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English

**REPORT OF THE
DIRECTOR GENERAL**

**THIRTY-FOURTH MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**7 - 8 September 2012
Ankara, Republic of Turkey**

**STATISTICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH
AND TRAINING CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES
(SESRIC/ANKARA CENTRE)**

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REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

I have the pleasure to report on the activities of our Centre to the Board of Directors in its 34th Meeting. At the outset, I would like to welcome you all and congratulate you for the re-election of your countries as members of our Board of Directors for another term of three years. We have the honour to continue working with you for a new period of three years. I am confident that your views and recommendations will be highly instrumental in improving our work and better targeting our activities at the Centre for more benefit to the member countries of the OIC.

Before I go into the details on the various activities of the Centre, I would like, first, to dwell, very briefly, on some major examples of these activities that have been successfully completed in the three areas of our mandates since your last meeting in September 2011.

In the area of statistics, our Centre has successfully organized the 2nd Session of the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom) in Izmir, Turkey on 13-15 May 2012 with a record participation of delegates from National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of 40 member countries. In its capacity as the Secretariat of this important OIC fora, our Centre continued its efforts to enhancing cooperation among the National Statistical Organisations (NSOs) of the member countries and to facilitating the coordination among the working groups of the OIC-StatCom with a view to supporting the national statistical systems for the development of better national strategies and policies.

Meanwhile, the Centre continued its efforts to provide the necessary statistical data and background information that would make the member countries better informed of each other's potentials and needs and, thus, facilitate their elaboration on cooperation projects and integration schemes. In this context, we continued to enrich our statistical databases in terms of both the coverage and content. Now, the Centre's main statistical database (BASEIND) contains data on 237 socio-economic indicators under 17 categories for the 57 OIC Member States dating back to 1970. Today, we are proud, at SESRIC, of having the only available online database on OIC member countries in the three official languages of the OIC to benefit the users in the member countries and all those interested in the OIC community worldwide.

In this connection, I would like also to inform your august Board that the 2nd issue of the Centre's recent statistical publication series, titled "SWOT Outlook on OIC Member Countries", has been published. This statistical publication provides a SWOT (Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities, Threats) profile on the OIC member countries, as a group, in different socio-economic fields and sectors. By presenting the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in a comparative manner with the developed and other developing countries, the SWOT analysis of the OIC member countries serves as a critical roadmap for better strategic planning and policy making at the OIC cooperation level.

On the other hand, the Centre continued its training activities within the framework of its Statistical Capacity Building Programme (StatCaB) through organising training courses on various statistical areas in the National Statistical Organisations (NSOs) of the member countries. In this regard, I would like to inform your august Board that since your last meeting in September 2011, we have organised 13 training courses on various statistical areas in the NSOs of the following OIC countries: Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Egypt, Kazakhstan, Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso, Senegal and Azerbaijan.

In the area of economic and social research, we continued to undertake research activities on various issues of concern to the member countries with a view to analysing the prevailing situation at the OIC level and suggesting the appropriate policy actions that need to be taken in order to face the challenges and strengthen the intra-Islamic cooperation in the concerned areas. Within this framework, the Centre continued to undertake extensive assignments to prepare technical background reports and research studies on several issues placed on the agenda of various related OIC conferences and meetings.

During the period that elapsed since your last meeting in September 2011, the Centre prepared the following 8 reports and studies: (1) Annual Economic Report on the OIC Countries 2011; (2) Agricultural Development and Food Security in the OIC Countries: Challenges and Opportunities for Cooperation; (3) OIC Health Report 2011; (4) State of Maternal and Newborn Health in OIC Countries; (5) The State of Polio in OIC Member Countries: Enhancing Multilateral Cooperation to Eradicate Polio; (6) Pharmaceutical Industry in OIC Member Countries: Production, Consumption and Trade; (7) The State of Halal Food Industry in OIC Member Countries: Challenges and Potential; and (8) Enhancing Employability in OIC Countries: The Role of Capacity Building and Microfinance.

During the same period, we have also prepared 8 OIC Outlook Reports on the following topics: (1) OIC Countries and Natural Disasters: Assessment of Risk; (2) Current Stance of Science and Technology in OIC Countries; (3) Assessment of Sustainability and Insolvency of the External Debt in OIC Countries; (4) Explaining Income Disparity in OIC Countries; (5) Exchange Rate Regimes in the OIC Member Countries; (6) Current Stance of Statistical Capacity in the OIC Member Countries; (7); The Parliaments of OIC Member Countries; and (8) Islamic Finance in OIC Countries. We have also prepared and published three new issues of the Centre's short reports series on the global financial crisis, namely (1) World Economy on Recovery Path: Is the Crisis Over?; (2) The Euro-zone Debt Crisis: A Second Wave of the Global Crisis; and (3) European Debt Crisis and Impacts on Developing Countries. All these reports and studies are available and downloadable in the website of the Centre.

I would like also to inform your august Board that our Centre is currently preparing two important technical documents, namely (1) Natural and Man-made Disasters in OIC

Countries; and (2) OIC Strategic Health Programme of Action 2013-2022 (OIC-HSPA). The first document is being prepared in accordance with the decision adopted by the 27th Session of the COMCEC under its agenda item “Poverty Alleviation”. This document is intended to identify, assess, and analyse the vulnerabilities in OIC countries to disaster hazards, both natural and man-made. The second document is being prepared in accordance with the decision adopted by the 5th Meeting of the OIC Health Steering Committee. It is a framework for cooperation among OIC member countries, OIC institutions and relevant international organizations in the field of health. It aims at identifying some specific thematic areas of cooperation and programmes of action and activities in the domain of health with a view to improving health situation and systems in OIC countries.

In addition to these research activities, the Centre continued preparing and publishing its two periodicals: Journal of Economic Cooperation and Development and Economic Cooperation and Development Review.

In the area of training and technical cooperation, the Centre has further enhanced its cooperation with the most relevant national as well as international and regional organisations to provide high-level training opportunities to an increasing number of staff from our member countries in various fields and areas of socio-economic activity. The number of trainees who benefited from the Centre’s various capacity building programmes and training courses/workshops continues to increase systematically.

In this connection, I would like to mention that, in its capacity as the Executing Organ of the OIC-VET Programme, our Centre continues to undertake several works and actions in order to establish a sound mechanism and infrastructure for the implementation of this important Programme, which has been initiated and designed by SESRIC with the aim of supporting the OIC efforts to enhance the capacity building and the quality of human resources in its member countries.

In this context, I am pleased to inform your august Board that within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme, three implemented Pilot Projects have turned into fully-fledged sub-programmes, namely OIC International Internship Programme (OIC-ISIP), İSMEK Master Trainer Programme (İMTP) and the OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET). Also, we have recently initiated and started to implement a number of new capacity building programmes under the umbrella of the OIC-VET Programme, namely Agriculture Capacity Building Programme, Information and Communications Technology Capacity Building Programme, Capacity Building Programme on Poverty Alleviation, Skill Development for Youth Employment under the framework of OIC-VET Sub-Programme on Trade, Economy and Finance (OICVET-TEF), Tobacco Free OIC Initiative and E-Government Working Group Project.

The details on the activities which have been implemented and initiated under all these programmes and projects since your last meeting in September 2011 are available in the relevant part of the report. However, I would like to highlight two activities which have been organized by the Centre in two areas of utmost importance and concern to the majority of our member countries; i.e. poverty alleviation and fighting against unemployment, particularly youth unemployment. In the first area and within the framework of the Centre's new Capacity Building Programme on Poverty Alleviation, we organized, in collaboration with IRTI/IDB and the Ministry of Family and Social Policy of the Republic of Turkey, a workshop on "Innovative Social Assistance Strategies in Poverty Alleviation" in Istanbul in December 2011 with the participation of 22 delegates from 15 member countries. In the second area and as an initial phase of the implementation of Skill Development for Youth Employment (SDYE) Programme, we organized, in collaboration with the IDB and some relevant Turkish ministries and institutions, a study visit in January 2012 in Ankara with the aim of sharing the experience of Turkey in fighting against youth unemployment through the Turkish project named 'Skill 10'. 33 participants from 9 pilot member countries were participated in the study visit.

On the other hand, in its capacity as the secretariat of the annual meetings of the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the Member States, our Centre continued to play a significant role in organising these meetings, with a view to enhancing and strengthening cooperation among these important institutions in critical issues of concern to the member countries such as mitigating the impact of the global and regional financial and economic crises on the economies of the member countries. In this connection, I am pleased to inform your august Board that our Centre has successfully organised, in collaboration with the Central Bank of Malaysia (Bank Negara Malaysia), the Meeting of the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the OIC Member Countries- 2011 in Kuala Lumpur on 16th November last year on the theme "Central Banking and Financial Sector Development", and this year's meeting was organized in collaboration with the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey on 15th May in Istanbul under the theme "Promoting Strong and Stable Capital Flows among OIC Countries: Roles of the Financial Sector and Central Banks".

