



**REPORT OF
THE STANDARDS AND METROLOGY INSTITUTE FOR ISLAMIC
COUNTRIES (SMIIC)
ON
ENHANCING INTRA-OIC TRADE
SUBMITTED TO THE 39th MEETING OF THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF
THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL
COOPERATION OF THE
OIC (COMCEC)**

**Agenda Item No: 4
Intra OIC Trade**

**Ankara, Republic of Türkiye
23-24 May 2023**

INTRODUCTION

This report provides a summary of the activities that have been carried out by SMIIC for the implementation of the COMCEC Strategy which is submitted to the 39th meeting of the Follow-Up Committee of the Standing Committee for the Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) of the OIC, which will be held in Ankara, Türkiye on the 23-24 May 2023.

The reporting period was characterized by the continuous efforts of the Institute on the implementation of the cooperation areas of COMCEC, especially on the areas of enhancing intra-OIC Trade. The activities of SMIIC are multi-faceted addressing the main pillars of quality infrastructure: standards, metrology and accreditation.

Harmonisation of standards, metrology and accreditation is vital for accelerating the development of Muslim country economies. Its use will promote common understanding throughout all member states. A common standards, metrology and accreditation framework eliminates trade barriers and facilitates trade between the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) member states and the entire world.

SMIIC has continued to work on the development of the much needed common standards in the OIC and has to date published 56 (fifty-six) OIC/SMIIC Standards, 20 (twenty) of them on halal issues. 17 (seventeen) Technical Committees and Committee on Standards for Conformity Assessment (CCA) of SMIIC are vigorously working on the development of 36 new Standards which are in the project stage. These standards include the •OIC/SMIIC 37 - Halal Products- Usage of Animal Bone, Skin and Hair- General Guidelines and OIC/SMIIC 47: 2022 Dates for Industrial Purposes etc.

SMIIC has conducted 10 training programs since November 2022 on the OIC/SMIIC Halal Standards in order to aid the common use of standards within the OIC. SMIIC is conducting a series of trainings focusing on the knowledge and understanding of the OIC/SMIIC standards, requirements and implementation. With the aim of human capacity building in the field of metrology, SMIIC has conducted 7 (Seven) metrology trainings. SMIIC project “Halal food and meat Detection Methods Training and Interlaboratory Comparison For OIC Countries” project with No: 2022-SMIIC-006 has been final listed under the COMCEC Project Funding.

Annually organized, the 8th World Halal Summit (WHS) under the theme of “*For Sustainable Trade: Explore All Aspects of the Growing Global Halal Industry*” was held during 24-26 November 2022 at Istanbul Congress Center (ICC), Istanbul/Turkey; simultaneously with the 9th OIC Halal Expo (24-26 November 2022), was organized by Discover Events in association with the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) and the Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC) in line with the cooperation framework agreement between the two institutions.

9th OIC Halal Expo was held simultaneously with 8th World Halal Summit providing the unique climate for the exchange of expertise and experience between participants and the group of researchers and experts in all areas related to the definition of halal (e.g. halal food & beverage, halal cosmetics & personal care, halal tourism & accommodation, Islamic banking & finance, textile & modest fashion etc.).

SMIIC is simultaneously working on capacity building in the metrology area where several training programs are under planning by the SMIIC Metrology Council. Enhancement of Metrology Infrastructure affects the 5 cooperation areas of the COMCEC Strategy namely: Trade, Transport and Communications, Tourism, Agriculture and Poverty Alleviation.

I. SENIOR MANAGEMENT MEETINGS

Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting

24th Meeting of the SMIIC Board of Directors (BOD) was held successfully on 21 November 2022 in İstanbul, Türkiye with the support of the kind hospitality of the Turkish Standards Institute.

The meeting was chaired by H.E. Dr. Saad bin Othman AL-KASABI, Chairman of the SMIIC Board of Directors (BOD). The meeting was attended by representatives from 12 Member States of the Board of Directors, following the regular meetings of Board of Directors Finance and Strategy Committees which were organized concurrently on the same day in the morning. The Board of Directors meeting was chaired by H.E. Dr. Saad bin Othman AL-KASABI, Chairman of the SMIIC Board of Directors (BOD) and attended by representatives from 12 Members States of the Board of Directors.

