

**CENTRE PUBLICATIONS 7****IN THIS ISSUE****ANKARA  
CENTRE UPDATE**

- **DIRECTOR GENERAL'S  
OFFICIAL COUNTRY VISITS  
TO EGYPT AND SYRIA** 1
- **THE WORLD BANK  
DEPOSITORY LIBRARIES  
PROGRAM** 2

**OIC NEWS**

- **26<sup>TH</sup> ISLAMIC CONFERENCE  
OF FOREIGN MINISTERS** 3
- **2<sup>ND</sup> MEETING OF THE TASK  
FORCE ON TRAINING BY  
IDB** 3

**OTHER MEETINGS**

- **CONFERENCE ON "ISLAMIC  
ECONOMICS TOWARDS THE  
21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY"** 4
- **CO-ORDINATION MEETING OF  
ISLAMIC ECONOMICS  
INSTITUTIONS** 4
- **THE 52<sup>ND</sup> SESSION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL  
INSTITUTE** 4
- **THE 65<sup>TH</sup> IFLA CONFERENCES** 5
- **THE 6<sup>TH</sup> ISLAMIC  
CONFERENCE ON  
STATISTICAL SCIENCES** 6
- **UNICEF-ICDC TECHNICAL  
MEETING** 7

**UPCOMING EVENTS** 7**LIBRARY**

8

## **UPDATE ON ANKARA CENTRE ACTIVITIES**

### **DIRECTOR GENERAL AMBASSADOR ERDİNÇ ERDÜN MAKES OFFICIAL VISITS TO EGYPT AND SYRIA**

SESRTCIC's Director General Ambassador Erdinç Erdün and Assistant Director General Dr. Abdelrahman Zeinelabdin made official visits to Egypt and Syria between 31 August and 8 September 1999.

The main purpose of the visit to Egypt, which took place from 31 August to 3 September 1999, was to explore the ways and means of enhancing the already existing cooperation between various Government Units in Egypt and the Centre. Ambassador Erdinç Erdün and Dr. Zeinelabdin visited the Deputy Assistant of the Foreign Minister in charge of OIC and International Organisations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the President of CAPMAS, and the First Under-secretaries at the Ministry of International Cooperation, the Ministry of Planning and the Ministry of Economy. In the contacts made, it was encouraging to note that the authorities visited were well-informed about the Centre and its activities. The authorities

expressed their appreciation and support for the Centre and its activities. They commended its endeavours to increase the awareness of the necessity of enhancing cooperation among OIC Countries through its widely disseminated publications and documents in the areas of Economic Research and Statistics. The Training and Technical Cooperation activities of the Centre were equally appreciated.

At the Foreign Ministry, the Centre was lauded for having some of the best databases available within the OIC family and for the usefulness of the technical papers and reports it presents to various OIC fora. It was suggested that the Centre might launch a series of studies on the impact of the World Trade

Organisation on various sectors. The problems of mergers at the global level and their impact on OIC countries and the reasons why there are no mergers at the OIC level might also be studied.

The authorities at the Ministries of International Cooperation, Planning and Economy as well as CAPMAS expressed the desire and hope that cooperation between the Centre and the various government units be enhanced in a more structured manner. There was a clear emphasis on the necessity of enhancing cooperation in the area of Training and Technical Cooperation and a request to put those units, which are not already there, on the Centre's mailing list. The Centre was requested to establish contacts with some of the leading Research Institutes in Egypt such as the Faculty of Economics and the Statistical Institute of Cairo University, the Cairo Demographic Centre and the Institute of National Planning. The Director General assured these authorities of the readiness of the Centre to intensify cooperation with Egypt in all fields and that all efforts will be made to ensure that data and information will be supplied to them as requested.

During the visit to Syria from 4 to 8 September 1999, the Institutions and persons visited were: H.E. the Minister of Finance, the Director of International Organisations and the Director of the Economic Department at

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Director of Technical and Scientific Cooperation at the State Planning Commission and the Deputy Director General of the Central Bureau of Statistics.