Also, in its capacity as the coordinator institution of the Exchange of Views Sessions of the COMCEC, SESRIC plays an active role in exploring the views of the member countries on the proposed themes of these sessions through circulating the relevant questionnaire annually to all member countries and reporting the results to the main COMCEC sessions. The Centre also organizes, in collaboration with the IDB and other national and international institutions, the preparatory workshops on the selected theme of the COMCEC Exchange of Views Session. In this context and in collaboration with the IDB, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Organization of the Republic of Turkey (KOSGEB) and SME Corporation Malaysia (SME Corp Malaysia), the Centre has organized a workshop on the theme of the

28th Session of the COMCEC titled “Enhancing the Competitiveness of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises in the OIC Member States” in Ankara on 12-14 June 2012.

Last but not least, in its capacity as the Co-Project Manager (together with Royal Society) of the OIC project of “Atlas of Islamic World Science and Innovation”, SESRIC continued its efforts within the Joint Management Team and the Steering Group of the project to ensure the successful implementation of the project, which comprises 8 country studies (Egypt, Jordan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Senegal, Indonesia, Kazakhstan and Qatar). Malaysia country case study has been completed and the other country cases are currently being drafted and assumed to be completed by the end of this year. In this context, I would like to inform your august Board that SESRIC is taking the lead in managing the country case study of Kazakhstan and exerting significant efforts to make Atlas Project provide valuable contributions to the efforts of our member countries towards adapting their science, technology and innovation systems to the global demands of our time.

Today, I am proud to assure you that the results of these activities and efforts have been highly satisfactory at all levels and by all measures. The achievements we have so far realised were obviously well received and highly appreciated by our member countries. This is very clear through the positive resolutions on the activities of our Centre which have been adopted by various official OIC meetings and conferences. Thanks to our member countries for backing our efforts and encouraging our initiatives. One aspect of their support was their stronger commitment to pay their contributions to our annual budgets and their high responsiveness to clear their outstanding arrears.

In this connection, and before starting to present the details of the technical activities which we implemented since the last meeting in September 2011, I would like to brief you also on the financial and administrative affairs of the Centre during the period under review.

In the Financial Year 2011 which ended on 31 December 2011, the Centre received a total of US\$ 2,121,461 of which US\$ 1,766,689 were in payment of contributions for that year and US\$ 156, 955 settlement of arrears, giving a total of US\$ 1,923,644 for those two items. Of the remaining balance, US\$ 2,361 was from sales of publications and US\$ 195,456 (miscellaneous receipts) received as reimbursement of the payments made during 2011 due to various projects and workshop activities jointly realized by Islamic Development Bank and the Centre

The overall receipts of the mandatory contributions for 2011 amounted as US\$ 1,766,689 (59% of the approved budget). On the other hand, since the Centre could not predict the actual amount of the mandatory contributions that will be paid before the first half of the fiscal year, the Centre took great care on the expenditure side and an amount of US\$ 1,555,085 (52% of the approved Budget) was actually spent against the budget allocation of

US\$ 3,000,000. Out of this total amount of expenditure, US\$ 533,616 was spent on the implementation of the Administrative Budget and US\$ 1,021,469 on the Programme Budget.

The overall budget we are proposing for the Financial Year 2013 amounts to US\$ 4,000,000. The proposed increase in the budget is mainly arising from the relevant expenditures on the continuously increasing activities and programmes of the Centre due to the increasing demand by the member countries on the services of the Centre. These include joint and commissioned cooperation projects, increasing number of training and capacity building programmes, preparation of strategic documents in various socio-economic fields, workshops/seminars, etc. The increasing trend in the activities of the Centre will bring along the necessity of increasing the number of professional researchers to be hired in the relevant departments. Among other reasons for the proposed budget increase is the expected increase in the recurrent expenditures such as electricity, water, heating, cleaning and maintenance of the New Headquarters of the Centre, which has modern facilities and equipment to be used for the first time. The Centre has also started, since 1st January 2012, to pay the mandatory social security contributions for all the Staff of the Centre, both Turkish citizens and foreigners, which is legally binding in accordance with the new legislation of Turkish Labour Law for all the International Organizations operating in Turkey. This will also constitute another financial item to be covered by the budget of the Centre. The proposed budget is distributed between an Administrative Budget and a Programme Budget. The details of this distribution are presented in the document on the Budget Proposal for the financial year 2013 in this volume.

In the light of the above, I would like now to present the details of the activities of the Centre according to the major programme areas since your last meeting in September 2011. Under each area, the activities are listed in two groups according to their state of implementation. The first group covers the activities that have been completed during the period under consideration. The second group covers the continuous activities, i.e. those which are permanent features in the Centre's annual work programmes, as well as the planned activities, i.e. those which are either planned to be implemented or in the process of implementation.

STATISTICS AND INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

As the main socio-economic information bank on and for the OIC Member Countries, the Centre devotes a large portion of its resources to providing the necessary statistical data and background information that would make the member countries better informed of each other's potentials and needs and, thus, facilitate their elaboration of cooperation projects and integration schemes.

In this connection, the Centre's statistical databases have been enriched in terms of both the coverage and content, i.e. new areas of statistics have been covered and the number of indicators and variables has been increased. The rate of dissemination of these data, particularly in the electronic format, has also been greatly increased due to the successive improvements made on the technical capacities and design features of the Centre's web site (www.sesric.org).

The Centre also continued its training activities within the framework of its Statistical Capacity Building Programme (StatCaB) through organising training courses on various statistical aspects in the National Statistical Organisations (NSOs) of the member countries. In this context, the Centre regularly sends questionnaires to the NSOs of the member countries in order to determine their needs and capacities on various statistical subjects. The Centre, then, arranges training programmes to contribute to the statistical capacity building in the member countries based on the responses of the member countries to these questionnaires.

On the other hand, the Centre has successfully established the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom), which is a very important forum within the OIC framework for cooperation among the National Statistical Organisations (NSOs) of the member countries. This Commission will be an instrumental platform for cooperation among the NSOs of the member countries, similar to the UN Statistical Commission, with a view to supporting the national statistical systems for the development of better national strategies and policies. In its capacity as the secretariat of the OIC-StatCom, the Centre continued to organize the annual sessions of this Commission in collaboration with the IDB; the first of which was organized in Istanbul in April 2011 and the second was organized in Izmir in April 2012.

The details of the activities of the Centre in the field of statistics during the period under consideration are as follows:

A. *IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES*

1. The Second Session of the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom)

The Second Session of the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom) was co-organised by SESRIC and the IDB on 13-15 May 2012 in Izmir, Turkey. The Session was attended by representatives of the NSOs of 40 OIC Member Countries as well as representatives of six international and supranational organisations. In addition to the activities of the OIC-StatCom Working Groups, presentations have been also made by the representatives of the SNOs on their experiences and best practices on innovative methods and new data collection methodologies which they used in the 2010 Population and Housing Censuses. At the end of the meeting, it has been decided that the OIC-StatCom Working Group1 to continue its future

activities as a Technical Committee of Experts on three themes, namely Islamic banking and finance, halal food and products industry and waqf. It has been also decided to establish a new Technical Expert Committee with the aim of developing an “Executive Work Plan for the Short, Medium and Long Term Implementation of the OIC-StatCom Strategic Vision”. The Commission suggested establishing a Task Team under the auspices of SESRIC to undertake necessary activities for the implementation of Basic Level Accreditation.

2. 4th Meeting of the Delegates of the National Statistical Offices of the OIC Member Countries

The Fourth Meeting of the Delegates of the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of the OIC Member Countries was organised by SESRIC on 1 March 2012 in New York, as a side-event of the Forty-Third Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission. The meeting was attended by the delegates of the NSOs of the OIC Member Countries aimed to get their comments and feedback on the tentative agenda of the Second Session of the OIC Statistical Commission.

3. Preparatory Meeting for the OIC-StatCom Strategic Vision Working Group

BPS-Statistics Indonesia, which is a Lead Country of this Working Group, hosted a bilateral preparatory meeting with SESRIC on 13 September 2011 to develop a draft outline for the Strategic Vision of the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom). During the meeting, the following issues regarding the OIC-StatCom were discussed; Challenges ahead, mission, values and guiding principles, vision and strategic objectives. At the end of the Meeting a “Draft Outline for the OIC-StatCom Strategic Vision Document” was prepared and circulated to the Members of the Working Group for their feedback.

