Enhancing Employability in OIC Countries: The Role of Vocational Education and Training (VET) 

Occupational Safety and Health Capacity Building Programme (OSHCaB) of SESRIC
Increasing in unemployment rates

Millions of jobless workers (particularly poor and unskilled)

Young People faced greater challenges
The declining trend in worldwide average unemployment rates reversed during and after the crisis, with youth unemployment recorded higher levels.
Adult average unemployment rate of OIC countries decreased steadily from a level of above 6% in 2005 to slightly below 5% in 2008. Yet, in 2009 it reached 5.3%, a rate which is higher than the world average and the average of the DCs.
In recent years, unemployment rates were above the level of 10% in many OIC countries, and ranged between 7 to 11% in some major countries like Turkey, Indonesia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Egypt.
Youth unemployment rates are very high in many OIC countries. They reached above 30% in some countries like Tunisia, Egypt, Palestine and Albania.
Solutions to Unemployment

Economic growth and cut in real wages

Policies for reducing the supply of labor: e.g. work sharing, early retirement, reducing labor migration

Vocational Education and Training (VET) programs
Training was the most frequently used policy measure to mitigate the unemployment impact of the crisis.
<table>
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<th>Labour Market Policies (LMP)</th>
<th>High Income (HIC)</th>
<th>Middle Income (MIC)</th>
<th>Low Income (LIC)</th>
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<td>Subsidized and unsubsidized reduction in working hours</td>
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<td>Turkey</td>
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<td>Job / wage subsidies and cuts to employer social contributions</td>
<td></td>
<td>Malaysia, Turkey</td>
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<td>Public works programmes including employment guarantee schemes</td>
<td></td>
<td>Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Turkey</td>
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<td>Job search assistance and improved capacity of public employment services</td>
<td></td>
<td>Malaysia, Pakistan</td>
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<td><strong>Training</strong> (including on-the-job training), work experience and apprenticeship programmes</td>
<td>Bahrain, Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>Egypt, Indonesia, Malaysia, Morocco, Pakistan, Turkey</td>
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<td>Entrepreneurship incentives</td>
<td></td>
<td>Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Turkey</td>
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<td>Changes to unemployment benefit schemes</td>
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<td>Jordan</td>
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9 out of the 10 OIC countries, included in the ILO Survey, used training as a policy response to mitigate the impact of the crisis on labour market
Vocational Education and Training (VET) is one of the practices that can effectively contribute to capacity building and skill improvement of labour force, and, thus, enhancing employability.

According to ILO definition, VET is an educational activity with both theoretical and practical components directed to identifying and developing human capabilities for a productive and satisfying working life. It gives a greater emphasis on the practical side of developing and upgrading technical skills of workers and employees in preparation for a particular job.

VET programs could play a vital role in meeting the demand of the labour market through helping people to develop their skills and competence and, thus, increase their capabilities to continue in their jobs and/or to compete for other better job opportunities.

VET programs have a particularly positive effect on transitions into work for early school leavers. Empirical studies suggest that people, particularly young, who participate in post-school VET programs experience better employment outcomes through increasing their likelihood to be employed and get higher earnings compared to those who do not.
Initiated by SESRIC to improve the quality of vocational education and training in public and private sectors with the aim of improving the competencies and skills of the people according to the needs and priorities of labour markets through intra-OIC partnerships at institutional level.
The OIC-VET Programme has been officially launched by the COMCEC Economic Summit held in Istanbul on 9 November 2009.
Mechanism of OIC-VET Program

- Executing Organ (EO) [SESRIC]
- Monitoring and Advisory Committee (MAC)
- National Focal Points (NFPs)
Mechanism: Sub OIC-VET Capacity Building Programs

- Designing Questionnaire
- Relevant National Institutions
- Analysis of Responses
- Planning / Matching Needs and Capacities
- Implementation / Organizing Training Courses
Occupational Safety and Health (OSH)

- **Occupational safety and health (OSH)** encompasses the social, mental and physical well-being of workers in all occupations.

- Work-related accidents and diseases are common in all parts of the world and have many direct and indirect negative consequences for workers and their families.

- Workers and their families, other people in the community and the physical environment around the workplace can all be at risk due to poor working conditions and workplace hazards.

- Effective OSH programmes can help saving the lives of workers by reducing hazards and their consequences. They can also have positive effects on both worker morale and productivity, and can save employers a great deal of money.
Estimated number of occupational accidents and fatal work-related diseases (Latest data available)

In the world:
• Almost 340 million occupational accidents causing more than 4 days absence
• Almost 360 thousand fatal occupational accidents
• Almost 2 million fatal work-related diseases