As one of the most important outcomes, Board of Directors approved the membership applications of Republic of Azerbaijan which will be represented by Azerbaijan Standardization Institute (AZSTAND) as the national body and Republic of Tajikistan which will be represented by Agency of Standardization, Metrology, Certification and Trade Inspection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan (TAJIKSTANDARD) as the national body, bringing the number of SMIIC Members to 44 along with 3 Observers.

During the meeting, Chairs of the SMIIC Councils presented their reports on the latest developments and activities and the Chair and Vice-Chair elections of Accreditation Council (AC) as well as Chair election of Metrology Council (MC) were approved by the Board of Directors for the term 2022 – 2024 term.

Furthermore, Progress Reports of Permanent Committees as well as the Ad Hoc Committee of SMIIC Board of Directors were submitted and Two-Year Implementation Plan (2023-2024) of SMIIC Strategic Plan 2021-2030 was approved. The Board also reviewed and discussed the Draft Budget for 2023.

General Assembly (GA) Meeting

The SMIIC General Assembly is a yearly gathering of SMIIC where all our members come together for an annual meeting to discuss and decide on resolutions, reports and projects.

The Seventeenth Meeting of the SMIIC General Assembly (GA) was held in İstanbul, Republic of Türkiye on 22 November 2022. The meeting was attended by representatives from 30 SMIIC Member States and 3 Observer States as well as the representatives from the Republic of Azerbaijan and Republic of Tajikistan as the new SMIIC Member States, representatives of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), GCC Standardization Organization (GSO) and International Organization for Standardization (ISO) as observers.

Following a recitation from the Holy Quran, H.E. Dr. Saad bin Othman AL-KASABI, Chairman of SMIIC Board of Directors (BOD), made an opening speech welcoming all SMIIC Members to the meeting in which he expressed the commitment of Saudi Arabia in promoting SMIIC activities and importance of standards and conformity assessment in reinforcing the competition in the industry as well as utilizing the resources of Member States for the success of the SMIIC Strategic Plan 2021-2030 and providing necessary support to the SMIIC organs and General Secretariat.

H.E. Mr. Mahmut Sami ŞAHİN, President of Turkish Standards Institution (TSE) and Vice-Chairman of SMIIC Board of Directors delivered his welcome remarks as the host country in which he underscored the significance of the adoption of OIC/SMIIC standards in unifying the efforts as well as improving trade relations by removing technical barriers to trade. By thanking the members of Task Force Group of SMIIC Accreditation Council for their contribution to the studies in determining the Designated Structure within OIC Global Halal Quality Infrastructure (OHAQ), he highlighted how essential accreditation is for the transparency and reliability of conformity assessment activities.

Following the speeches/messages of the heads of the invited organizations, the message of H.E. Amb. Hissein Brahim TAHA, the Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), was delivered by H.E. Mr. Naghi Jabbarov, Director General of the Department of Economic Affairs of the OIC. In his message, Member States and General Secretariat are invited to implement SMIIC's Strategic Plan as well as other OIC programmes and resolutions aimed at achieving common developmental objectives as enshrined in the OIC Charter and OIC-2025: Programme of Action and commended valuable presentation of SMIIC on Islamic Tourism Standards made during the 11th Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM), held in Baku, June 2022. All national standards bodies of OIC Member States are also urged to conduct meaningful cooperation through creating unified OIC/SMIIC standards according to the needs.

H.E. Mr. Hasan BÜYÜKDEDE, Deputy Minister of Industry and Technology of Republic of Türkiye, delivered his speech through which His Excellency has stressed that Türkiye is willing to contribute to the effectiveness of the OIC countries in international trade and has adopted OIC/SMIIC standards and invited members to take joint actions in order to increase the competitiveness of our organizations in the international conformity assessment market and to plan capacity-building activities in the fields of standardization, metrology and accreditation, which are the components of the quality infrastructure.

During the working session, the Secretary General briefed the General Assembly on the latest developments and activities of SMIIC as well as summarizing the activities of SMIIC Councils, Technical Committees, Strategic Plan implementation and other important activities conducted since the 16th SMIIC General Assembly Meeting. He also highlighted important issues that were discussed during the 23rd and 24th SMIIC Board of Directors Meetings.

Furthermore, technical activities of the Institute were reported by the Chairs of the SMIIC Councils. The General Assembly approved the report of external financial auditor and the SMIIC Budget 2023 as well as the Annual Mandatory Contribution of SMIIC Member States to 2023 SMIIC Budget.

