



info REPORT

Volume 21

Number 79

October 2009

≈ ANKARA CENTRE UPDATE

Director General of SESRIC Visited International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)	2
Brainstorming Workshop on 'Enhancing Economic and Commercial Cooperation among the OIC Member Countries'	2
Training Course in Azerbaijan.....	3

≈ OTHER MEETINGS

MEDSTAT II - Training Task Force	4
First Meeting of the Committee for Statistical Training.....	5
Fourteenth Session of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA).....	5

≈ UPCOMING EVENTS

ANKARA CENTRE UPDATE

Director General of SESRIC Visited International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

Dr. Savas Alpay, Director General of the SESRIC, visited the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Geneva on July 3, 2009. During his visit to ITU, he met Mr. Hamadoun Toure, Secretary General of ITU and conducted a fruitful discussion on the possibilities of sharing and exchanging statistical data related to ICT and the cooperation between the two institutions in the capacity building activities in ICT statistics, particularly for the National Statistical Organizations (NSOs) of the OIC Member States. They also agreed on exchanging statistical and other publications and inviting each other to the activities, such as conferences and workshops organized by their institutions, especially to the activities related to the technical cooperation for reducing the digital gap in the least developed member countries.

Dr. Alpay also offered an invitation for the ITU to attend and participate in the International Conference on E-government: Sharing experiences, which will be organized by the SESRIC in collaboration with the E-government Centre of the Public Administration Institute for Turkey and the Middle East (TODAIE), the Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on 8-11 December 2009 in Turkey.

Dr. Alpay also visited the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Geneva, Switzerland on June 30, 2009. During his visit he conducted a meeting with Mr. Francis Gurry, Director General of WIPO, where they discussed and exchanged views on the possible ways and means of collaboration and cooperation between the two institutions, particularly in the areas of research, statistics and technical training.

Brainstorming Workshop on 'Enhancing Economic and Commercial Cooperation among the OIC Member Countries

The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) organized a brainstorming session on 20-21 July 2009 in Istanbul, Turkey, within the framework of the research project entitled "Enhancing Economic and Commercial Cooperation among the Member Countries of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC)". This project was initiated by the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) of

the OIC and is being implemented by the SESRIC.

The aim of the project is to activate and enrich the Agenda of the COMCEC annual Ministerial Sessions with a view to enhancing and accelerating the pace of economic and commercial cooperation among the OIC Member Countries and achieving more tangible end-results.

The main objective of this project is to develop new concrete, feasible and practical

proposals for increasing and enhancing commercial cooperation and investment among the OIC Member Countries besides focusing on potential areas of cooperation in trade and investment including, but not limited to, agriculture and tourism sectors. These proposals will be prepared in light of the current state and level of cooperation among the OIC Member Countries in these areas while considering the current and prospected global developments and challenges as well as the relative agenda of other intergovernmental and international organizations.

The workshop brought together a number of experts and eminent figures from the OIC Member Countries and relevant international and regional institutions. The participants have come out with an extended list of recommendations and project proposals on various areas and sectors of immediate interest to the OIC Member Countries ranging from food,

agriculture and rural development, through industry, foreign trade, tourism, transportation and communications, money, banking and capital flows, technology and technical cooperation, human resources development to services. “Seed Improvement and Production Centre in OIC Region”, “OIC Commodities Market”, “Platform of OIC Capital Market Authorities”, “Unification of Customs and Standardization of Documents in Border Crossings and Shipments” are some of the proposed projects.

These detailed recommendations and project proposals of the workshop on these areas and sectors are provided in the report titled: “Enhancing Economic and Commercial Cooperation among OIC Member Countries” published in 2009 by SESRIC, and also available in electronic format accessible through the Publications Section at the <http://www.sesric.org> web site.

Training Course in Azerbaijan

The Centre organized a training course on “Computer Science: Management of Database” at the State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan, on September 28-29, 2009. The course was provided by Mr. İlker Güven, expert from the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) of the Republic of Turkey and attended by 10 staff members of the State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The training course on “Computer Science: Management of Database” mainly covered the following subjects:

- ▶ Information Processes in TurkStat
- ▶ Database Administration
- ▶ Configuration of Database and Patch Updates
- ▶ Database Design

- ▶ Startup/Shutdown of Database
- ▶ User Rights Management
- ▶ Database Security, Backup and Recovery Issues
- ▶ Performance Parameters and Evaluation of Performance
- ▶ SQL (Structured Query Language) Usage and Performance
- ▶ Control of Database Table and Indices

The training course was accomplished following the assessment of the responses the Centre had received on its specially designed Questionnaire on Statistical Capacity Building Programme (CBP) circulated to the National Statistical Organizations of the OIC Member Countries. The training course has, thus, contributed towards raising the statistical

capacity and performance of the State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan on “Computer Science: Management of Database.”

