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ACTIVITIES****THE SESSIONAL COMMITTEE APPRECIATES THE
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The Fourth Sessional Committee Meeting, held on 13 June 2004 prior to the 31st ICFM, was attended by the OIC General Secretariat, COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO), SESRTCIC, IDB, ICCI and OISA. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Nabika Diallo, Assistant Secretary General of OIC.

After adopting its Agenda, the Committee was briefed on the OIC General Secretariat's and CCO's efforts in contacting the member countries regarding the status of cooperation projects. It was agreed that a report on the status of the implementation of the OIC Plan of Action would be discussed during the Sessional Committee Meeting to be held during the Twentieth Session of the COMCEC in November 2004.

Thereafter, the SESRTCIC representatives briefed the Committee on the Centre's efforts towards the implementation of the cooperation projects and submitted the following documents:

- Directory of Banks and Financial Institutions in OIC Member Countries
- Progress Report on the Project concerning the regular and systematic collection and dissemination of detailed data and information on money, banking and finance.

- Progress Report on the Project concerning the development of a joint transportation scheme for the land-locked OIC member States.
- Progress Report on the Projects concerning compilation of a directory of Muslim experts in the field of money, banking and finance and a directory of banks and financial institutions.

The Committee expressed its high appreciation of the work done by the Centre and went on to review the preparations for the OIC Economic Conference to be held concurrently with the 20th Session of the COMCEC in November 2004 at a ministerial level within the framework of the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the COMCEC.

THE CENTRE COMPILES A DIRECTORY OF UNIVERSITIES IN THE OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES

Considering the low level of the technological base in the OIC countries, the need for sharing resources and experiences among universities and research centres in the Islamic countries has become more urgent than ever. In this respect, the establishment of various modalities for technical cooperation between universities of the member countries and the promotion of the role played by the specialised academics would undoubtedly serve the

fast and effective attainment of this objective.

As a practical contribution towards the said ultimate goal, the Ankara Centre has compiled a Directory of Universities in the OIC member countries to help establish useful interaction and fruitful cooperation among them. The Directory has been made available on the Centre's Web site and its content will be kept updated on a regular basis.

OIC NEWS

FOREIGN MINISTERS ELECT NEW OIC SECRETARY GENERAL

The Thirty-first Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Progress and Global Harmony) was held in Istanbul on 14-16 June 2004. SESRTCIC was represented at the Conference by H.E. Ambassador Erdinç Erdün, Director General, Mr. Jalel Chouchane, Director of Publications Department and Coordinator of Administrative and Financial Affairs, and Mr. Kamuran Malatyalı, Coordinator of Technical Activities.

His Excellency Ahmet Necdet Sezer, President of the Republic of Turkey,

delivered the inaugural address which was followed by the speeches of the representatives of the three regional groups of the OIC, African, Asian and Arab Groups. The Conference proceeded on with the addresses of H.E. Dr. Kamal Kharrazi, Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Chairman of the 30th ICFM, and His Excellency Dr. Abdelouahed Belkeziz, Secretary General of the OIC.

Following the adoption of the Agenda, the Conference proceeded to discuss its respective agenda items in four Committees: Political, Legal, Information,

Muslim Communities and Minorities and Islamic Boycott Affairs Committee; Economic, Social and Science and Technology Affairs Committee; Cultural and Islamic Affairs Committee; and Administrative and Financial Affairs Committee.

After reviewing the activities of the OIC in the economic field, the Economic and Social Affairs Committee deliberated on a number of resolutions for strengthening economic and commercial cooperation among the member countries.

The Administrative and Financial Affairs Committee took up the Report of the 32nd Session of the Permanent Finance Committee and the 24th Session of the Finance Control Organ, the Proposed Budgets of the General Secretariat and subsidiary organs for the Financial Year 2004/2005. After deliberations, the Committee adopted the said Financial Reports and the recommendations

contained therein, including the budget proposal of SESRTCIC for the Financial Year 2004/2005 and its Final Accounts for the Financial year 2002/2003. The Committee also entrusted SESRTCIC with the task of preparing a new scale of the percentage shares of mandatory contributions of the member States to the annual budgets of the OIC organs.

The Foreign Ministers elected H.E. Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, the candidate of Turkey, as the new OIC General Secretary for a four-year term starting on 1 January 2005. The conference also elected Sudan, Iran and Cameroon to the post of Assistant Secretaries General for a four-year term starting from 1 July 2005.

At the Closing Session, the Conference adopted its Final Communiqué and the resolutions drafted by the said Committees, and agreed to hold its 32nd Session in the Republic of Yemen.

THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE COMCEC REVIEWS THE PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OIC PLAN OF ACTION

The Twentieth Meeting of the Follow-Up Committee of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation among OIC Countries (COMCEC) was held in Istanbul on 11-13 May 2004. The Meeting was inaugurated by H.E. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Abdullatif Şener, Minister of State and Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey. Then, the representative of the Turkish Presidency delivered the message of H.E. Ahmet Necdet Sezer, President of the Republic of Turkey and Chairman of the COMCEC, which was followed by the message of the OIC Secretary General, H.E. Dr. Abdelouahed Belkeziz, delivered on His behalf by H.E. Ambassador Thierno Nabika Diallo, the OIC Assistant Secretary General for Economic Affairs.