It was a very stimulating and fruitful meeting with many important outcomes and decisions taken, and the beginning of a new era with its newly elected officials and constructed organs.

II. STRATEGY ACTIVITIES

General and Implementation of Strategic Plan 2021-2030

SMIIC has worked actively to execute the approved *Implementation Plan of SMIIC Strategic Plan 2021-2030 for the term new term(2023-2024)*. SMIIC General Secretariat has launched 12 (twelve) projects, while the 4 (four) remaining projects will be launched by the third quarter of this year. The progress in Key Performance Indicators through these 3 months of 2023 is 30% while the progress in Projects is 18%.

While executing the plan, SMIIC General Secretariat has achieved tangible success in the implementation of many activities that contributed significantly to achieving the specific targets of the key performance indicators that were identified to measure the achievement at the level of strategic objectives.

III. TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES OF SMIIC COUNCILS

A. Standardization Management Council (SMC)

Standardization Management Council (SMC), as a professional structure for building the future activities of the technical committees and following-up their performance on ongoing standards projects.

During the last year, SMC has continued building up the future activities of the technical committees and following-up their performance on ongoing standards projects.

SMIIC General Secretariat has launched 12 (twelve) projects, while the 4 (four) remaining projects will be launched by the third quarter of this year. The progress in Key Performance Indicators through these 3 months is 30% while the progress in Projects is 18%.

B. Technical Committees (TC)

OIC/SMIIC standards and other technical projects are under the responsibility of the Technical Committees (TCs) for the development and systematic management of these technical works.

SMIIC has continued to work on the development of the much needed common standards in the OIC and has to date published 50 (fifty) OIC/SMIIC Standards, 20(twenty) of them on halal issues. The 16 (sixteen) Technical Committees and Committee on Standards for Conformity Assessment (CCA) of SMIIC are vigorously working on the development of 36 new Standards which are in the project stage.

Following the 11th Technical Committee Week that was held on 17-21 September 2022 in İstanbul in hybrid format, the committees have continued to work online on their projects through Working Groups and Task Forces. It is planned to hold 12th Technical Committee Week planned to be organized in hybrid format in İstanbul on October 2023 and in the meantime, technical committees which have urgent or pending issues may have online meetings during this period.

Technical Committees and SMIIIC/CCA with the help TC Weeks had a productive period in terms of preparing new standards, as a result, during 2022 and in the first quarter of 2023, TCs have worked on 36 different projects and published 14 (fourteen) standards and 5 (five) of the projects are in Draft Standard (DS) stage.

Following are some of the OIC/SMIIIC standards published, developed by the relevant SMIIIC Technical Committees since November 2022:

1. OIC/SMIIIC 37 - Halal Products- Usage of Animal Bone, Skin and Hair- General Guidelines
2. OIC/SMIIIC 47: 2022 Dates for Industrial Purposes
3. OIC/SMIIIC 51:2022 Hygiene and Sanitation Management System – Requirements
4. OIC/SMIIIC 27: 2022 – Woven Carpets used for Masjids.
5. OIC/SMIIIC 23:2022 – Feeding Stuffs for Halal Animals – General Requirements
6. OIC/SMIIIC 50-1: 2022 – Halal pharmaceuticals - Part 1 - General requirements
7. OIC/SMIIIC 57 :2022 – Conformity Assessment – General Requirements for The Operation of Various Types of Bodies Performing Halal Inspection

SMIIIC is the only competent body of the OIC to develop standards according to the needs of the region and OIC/SMIIIC halal standards are the only standards developed in the world ensuring the participation and contribution of various OIC member states and IIFA which consequently results in having the most reliable and professional halal standards to use globally.

The Technical Committee 5 – Tourism and Related Services Under the COMCEC Strategy Cooperation area of Tourism, is currently working on the development of the:

1. OIC/SMIIIC 8 Halal Tourism – Spa Services Standard
2. Adventure tourism - Safety management systems - Requirements

C. Metrology Council (MC)

Metrology Council (MC) acts as SMIIIC’s operational organ for cooperation between national metrology authorities from Islamic Countries. This cooperation involves activities in the field of scientific, legal and industrial metrology. MC is also involved in conducting necessary activities for supporting development of quality infrastructure; realization, maintenance and dissemination of measurement standards in physical quantities and metrology in chemistry; implementation of quality management systems, knowledge transfer, research and development in this area in Member Countries.