The main purpose of the visit was to explore the ways and means of enhancing cooperation between Syria and the Centre. In the contacts made, the mandate of the Centre and its activities were explained in detail. The Syrian authorities expressed their appreciation and support of the Centre and its activities. They commended its endeavours to increase the awareness of the necessity of enhancing cooperation among OIC Countries through its widely disseminated publications and documents in the areas of Economic Research and Statistics. The Training and Technical Cooperation activities of the Centre were equally appreciated.

The authorities, however, expressed the desire and hope that cooperation between the Centre and the various Government Units would be enhanced in a more structured manner. There was a clear emphasis on the necessity of enhancing cooperation in the area of Training and Technical Cooperation. Ambassador Erdün assured the authorities of the readiness of the Centre to intensify cooperation with Syria in all fields within the limits of the financial and human resources available to the Centre.

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### **THE WORLD BANK DEPOSITORY LIBRARIES PROGRAM**

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The SESRTCIC Library has been acting as The World Bank's depository library since 1985. On 15 September 1999, the Centre received a letter from the Marketing Manager of the Office of the Publisher at the World Bank, Mr. Alan Donovan, indicating that SESRTCIC will keep its full World Bank depository library status. This was decided

after about 230 returned application questionnaires had been evaluated. According to this decision, the SESRTCIC Library will continue receiving one copy of each title published by the Office of the Publisher. It will also be responsible for providing outside users access to The World Bank's publications.

## OIC NEWS

### 26<sup>TH</sup> ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS REVIEWS OIC ACTIVITIES

The 26<sup>th</sup> Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (ICFM), Session of Peace and Partnership for Development, was held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, from 28 June to 3 July 1999. Director General Ambassador Erdiñ Erdün, Assistant Director General Dr. Abdelrahman Zeinelabdin and Director of the Research Department Mr. Oker Gürler represented SESRTCIC at the Conference.

The 26<sup>th</sup> Session of the Islamic Conference was attended by the Member States of the OIC and by some states with observer status, namely Bosnia-Herzegovina, Central Africa, Ivory Coast, Thailand, the Turkish Muslim Community of Kibris and Moro National Liberation Front. It was also attended by the subsidiary, specialised and affiliated institutions of the OIC, some International and Regional Organisations and some Islamic Foundations and Societies. The Conference was opened by H.E. Blaise Compaore, President of Burkina Faso. H.E. Dr. Azeddine Laraki, the Secretary General of the OIC, then gave an extensive address on the activities of the OIC. The Conference was divided into four committees on a) Political and Information Affairs, b) Economic and Social Affairs, c) Cultural and Islamic Affairs, d) Administrative and Financial Affairs. Each committee took up the agenda items relevant to its field of interest.

After reviewing the activities of the OIC in the economic field, the Economic and Social Affairs Committee first decided to take up the related draft resolutions in groups. However,

due to the complexity of the issues being examined, the Committee decided to take them up one by one. At the end of the deliberations, the Committee adopted the relevant resolutions.

The Meeting decided that the Ankara Centre's studies on Regional and International Economic Groupings and the Effects of the Launching of the Euro on the Economies of the Member States would be submitted to the 15th COMCEC Meeting in Istanbul, which will be held from 4 to 7 November 1999.

The Administrative and Financial Affairs Committee discussed and approved the Report of the 27<sup>th</sup> Session of the Permanent Finance Committee and the Budgets of the OIC General Secretariat and the Subsidiary Organs for the financial years 1998/1999 and 1999/2000. The Committee also took up some organisational matters.

On 1 July 1999, the SESRTCIC delegation also attended the Celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB). H.E. Blaise Compaore, President of Burkina Faso, inaugurated the ceremony. Dr. Ahmed Mohamed Ali, President of the IDB, delivered a speech marking the special character of this event. After the opening ceremony, an IDB representative gave a presentation on the Financial Activities of the IDB.

The 26th ICFM reviewed and adopted its Final Communiqué together with its Annexes.