4. SWOT Outlook on OIC Member Countries

The SWOT Outlook of OIC Member Countries is a publication aimed to provide aggregate information at OIC level for politicians and decision makers to assess the profile and performance of the OIC Member Countries by comparing them with world and other country groups. It highlights the strengths and weaknesses of OIC member countries, as a group, with a view to enhancing their competitiveness globally as well as the level of their cooperation. The first issue of the SWOT Outlook was published in 2011 to present current situation and future opportunities of OIC Member Countries, in different socio-economic fields and sectors. The second issue of this publication was enhanced with up to date data and addition of new indicators and published in 2012. It is planned update this publication for certain time intervals with the addition of new indicators.

5. Statistical Capacity Building Programme (StatCaB) in the OIC Member Countries

In accordance with the responses of the member countries to the Centre's questionnaire on Statistical Capacity Building Programme (StatCaB), the Centre organised the following training courses:

a. Training Course on "Geographic Information Systems" in Kuwait, 5-7 June 2011

The Course was provided by an expert from the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS), and was attended by the staff of the Central Statistical Bureau of State of Kuwait.

b. Training Course on "Supply Use Tables" in Egypt, 6-8 June 2011

The Course was provided by an expert from the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat), and was attended by twenty-two staff members of the the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS).

c. Training Course on "Price Statistics" in Jordan 3-5 July 2011

The Course was provided by an expert from the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, and was attended by fourteen staff members from Department of Statistics in Jordan.

d. Training Course on "Statistical Data Analysis" in Kazakhstan, 18-21 July 2011

The Course was provided by Director General of Office of Statistical Methodology and Sample Surveys at the Statistical Centre of Iran, and was attended by fourteen staff members of the Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Statistics.

e. Training Course on "MDG Related Statistics" in Sierra Leone, 27-30 July 2011

The Course was provided by an expert from the Uganda Bureau of Statistics, and was attended by staff members from Statistics Sierra Leone.

f. Training Course on "Statistical Data Analysis" in Burkina Faso, 1-4 August 2011

The Course was provided by an expert from the Agence Nationale de la Statistique de la Démographie Senegal and was attended by staff members from Institut National de la Statistique et de la Démographie Burkina Faso.

g. Training Course on “Transport and Communication Statistics” in Egypt, 9-11 October 2011

The course was provided by an expert from the Direction de la Statistique, Morocco and was attended by staff members of the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS), Egypt.

h. Training Course on “Tourism Satellite Account” in Senegal, 10-12 October 2011

The course was provided by an expert from the Direction de la Statistique, Morocco and was attended by staff members from National Agency of Statistics and Demography of Senegal.

i. Training Course on “Quarterly National Accounts” in Azerbaijan, 19-21 October 2011

The course was provided by an expert from the Turkish Statistical Institute and was attended by staff members from State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

j. Training Course on “Quarterly National Accounts” in Kazakhstan, 31 October - 2 November 2011

The course was provided by an expert from Department of Statistics of Malaysia and was attended by staff members from Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Statistics.

k. Training Course on 'Basic Data Analysis for Price and Foreign Trade Data' in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 24-26 December 2011

The course was provided by an expert from SESRIC and was attended by staff members from Central Department Statistics and Information of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

l. Training Course on “Management of Archives and Documents” in Kuwait, 12- 15 March 2012.

The course was provided by an expert from Department of Statistics, Jordan and was attended by fifteen staff members from Central Statistical Bureau of State of Kuwait.

m. International Workshop on Trade Statistics 12-14 June 2012

The workshop was co-organised with the AITRS and UNSD in Amman, Jordan and the courses provided by the experts of the World Trade Organisation and UNSD.

B. CONTINUOUS & PLANNED ACTIVITIES

1. Basic Social and Economic INDicators (BASEIND) Database

BASEIND is the Centre's main statistical database. It currently contains data on 237 socio-economic variables under 17 categories for the 57 OIC Member Countries dating back to 1970 and serves as the primary statistical source for the Centre's research activities and statistical publications. It is also available online to benefit all those interested in the OIC community and elsewhere. The content of this database is regularly updated and enriched essentially on the basis of information collected from the national statistical sources. However, in some instances, it still has recourse to the international sources for missing data. In such cases, special care is exercised in choosing the most reliable and updated sources.

2. Member Countries in Figures

This is a section of the Centre's website where statistical data and information on each of the 57 member countries, under five headings are available as follows: "OIC in Figures" and "General Information" include data in tabular form related to the member countries from BASEIND. "Location and Geography" summarizes the information related to the country. The last two headings give links to some important institutions in the country.

3. SESRIC Motion Chart Generator

The SESRIC Motion Charts (SMC), the interactive and dynamic motion chart module, has been integrated with the BASEIND database and is available on the SESRIC web site. The SMC Module allows the users to dynamically explore the trends of several indicators over time, based on statistical data hosted in the BASEIND Database. The produced charts are time series based bubble charts including two indicators from the BASEIND Database which can be customised by the user to have either linear or logarithmic scale(s) with alternative bubble sizes based on the related indicators from the BASEIND Database.

4. SESRIC Motion Chart In-House Development Version

SESRIC is currently developing an in-house development version of the SMC Module to replace the current engine used on its website. The new SMC In-House Development Version (IHDV) employs the Flex technology for data processes as Flex is a powerful, open source application framework that allows anyone to easily build traditional applications for browser and desktop. One of the reasons for the re-development of the SESRIC SMC Module is the inflexibility of Google's API on the handling of missing data. The current SESRIC SMC IHDV uses linear interpolation to handle missing data within indicators. As soon as the

development is completed, the Member Countries will be able to get the source code from SESRIC for their usage.

5. Thematic Maps

The Centre prepares thematic maps on OIC Member Countries focusing on the key themes ranging from GDP to foreign trade, demography to energy balance. The thematic maps display the comparative situation of the OIC Member Countries for the given theme with varying colours. The bar/line charts also accompany the maps to display the Top 10 OIC Member Countries for the theme in concern and performance of the OIC as a group with respect to World, Developed and Developing Countries for a specific time interval.

6. The Third Session of OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom)

The Third Session of the OIC Statistical Commission will be held in Istanbul, Turkey in April 2013. In the Third Session of OIC-StatCom outcomes of the Technical Expert Committees will be discussed to give direction to their future activities. The forthcoming session is expected to focus on priority areas on statistical capacity building, quality challenges, development of conceptual framework on Islamic Finance, Halal Food and Wakf and coordination among the NSOs, regional and international institutions towards more effective national statistical systems.

7. OIC-StatCom Technical Expert Committee1: Statistical Indicators Specific to OIC Member Countries; Islamic Finance, Halal Food and Wakf Statistics

Major task of the First Technical Expert Committee is to develop concepts and definitions on the Islamic finance, Halal Food and Wakf Statistics that data collection at OIC level will be launched as priority. Tentative work plan and draft background document will be prepared and countries that are willing to take part in the activities of the working group will be specified.

8. OIC-StatCom Technical Expert Committee2: Short, Medium, Long Term Implementation of the OIC-StatCom Strategic Vision Document

As decided in its Second Session that took place in Izmir on 13-15 May 2012, the OIC-StatCom set up a Technical Committee on the Short, Medium, Long Term Implementation of the OIC-StatCom Strategic Vision Document. The Technical Committee is expected to draft a strategic work plan for the short/medium/long term to carry out in line with the strategic objectives stated in the Strategic Vision Document.

9. OIC-StatCom Technical Expert Committee3: Development of a Certification and Accreditation Programme for Statistical Professionals

OIC-StatCom Working Group3 developed conceptual and methodological background of the accreditation program for professional statisticians working for statistical organisations of the OIC Member States in its first year of action. Also, Terms of Reference specific to the accreditation/certification process including setting up accreditation criteria and way of measurement of these accreditation/certification criteria prepared by the respective Working Group. This Working Group will continue its further actions under the Technical Expert Committee to follow-up the work on implementation of accreditation process for Basic Level Accreditation under the responsibility of SESRIC.

10. OIC Statistical Newsletter

The Centre has been preparing, a semi-annual electronic publication titled “OIC-Statistical Newsletter” with the aim of informing a wider audience on the developments and initiatives taking place at different OIC institutions in the area of statistical capacity building since January 2010. This newsletter will also include news on the activities of the OIC-StatCom alongside the OIC Institutions, the NSOs of the Member Countries, and Other International Organisations in the field of statistics.

