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## **UPDATE ON ANKARA CENTRE ACTIVITIES**

### **DIRECTOR GENERAL UNDERTAKES OFFICIAL VISITS TO THE LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA AND MOROCCO**

Ambassador Erdinç Erdün, Director General, and Dr. Abdel Rahman Zeinelabdin, Assistant Director General, made an official visit to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya from 10-13 January 2001. The main purpose of the visit was to explore the ways and means of enhancing co-operation between Libya and the Centre.

In the contacts made, the Director General and Dr. Zeinelabdin explained in detail the mandate of the Centre and its activities. The Libyan authorities expressed their support to the Centre and its activities. They commended the pivotal role played by the Centre in enhancing co-operation among OIC Countries through its widely disseminated publications and documentation in the area of Research and Statistics. The Training and Technical Co-operation activities of the Centre were equally appreciated. The authorities expressed the desire and hope that co-operation between the Centre and the various Government units would be enhanced. There was a clear emphasis on the necessity of enhancing co-operation in the area of Training and Technical Co-operation. The Director General assured the Libyan authorities of the readiness of the Centre to intensify and develop co-operation with Libya in all fields.

Moreover, and within the coordination activities, Ambassador Erdinç Erdün framework of the Centre's attended the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Islamic Centre for the Development of Trade (ICDT), which was held in Casablanca on 23-24 January 2001.

## **OIC NEWS**

### **THE ISLAMIC COMMISSION COMMENDS THE CENTRE'S PROGRESS AND APPROVES ITS BUDGET**

The 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs was held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, from 10 to 14 February 2001. Delegations from 36 OIC Member States attended the Meeting. The OIC General Secretariat, SESRTCIC, Islamic Centre for the Development of Trade (ICDT), the Islamic Institute of Technology (IIT), the Islamic Research Centre for History, Culture and Art (IRCICA), the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), the Islamic Scientific, Educational and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO), the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and the Organisation of Shipowners' Association (OISA) also attended the Meeting. Director General Ambassador Erdinç Erdün and the Director of Economic and Social Research Department Mr. Oker Gürler represented SESRTCIC at the Meeting.

As the Joint General Assembly of the Subsidiary Organs of the OIC, the Islamic Commission took up their activities and their Proposed Budgets for the Financial Year 2001/2002. In this context, it expressed its appreciation for the Centre's success in realising its work programme in all fields, and commended the in-depth studies presented by the Centre to the 27<sup>th</sup> ICFM, the 16<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC, the 9<sup>th</sup> Session of the Islamic Summit Conference, the First OIC Ministerial Conference on Tourism and the Expert Group Meeting on the Establishment of the Islamic Common Market. Then, the

Commission adopted the Report of the Director General on the Activities of the Centre. Furthermore, it considered the Final Accounts of the Centre for the Financial Year 1999/2000 and its Proposed Budget for 2001/2002, including its Work Programme, and recommended their submission to the Permanent Finance Committee. The Commission recommended that support be extended to the OIC Organs and Institutions and called on Member States to settle their mandatory contributions to the budgets of the subsidiary organs on a regular basis.

The Commission then resumed its proceedings as the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs. In this capacity, it considered a number of issues concerning the OIC member countries in these fields. Finally, it adopted draft recommendations on these issues for their submission to the 28<sup>th</sup> ICFM.

In the economic field, the Commission took up a number of issues relating to the economic problems facing member countries, the international financial architecture, the multilateral trading system, the implications of the establishment of regional and international economic groupings, the economic problems of the least developed countries, the external debt and poverty problems, and the establishment of an Islamic Common Market. In this connection, it is to be noted that SESRTCIC presented 8 reports to the Commission on these subjects.

In addition to the earlier assignments, the Commission assigned the following new task to the Centre: "to undertake necessary studies on a mechanism for the possible establishment of an Islamic Stock Exchange Union and a Stock Clearing House as well as to develop Islamic financial instruments acceptable to investors from the standpoint of the Shariah".

