OIC Higher	Fair and Forum	Trade	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade	10-12 November 2014	Kuala Lumpur		X

No	Host Institution	Theme of the Activity	Type of the Activity	Relevant Cooperation Area	Partners	Date	Venue	Completed <i>(Please put an X)</i>	Not Completed <i>(Please put an X)</i>
		Education Exhibition							
90.	ICDT	Task Force of the Executive Programme for Enhancing Intra-OIC Trade	Meeting	Trade	ITFC and other Members of the Consultative Group	November 2014	Casablanca		X
91.	ICDT	International Conference on Offshoring among the OIC Member States	Seminar	Trade	Ministry of Trade and Handicraft of Tunisia	2015	Tunis, Tunisia		X
92.	ICDT	3 <sup>rd</sup> OIC Halal Food Exhibition	Fair	Trade	Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Sharjah, Expo Centre of Sharjah	8-10 December 2014	Sharjah, UAE		X
93.	OISA	Executive Committee & General Assembly Meetings	Meeting	Maritime Transport	Representative from Member Countries, Member Shipping Companies, OIC and its Institutions, Port Authorities, Marine Academies, Shipbuilding and Repair Yards	November 2014	Dubai		X
94.	OISA	Strengthen business relationship between member of	Cooperation in repair and maintenance	Maritime Transport	Arab Shipbuilding and Repair Yard	November 2014	Cairo		X

No	Host Institution	Theme of the Activity	Type of the Activity	Relevant Cooperation Area	Partners	Date	Venue	Completed <i>(Please put an X)</i>	Not Completed <i>(Please put an X)</i>
		OISA and Arab Shipbuilding and Repair Yard (ASRY)	of member's ships		(ASRY) affiliated from OAPEC				
95.	OISA	Promote shipping in OIC countries and strengthen relationship between OISA and Arab Federation of Shipping	Cooperation	Maritime Transport	Arab Federation of Shipping affiliated from Arab League	November 2014	Beirut		X
96.	OISA	Develop relationship between OISA member and Emirates Classification Society (TASNEEF) to classify the member's vessels	Cooperation	Maritime Transport	Emirates Classification Society (TASNEEF)	November 2014	Abu Dhabi		X
97.	OISA	10 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Islamic P & I Club	Meeting	Maritime Transport	OIC & IPIC	November 2014	Dubai		X
98.	OISA	Deepening relation between OISA member and GISBIR to build	Meeting	Maritime Transport	GISBIR	December 2014	Istanbul		X

No	Host Institution	Theme of the Activity	Type of the Activity	Relevant Cooperation Area	Partners	Date	Venue	Completed <i>(Please put an X)</i>	Not Completed <i>(Please put an X)</i>
		different type of tonnage and vessels							
99.	SMIIC	Building and Enhancing Standardization, Metrology and Accreditation Capacity in the OIC Member States	Workshop/ Training	Trade	Islamic Development Bank (IDB)	Last Quarter of 2013-2014	North African Arabic Speaking Countries; African French Speaking Countries; African English Speaking Countries; Central Asian Countries (CACs)		X (postponed)
100.	SMIIC	Accreditation Committee Meeting	Technical Meeting	Trade	SMIIC and SMIIC Accreditation Committee	26-28 May 2014	Antalya, Republic of Turkey	X	
101.	SMIIC	OIC/SMIIC World Halal Assembly	Assembly	Trade	SMIIC, Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority(PSQCA) and Halal Development Council(HDC-Pakistan)	04 June 2014	Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan	X	

No	Host Institution	Theme of the Activity	Type of the Activity	Relevant Cooperation Area	Partners	Date	Venue	Completed <i>(Please put an X)</i>	Not Completed <i>(Please put an X)</i>
102.	SMIIC	SMIIC/TC1 Halal Food Issues Meeting	Technical Meeting	Trade	SMIIC Technical Committee	23-24 June 2014	Dubai, United Arab Emirates	X	
103.	SMIIC	SMIIC/TC2 Halal Cosmetic Issues Meeting	Technical Meeting	Trade	SMIIC Technical Committee	24-25 June 2014	Dubai, United Arab Emirates	X	
104.	SMIIC	Accreditation Committee Meeting	Technical Meeting	Trade	SMIIC and SMIIC Accreditation Committee	09-11 September 2014	İstanbul, Republic of Turkey	X	
105.	IDB Group	Seminar on "the Bali Package and its impact on MCs, particularly in Trade Facilitation"	Seminar	Trade	COMCEC Coordination Office	23-25 June 2014	Istanbul, Turkey		X
106.	IDB Group	Workshop on Local Content Measures and their impact on Kazakhstan's Accession to the WTO	Workshop	Trade	WTO and others	20-22 October 2014	Astana, Kazakhstan.	X	
107.	IDB Group	General Assembly of the Federation of Consultants from Islamic Countries (FCIC)	Meeting	All Cooperation Areas	Federation Members	24 June 2014	Jeddah	X	