11. Statistical Capacity Building Programme (StatCaB) in the OIC Member Countries

This programme aims to identify and implement training programmes by matching the capacities and needs of the National Statistical Organizations in the member countries depending on the survey responses on Statistical Capacity Building. On some occasions, the Centre may also arrange training in collaboration with other international organizations. Between 2007 and 2012, thirty-four short-term training courses and six international workshops have been organised with the participation of hundreds of experts from the NSOs of OIC Member Countries. The Centre has already organised thirteen short-term training courses during 2011. There are also some studies on extending the scope of StatCaB Programme by including consultancy and study visit components as well as short-term trainings. Based on this requirement StatCaB Questionnaire was revised and sent to the Member Countries within the beginning of 2012. Results of the survey analysed and based on the survey results, short-term training activities for the term 2012-2013 were planned in a way to ensure broader involvement from member countries.

Within the framework of the StatCaB Programme, the Centre is planning to implement the following training courses, seminars and workshops during the forthcoming period:

1. StatCaB Training Programme on “Agriculture Statistics” in Gabon
2. StatCaB Training Programme on “Environmental Statistics” in Tajikistan
3. StatCaB Training Programme on “Migration” in United Arab Emirates
4. StatCaB Training Programme on “Geographic Information Systems” in Saudi Arabia
5. StatCaB Training Programme on “Income and Consumption” in Qatar
6. StatCaB Training Programme on “Quarterly National Accounts” in Kyrgyzstan
7. StatCaB Training Programme on “Population and Demography: Census/Surveys and Sampling Techniques” in Burkina Faso
8. StatCaB Training Programme on “Gender Statistics” in Mali
9. StatCaB Training Programme on “Supply-Use and Input-Output Tables” in Senegal
10. StatCaB Training Programme on “Transport and Communication Statistics” in Egypt
11. StatCaB Training Programme on “Census/Surveys and Sampling Techniques” in Togo
12. StatCaB Training Programme on “National Accounts” in Gabon
13. StatCaB Training Programme on “Statistical Data Analysis” in Cameroon
14. StatCaB Training Programme on “Quarterly National Accounts” in Maldives
15. StatCaB Training Programme on “Short-term Business Statistics” in Pakistan
16. StatCaB Training Programme on “Database Design and Management” in Bangladesh
17. StatCaB Training Programme on “Price Statistics and Indices” in Oman
18. StatCaB Training programme on “Business Registers” in Sudan
19. StatCaB Training Programme on “Foreign Trade Statistics” in Kuwait
20. StatCaB Training Programme on “Labour Force” in Afghanistan

Within the framework of the StatCaB Programme, the Centre is also planning to organise the following Study Visit activities by sending experts to both member and non-member countries during the forthcoming period:

1. Study Visit on Quality Management of Statistical Organisations in Terms of Data Collection Processes in the Statistics Sweden
2. Study Visit on Quality Control and Data Validation in the Turkish Statistical Institute
3. Study Visit on Census Survey Design in the BPS-Statistics Indonesia
4. Study Visit on Establishment of Farm Registers in the Statistics Netherlands
5. Study Visit on Establishment of Business Registers in the Institut National de la Statistique Tunisia
6. Study Visit on Geographic Information Systems in Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) in Egypt

12. Press Releases from National Statistical Organizations (NSOs) of the OIC Member Countries

The NSOs of the member countries regularly prepare and disseminate short reports related to their basic statistical indicators. SESRIC cooperates with the NSOs of the member countries to publish these reports in the Centre's Web Site under the section titled "Press Releases from National Statistical Organizations". So far, press releases from Bangladesh, Iran, Jordan, Malaysia, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar and Turkey are being published in the Centre's website. These reports will help researchers, policy makers and all concerned bodies in the member countries and elsewhere to reach the most recent changes related to basic indicators on the member countries from one common source rather than individually searching the website of each NSO.

13. Rosters of Experts

There are three rosters within the web site of the Centre. These are Roster of Statistics Experts, Roster of Environmental Experts and Roster of E-Government Experts. The aim of these rosters is to facilitate communication between the experts in the OIC Member Countries. They present the contact details of the experts working in their areas. The rosters

are also expected to play an important role in facilitating the flow of information between the Centre and the institutions of OIC Member Countries.

14. Statistical Yearbook of the OIC Countries, 2011

The Statistical Yearbook of the OIC Countries was the Centre's major statistical publication will be published with its new design. As in the previous publications basic socio-economic indicators will be covered for a period of 10 years from 2002 through 2011 on the areas of Agriculture, Demography, Education, Energy, Environment, Exports, Gender, Health, Imports, International Finance, Labour Force, National Accounts, Public Finance, Transportation and Communication and Tourism.

15. Agricultural Production and Structure in OIC Member Countries

It is planned to diversify the statistical publications on OIC Member Countries in the coming years to meet the demands of the OIC member countries. With this publication, it is aimed to present basic indicators related to agricultural production and structure in the member countries by providing the most relevant statistics in tabulated and/or graphical form.

16. Demographic Structure and Dynamics of OIC Member Countries

A new publication will be prepared to highlight basic demographic characteristics (population, age and gender distribution, population growth, birth and death rates etc.) and changes in the demographic profile of the OIC member countries in the last decade by providing tabular and graphical presentation of the most recent statistics and indicators.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

In its capacity as the main socio-economic research organ of the OIC, the Centre continued to undertake research activities on various issues of concern to the OIC member countries with a view to analysing the prevailing situation at the OIC level and suggesting the appropriate policy actions that need to be taken in order to face the challenges and strengthen the intra-Islamic cooperation in the concerned areas.

These issues include, among others, the major economic developments in the Member States and the world, the ten priority areas/sectors of the OIC Plan of Action and those stipulated by the OIC 10-Year Programme of Action, such as agriculture, poverty, education, health, environment, science & technology, transportation, tourism, etc. Within this framework, the Centre continued to undertake extensive assignments to prepare technical background reports and research studies on several socio-economic cooperation issues placed on the agenda of

various related OIC conferences and meetings, particularly the annual sessions of the COMCEC and the sectoral ministerial conferences of the OIC.

During the period under consideration, the details of the activities of the Centre in the field of social and economic research are as follows:

A. IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES

1. Annual Economic Report on the OIC Countries, 2011

This report analyses the economic situation in the OIC countries during the most recent five-year period for which the data are available. It examines the trends in the major economic indicators of those countries and investigates their inter-linkages with those in both developing and developed countries and the world economy as a whole. This year's Report includes two special sections which highlights two important issues of concern to the member countries, namely transportation infrastructure and its impact on trade, and the economic role of international tourism sector. The report also highlights a number of challenges confronting the OIC Member Countries in their efforts to further their economic development and progress. In the light of these challenges, the Report proposes a set of recommendations to serve as policy guidelines for enhancing the development efforts of the OIC Member Countries at both the national and OIC cooperation levels.

This report was presented to the 27th Session of the COMCEC held in Istanbul on 17-20 October 2011.

2. Agricultural Development and Food Security in the OIC Countries: Challenges and Opportunities for Cooperation

This report highlights the recent state as well as the constraints and challenges of agricultural development and food security in the OIC Member Countries. It tackles major related issues such as agricultural population and land use in agriculture, water resources and their use in agriculture, agriculture production and productivity, trade in agriculture commodities, food production and consumption, trade in food and food aid, undernourished people and impacts of food prices volatility. The report also proposes some policy recommendations and project proposals for enhancing OIC cooperation in this important area.

This report was presented at the 6th OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, on 3-6 October 2011.

3. OIC Health Report 2011

This report focuses on the performance and status of health care systems in OIC member countries. It highlights some major challenges facing the member countries in this important area and provides essential information about the state of poverty, living conditions, health sector reforms, health infrastructure and financial resources for health sector in these countries. The report also identifies some major action areas for the policy makers to improve the performance of health care system at both the national and intra-OIC cooperation levels.

This report was presented to the 3rd Islamic Conference of Ministers of Health held in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan, on 29 September – 1 October 2011.

4. State of Maternal and Newborn Health in OIC Countries

This report highlights both successes and challenges in maternal and newborn health in OIC countries. It aims to show the range of statistical indicators across the OIC and provide space for a brief analysis of major challenges and successes, member state stories, and recommendations for addressing challenges and expanding and sustaining successes.

This report was presented to the 3rd Islamic Conference of Ministers of Health held in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan, on 29 September – 1 October 2011.

5. The State of Polio in OIC Member Countries: Enhancing Multilateral Cooperation to Eradicate Polio

This report examines the current state of prevalence of polio both at world and OIC levels. It also highlights the major issues and challenges facing the endemic and importation countries and the role of multilateral cooperation to eradicate polio, and provides a brief discussion on the major initiatives taken by the OIC and the measures that should be taken both at national and intra-OIC cooperation level to speed up the eradication of polio in member countries.

This report was presented to the 3rd Islamic Conference of Ministers of Health held in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan, on 29 September – 1 October 2011.