### 2<sup>ND</sup> MEETING OF THE TASK FORCE ON TRAINING COORDINATES TRAINING ACTIVITIES OF PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Task Force Meeting on Training organised by the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) was held on 30 June 1999 in

Ouagadougou. It was attended by the SESRTCIC, the Islamic Centre for the Development of Trade (ICDT), the Islamic

Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), and the Islamic Institute of Technology (IIT). Mr. Oker Gürler, Director of the Research Department of SESRTCIC, presented the Centre's Training Programme Proposals. The Meeting agreed, inter alia, to request the institutions concerned to send to the IDB by

the end of July 1999 a full and detailed statement of their proposed programmes, including for each the budget, the cost sharing arrangement, the beneficiary countries, the venue and the co-operating agencies other than the IDB. During the deliberations, it was also recommended that the Ankara Centre might publish the training programmes of the regional and international institutions either as a separate section in its publication "Training Opportunities" or as a separate publication.

## **OTHER MEETINGS**

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### **ISLAMIC RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE (IRTI) AND INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA (IIUM) ORGANISE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON "ISLAMIC ECONOMICS TOWARDS THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY"**

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Upon the invitation of the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) and the Islamic Research and Training Institute (IRTI), the Director General Ambassador Erdiņ Erdün attended the International Conference on Islamic Economics in the 21st Century held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 9 to 12 August 1999.

During the Conference, which was attended by 223 participants most of whom were Malaysians, 22 presentations were made and four panel meetings were held. The following themes were particularly discussed at length: growth and development in the OIC region; critical survey of contemporary writings; banking and finance; and socio-economic institutions of Zakah and Awqaf.

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### **COORDINATION COMMITTEE OF RESEARCH, TEACHING AND TRAINING INSTITUTIONS MEETS, WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF ITS FOUNDING MEMBERS**

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In its capacity as the Secretariat of the Coordination Committee of Teaching and Research Institutions in the Islamic Conference, and on the sidelines of the Conference on Islamic Economics, IRTI organised a coordination meeting with the participation of the founding members of the

Committee. Ambassador Erdün represented SESRTCIC during this meeting as one of the founding members. The main topic of the meeting was how to revitalize the Coordination Committee which was supposed to convene regularly.

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### **THE 52<sup>ND</sup> SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL INSTITUTE BRINGS TOGETHER PARTICIPANTS FROM 15 OIC COUNTRIES**

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The 52<sup>nd</sup> Session of the International Statistical Institute (ISI) was held in Helsinki,

Finland, from 10 to 18 August 1999. The ISI is one of the oldest international scientific associations functioning in the modern world.

It was established in 1885 and its predecessor, the International Statistical Congress (ISC), was founded in 1853. The Institute is an autonomous society which seeks to develop and improve statistical methods and their application through the promotion of international activity and cooperation.

The ISI is composed of some 1900 elected individual members who are the world's leading statisticians. The membership is drawn from over 120 countries and their accumulated experience represents a vast store of technical knowledge which covers the entire range of official, applied and theoretical statistics. This reservoir of expertise is supplemented by about 3000 members of the Institute Sections, which are associations and societies. In total, there are about 5000 individual members in the ISI and its associations which provide a forum for the international exchange of knowledge between members and also aim to bring in their members' expertise to assist in finding practical solutions to some of the world's problems.

The Permanent Office of the ISI is located in the Netherlands. The Institute has a consultative status at the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

SESRTCIC was represented by Mrs. Aslı Güveli in this Conference, which included participants and presentations on academic

statistics, statistical offices and business life. The spectrum of the subjects covered was wide and comprehensive. The Helsinki Session had the highest number of participants: 2100 from 103 countries.

Sixteen OIC countries attended the meeting. These were Egypt, Gambia, Guinea, Indonesia, Iran, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mozambique, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Turkey and Uganda. The number of participants from those countries reached a total of 43, the largest attendance being from Iran, Turkey and Nigeria.

The most important achievement of this meeting was that it brought together people from different areas of work fields. During the session, participants were able to meet and exchange information about topical questions, which will advance the unity of statistics and statistical methods, as this is important for economics as well as science.

The Conference encouraged international cooperation and association between statisticians and enhanced their professional knowledge and expertise. It also favoured the international integration of statistics. The next ISI world conference will be held in Seoul in 2001 and the one after in Berlin in 2003.