For more information regarding the StatCaB Programme, please visit the electronic page available at:
http://www.sesric.org/train_cbp.php.

OTHER MEETINGS

MEDSTAT II - Training Task Force

The Third Task Force Training of MEDSTAT II was held on July 14-15, 2009 in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey. It was an event within the second phase of the MEDSTAT Programme of the European Union, which was established as a result of the Barcelona Conference held in 1995. MEDSTAT I was implemented from 1996 to 2003 and MEDSTAT II was launched in 2006 for a 45 – month period.

MEDSTAT aims to respond to the needs of the association agreements, particularly in relation to free trade, sustainable development and social development. It contributes to the supply of statistical information that is useful in monitoring the progress of Euro-Mediterranean co-operation.

Its objective is to harmonise statistical methods in line with European and international norms and standards and to improve the coherence of data in the Mediterranean partner countries as well as their comparability with the statistical data of the EU and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries.

MEDSTAT also aims to improve the quality of services provided to users by the national statistics institutes and the other partner bodies involved in the production of statistics. The provision of up-to-date, reliable and relevant high-quality statistical data is vital for political decision - making and to ensure good governance.

Since January 2006, MEDSTAT II has been working on extending the qualitative work already done by organising training and contributing technical resources to the information systems of national institutes and other statistical producers in the Mediterranean countries.

Special attention is paid to the coherence of data, to their harmonisation and dissemination in nine statistical sectors: trade in goods and services, transport, migration, tourism, environment, national accounts, social statistics, energy and agriculture.

Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey are the OIC Member Countries that are partners of this programme.

Dr. Sıdıka Başçı, Director of the Statistics and Information Department of the SESRIC represented the Centre during the Third Task Force Training of MEDSTAT II. There, she made a presentation on the training activities of the Centre in the area of Statistics. Representative of MEDSTAT II, Mr. D. Afza evaluated the training programmes of 2007, 2008 and 2009. Moreover, he briefed on the experiences of training of trainers and e-learning. Representative of EFTA, Mr. G. Gamez made a presentation on the synergies with international donors active in statistical training. Representatives of Morocco and Palestine described their training systems and projects within their institutions.

First Meeting of the Committee for Statistical Training

The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) participated in the First Meeting of the Committee for Statistical Training organized by the League of Arab States in accordance with the recommendation of the 33rd Meeting of the Standing Technical Committee for Statistics. The Meeting was held at the Headquarters of the League of Arab States in Cairo during the period 4-6 August 2009.

The Meeting was attended by the National Statistical Organizations (NSOs) of seven Arab states namely, Egypt, Jordan, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Yemen. The General Secretariat of the League of Arab States, the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS), and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) also attended the Meeting.

Mr. Nader Jamil Abdulhamid represented SESRIC at the Meeting and presented a paper titled "Overcoming Problems Facing Statistical Training in the Arab Area". The paper focused on challenges facing statistics and statistical training in the Arab area and on investigating ways and means of overcoming those challenges. In doing so, the paper built in general on the situation dominating most of the member states of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) which is, to a large extent, valid for the Arab area as well. Mr. Abdulhamid briefed the participants about the role of SESRIC in statistical capacity building. Participants were specifically briefed on the StatCaB Programme, TROP Project, OIC Statistical Working Group, and the First Meeting of the NSOs.

The Fourteenth Session of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA)

Hosted by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA) held its fourteenth Session in Bangkok, Thailand, on September 9-11, 2009. The session was jointly chaired by the two Co-chairs of the Committee - Mr. Paul Cheung, Director of the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and Mr. Pieter Everaers, Director of External Cooperation, Communication and Key Indicators of Eurostat. Representatives of the member institutions of the CCSA participated to the Session. Dr. Savaş Alpay represented the SESRIC during the Session.

The Committee held a special session on Governance of the Global Statistical System

and the role of CCSA. The purpose of the session was: (i) to increase awareness about global statistical projects and to discuss what role the CCSA could play in their implementation; (ii) to find a better balance between formal and informal coordination mechanisms; (iii) to review and better define the scope of areas of effective cooperation for CCSA, especially with respect to new statistical developments; (iv) to discuss whether a modified governance structure was necessary, especially for the implementation of statistical standards.