6. Pharmaceutical Industry in OIC Member Countries: Production, Consumption and Trade

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), on average, 30% of the world population lacks access to life-saving medicines; whereas, in some countries in Asia and Africa, the number may be as high as 50%. Many developing countries, including some OIC member countries, has insufficient or no manufacturing capacities in the pharmaceutical industry. Local industry covers a tiny fraction of domestic pharmaceutical demand and they rely heavily on imports and medicinal aid. In addition, the share of medicines in “Out-of-

pocket” health payments (i.e. paid by the patient) is ranging between 40 to 60% in these countries. Consequently, medicines are neither available nor accessible to a large fraction of population and hundreds and thousands of people die of preventable and treatable diseases. This report is a humble attempt to investigate the availability of medicines in OIC member countries by focusing on the production, consumption and trade patterns of pharmaceuticals in these countries during the period 2005-2010.

This report was presented to the 3rd Islamic Conference of Ministers of Health held in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan, on 29 September – 1 October 2011.

7. The State of Halal Food Industry in OIC Member Countries: Challenges and Potential

For the past decade, the market for Halal products and services has been emerging as a potent market force. Around 1.6 billion Muslims making up the foundation, and with Halal products increasingly used by the general consuming public all over the world, the Halal market represents the appearance of a new economic paradigm that is on the tipping point of becoming a global movement. In this connection, this Report provides a general overview of the recent trends in global Halal food industry, with particular emphasis on OIC countries. The on-going challenges ahead of realizing the potential for enhancing intra-OIC cooperation in Halal food are discussed. The Report also features a short investigation of the Jewish experience ‘kosher’ and its implications for OIC member countries in pursuit of developing a more robust and unified Halal food industry.

This report was presented to the First International Halal Congress held in Ankara, Republic of Turkey, on 14-15 October 2011.

8. Enhancing Employability in OIC Countries: The Role of Capacity Building and Microfinance

Unemployment is still a major problem that is neither resolved in developed nor in developing countries. Although each country faces different challenges based on various structural problems in their labour markets, it is still practical to propose some solutions to alleviate the problem. In response to unemployment problem in OIC member countries, this paper focuses on enhancing employability and employment opportunities through promoting capacity building, particularly vocational education and training (VET) programmes and supporting the role of microfinance institutions in job creation, particularly self-employment. It highlights practical approaches that are regarded to be crucial in supporting and enhancing employment opportunities in order to reduce unemployment and avoiding impairment of the skill endowment of labour force. In this context, the paper emphasises two key approaches: (1) capability enhancement through developing a compatible vocational education and

training (VET) system; and (2) promoting self-employment and income generation through supporting and facilitating the operations of microfinance institutions.

This paper was presented at the Experts Group Meeting on “Addressing Unemployment in the IDB Member Countries in the Post-Crisis World”, which was organized by the IDB and held at its Headquarters in Jeddah on 9-10 May 2011.

9. OIC Outlook Series

The following reports have been completed during the period under consideration:

- 1- OIC Countries and Natural Disasters: Assessment of Risk
- 2- Current Stance of Science and Technology in OIC Countries
- 3- Assessment of Sustainability and Insolvency of the External Debt in OIC Countries
- 4- Explaining Income Disparity in OIC Countries
- 5- Exchange Rate Regimes in the OIC Member Countries
- 6- Current Stance of Statistical Capacity in the OIC Member Countries
- 7- The Parliaments of OIC Member Countries
- 8- Islamic Finance in OIC Countries

10. SESRIC Reports on the Global Financial Crisis of 2008-2009

Within the framework of its research mandate of following up the major developments in the world economy and their expected impacts on the economies of the member countries, the Centre started in May 2009 to prepare a series of short reports on the global financial crisis of 2008-2009 with the aim of monitoring the developments related to the crisis at the global, regional and national levels. The following three reports have been prepared and published in the website of the Centre during the period elapsed since the 24th Session of ICECS in April 2011:

- 1- World Economy on Recovery Path: Is the Crisis Over?
- 2- The Eurozone Debt Crisis: A Second Wave of the Global Crisis

3- European Debt Crisis and Impacts on Developing Countries

11. Economic Cooperation and Development Review (Volume 4, No 2 and Volume 5, No 1)

The issue of Volume 4, No. 2 includes an interview with H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey. The interview focused on the views of H.E. the Prime Minister on various national, regional and global issues. It also includes articles by Dr. Kandeh K. Yumkella, Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi, Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). In addition to these two articles, SESRIC also contribute with three recent reports, namely: (1) The State of Maternal and Newborn Health in OIC Member Countries; (2) Pharmaceutical Industry in OIC Member Countries: Production, Consumption and Trade; and (3) Transportation Networks in OIC Countries: Impact on Trade and Tourism.

The issue of Volume 5, No 1 includes an interview with H.E. Dr. H. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of Republic of Indonesia. The interview focused on the views of H.E. the President on various national, regional and global issues such as the role of Indonesia, as one of the 30 founding Member States of the OIC, in promoting and fostering economic cooperation and development at the OIC level and the role and performance of the OIC as the collective voice of the Muslim world considering the current global and regional geopolitical and economic challenges. It also includes articles by Mr. Robert B. Zoellick, the President of the World Bank Group, and Mr. Juan Somavia, Director-General of the United Nations International Labour Organization (ILO). In addition to these two articles, SESRIC also contribute with three recent reports, namely: (1) Explaining Income Disparity among the OIC Member Countries; (2) OIC Countries and Natural Disasters: Assessment of Risks; and (3) Assessment of Sustainability and Insolvency of the External Debt in OIC Countries.

12. Journal of Economic Cooperation and Development (vol. 32 issues 4 and vol. 33 issues 1 and 2)

B. CONTINUOUS & PLANNED ACTIVITIES

1. Annual Economic Report on the OIC Countries, 2012

This report analyses the economic situation in the OIC countries during the most recent five-year period for which the data are available. It examines the trends in the major economic indicators of those countries and investigates their inter-linkages with those in both developing and developed countries and the world economy as a whole. The report also highlights a number of challenges confronting the OIC Member Countries in their efforts to

further their economic development and progress. In the light of these challenges, the Report proposes a set of recommendations to serve as policy guidelines for enhancing the development efforts of the OIC Member Countries at both the national and OIC cooperation levels.

This report will be presented to the 28th Session of the COMCEC which will be held in Istanbul on 8-11 October 2012.

2. Natural and Man-Made Disasters in OIC Countries

In collaboration with IDB and other relevant international organizations, the Centre started in December 2011 preparing a study titled “Natural and Man-Made Disasters in OIC Countries”. This study is intended to identify, assess, and analyse the vulnerabilities in OIC countries to disaster hazards, including both natural and man-made and, based on such analyses, the document will provide an input for OIC countries in developing effective disaster risk reduction strategies. In addition to all types of natural disasters, the study will tackle conflict and man-made disasters as well. It will utilize all phases approach of disaster risk management, including prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. The study will also include some selected country case studies, namely Comoros, Palestine, Somalia and Sudan, regional case studies, namely Sub-Saharan Africa, Horn of Africa and CIS countries, and thematic case studies, namely drought, hunger and food insecurity in Africa.

The first draft of this document will be presented to the 28th Session of the COMCEC which will be held in Istanbul on 8-11 October 2012.

3. State of Agricultural and Food Security in the OIC Member Countries: Opportunities for Cooperation

This report highlights the recent state as well as the constraints and challenges of agricultural development and food security in the OIC Member Countries. It tackles major related issues such as agricultural population and land use in agriculture, water resources and their use in agriculture, agriculture production and productivity, trade in agriculture commodities, food production and consumption, trade in food and food aid, undernourished people and impacts of food prices volatility. The report also proposes some policy recommendations and project proposals for enhancing OIC cooperation in this important area.

This report will be presented to the 7th OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development which will be held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, in December 2012.

4. OIC Strategic Health Programme of Action 2013-2022 (OIC-HSPA)

In accordance with the decision adopted by the 5th Meeting of the OIC Health Steering Committee, which was held at the OIC Headquarters in Jeddah from 31 January to 01 February 2012, the Centre will lead the preparation of the draft OIC Strategic Health Program of Action 2013-2022. It directed SESRIC to coordinate with IDB in line with the approved Terms of Reference for the preparation of the document. The OIC-SHPA 2013-2022 is a framework for cooperation among OIC member countries, OIC Institutions and relevant international organizations in the field of health. The OIC-SHPA aims at identifying some specific thematic areas of cooperation and programmes of action and activities in the domain of health for to enhance cooperation at intra-OIC level with the aim of improve health situation and systems in OIC countries.