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### **THE 65<sup>TH</sup> IFLA CONFERENCE PROPOSES THAT THE INTERNATIONAL LIBRARY COMMUNITY COMMITS ITSELF TO BUILDING A MORE ENLIGHTENED WORLD**

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Upon the invitation of the Thai Library Community, the 65<sup>th</sup> General Conference of the International Federation of Library Association and Institutions (IFLA) was held in Bangkok from 20 to 28 August 1999. Mrs. Nuray Tiryaki, Librarian of the Centre, represented SESRTCIC in this Conference.

Founded in 1927, the International Federation of Library Association and Institutions is an independent non-governmental association

that has formal associate relations with UNESCO. The aims of IFLA are to promote international understanding, cooperation, discussion, research and development in the areas of library activity and information

science, and to provide a body through which librarianship can be represented in matters of international interest. The Federation currently has more than 1,500 members from 140 countries.

IFLA's conference and exhibition is the biggest international event for professionals in the library and information sector. The meeting offered an excellent opportunity for thousands of delegates and experts in library and information from all over the world to exchange ideas and experiences as well as introduce new innovations and products.

In the information era, the library must transcend its present role as producer and purveyor of knowledge and information by acting as a gateway to a wide range and variety of information resources and services. This requires the recognition that quantity and availability do not necessarily guarantee quality and desirable information. In this information environment, libraries have to do more than act as hosts. As agents of change, they have a role to play in converting data into information, information into knowledge, and knowledge into wisdom by providing the means to seek a better future, an increasingly more enlightened world where such universal aspirations as peace, social and economic justice, intellectual freedom, respect for human dignity and rights and a healthy social

and natural environment are reinforced, enhanced and converted into reality.

On the threshold of the twenty-first century when a new and hopefully enlightened era can begin, library and information professionals would take up challenges to provide the means for a better world.

The 65th IFLA Conference in Thailand proposed that the international library community commits itself to meet the challenges of building a more enlightened world by focusing on the quality of its collection, contents and services, reaching out to all levels and groups of society, ensuring equitable access to knowledge, and strengthening its position in the dynamic global information market place.

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### **THE SIXTH ISLAMIC CONFERENCE ON STATISTICAL SCIENCES EXAMINES A WIDE RANGE OF THEORETICAL AND EMPIRICAL ISSUES**

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The Islamic Society of Statistical Sciences (ISOSS) was founded in 1987 when statisticians from Islamic countries all over the world came together in Lahore, Pakistan, for the First Islamic Countries Conference on Statistical Sciences. All the participants in that meeting were considered to be pro rata founding members of ISOSS. The SESRTCIC was represented by two experts and, ever since, the Centre has been an active supporter of both the ISOSS and the conferences it has been organising. The papers and proceedings of the First Islamic Countries Conference on

Statistical Sciences have been printed at the Centre's premises.

Mr. Candan Baysan, Chief of Statistics Section of the Centre, attended the Sixth Conference that was held from 27 to 31 August in Lahore, Pakistan. The opening ceremony took place on 26<sup>th</sup> and was followed immediately by an invited presentation on the theory of quintiles with extension to linear and autoregression models. Each of the following three days had two plenary sessions where similar invited presentations on theoretical issues were made and several

conference room sessions on the empirical treatment of various statistical issues

concerning the Islamic countries took place. The latter included topics on statistical inference, sociometrics, sampling procedure, multivariate analysis, forecasting models, population studies, economics and econometrics, information technology, quality management, education, agrometrics, statistics in engineering, price/supply of essential items and biometrics. They were held in three different conference rooms in two sessions each morning and afternoon. Altogether 27 sessions were held and Mr. Baysan was asked to chair one of the sessions on economics and econometrics. The last day of the Conference, called the "Business Session", was devoted to bilateral and multilateral discussions among the participants and the interested businesses of the sector in Lahore.