On the sidelines of the Meeting of the Islamic Commission, the Centre's delegation held a meeting on 9 February 2001 with Mr. Mohanna Abdulkarim Al-Mohanna, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Ankara Centre, General Manager of Population and Social Statistics, and Director of National Income at the Central Department of Statistics, Ministry of Planning, Saudi Arabia, to review the activities of the Centre. They considered, inter alia, the implementation of the recommendations of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Board of Directors, including the preparations to be made in celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Centre. Furthermore, they discussed modalities to increase co-operation with international and regional organisations, in particular the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), the Arab League and the United Nations Economic

and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

Furthermore, on the invitation of the OIC General Secretariat, a Consultative Meeting of the relevant OIC organs was held on 11 February 2001 in Jeddah to consider the Draft Agenda of the Expert Group Meeting for Accelerating the Implementation of the OIC Plan of Action for Economic and Commercial Co-operation, to be held on 6-7 May 2001 in Istanbul. The meeting discussed the possible contributions to be made by the various OIC institutions and agreed on the timetable for their respective assignments.

Moreover, on the invitation of the IDB, an informal Consultative Meeting on Enhancing Co-operation between the OIC institutions involved in the fields of economics, trade and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) was also held in IDB Headquarters in Jeddah on 11 February 2001. Participants agreed that such meetings were useful and should be convened on a regular basis, maybe twice a year, during the annual sessions of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs and the COMCEC. The Agenda of these meetings will be finalised through consultations with the participating OIC institutions.

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**OIC PERMANENT FINANCE COMMITTEE APPROVES CENTRE'S FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS AND RECOMMENDS THEIR ADOPTION BY THE FORTHCOMING SESSION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS**

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The Permanent Finance Committee of the OIC held its Twenty-ninth Session in Jeddah on 24-27 March 2001.

The Session was attended by representatives from thirty Member States, the General Secretariat and the subsidiary organs. Ambassador Erdinç Erdün, Director General, Dr. A. Zeinelabdin, Assistant Director

General, and Mr. Jalel Chouchane, Deputy Director of Publications Department, represented SESRTCIC at the Meeting.

At the Opening Session, H.E. Dr. Abdelouahed Belkeziz, the Secretary General of the OIC, made a statement in which he welcomed the participants and expressed his personal interest in the work

of the Committee and the major role it plays within the OIC system.

The Meeting, then, elected its Bureau and adopted its agenda as follows:

- Review of the 21<sup>st</sup> Report of the FCO on the Closing Accounts of the General Secretariat and the subsidiary organs for the Financial Year 1999/2000;
- Proposed Budgets of the General Secretariat and the subsidiary organs for the Financial Year 2001/2002;
- Consideration of some studies which the 28<sup>th</sup> Session requested the General Secretariat to undertake;
- Arrears of contributions of Member States;

- Any other business.

In this context, Ambassador Erdinç Erdün, Director General, made a statement in which he presented the Closing Accounts of SESRTCIC for the Financial Year 1999/2000 and its Proposed Budget, including its Work Programme, for the Financial Year 2001/2002. Both documents have been approved and recommended for adoption by the forthcoming 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers. Meanwhile, the Sudanese Delegation informed the Committee that the Sudan would soon start paying its annual contributions to the SESRTCIC.

## **OTHER MEETINGS**

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### **DIRECTOR GENERAL AWARDED MEDAL IN RECOGNITION OF HIS EFFORTS FOR THE PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF STATISTICAL SCIENCES**

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The Islamic Society of Statistical Sciences (ISOSS) was established during the First Islamic Countries Conference on Statistical Sciences, held in Lahore on 27-31 August 1988 with these main objectives: to bring together research workers and practitioners in statistical sciences from all over the world, to set up and strengthen a statistical information system and to promote the application of statistical sciences. Since its establishment, the Society has been regularly organising biennial conferences in collaboration with institutions in various Islamic Countries.

Ambassador Erdinç Erdün, Director General, and Ms. Aslı Güveli, Chief of Statistics Section, attended the Seventh

Islamic Countries Conference on

Statistical Sciences, held on 2-5 January 2001 in Lahore, Pakistan.

Thirty-six delegates from all over the world participated in the Conference and presented scientific papers. The University of Lahore, the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO), the Pakistan Science Foundation, and the United Nations Population Fund were among the sponsors of the Conference.