5. International Tourism in the OIC Countries: Prospects and Challenges

This report examines the performance and economic role of international tourism sector in OIC member countries in the latest five-year period for which the data are available. It analyses the major traditionally used indicators in measuring international tourism, i.e. international tourist arrivals, international tourism receipts and expenditures. The analysis is made at both the individual country and the OIC regional levels. The report also highlights the impacts of the global financial crisis of 2008-2009 on international tourism sector worldwide, and sheds light on the challenges of tourism development in the OIC countries and the issue of tourism cooperation among them and proposes some recommendations to serve as policy guidelines.

This report will be presented to the 8th Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM) which will be held in Khartoum, Republic of Sudan in 2012.

6. Integration of Waqf and Islamic Microfinance in OIC Member Countries: An Agenda for Poverty Alleviation

This study will be prepared jointly with the International Islamic University of Malaysia. The study aims at developing and introducing an integrated Waqf-based Islamic Microfinance model that will address the needs of the poor people in OIC countries through optimizing the use of combined resources of Waqf and Islamic Microfinance institutions in these countries. This will enhance the effectiveness of IMF and Waqf institutions in addressing the socio-economic needs of the member countries, particularly the poverty alleviation programs. The model will then be sent through survey to the relevant Waqf and IMF stakeholders for verification. The study will also give emphasis on human capital development such as education and training related to the Waqf and IMF institutions. It is expected that the output and policy recommendations of this study will significantly contribute towards the

development of Waqf and IMF institutions through optimization of their joint resources thus promoting the overall social welfare of societies in OIC member countries.

7. OIC Outlook Series

Since November 2007, the Centre has been preparing short outlook reports on various socio-economic development issues related to the OIC Member Countries. Using the Centre's main database "BASEIND", these reports cover various socio-economic topics and present statistical information and analytical investigations as well as some policy implications on the topics in question. So far 36 OIC Outlook reports on various topics have been prepared and published in the Centre's website.

8. Journal of Economic Cooperation and Development

This is a quarterly Journal published by the Centre since 1979. It is a Journal of applied research in development economics and aims at enhancing cooperation among the members of the OIC. The material published in it derives mainly from contributions by authors in the member countries and elsewhere of original papers that deal with important economic and social issues of concern to the OIC Member Countries. It gives special attention to papers that deal with the potentials for and possibilities of promoting and expanding economic and technical cooperation among the member countries.

9. Economic Cooperation and Development Review

This is a biannual periodical of the Centre where the first issue has been published in September 2008. It features interviews with eminent personalities in the Islamic world and elsewhere, short articles on selected issues of economic growth, development and cooperation of immediate interest to the member countries, summaries of selected papers and reports prepared by the Centre itself, brief papers and news on current economic developments in individual member countries, and a section on titles and reviews of recently published books.

TRAINING AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION DEPARTMENT

In the field of training and technical cooperation, the Centre has further enhanced its cooperation with the most relevant national as well as international and regional organisations to provide high-level training opportunities to an increasing number of staff from our member countries in various fields and areas of socio-economic activity. The number of trainees who benefited from the Centre's various capacity building programmes and training courses/workshops continues to increase systematically.

In this connection, and within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme, three implemented Pilot Projects have turned into fully-fledged sub-programmes, namely OIC International Internship Programme (OIC-ISIP), İSMEK Master Trainer Programme (İMTP) and the OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET). A number of new capacity building programmes have been also initiated by SESRIC within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme, namely Agriculture Capacity Building Programme, Information and Communications Technology Capacity Building Programme, Capacity Building Programme on Poverty Alleviation, Skill Development for Youth Employment under the framework of OIC-VET Sub-Programme on Trade, Economy and Finance (OICVET-TEF), Tobacco Free OIC Initiative and E-Government Working Group Project.

In addition to these programmes, the Centre also plays an active role in the preparation and organization of some important regular OIC fora, such as the annual exchange of views sessions of the COMCEC, the annual sessions of the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCOM) and the annual meetings of the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of OIC Member Countries. The Centre also organises several workshops and meetings in various fields in collaboration with national, international and regional organisations for the benefit of the OIC Member Countries.

The details of the training and technical cooperation activities during the period under consideration are as follows:

A. IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES

1. VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES (OIC-VET)

The details of the implemented activities during the period under the framework of OIC-VET Programme are as follows:

a. İSMEK Master Trainer Programme (İMTP)

İSMEK Master Trainer Programme, which is developed jointly by SESRIC and the Centre for Art and Vocational Training Courses of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality (İSMEK) to provide intensive free training courses to master trainers from OIC Member Countries continues in various subjects under different categories. After the first implementation of İSMEK Master Trainer Programme (İMTP), realized between 21 March and 1 April 2011, with the participation of ten master trainers from related vocational institutions in different provinces of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, a group of seven master trainers from different vocational schools of the Republic of Azerbaijan was received five-day training during the period 24 – 28 October 2011 at a number of İSMEK training centres in Istanbul on the

subjects of “Ebru (Marbling)”, “Food and Beverage Services” and “Wood Shaping”. The participants were awarded with İSMEK Master Trainer Programme (İMTP) Certificate on 28 October 2011 after successful completion of the training course in Istanbul, Turkey.

On 25 June 2012, SESRIC organized a study visit on “Vocational Education Experiences of ISMEK” in collaboration with the Centre for Art and Vocational Training Courses of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality (ISMEK) in Istanbul, Turkey with the participation of representatives from the Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training (MEVT) of the Kingdom of Morocco. The delegation firstly visited various centres of ISMEK and received detailed information on the current activities and implemented projects.

b. OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET)

i. Meeting of Labour Ministers of OIC Member Countries

SESRIC has organized in collaboration with OIC General Secretariat and Ministry of Labour and Social Security of the Republic of Turkey the Meeting of Labour Ministers of OIC Member Countries on September 10, 2011 in Istanbul, Turkey on the side-lines of the XIX World Congress on Safety and Health at Work which was hosted by the Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MoLSS) of the Republic of Turkey in cooperation with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and International Social Security Association (ISSA) between 11-15 September 2011, in Istanbul, Turkey. The Ministerial Meeting has provided a platform for the Labour Ministers of the OIC Member States for the first time to come together and discuss the issues of common concern in their countries.

ii. Follow-up Meeting on the OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET)

The Meeting held on 14 September 2011 during the World Congress on Safety and Health at Work. The meeting reviewed the progress since the kick-off Meeting of the OIC-OSHNET, including the Draft Terms of Reference of the Network and discussed some potential collaboration opportunities.

iii. Symposium on International Partnership in OSH Training

The symposium was organized by SESRIC in cooperation with Turkish Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (ISGUM) during the XIX World Congress. Speakers to the symposium included experts from International Labour Organization (ILO), public sector, private companies, and some OSH organizations around the world. The Symposium took place with the participation of experts and directors of occupational health and safety, besides deputy secretaries of Ministries of Labour from 15 OIC Member Countries, namely, Albania,

Bangladesh, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kyrgyz Republic, Lebanon, Malaysia, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Senegal, Turkey and United Arab Emirates.

iv. OSHNET Portal

The Centre has established the OSHNET Portal in line with the recommendations taken during Kick-off Meeting of OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET) in order to facilitate the systematic sharing of information and experience in occupational safety and health issues among professionals as well as to increase the effectiveness of the OSHNET Programme.

v. 26th Occupational Safety and Health Week in the Republic of Turkey

Occupational Safety and Health Week (OSH-WEEK) is held every year on 4-10 May by the Ministry of Labor and Social Security of the Republic of Turkey (MoLSS) to discuss the current situation of OSH in Turkey. The 26th OSH-WEEK activities were held on 4 May, 2012 in Sanliurfa, Republic of Turkey. Occupational Accidents in Agriculture and Importance of Occupational Safety, Health Risks and Protection against Occupational Diseases in Agriculture and Importance of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in Agriculture were the main topics discussed during the sessions.