The invited presentations during the three days of the Conference were entitled:

- Measuring the degree of poverty in a dynamic comparative context: A multi-dimensional approach using fuzzy set theory;
- Rank tests for the two-sample and the change point problems with samples of random size;
- Total quality leadership: What is it and how do successful leaders do it?;
- Job stress and employee well-being: A cross-cultural empirical study;
- Component reduction in linear discriminant analysis;
- On meta-analysis with special reference to medicine.

The Conference was held together with the 12<sup>th</sup> All-Pakistan Statistical Conference and,

therefore, the majority of close to 300 participants were from Pakistan. Although a joint meeting of the official delegations of some National Statistical Organisations (NOS) was also called during the afternoon of the opening day, only the delegates from Iran, Pakistan and Surinam were present along with the representatives of ISOSS and our Centre. Mr. Baysan was given a chance to call for better cooperation between the Centre and the NOS.

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### **UNICEF-ICDC MEETING DISCUSSES THE MEDITERRANEAN PROJECT**

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The International Child Development Centre (ICDC) of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) held a Technical Meeting in Florence, Italy, from 9 to 13 September 1999.

The Meeting aimed at discussing a working

methodology for the Mediterranean Project. Mrs. Aslı Güveli, Chief of External Relations Department, represented SESRTCIC in this Meeting. The project aimed at setting up a monitoring system of the children's situation in eight countries of the South Mediterranean basin, namely, Algeria, Egypt, Jordan,



Morocco, Lebanon, Syria, Palestine and Tunisia. The project aims at creating a process of recognising regional level problems and improving capacities to identify and address

issues relevant to the rights and well-being of children and women at national and regional levels. At this point, their intention is to regularly gather data on a series of specific indicators from each country.

The Ankara Centre was invited to the meeting to present a paper about the SESRTCIC database, the methodology of data collection and the most common problems encountered in the Mediterranean area. Other participants also presented their experiences about data collection systems and related problems, especially about social indicators on children and women in these countries. Therefore, the Meeting also provided a means of information exchange among the participants.

## **CENTRE'S AGENDA FOR THE LAST QUARTER OF 1999**

13-15 **October** 1999: 22nd Meeting of the Board of Directors of SESRTCIC in Ankara.

6-14 **November** 1999: 20<sup>th</sup> Session of the Finance Control Organ in Jeddah.

4-7 **November** 1999: 15<sup>th</sup> COMCEC Meeting in Istanbul.

## **ANKARA CENTRE PUBLICATIONS**

### **Latest Publications**

*Journal of Economic Cooperation*, Vol. 20, No. 3; *Inforeport*, Vol. 11, No. 38;

*Infosesrtic*, Vol. 11, No. 38; Documents for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Board of Directors.

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

### **Latest Acquisitions: Selected List**

AOYAMA, Atsuko. **Toward a Virtuous Circle: A Nutrition Review of the Middle East and North Africa.** Human Development Network, Health, Nutrition, and Population Series. Wash., D.C., The World Bank, August 1999.

BUCKLEY, Robert. **1998 Annual Review of**

**Development Effectiveness.** World Bank Operations Evaluation Department. Wash., D.C., The World Bank, 1999.

EBRILL, Liam, Janet Stotsky and Reint Gropp. **Revenue Implications of Trade Liberalization.** Occasional Paper, 180. Wash., D.C., International Monetary Fund, 1999.

FREDRIKSSON, Per G. (Edited by). **Trade,**

**Global Policy, and the Environment.** World

Bank Discussion Paper, 402. Wash., D.C.,  
The World Bank, August 1999.

**Project Finance in Developing Countries.**  
Lessons of Experience, 7. Wash., D.C.,  
International Finance Cooperation, 1999.

TOWNSEND, Robert F. **Agricultural  
Incentives in Sub-Saharan Africa: Policy  
Challenges.** World Bank Technical Paper,  
444. Wash., D.C., The World Bank, August  
1999.

**Trade in Textiles of OIC Member States.**  
Casablanca, Islamic Centre for Development  
of Trade, 1999.

**Turkey's Window of Opportunity:  
Demographic Transition Process and its  
Consequences.** TUSIAD Publication No-  
T/99-3-254. Istanbul, Turkish Industrialists'  
and Businessmen's Association, March 1999.

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