The Metrology Council completed its Metrology Council Annual Working Plan 2021-2023 and put it into action since 23 March 2021, the plan is annually updated according to the requests from Member States.

The MC 2021-2023 Working Plan includes training and capacity building trainings on:

- a) Scientific Metrology Training (11 trainings)
- b) Legal Metrology Training (3 trainings)
- c) Training Related to Halal Activities (7 trainings)
- d) Calibration Trainings (8 trainings)
- e) Proficiency Testing Training (3 trainings)

f) Joint Work, Consultancy, R&D and Workshops (11 programs)

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the planned training activities had been started to be conducted online by the host national metrology institutes. The training are given by volunteer members.

Following table shows the trainings that were coordinated by TÜBİTAK UME as the NMI holding the SMIIC MC Chairmanship and SMIIC General Secretariat since November 2022:

Training	Host NMI	Date and Format
1. SMIIC MC Training on Calibration of Digital Multimeter	SASO NMCC	14.11.2022 online
2. SMIIC MC Training in Mechanism of Work of Gas Measurements And the Method of Producing Reference Materialster	SASO NMCC	30.11.2022 online
3. SMIIC MC Training on Calibration of gauge block by interferometry	SASO NMCC	13.12.2022 online
4. SMIIC MC Training on Electric & Magnetic Field Probe Calibrations	TÜBİTAK UME	15.12.2022 online
5. SMIIC MC Training on Calibration of Gas and Liquid Flowmeters	TÜBİTAK UME	19.12.2022 online
6. SMIIC MC Training on Calibration of DC Current Source	SASO NMCC	20.12.2022 online
7. SMIIC MC Training on Calibration of Piston Operated Volumetric Apparatus (Micropipette)	TÜBİTAK UME	27.12.2022 online

In order to allow as many experts as possible to attend and benefit from the trainings, they will continue to be conducted online. Simultaneously, relevant physical trainings are also being planned to be conducted this year.

The 12th SMIIC Metrology Council Meeting was held during the 26 - 27 April 2023, in hybrid format (in-person and online) in İstanbul / Türkiye. 73 delegates from 25 Member States attended the meeting. The council discussed the progress and update of the MC 2021-2023 Working Plan, elected Dr. Ismail Abdullah AlFaleh as Vice-Chairman of the SMIIC Metrology Council for the term 2022-2024. welcomed the presentation regarding the “Progress on Transition of Member States to higher category” The members discussed the possibilities for improvement and capacity building of member states to move from category 3 to category 1. welcomes the presentations regarding the latest developments and Halal activities in Türkiye and Thailand. Took note of the presentations and speeches regarding the latest developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, Türkiye and Uzbekistan. Decided to establish a working group to work on a Medical Metrology Standard/Guide for Legal Metrology Purposes. Also welcomed the presentations from Thailand and Türkiye regarding the impact of Metrology on national Economies and the planning of the General Secretariat regarding the event to be organized to relevant Senior officials from Member States, progress on the SMIIC

MC ILCs, the progress of the SMIIC MC R&D Project Program and a working was established to evaluate submitted projects and coordinate the R&D Project Program.

Enhancement of Metrology Infrastructure affects the 5 cooperation areas of the COMCEC Strategy namely: Trade, Transport and Communications, Tourism, Agriculture and Poverty Alleviation.

D. Accreditation Council (AC)

Accreditation Council (AC) is the organ carrying out activities aimed at the establishment of an accreditation scheme in the OIC Member States. AC is responsible for supporting actions for establishing a sound accreditation system OIC-wide and raise awareness of accreditation concept within the Member States. AC shall be responsible for implementing OIC/SMIIC accreditation standards and performing peer assessment.

During the 4th meeting of SMIIC AC held on 20 June 2022 in Istanbul, a Task Force Group (TFG) with the composition of Cameroon, Egypt, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Türkiye (Chair of TFG) was established to study the possible designated structure proposals and to submit the outcomes of the study to General Secretariat so that they could be submitted to the next MAC Meeting.

TFG held three meetings to finalize their task:

- First meeting of the TFG held on 31 October-01 November 2022 in Istanbul.
- Second meeting of the TFG held on 26-27 December virtually.
- Third meeting of the TFG held on 30-31 January virtually.