SESRIC attended the organization and were awarded the plaque of appreciation by Turkish Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (ISGUM) to acknowledge SESRIC's efforts in organizing various meetings on the side-lines of the XIX World Congress on Safety and Health at Work.

c. OIC-VET Sub-Programme on Trade, Economy and Finance (OICVET-TEF)

Trade, Economy and Finance (OICVET-TEF) programme is a sub programme under the OIC-VET Programme initiated in collaboration with the IDB and includes the following proposed training projects:

- i. Networking and Knowledge Sharing Programme for Trade Professionals;
- ii. Certificate Programme on Trade,
- iii. Scholarship Programme on Trade, Economy and Finance;
- iv. Skill Development for Youth Employment (Study Visit); and
- v. Training of Trainers in Agriculture Sector.

iv. Skill Development for Youth Employment (SDYE) Study Visit

Within the framework of the OIC-VET Sub-Programme on Trade, Economy and Finance (OICVET-TEF), SESRIC has initiated, in collaboration with the IDB, a project titled Skill Development for Youth Employment (SDYE) with a view to contributing to the efforts of the OIC Member Countries towards decreasing the high unemployment rates, particularly youth unemployment. In this context, a study visit, as an initial phase of the SDYE Programme, was organized by SESRIC on 11-13 January 2012 in Ankara, Turkey, in collaboration with the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Group, the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB), the Ministry of National Education and the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of the Republic of Turkey, with the aim of sharing the experience of Turkey in fighting against youth unemployment through the project named 'Skill 10'. 33 participants from 9 pilot Member Countries, namely Cameroon, Egypt, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Palestine, Senegal, Tunisia and Turkey were participated in the study visit. In addition, representatives of OIC institutions namely, COMCEC, IDB and SESRIC and representatives of TOBB University of Economics and Technology, Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA), Ankara Chamber of Industry, UNDP Palestine and Her Highness Office (Qatar) through Al-Fakhoora Programme were also present in the study visit.

d. OIC Poverty Alleviation Programme (OIC-PAP)

Within the framework of OIC-VET Programme, SESRIC has recently initiated OIC Poverty Alleviation Programme (OIC-PAP) to have more active and vital role in coordination of all possible future events, trainings, capacity building programmes, research and other activities in poverty alleviation field in the Member Countries.

i. Workshop on 'Innovative Social Assistance Strategies in Poverty Alleviation'

SESRIC organized a workshop on 'Innovative Social Assistance Strategies in Poverty Alleviation' in collaboration with IRTI/IDB and the Ministry of Family and Social Policy of the Republic of Turkey on 12-14 December 2011 in Ankara, Turkey. The workshop was attended by 22 delegates from 15 OIC Member Countries, namely Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Comoros, Egypt, Guinea-Bissau, Indonesia, Iraq, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Senegal, Sudan, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkey and Yemen. Representatives of OIC institutions namely, COMCEC, IRTI/IDB and SESRIC also attended the Workshop. Representatives of Saudi Fund for Development, UNDP-Turkey, The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK), The Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA), The Foundations for Human Rights and Freedoms and Humanitarian Relief (IHH) and Ankara Development Agency (ANKARAKA) also participated in the Workshop.

ii. Study Visit to King Abdullah Waqf and Islamic Development Bank

SESRIC organized a study visit to King Abdullah Bin Abdul-Aziz Foundation and Islamic Development Bank jointly with the Ministry of Family and Social Policy of the Republic of Turkey to share the experiences of developmental housing and to explore the possibilities of further cooperation in the field of social assistance and poverty alleviation. A delegation composed of the decision makers and experts of the Ministry of Family and Social Policy had their visit on 23-29 June 2012.

e. SESRIC Tobacco Free OIC Initiative

Tobacco Free OIC is a new initiative of SESRIC in response to the spread of tobacco epidemic in the OIC Member Countries. Tobacco Free OIC initiative aims to foster an OIC-wide coordinated approach to curb and control the spread of tobacco epidemic in the OIC Member Countries. This initiative focuses on trainings, workshops, study visits and capacity building programs to facilitate the development and implementation of sustainable national tobacco control strategies in the OIC Member Countries.

i. Tobacco Free OIC Initiative Portal

The Centre has established Tobacco Free OIC Initiative Portal in order to facilitate the communication among member countries and to initiate OIC networks and partnerships to exchange experiences and best practices of tobacco control strategies, initiatives, projects and programs.

ii. Study Visit on 'Tobacco Control Policies'

SESRIC, in cooperation with the Tobacco Market Regulatory Authority of the Republic of Turkey (TAPDK) and the Country Office of the World Health Organization (WHO) in Turkey organized a study visit in order to share the practices and exchange expertise on tobacco control issues on 20-21 June 2012 in Erzurum, Republic of Turkey. Representatives of Azerbaijan, Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan and Qatar have attended the visit.

The delegation visited Smoke Cessation Centre and was informed on the system and techniques that are being used for smoke cessation. The study visit continued with a visit to Directorate of Erzurum Public Health and Erzurum Tobacco Control Department and an inspection to different cafes and restaurants of Erzurum was conducted together with an inspection team on the second day. Delegation was briefed on how tobacco control is being implemented in practice with details from Erzurum Metropolitan City. The delegation, together with the inspection team, has experienced a real inspection which enabled them to observe the process that is being implemented.

f. OIC-VET Portal and Brochure Update

OIC-VET Portal and Brochure has been updated and the planned projects have been developed into fully-fledged sub-programmes under OIC-VET. Data on National Focal Points has also been updated and shared on the OIC-VET Portal.

g. E-Mail Group among the Members of Monitoring and Advisory Committee (MAC) of the OIC-VET Programme

The Centre has established an e-mail group among the Members of Monitoring and Advisory Committee in order to facilitate the communication and increase the effectiveness of the OIC-VET Programme.

2. TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES

In addition to the on-going programmes and projects under the framework of OIC-VET Programme, the Centre has also actively involved in organising several workshops and meetings in various fields in collaboration with national, international or regional organisations for the benefit of the OIC Member Countries.

The details of the technical cooperation activities during the period under consideration are as follows:

a. First International Halal Congress

The First International Halal Congress was organized by Islamic Chamber and Information Center (ICRIC), in partnership with the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), Islamic Development Bank (IDB), Islamic Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Statistical Economic and Social Research and Training Center (SESRIC), Iran Chamber of Commerce Industry and Mines and Muslim Excellence and Competitiveness Corporations Award (MECCAward) on 14-15 October 2011, in Ankara, Turkey. The Congress discussed halal products (food stuffs, raw goods, necessity food stuffs, laboratories, standardization of / documents, accreditation etc.), halal medicines (medicines for human and animal), halal cosmetics and other hygienic products and halal services (collective food services, hotels, restaurants and tourism sector, banking, transport and collective vehicles). Members of chambers of commerce, manufacturers, academicians and students from different countries participated in the Congress where SESRIC made a presentation.

b. The Annual Meeting of the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the OIC Member Countries

i. Meeting of Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the Member Countries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) – 2011

The meeting has been organized by SESRIC in collaboration with Bank Negara Malaysia on 16 September 2011, in Kuala Lumpur - Malaysia. The theme of the meeting was “Central Banking and Financial Sector Development”. The meeting discussed the relationship between financial sector development and economic growth and the changing roles of central banks in emerging economies and strategies towards fulfilling their mandates. SESRIC made a presentation of its report on follow-up from 2010 Meeting.

ii. *Meeting of Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the Member Countries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) – 2012*

The 2012 Meeting of the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the OIC Member Countries has been organized by SESRIC, in collaboration with the Central Bank of Turkey (TCMB), and held in Istanbul, Turkey on 15 May 2012 under the theme “Promoting Strong and Stable Capital Flows among OIC Countries: Roles of the Financial Sector and Central Banks”. The meeting provided a platform to discuss the requirements of strong and stable capital flows between the member countries, which include strengthening of regulatory and supervisory frameworks and the role of Islamic finance in supporting these endeavours.

c. *Atlas of Islamic World Science and Innovation*

Malaysia Report was published in March 2011, while seven other country case studies, namely Egypt, Jordan, Pakistan, Qatar, Senegal, Kazakhstan and Indonesia are underway to be published in 2012. Kazakhstan report is undertaken by SESRIC. Accordingly, the Centre conducted the first phase of fieldwork in Kazakhstan between 19-26 February 2012 in Astana and Almaty respectively.

i. *Fourth Meeting of Joint Management Team*

The Fourth Meeting of the Joint Management Team (JMT) of the Atlas of Islamic World Science and Innovation Project was held on 11-12 December 2011 in Doha, Qatar, where also the Qatar Country Report has been launched. The meeting reviewed the status and progress of the project since the last JMT Meeting held in Istanbul on 11-12 June 2011.

d. *Training Workshop on ‘Project Risk Management’*

The Training Workshop on “Project Risk Management” was jointly organized by the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), Islamic Research and Training Institute (IRTI) and the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) on 28-31 March 2012 in Ankara, Turkey. The workshop basically discussed project management systems of entire project cycles and management of associated project

risks. The participants were from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Turkey and awarded certificates at the end of the training workshop.

e. OIC-UN General Coordination Meeting

SESRIC attended the OIC-UN General Meeting on Cooperation which was held on 1-3 May 2012 in Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting reviewed cooperation and appraisal of progress achieved made so far in priority areas of political dimensions and socio-economic development since the last meeting held in Istanbul on 29 June - 1 July 2010. The meeting further discussed the ways and means to enhance the mechanism of cooperation.

f. Memorandum of Understanding between SESRIC and IFSB

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between SESRIC and IFSB on 16-17 May 2012 in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, prior to the 9th IFSB Summit. In the operationalization of the MoU, the IFSB and SESRIC will be participating together in relevant activities related to training and education; undertaking the development of joint research and publications; and building awareness among the industry players through joint conferences, seminars, workshops, roundtables and trainings.

