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ACTIVITIES****EXPERTS GROUP MEETING ON POVERTY FOCUSES
ON THE ROLE OF POVERTY STATISTICS AS A TOOL
FOR RELATED POLICIES FORMULATION**

An Experts Group Meeting on Poverty Statistics was convened in Beirut, Lebanon, on 10-12 September 2002. The Meeting was organised jointly by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the Ankara Centre. 43 participants and experts from 14 member countries and various related United Nations agencies attended the Meeting. Mr. Enver Hakan Konaç, Acting Director of the Technical Cooperation Department, represented the Centre at the Meeting.

The Meeting aimed at sharing the experiences and concerns of the member countries and the UN agencies concerning poverty as well as issues of measurement and use of poverty statistics. It also attempted to identify the indicators and statistical sources that best measure poverty in the member countries with a view to helping the participants report on the progress in achieving the target of poverty mitigation set by the United Nations Millennium Summit.

The four main issues on the agenda of the Meeting were: reviewing poverty measurement work of the United Nations agencies; highlighting related data needs and availability in ESCWA member countries, particularly through country papers; studying the strengths and weaknesses of poverty statistics sources; and using poverty statistics as a tool for policy formulation.

OIC NEWS

FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE SECOND ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF TOURISM PROPOSES A PERMANENT SETUP TO ADDRESS ISSUES OF TOURISM

The Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the Second Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 5-6 September 2002. It was attended by senior officials from Ministries of Tourism in twenty member countries as well as representatives of the General Secretariat of the OIC and its related subsidiary, specialised and affiliated organs. Mr. Nabil Md. Dabour, Chief of Social Research Section, represented the Centre at the Meeting to which he submitted a working paper entitled "Problems and Prospects of Sustainable Tourism Development in the OIC Countries with Special Reference to Ecotourism".

At the Inaugural Session, a welcome speech was made by Mr. Shahril bin Saat, Deputy Secretary-General, Ministry of Culture, Arts and Tourism, Malaysia. Then, the OIC Assistant Secretary General for Economic Affairs, H.E. Nabika Diallo, took the floor and read the message of H.E. the Secretary General in which He stated that the main objective of the Meeting was to propose means and modalities, as well as some practical measures, for the implementation of the Kuala Lumpur Programme of Action to be presented to the Third Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism scheduled to be held in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 6-9 October 2002.

H.E. Hon. Datuk Paduka Abdul Kadir bin Sheikh Fadzir, Minister of Culture, Arts and Tourism of Malaysia, delivered an inaugural address in which he said that there was a need to have a common vision to

make tourism a catalyst for socio-economic growth and development of the Member States. He stressed that this vision could only be realised through a well-coordinated, active and systematic effort to implement the resolutions adopted at the ministerial meetings on tourism. In this regard, he offered to have a permanent setup, in Kuala Lumpur, to address issues of tourism to be financed by the Government of Malaysia and the private sector and he sought the support of the Member States for this proposal.

After the adoption of the Agenda and Work Programme, the OIC General Secretariat, the Ankara Centre, the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) and the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) presented background reports and papers before the Committee.

The Meeting, thereafter, divided into three parallel Sessions to discuss the three main areas of co-operation in tourism elaborated in the Kuala Lumpur Programme of Action, namely Tourism Facilitation, Tourism Marketing, and Research and Training.

The end results of the deliberations were elaborated in three matrices and attached as annexes to the Final Report of the Meeting which was adopted by the Committee for consideration by the Third Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism.

The Committee also noted the proposal of Malaysia for the establishment of a Centre for the Promotion of Tourism to serve as a mechanism for the implementation of all

approved specific programmes elaborated in the Kuala Lumpur Programme of Action. It also noted with appreciation the confirmed

offer by the Republic of Senegal to host the Fourth Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism in 2004.

OTHER MEETINGS

WORKSHOP ON PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENTS IN THE OIC COUNTRIES AND THE ROLE OF THE ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK FORWARDS A SET OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMCEC

In accordance with a Resolution adopted by the 17th Session of the COMCEC, the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) organised, in co-operation with the State Planning Organisation (SPO) of the Republic of Turkey, a Workshop on Private Sector Investments in the OIC Member Countries and the Role of the IDB.