The 5th meeting of the SMIIC AC is held on 08-09 May 2023 in Istanbul.

IV. OTHER ACTIVITIES

A. Trainings: Improving Capacities

As General Secretariat, with the aim of increasing number of our members and published standards and by benefiting from the virtual event concept, a special focus was given to conducting trainings during the last 6 months. In this context, a training calendar has been prepared and monthly trainings were given. Some of these trainings are:

Member State Training Courses:

1. Awareness seminar on SMIIC and its Activities for TAJIKSTANDARD, AZSTAND, SON, BSTI, and YSMO Staff

SMIIC General Secretariat gave a virtual seminar for TAJIKSTANDARD, AZSTAND, SON, and YSMO staff on Introduction to SMIIC and its activities on 16 January 2023 in English. Twenty-seven delegates from TAJIKSTANDARD, AZSTAND, SON, and YSMO attended phase one of this program in January.

The program aimed at increasing the awareness of SMIIC, our activities and give brief information on the procedures followed in the preparation of OIC/SMIIC Standards, and guide

the SMIIC IS users with their defined roles in technical committee work by the relevant documents of SMIIC and consisted of two phases:

Phase One: a seminar on Introduction to SMIIC and Its activities

Phase Two: a training course on SMIIC Technical Committee (TC) Work and introduction to and use of the SMIIC Information System (IS).

This seminar is part of an orientation program that SMIIC will be giving to all concerned new SMIIC members or members who need orientation to SMIIC activities.

2. OIC/SMIIC 1:2019 foundation Training in French

SMIIC conducted the OIC/SMIIC 1 Halal Foundation Training in French on 17-20 January 2023 virtually. 41 participants from French-speaking member states (Burkina Faso, Chad, Cameroon, Gabon, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal, and Niger) attended the training.

The training aimed to give the foundation knowledge regarding halal food, the halal industry, requirements, and implementation of the OIC/SMIIC 1:2019 General Requirements for Halal Food and included:

- Introduction to SMIIC's Structure and SMIIC Organs
- OIC/SMIIC Standards on Halal Issues
- Requirements and Implementation of the OIC/SMIIC 1:2019 General Requirements for Halal Food
- Evaluation Test

3. OIC/SMIIC 2:2019 foundation Training in French

SMIIC conducted the OIC/SMIIC 2 Halal Foundation Training in French virtually from 13-16 February 2023. 35 participants from French-speaking member states (Burkina Faso, Benin, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Gabon, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Senegal, and Niger) attended the training.

The training aimed to give the foundation knowledge, requirements, and implementation of the OIC/SMIIC 2:2019 Requirements for bodies providing halal certification and included:

- Introduction to OIC/SMIIC 2:2019 & Principles
- General & Structural Requirements
- Resource & Information Requirements
- Process Requirements
- Management System Requirements
- Evaluation Test

4. Awareness seminar on SMIIC and Halal Supply Management System Standards for Industrial Engineering University Islam Indonesia

Upon the request of the Industrial Engineering University Islam in Indonesia, SMIIC General Secretariat organized an Awareness Seminar on “Introduction to SMIIC, its activities, and OIC/SMIIC Halal Supply Management System Standards” for 15 undergraduate students on 21 February 2023 at SMIIC Headquarters within the framework of an educational visit to Turkey. The Seminar included two sessions:

- The first session was on Introduction to SMIIC, its activities, and OIC/SMIIC standards.
- The second session was on OIC/SMIIC 17: 2020, Halal Supply Chain Management System Standards Part 1-2-3.

The seminar was successfully completed and very productive and SMIIC General Secretariat delivered certificates of participation to the participants.

5. Training on SMIIC Technical committee work Procedures and SMIIC Information System (IS) for TAJIKSTANDARD, AZSTAND, SON, BSTI, YSMO, SOBS, UNBS, and UZSTANDARD Staff

SMIIC General Secretariat gave a training on “SMIIC Procedures for the Technical Work and SMIIC Information System (IS) for TAJIKSTANDARD, AZSTAND, SON, BSTI, YSMO, SOBS, UNBS, and UZSTANDARD Staff, virtually on 27 February 2023, within the project framework of “Orientation of Members to SMIIC activities”.