H.E. Ambassador Erdiñ Erdün, Director General, Mr. Kamuran Malatyali, Coordinator of Technical Activities, and Mr. Oker Gürler, Director of Economic and Social Research Department, represented the Centre at the Meeting. The Centre distributed to the Meeting a report on its activities for the period 2003/2004.

Upon adoption of the Agenda, the Background Report of the OIC General Secretariat was introduced by H.E. Ambassador Nabika Diallo after which representatives of the OIC institutions also provided brief information about their activities.

While reviewing the state of progress in the implementation of the OIC Plan of Action,

the Committee considered the Report of the Sessional Committee which convened on 10 May 2004, and requested the General Secretariat to send a reminder to the Member States requesting them to send their replies by 30 September 2004 so that a progress report could be submitted to the 20th Session of the COMCEC, scheduled to take place on 23-26 November 2004 in Istanbul.

After considering the Report of the Trade Negotiating Committee for Establishing

Trade Preferential System (TPS) among the OIC Member States, the Committee urged the participating countries to communicate, before September 2004, their views on the Negotiation Strategy for TPS-OIC as adopted at the meeting.

After extensive deliberations, the Committee approved the Draft Agenda of the Twentieth Session of COMCEC to be held in Istanbul on 23-26 November 2004.

MEETING OF THE THIRD SESSIONAL COMMITTEE

The Meeting of the Sessional Committee prior to the Twentieth Meeting of the Follow-Up Committee of the COMCEC was held in Istanbul on 10 May 2004. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Ambassador Nabika Diallo, the OIC Assistant Secretary General for Economic Affairs.

The OIC General Secretariat, COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO), SESRTCIC, ICDT, ICCI, IDB, and OISA attended the Meeting. A delegation from the Republic of Turkey also participated in the Meeting. The SESRTCIC was represented thereat by Mr. Kamuran Malatyali, Coordinator of Technical Activities and Mr. Oker Gürler, Director of Economic and Social Research Department. The Centre distributed an Aide Memoire on Project Proposals in the Field of Foreign Trade.

The Committee reviewed the status of the cooperation projects tabled within the OIC Plan of Action. It was also briefed on the

steps taken so far by the OIC institutions, specifically on the projects sponsored by them. It was concluded that for country-specific projects, the OIC General Secretariat and the COMCEC Coordination Office would call upon the sponsoring countries to reconfirm their interest in the projects. The Member States are expected to respond before the end of September and a report shall be submitted to the Twentieth Session of the COMCEC.

Furthermore, the Committee underlined the importance of nominating coordinators for all the projects proposed by the OIC institutions after responses have been received from the Member States.

The Committee was briefed by the representatives of the CCO and ICDT about the first meeting of the Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) held in Antalya on 6-9 April 2004, and the efforts and work done by the TNC Secretariat.

OTHER MEETINGS

EXPERTS INVESTIGATE BETTER WAYS TO PROMOTE FINANCIAL COOPERATION AMONG IDB MEMBER COUNTRIES

An Experts Group Meeting on “Enhancing the Capacity of Financial Markets to Promote Intra-Investment among Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Member Countries” was held at IDB headquarters in Jeddah on 26-27 June 2004. 17 participants from Bahrain, Indonesia, Jordan, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sudan, Turkey, the Islamic Centre for the Development of Trade (ICDT) and the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector, an affiliate of the IDB, attended the meeting. Mr. Murat Ilkin, Researcher, represented the Centre thereat. The main purpose of the Meeting was to brainstorm on practical ways and means to achieve greater financial cooperation among IDB member countries, and to enhance the operational and institutional capacity of financial markets in OIC countries to efficiently mobilise resources and attract both domestic and financial investors.

More specifically, the main themes of the meeting were:

- Financial Markets Development and Cooperation between IDB Countries, and
- The Evolving Islamic Financial Infrastructure: Opportunities and Challenges.

The discussion of the subjects related to the said themes and the presentations made provided a good opportunity for the participants to exchange experiences and views. At the Closing Session, they agreed on a set of recommendations among which was a suggestion made to IDB to create a Task Force, including public and private institutions, to focus on enhancing the capacity and integration of stock markets in the member countries.

CENTRE'S AGENDA FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2004

JULY

5-6 July 2004, Second Meeting of the Group of Experts on the Establishment of an Islamic Common Market, Tehran, Iran.

13-15 July 2004, Eleventh OIC-UN General Coordination Meeting, Vienna, Austria.

25-28 July 2004, Regional Workshop on "Promoting LADA Programme in Western Asia and the Near East", Damascus, Syria.

AUGUST

6-7 August 2004, International Seminar “Developed Islamic State - A Model”, Penang, Malaysia.

SEPTEMBER

14-16 September 2004, Workshop on "Trade and Transport Facilitation among the OIC Member States", Islamabad, Pakistan.

ANKARA CENTRE PUBLICATIONS

Latest Publications

InfoReport, vol. 16 no. 57, 2004 (Arabic, English and French editions).

Journal of Economic Cooperation Among Islamic Countries, English, vol. 25 no. 2, 2004.

WHAT'S NEW IN THE CENTRE LIBRARY

For a more complete listing of the Library Acquisitions visit:
<http://www.sesrtcic.org/library/sesliacq.shtml>

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