The Workshop was held in Istanbul on 14-16 September 2002 and attended by delegates from nineteen member countries of the OIC as well as delegates from Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus as observers, and from the Republic of Macedonia as guest. The related subsidiary, specialised and affiliated organs of the OIC as well as some international organisations and institutions also attended the Workshop. Mr. Oker Gürler, Co-ordinator of Technical Activities, and Ms. Bahar Bayraktar, Research Assistant, represented the Centre at the Workshop.

Mr. Şevki Eminkahyagil, Deputy Undersecretary of the State Planning Organisation of the Republic of Turkey, inaugurated the Workshop. In his address, he stated that within the framework of the OIC Plan of Action, the COMCEC is attaching an increasing importance to the development and the consolidation of co-operation among the private sector of the member countries. He also expressed his confidence that the Workshop will provide

a good platform whereby the experiences on various incentives for the development of the private sector will be shared, and the representatives of the private sector will have the opportunity to be closely acquainted with the various private sector financing entities of the Islamic Development Bank.

On behalf of the Ankara Centre, Ms. Bahar Bayraktar submitted a paper to the Workshop entitled "The Role of Private Sector Investments in the Economic Performance of OIC Member Countries". The paper emphasises the main issues and challenges facing the developing countries, including the OIC countries, in their efforts to obtain the level of investments required for sustainable growth and development. It also discusses the effects of various factors such as macroeconomic policies, incentives and institutional setup on the efficiency of investments and concludes by identifying the policy implications and initiatives that may be taken to stimulate private sector investment.

Following the presentation of the various papers and the related discussions, the Workshop agreed on a set of Recommendations aimed at improving the private sector investments in the member countries and enhancing the role of the IDB in this regard and decided to submit them to the Eighteenth Session of the COMCEC scheduled to convene in Istanbul on 22-25 October 2002.

CENTRE'S AGENDA FOR THE LAST QUARTER OF 2002

OCTOBER

- 1-2 October/Ankara: Twenty-fifth Meeting of the Centre's Board of Directors.
- 2-3 October/Ankara: Preparatory Meeting of Statistical Experts for the Fourth Meeting of the Heads of the National Statistical Organisations of the OIC Member Countries.
- 6-9 October/Riyadh: Third Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism.
- 22-25 October/Istanbul: Eighteenth Session of the COMCEC.
- 25-29 October/Istanbul: Twenty-fifth Anniversary Celebrations, Nineteenth General Assembly and Thirty-eighth Executive Committee Meetings of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
- 28-30 October/Jeddah: Consultative Meeting of OIC Member Countries to

Discuss and Evaluate the Results of the Doha Conference and Its Effects on OIC Countries, and to Prepare for the Forthcoming Trade Negotiations.

NOVEMBER

- 1-5 November/Rabat: Workshop on Drought Mitigation.
- 2-16 November/Jeddah: Twenty-third Session of the Finance Control Organ of the OIC.

DECEMBER

- 16-18 December/Cairo: First Conference of Arab Forum on Human Development.
- 21-24 December/Bahrain: Eighth Islamic Countries' Conference on Statistical Sciences.

ANKARA CENTRE PUBLICATIONS

Latest Publications

Infoport, vol.14, issue no. 50, Arabic, English and French editions.

Journal of Economic Cooperation among Islamic Countries, English vol. 23, issue no. 3, 2002.

Basic Facts and Figures on OIC Member Countries, 2002.

Meetings Documents and Papers

Workshop on Irrigation Advisory and Training Services in the Near East Region, Tunis, Tunisia, 13-16 May 2002

The Role of Irrigation in Food Production and Agricultural Development in the Near East Region.

Tenth OIC-UN General Co-ordination Meeting, Vienna, 9-11 July 2002

Information Report 51/October 2002 5

Technical Co-operation Activities of the OIC Institutions within the Framework of OIC-UN Co-operation.

Workshop on Private Sector Investments in the Member Countries and the Role of the Islamic Development Bank, Istanbul, Turkey, 14-16 September 2002

The Role of Private Sector Investments in the Economic Performance of OIC Member Countries.

WHAT'S NEW IN THE CENTRE LIBRARY

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**THE WORLD BANK POLICY
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PRWP; 2823 / Servén, L. *Real Exchange Rate Uncertainty and Private Investment in Developing Countries.*

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Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC).
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