In OIC countries
• More than 80 million occupational accidents causing more than 4 days of absence
• Almost 86 thousand fatal occupational accidents
• More than 390 thousand fatal work-related diseases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fatal occupational accidents</th>
<th>Fatality Rate per 100,000 workers</th>
<th>Occupational accidents causing &gt;= 4 days’ absence</th>
<th>Occupational Accident Rate per 1,000 workers</th>
<th>Fatal work-related diseases (2002)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>World Total</td>
<td>357,948</td>
<td>13.8</td>
<td>336,532,471</td>
<td>129.66</td>
<td>1,945,115</td>
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<td>OIC Total</td>
<td>85,939</td>
<td>15.86</td>
<td>80,799,012</td>
<td>149.13</td>
<td>390,445</td>
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Estimates indicate that occupational accidents are a serious problem in the world and the OIC countries, but the OIC countries suffer more from occupational accidents.
The relatively high share of fatal and non-fatal occupational accidents in OIC countries in the world total (24%) emphasizes the need for OSH education and training programmes in most of them.
Initiated within the framework of OIC-VET Program in early 2010 to address the need for improving the state of OSH in OIC member countries.

OSHCaB Program aims at identifying and implementing short-term OSH training programmes by matching the capacities and the needs of the OSH institutions in the member countries based on the responses of these institutions to the relevant survey of the Program. On some occasions, the Centre may also organize these training programs in collaboration with other international organisations.
**Main subjects of the OSHCaB Programme**

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<th>International OHS Regulations</th>
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<th>Occupational Safety</th>
<th>Occupational Health</th>
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<td>Health &amp; Safety Management System</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Industrial Hygiene</td>
<td>Machine Guarding</td>
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<td>Risk Assessment Methodologies</td>
<td>Indoor Air Quality</td>
<td>Confined Spaces</td>
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<td>Vibration</td>
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<td>Chemical Exposure</td>
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<td>OSH in the Construction Sector</td>
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Cooperation Project on OSH (Study Visit to ISGUM)
24 - 28 May 2010, Ankara, Turkey

The 1st step toward establishing a platform for OSH institutions in the member countries with the aim of partner-shipping, networking, sharing and exchanging knowledge, experience and best practices in this important field.

SESRIC has successfully initiated the first step within the framework of the OSHCaB Program, in cooperation with the Turkish Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (İSGÜM), by organizing a Cooperation Project on OSH in the premises of ISGUM during the period 24–28 May 2010, in Ankara, Turkey.

This has been realized through a work visit of a group of experts and directors of OSH institutions from 7 OIC Member Countries, namely Azerbaijan, Jordan, Libya, Malaysia, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Syria, to ISGUM. The Arab Labour Organization was also represented at this Project.
Training Course on “International OSH Regulations and Risk Assessment Methodologies”
13 - 15 December 2010, Ankara, Turkey

The course was delivered by an expert from the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) of Malaysia and attended by 15 staff members from the Turkish Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (İSGÜM)
Training Course on “Occupational Health and safety”
19 - 21 April 2011, Bandar Seri Begawan, Sultanate of Brunei Darussalam

This training course was organised at the Occupational Health Division of Ministry of Health of Brunei on 19-21 April 2011. The Course was provided by an expert from the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) of Ministry of Health of Malaysia, and was attended by 40 staff members of Occupational Health Division at Ministry of Health in Brunei.
Training Course on “Occupational Hygiene: Chemical Factors and Chemical Exposure”
25 - 27 April 2011, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman

This training course was organised at the Environmental and Occupational Health Department of the Ministry of Health of the Sultanate of Oman. The course was provided by an expert from the Centre for Occupational Health and Safety of the Republic of Turkey (İSGÜM), and was attended by 30 staff members of the Environmental and Occupational Health Department of Ministry of Health in the Sultanate of Oman.
Training Course on “Occupational Health and safety”
26 - 28 April 2011, Islamabad, Pakistan

This training course was organised at the Ministry of Labour and Manpower of Pakistan and provided by an expert from the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) of Ministry of Health in Malaysia. The course was attended by 25 staff members of the Ministry of Labour and Manpower of Pakistan.
Occupational Safety and Health Capacity Building Programme (OSHCaB)

Planned OSHCaB Training Courses in 2011

1. “Occupational Health, Occupational Diseases and Basic Occupational Health Services” in Bangladesh.


OIC-OSHNET is the first transnational network project under the framework of OIC-VET.

Initiated in line with the recommendations adopted during the study visit in Ankara in May 2010, and the OSHCaB Program.

OIC-OSHNET is a platform for OSH institutions in the OIC member countries with the aim of partner-shipping, networking, sharing and exchanging knowledge, experience and best practices in this important field.

The OIC-OSHNET has been kicked-off with a meeting on 16 - 17 May 2011, in Ankara, Turkey.
A Kick-off Meeting of OIC-OSHNET has been organized, in collaboration with the Turkish Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (İSGÜM), on 16-17 May 2011 in Ankara with the participation of representatives of OSH institutions from 15 OIC member countries. The Meeting adopted recommendations regarding the establishment of a portal, designation of national focal points for the OIC-OSHNET and preparing country profiles.
Follow-up Meeting of the OIC-OSHNET

Symposium on International Partnership in OSH Training
Thank you for your attention