The training aimed to give brief information on the procedures followed in the preparation of OIC/SMIIC Standards, and guide the SMIIC IS users with their defined roles in technical committee work by the relevant documents of SMIIC.

6. Training on OIC/SMIIC 6:2019- Particular Requirements for the application of OIC/SMIIC 1 to places where Halal food and beverages are prepared, stored, and served.

SMIIC organized the OIC/SMIIC 6 Foundation Training in English on 13-24 March 2023 virtually. 71 participants from SMIIC member states (Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bangladesh, Guinea, Gambia, Gabon, Iran, Iraq, Indonesia, Jordan, Malaysia, Niger, Palestinian, Russia, Senegal, Suriname, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Tunisia, Tajikistan, and the United Arab Emirates) attended the training and included:

- Introduction to SMIIC and its activities
- Introduction to OIC/SMIIC 6
- Requirements and Implementation of the OIC/SMIIC 6:2019
- Evaluation Test

7. Training on OIC/SMIIC 9:2019 Halal Tourism Services

SMIIC conducted the OIC SMIIC 9:2019 Halal Tourism Services foundation training in English virtually from 15-16 March 2023. 55 participants from SMIIC member states attended the training which is the first in the halal tourism sector.

The training aimed to give the foundation knowledge regarding halal tourism, and requirements for tourism industry players in setting up an assurance system to preserve the integrity of products and services provided for Muslim travelers and included:

- Introduction to SMIIC and its activities
- Introduction to OIC/SMIIC 9: 2019 Halal Tourism Services
- Requirements and Implementation of the OIC/SMIIC 9:2019 Halal Tourism Services
- Evaluation Test

Private Sector Training Courses

SMIIC General Secretariat has launched this year a plan for industrial community and beneficiaries training courses to encourage the use and promotion of the OIC/SMIIC Halal Standards in the world.

The plan for this training course is available on the SMIIC website and it will include OIC SMIIC 1, 2, 9, 4, and OIC SMIIC 1 Islamic affairs expert and Halal Auditor trainings.

- 1) 3 days training on **OIC SMIIC 1:2019- General Requirement for Halal Food-Foundation Training** was conducted virtually on 06-08 March 2023 and attended by 19 participants from all industries and interested parties who are producing/working in halal services and also from OIC and non-OIC Countries (Belgium, Brazil, Denmark, Hungary, Indonesia, Italy, Lithuania, South Korea, Uzbekistan, and the United Kingdom).
- 2) 3 days training on **OIC/SMIIC 1, 2, and 24- Foundation Training** was virtually organized for Japan Halal Association staff on 03-05 April 2023.
- 3) 3 day training on the **OIC/SMIIC 2:2019 Conformity Assessment – Requirements for Bodies Providing Halal Certification** was held virtually and attended by 41 participants from different industry and interested parties who are producing/working in halal services and also from OIC and non-OIC Countries (India, Denmark, Italy, Indonesia, Taiwan, New Zealand Belgium, China, Malaysia, Germany, and the UK)

B. 8th World Halal Summit and 9th OIC Halal Expo

8th World Halal Summit (WHS) under the theme of: “For Sustainable Trade: Explore All Aspects of the Growing Global Halal Industry” was held during 24-26 November 2022 in Istanbul; simultaneously with 9th OIC Halal Expo (26-27 November 2022).

The 8th World Halal Summit was participated by 69 high-level speakers from 19 different countries bringing together experts from all over the world to discuss key issues related to the global halal industry. The 9th OIC Halal Expo housed 446 domestic and foreign companies from 39 different countries.

The World Halal Summit and the 9th OIC Halal Expo was a successful event which hosted 31,905 visitors from 117 countries.

C. SMIIC Academy

The SMIIC Academy is being established, and research has been conducted to determine the most effective learning software programs. Moodle, a widely used program, has been selected, The SMIIC Academy logo has been designed, and the website been prepared.

The Academy will provide various types of training programs, including Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), e-learning, blended learning programs, technical webinars, and more. Ten introductory MOOCs on SMIIC standards are currently being prepared, and work has started on developing e-learning materials.

Online trainings have been ongoing since 2021. In addition, meetings have been held with the GSO Academy and a visit to the EIAC Academy was made to learn about their systems and experiences and explore potential collaborations. The Academy is also evaluating partnerships with relevant universities to enhance the scientific content of its training programs. The SMIIC Academy is scheduled to be launch during the next 18th SMIIC GA meeting.