After the Inaugural Session, the Director General delivered a keynote address in which he pointed out the urgent need for an enhanced cooperation among the OIC member countries in order to cope with the vast developments taking place on the global level. In this connection, he

highlighted SESRTCIC's role in following the statistical activities in the OIC member countries, and observed with satisfaction that there was a sizeable statistical activity going on in the Member States. He also said that the Ankara Centre was continually working to enhance the exchange and flow of information among National Statistical Organisations (NSOs) of the OIC. Finally, he mentioned that the Internet was becoming the most efficient way of data collection and dissemination, and that the web casting of the NSOs through the Internet was beneficial for individuals as well as groups that needed such data for their projects. In this context, the Director General pointed out that the web site of the Centre was already making available frequently updated data and information about itself, the OIC as a whole and the individual OIC member countries.

The Executive Board of the ISOSS, and the Award Committee of the Conference decorated Director General Ambassador Erdiñç Erdün with the ISOSS Gold Medal in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the development and promotion of statistical sciences during

his fruitful professional career. Moreover, the Executive Board of the ISOSS and the Award Committee of the Conference decorated Ms. Aslı Güveli with the "ISOSS Award" in recognition of her contribution to the development and promotion of statistical sciences. These awards were given to them during the Inauguration Ceremony of the Conference.

On the second day of the Conference, Ms. Aslı Güveli presented her paper on "Ranking of the Islamic Countries According to their Socio-Economic Indicators". In this study, the comparative

development of the Islamic Countries is investigated for the year 1998. A set of indicators, defined as measures of social and economic development are selected and the Islamic Countries are ranked and grouped according to these indicators using the Principal Component Analysis. At the end of the study, an attempt is made to compare this ranking list with the available UNDP country ranking list based on the Human Development Index. A question-and-answer session followed the presentation and the author answered the queries to the satisfaction of the audience.

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### **32<sup>nd</sup> SESSION OF THE STATISTICAL COMMISSION OF THE UN REVIEWS ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN IN ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS**

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The 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the UN Statistical Commission was held in New York from 6 to 9 March 2001. It was attended by 24 Member States of the Commission, observers from other Member States of the United Nations, representatives of organisations of the United Nations System and observers from inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations. Dr. Mohammad Qamarul Islam, Acting Director of Statistics and Information Department, represented the Centre at the Meeting.

The Commission reviewed the ongoing work in economic, social and environment statistics undertaken by groups of countries and international organisations. Among the programmes discussed and approved the following deserve a particular mention: the human settlements statistics programme carried on by UNCHS, the new approach to the System of National Accounts developed by the Inter-secretariat Working Group, ILO's work on labour statistics, the work of the Siena Group for Social Statistics, the World Bank programme for credible

International Comparison (ICP) and the work of the Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classification.

The Commission also reviewed the progress made towards completion of the Handbook of Statistical Organisations that will cover all levels of statistical development in all regions of the world. Note was also taken of the progress made by the UNSD in developing web sites on the global integrated presentation of the work of the international organisations in statistical methodology, good practices in official statistics and the United Nations Economic and Social Information System (UNESIS) common data base for global statistics.

The Commission endorsed the Work Programme for 2002/2003 and the expert group meetings and workshops to be held by UNSD in 2001.

The Commission restated its view that international statistical agencies should pay adequate attention to coordination and integration of their work and that a regular programme review of selected fields of statistics should be carried out.

In the final session, the Commission recommended that the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Commission be held in New York from 5 to 8 March 2002. A provisional agenda

was distributed. It includes such areas/topics as population and housing censuses, Paris Group's work on poverty statistics, Siena Group report on health statistics, business survey frames, informal sector statistics, statistical capacity building and information technology and E-commerce, etc.

The Commission adopted the draft Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services prepared by an inter-agency Task Force. It also accepted the invitation by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to serve as the inter-governmental focal point for the review of conference indicators.

In order to introduce our Centre, its activities and performance to the participants in the meeting, Mr Qamarul Islam arranged for some informative material about our databases, web site and publications to be displayed on the information/distribution desk inside the meeting hall. He also took advantage of the opportunity offered by the Meeting to make contacts with representatives of different countries and national and international organisations. Most fruitful among these were the contacts made with Mr. Shahid Hussain, Senior Adviser at the Permanent Observer Mission of the OIC to the UN.

## **CENTRE'S AGENDA FOR THE SECOND QUARTER OF 2001**

### **APRIL**

3-5 April 2001: 4<sup>th</sup> Session of ESCWA Statistical Committee, Beirut.