The Committee then took notes of the below reports prepared by the different CCSA member institutions:

- ▶ Report of the Task Team on Population Estimates (UN Population Division)
- ▶ Use of non-official data in imputations/estimations made by the International Organizations (World Trade Organization)
- ▶ Reporting Mechanism on Statistical Capacity Building Activities - Report of Task Team 1: Partner Report on Support to Statistics (PRESS) (PARIS 21 Secretariat)
- ▶ Modalities of data sharing among international organizations (European Central Bank)
- ▶ 2010 Conference on Data Quality for International Organizations
- ▶ Guidelines for the implementation of the quality assurance frameworks for international and supranational organizations compiling statistics (Eurostat)
- ▶ International Statistical Processes Assessment Checklist (Eurostat)
- ▶ Celebration of the World Statistics Day (UNSD)
- ▶ SDMX (Eurostat)

Under the item of other business, the following issues discussed:

- ▶ Inventory of Global Statistical Standards
- ▶ Global Geographic Information Management
- ▶ Development of an internationally agreed National Quality Assurance Framework (NQAF)
- ▶ Informal Coordination Mechanism Initiative in the ESCAP region
- ▶ Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Tourism Statistics
- ▶ Statistics for Result Facility (SRF)
- ▶ 41st Session of the UN Statistics Commission
- ▶ Directory of Statistical Organizations

The Committee agreed that its fifteenth session would be held in New York in the morning of 22 February 2010, back-to-back with the 41st Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission.

More information and the Final Report of the 14th Meeting of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities are available at: <http://unstats.un.org>

UPCOMING EVENTS

FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 2009

October

- ▶ Meeting of the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the Member Countries of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) on: 'Impacts of the Current Crisis on OIC Member Countries', October 3, 2009, Istanbul, Republic of Turkey
- ▶ Formulation of the Unified Statistical Strategy of the GCC States Workshop, October 5-7, 2009, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman
- ▶ Training Course in Yemen, October 12-14, 2009, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
- ▶ Training Course in the United Arab Emirates, October 12-14, 2009, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
- ▶ Workshop for the Arab Countries on Tourism Statistics and Tourism Satellite Account (TSA), October 12-15, 2009, Damascus, Syria

-
- ▶ 2nd Session of the 10th Meeting of OIC Standardization Experts Group (SEG) on 'Development of the OIC Halal Food Standard and the Procedures,' October 13-16, 2009, Istanbul, Republic of Turkey
 - ▶ International Investment Forum of Turkmenistan, October 15-17, 2009, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan
 - ▶ The 3rd Meeting of the OIC Member States' Stock Exchanges Forum, October 24-25, 2009, Istanbul, Turkey
 - ▶ 3rd OECD World Forum on Statistics, Knowledge and Policy, October 27-30, 2009, Busan, South Korea
 - ▶ Sub-regional Forum on the Implementation of Special Program for Development of Africa (SPDA) in West Africa, October 28-29, 2009, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
-

November

- ▶ 25th Session of COMCEC, November 5-9, 2009, Istanbul, Republic of Turkey
 - ▶ COMCEC Economic Summit, November 9, 2009, Istanbul, Republic of Turkey
 - ▶ Official Launch of OIC-VET, November 9, 2009, Istanbul, Republic of Turkey
 - ▶ OIC/COMCEC Business Forum, November 6, 2009, Istanbul, 2009
 - ▶ PARIS21 Consortium Meeting, November 16-18, 2009, Dakar, Senegal
-

December

- ▶ 5th Businesswomen Forum, December 2009, Cairo, Egypt
 - ▶ Parliament of the World's Religion on "Making a World of Difference: Hearing each other, Healing the earth", December 3-9, 2009, Melbourne, Australia
 - ▶ International Conference on eGovernment: Sharing Experiences (eGOVsharE2009), December 8-11, 2009, Antalya, Republic of Turkey
 - ▶ Ministerial Meeting on the OIC Dakar-Port Sudan Railway Line Project, December 9-10, 2009, Khartoum, Republic of Sudan
 - ▶ 38th Session of the Permanent Finance Committee (PFC), December 14-16, 2009, Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
 - ▶ International Scientific Conference of the Islamic World Academy of Sciences (IAS), December 14-17, 2009, Selangor, Malaysia
 - ▶ The Annual Conference of the Accounting and Auditing Organisation for Islamic Financial Institutions (AAOIFI) on Islamic Banking and Finance, 14-15 December 2009, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain
 - ▶ Expert Group Meeting on the Establishment of the OIC Development Assistant Committee, 22-23 December 2009, Ankara, Turkey.
-