D. Halal Experts Pool

SMIIC General secretariat has started an initiative to establish the Halal Experts Pool which aims at increasing the participation and contribution of halal experts to the preparation of the initial draft of new standards related to the different halal sectors. The Halal Experts Pool is formed in accordance with the SMIIC Directives, Part 1 Procedures for The Technical Work (Clause 1.9 Working Groups / 1.9.1 paragraph 5) which states:

“A WG may comprise restricted number of experts individually appointed by the P-members and liaison organizations, brought together to deal with the specific task allocated to the WG. The General Secretariat may also appoint expert(s) in coordination with the convener of the related WG”.

In this context, General Secretariat has set the criteria and announced this pool to the member states on 17/2/2023 and around 60 experts have applied so far. The experts from the member states, universities, research institutes, factories, and governmental bodies are most welcome to apply for this pool with which the process is expected to be faster and more efficient to develop high quality standards.

E. Website developments

i) SMIIC IS Upgrade Project - Completed

As you all know, updating software is a crucial aspect of any organization's technical infrastructure since it ensures that systems remain secure, efficient, and up-to-date with the latest industry standards. The recent upgrade of SMIIC Information System (SMIIC IS) from version 8 to version 10 of the Laravel framework is a prime example of the importance of software updates.

With the upgrade, SMIIC IS now benefits from enhanced functionality, improved performance, and increased security measures. This not only helps to improve the overall user experience, but also ensures that SMIIC IS remains a reliable and secure tool for its users.

ii) SMIIIC Registration Project – Ongoing

By acknowledging the challenges of organizing face-to-face meetings that involve participants from different countries including process of visa letters, arranging hotel accommodations, and transfers can be time-consuming and complicated.

To address these challenges, we have initiated a new project for the Registration of Meeting Participants. This application will streamline the registration process, making it easier for participants to provide necessary information and for organizers to manage the logistics of the event. Overall, this project is a significant step towards improving the effectiveness of SMIIIC's administrative and technical committee works, and demonstrates.

F. COMCEC Project Funding - 2022-SMIIIC-006 Project

SMIIIC will be conducting an activity based project about the new OIC/SMIIIC Standard number 25 which gives different laboratory methods to detect non-halal materials in food and OIC/SMIIIC 35 which deals with the management of halal laboratories. The training will inform the participants about the development of OIC/SMIIIC standards, and the steps necessary for their adoption in their countries. This will help the implementation of the 32nd COMCEC Ministerial Session policy recommendation "Strengthening SMIIIC for the Adoption of Harmonized Standards for the Development of Quality Infrastructure in the OIC for Enhancing Intra-OIC Trade". The project aims at improving human capacity in Laboratories Performing Halal Testing Developing unified laboratories methods for porcine detection in food and cosmetics for OIC countries

SMIIIC TC1 halal food issues committee established TC1 Working group 1 in 2019 the aim of this working group is to create a Test Method for the detection of porcine in cosmetics products and food. there are different levels of validation for any test method (e.g. in-house validation, inter-laboratory validation) the goal of this group is to do proficiency testing by interlaboratory comparison. this will result in 2 new OIC/SMIIIC halal standards: OIC/SMIIIC 25 Test Method for detection of porcine in food products and cosmetics, and OIC/SMIIIC 26 Test Method for detection of ethanol in food products and cosmeticsthe 4 days of training comprehensive to different porcine detection methods. 10 countries, 20 laboratories, and 70 lab technicians will be benefited from this training. the majority of these countries don't have a national system for non-halal detection and this project will help them build their halal-quality infrastructure. The training will be followed by a seminar to announce all lab comparison results. a report about halal laboratories in OIC countries will be launched during this seminar. also during the training 5 short films will be shot and will be used as a practical manual for future training and online training. after this training 10 member countries will have the same harmonized halal standard used for halal laboratories OIC/SMIIIC 35 and different methods to use for non-halal detection in food, meat, gelatin, and processed food.

The project is the 1st of its kind for Laboratories Performing Halal Testing and it will build a unified system in the OIC countries for porcine and non-halal detection methods. The

Foundation training on “OIC/SMIIC 35:2020 Conformity Assessment - General Requirements for the Competence of Laboratories Performing Halal Testing” standard will prepare the lab to be accredited according to OIC/SMIIC 35.