23-26 April 2001: Seminar on "WTO Dispute Settlement Mechanism, Anti-Dumping and Safeguards Agreements", Kuala Lumpur.

### **MAY**

5-16 May 2001: Workshop on "Sustainability Issues and Environmental Impact Considerations in the Planning and Analysis of Agricultural Investment Projects", Kuwait.

6-7 May 2001: Expert Group Meeting on Accelerating the

Implementation of the OIC Plan of Action, Istanbul.

9-10 May 2001: 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Follow-Up Committee of the COMCEC, Istanbul.

29 May-1 June 2001: 12<sup>th</sup> Session of the High Level Committee on the Review of TCDC, New York.

## JUNE

25-29 June 2001: 28<sup>th</sup> Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (ICFM), Bamako.

27-29 June 2001: Workshop on Challenges and Reforms of Economic Regulations, Cairo, Egypt.

## **ANKARA CENTRE PUBLICATIONS**

### Latest Publications

Journal of Economic Cooperation, Arabic edition, 2001.

Directory of Training and Research Institutions in the OIC Member States, web edition.

Journal of Economic Cooperation, Volume 22, Issue No.1.

Documents for the Expert Group Meeting on the Implementation of the OIC Plan of Action for Economic and Commercial Cooperation.

Documents for the 29<sup>th</sup> Permanent Finance Committee.

## **WHAT'S NEW IN THE CENTRE LIBRARY**

### Latest Acquisitions

Adams, Richard H., The Politics of Economic Policy Reform in Developing Countries. Policy Research Working Paper, 2443. Wash., D.C., The World Bank, September 2000.

Alderman, Harold et al, Attrition in Longitudinal Household Survey Data: Some Tests for Three Developing-Country Samples. Policy Research Working Paper, 2447. Wash., D.C., The World Bank, September 2000.

Alier, Max and Dimitri Vittas, Personal Pension Plans and Stock Market Volatility. Policy Research Working Paper, 2463. Wash., D.C., The World Bank, October 2000.

Bigman, David and Hippolyte Fofack, Geographical Targeting for Poverty

Alleviation: Methodology and Applications. World Bank Regional and Sectoral Studies. Wash., D.C., The World Bank, October 2000.

Campbell, J. Gabriel and Alejandra Martin, Financing the Global Benefits of Forests: The Bank's GEF Portfolio and the 1991 Forest Strategy. A Review of the World Bank's 1991 Forest Strategy and Its Implementation. World Bank Operations Evaluation Department. Wash., D.C., The World Bank, 2000.

Dehn, Jan, The Effects on Growth of Commodity Price Uncertainty and Shocks. Policy Research Working Paper, 2455. Wash., D.C., The World Bank, September 2000.



Denizer, Cevdet, Foreign Entry in Turkey's Banking Sector, 1980-97. Policy Research Working Paper, 2462. Wash., D.C., The World Bank, October 2000.

Essama-Nssah, B. and James J. Gockowski, Cameroon: Forest Sector Development in a Difficult Political Economy. Evaluation Country Case Study Series. World Bank Operations Evaluation Department. Wash., D.C., The World Bank, 2000.

Evans, Alison, Poverty Reduction in the 1990s: An Evaluation of Strategy and Performance. World Bank Operations Evaluation Department. Wash., D.C., The World Bank, 2000.

Gauthier, Bernard, Isidro Soloaga and James Tybout, A Firm's-Eye View of Policy and Fiscal Reforms in Cameroon. Policy Research Working Paper, 2442. Wash., D.C., The World Bank, September 2000.

Handbook on Census Management for Population and Housing Censuses. Studies

in Methods, Series F No. 83, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Statistics Division. New York, United Nations, 2000.

Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting: An Operational Manual. Studies in Methods; Handbook of National Accounting, Series F No. 78, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Statistics Division, UNEP, New York, United Nations, 2000.

Kane, Edward J., Designing Financial Safety Nets to Fit Country Circumstances. Policy Research Working Paper, 2453. Wash., D.C., The World Bank, September 2000.

Links Between Business Accounting and National Accounting. Studies in Methods, Handbook of National Accounting, Series F No. 76, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Statistics Division. New York, United Nations, 2000.

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