No	Host Institution	Theme of the Activity	Type of the Activity	Relevant Cooperation Area	Partners	Date	Venue	Completed <i>(Please put an X)</i>	Not Completed <i>(Please put an X)</i>
108.	IDB Group	General Assembly of the Federation of Contractors from Islamic Countries (FOCIC)	Meeting	All Cooperation Areas	Federation Members	22 June 2014	Jeddah	X	
109.	IDB Group	Seminar on IDB Group Strategy to Accelerate Economic Growth and Employment in Countries in transition	Seminar	All Cooperation Areas	ITFC , UN	23 June 2014	Jeddah	X	
110.	IDB Group	3 <sup>rd</sup> IDB Group Annual Youth Development Forum: Youth Entrepreneurship: From Job Seekers to Job Creators	Forum	All Cooperation Areas	IDB Group members and other international organizations	23 June 2014	Jeddah	X	
111.	IDB Group	9 <sup>th</sup> Global Islamic Finance Forum	Forum	Financial Cooperation	IRTI and Islamic Financial institutions	24 June 2014	Jeddah	X	
112.	IDB Group	IDB Annual Board of Governors Meeting	Annual Meeting	-	-	25-26 June 2014	Jeddah	X	
113.	IDB Group	Fifth meeting of the IDB Project Committee of the OIC Cotton Action Plan	Consultative Meeting	Agriculture and Trade	IDB Group and relevant stakeholders	16 November 2014	Jeddah, Saudi Arabia		X

No	Host Institution	Theme of the Activity	Type of the Activity	Relevant Cooperation Area	Partners	Date	Venue	Completed <i>(Please put an X)</i>	Not Completed <i>(Please put an X)</i>
114.	IDB Group	Seminar on "Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) to Trade among African Member Countries	Seminar	Trade	IDB Group, WTO, ICDT	19 - 21 November 2014	Casablanca, Morocco		X
115.	IDB Group	6-7 Dec 2014. 10th Meeting of the IDB Advisory Panel on S&T	Advisory Panel Meeting	Science and Technology	IDB Group, COMSTECH, OIC GS	6-7 Dec 2014.	Dakar, Senegal		X
116.	CCO	2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the COMCEC Focal Points	Meeting	All Cooperation Areas	MCs	4-5 June 2014	Ankara	X	
117.	CCO	Preparatory Workshop on the Role of PPPs for the Development of Tourism Sector in OIC Member Countries	Meeting	Tourism	SESRIC	27-28 August 2014	Ankara	X	
118.	CCO	4 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Trade Working Group	Meeting	Trade	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	October 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2014	Ankara	X	
119.	CCO	4 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Tourism Working Group	Meeting	Tourism	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	September-4 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	Ankara	X	

No	Host Institution	Theme of the Activity	Type of the Activity	Relevant Cooperation Area	Partners	Date	Venue	Completed <i>(Please put an X)</i>	Not Completed <i>(Please put an X)</i>
120.	CCO	4 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Transport Working Group	Meeting	Transport	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	September 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	Ankara	X	
121.	CCO	3 <sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Finance Working Group	Meeting	Financial Cooperation	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	October 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	Ankara	X	
122.	CCO	4 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Agriculture Working Group	Meeting	Agriculture	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	September 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	Ankara	X	
123.	CCO	4 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Poverty Alleviation Working Group	Meeting	Poverty Alleviation	MCs, OIC and other international institutions, private sector representatives	September-18 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	Ankara	X	
124.	CCO	30 <sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC	Meeting	-	MCs, OIC and other international institutions	25-28 November 2014	İstanbul	X	