g. Workshops on the themes of the COMCEC Exchange of Views Sessions

In its capacity as the coordinator institution of the Exchange of Views Sessions of the COMCEC, the Centre plays an active role in exploring the views of the member countries on the proposed themes of these sessions through circulating the relevant questionnaire annually to all member countries on the subject and reporting the results to the main COMCEC sessions. The Centre also organizes, in collaboration with the IDB and other national and international institutions, the preparatory workshop on the selected theme of the COMCEC Exchange of Views Session. In this context, and during the period under consideration, the Centre organized the following workshop:

1. Workshop on “Enhancing the Competitiveness of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises in the OIC Member States”

In accordance with the decision of the 27th Session of COMCEC, SESRIC organized, in collaboration with the IDB, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Organization of the Republic of Turkey (KOSGEB) and SME Corporation Malaysia (SME Corp Malaysia), a workshop on ‘Enhancing the Competitiveness of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises in the OIC Member States’ in Ankara, Republic of Turkey, on 12-14 June 2012. The workshop focused on the following four sub-themes related to SMEs in OIC countries: (1) Access to Markets; (2) Access to finance; (3) Access to Technology and Innovation; and (4) Country

Practices and Experiences. The workshop elaborated on and discussed a set of policy recommendations for enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs in the member countries. It also proposed certain modalities for cooperation among the member countries in this important area.

h. A Side Event on Disaster Risk Management during Rio+20

SESRIC organized, in cooperation with the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), a side event during the Conference at RioCentro Convention Centre on 19 June 2012, entitled as 'Building Resilience for Sustainable Development in the OIC Member Countries: Accelerating Actions for Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management'.

The side event focused on one of the seven critical topics on the agenda of the Rio Conference - Disasters - with the aim of generating higher level of awareness among policy makers and experts in the OIC member countries with regard to the need for a comprehensive disaster risk management strategy as an integral part of their overall national development strategy.

3. SESRIC SEMINAR SERIES

The following seminars were organised by the Centre during the period under review are as follows:

i. A Seminar on 'Annual Economic Report on the OIC Countries – 2011'

The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) organized and hosted a seminar on "Annual Economic Report on the OIC Countries - 2011" in its headquarters in Ankara on October 14, 2011. The seminar was delivered by Dr. Kenan Bagci and Mr. Nadi Serhan Aydin, Researchers at the Centre.

ii. A Seminar on 'The Impact of Deposit Dollarization on Financial Deepening'

The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) organized and hosted a seminar on "The Impact of Deposit Dollarization on Financial Deepening" in its headquarters in Ankara on December 26, 2011. The seminar was delivered by Dr. Emre Ozsoz.

iii. Seminars on 'Microcredit Repayment Performance in a Metropolitan Area' and 'Dynamic Analysis of Default in Joint Liability Group Lending'

The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) organized and hosted seminars on "Microcredit Repayment Performance in A Metropolitan Area" and "Dynamic Analysis of Default in Joint Liability Group Lending" in its headquarters in Ankara on December 27, 2011. The seminars were delivered by Dr. Selay Sahan.

- iv. *A Seminar on 'Long Term Contracts and Farm Inflexibility Premium in the Production of Cellulosic Ethanol'*

The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) organized and hosted a seminar on "Long Term Contracts and Farm Inflexibility Premium in the Production of Cellulosic Ethanol" in its headquarters in Ankara on January 17, 2012. The seminar was delivered by Ms. Rozita Jalili.

- v. *A Seminar on 'Immigration in Canada: A General Equilibrium Analysis'*

The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) organized and hosted a seminar on "Immigration in Canada: A General Equilibrium Analysis" in its headquarters in Ankara on February 16, 2012. The seminar was delivered by Ms. Serife Genc, University of Pittsburgh.

- vi. *A Seminar on 'Rethinking the Effects of Fiscal Policy on Macroeconomic Aggregates: A Disaggregated SVAR Analysis'*

The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) organized and hosted a seminar on "Rethinking the Effects of Fiscal Policy on Macroeconomic Aggregates: A Disaggregated SVAR Analysis" in its headquarters in Ankara on March 5, 2012. The seminar was delivered by Mr. Umut Unal, Florida International University.

- vii. *A Seminar on 'Heterogeneity and Uncertainty in the Dynamics of Firm Selection into Foreign Markets'*

The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) organized and hosted a seminar on "Heterogeneity and Uncertainty in the Dynamics of Firm Selection into Foreign Markets" in its headquarters in Ankara on March 6, 2012. The seminar was delivered by Mr. Mehmet Fatih Ulu, University of Chicago.

- viii. *A Seminar on 'Housing Investment and Portfolio Allocation'*

The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) organized and hosted a seminar on "Housing Investment and Portfolio Allocation" in its headquarters in Ankara on March 8, 2012. The seminar was delivered by Mr. Cengiz Tunc, North Carolina State University (NCSU).

4. CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMMES (CBPs)

The following trainings were organised by the Centre during the period under review are as follows:

Training Course on 'Plant Protection and Disease' in Kampala, Uganda

The Centre organised a training on "Plant Protection and Disease" at the Cotton Development Organization of the Republic of Uganda on 20-22 June 2011. The Course was provided by Dr. Oktay Erdoğan, an expert from the Nazilli Cotton Research Institute of Turkey, and was attended by 18 staff members of the Cotton Development Organization of the Republic of Uganda.

Training Course on 'Breeding and Biotechnology: Pedigree Selection' in Gence, Azerbaijan

The Centre organised a training on "Breeding and Biotechnology: Pedigree Selection" at the Cotton Research Institute of the Republic of Azerbaijan on 22-24 June 2011. The Course was provided by Mr. Ramazan Şadet Güvercin, an expert from the Kahramanmaraş Agricultural Research Institute of Turkey, and was attended by 15 staff members of the Cotton Research Institute of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Training Course on 'Quality Improvement: Seed Quality and Preparation' in Atakent, Kazakhstan

The Centre organized a training course on "Quality Improvement: Seed Quality and Preparation" at the Kazakh Research Institute for Cotton Growing, on 28-30 September 2011. The course was provided by an expert from General Directorate of Agricultural Research, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, and was attended by staff members of Kazakh Research Institute for Cotton Growing.

Training Course on 'Breeding and Biotechnology: Hybridization' in Dhaka, Bangladesh

The Centre organized a training course on "Breeding and Biotechnology: Hybridization" at Cotton Development Board of Bangladesh, on 15-17 November 2011. The course was provided by an expert from General Directorate of Agricultural Research, Ministry of

Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, and was attended by staff members of Cotton Development Board of Bangladesh.

Training Course on 'Plant Protection: Insects' in Kolda, Senegal

The Centre organised a training on “Plant Protection: Insects” at the premises of Senegal Ministry of Agriculture in Kolda, 700 km from Dakar, on 22-24 November 2011 in collaboration with Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA) within the framework of OIC Cotton Training Programme. The Course was provided by Mr. Ayeva Bassarou, Head of Entomology Section at the Cotton Programme of the Centre for Agricultural Research in the Humid Savanna in Togo, and was attended by 40 cotton producers and technicians that are members of the National Federation of Cotton Producers (FNPC) from six different cotton-producing provinces of Senegal.

Training Course on 'Water Resources Management' in Khartoum, Sudan

The Centre organized a training course on “Water Resources Management” in Higher Council for Environment and Natural Resources in Sudan on 24-25 November 2011. The course was provided by an expert from Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs of Turkey, and was attended by experts from Higher Council for Environment and Natural Resources in Sudan.

Training Course on 'Health Information System' in Dhaka, Bangladesh

The Centre organized a training programme on “Health Information System” at the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of People’s Republic of Bangladesh on 22-24 March 2012 within the framework of OIC Ibn Sina Health Capacity Building Programme. The course was provided by Dr. Sinan Korukluoglu, an expert from the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Turkey, and was attended by relevant members of the Management Information System Directorate under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of Bangladesh.

Training Course on “Occupational Safety and Health” in Bandar Seri Bagawan, Brunei

The Centre organised a training course on “Occupational Health and Safety” at Occupational Health Division of Ministry of Health in 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 in 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' in Muscat, Oman

The Centre organised a training course on “Occupational Hygiene: Chemical Factors and Chemical Exposure” at the Environmental and Occupational Health Department of Ministry of Health in the Sultanate of Oman, on 25-27 April 2011. 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 25-30 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' in Islamabad, Pakistan

The Centre organised a training course on “Occupational Health and Safety” at the Ministry of Labour and Manpower of Pakistan, on 26-28 April 2011. The course was provided by an expert from the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) of Ministry of Health in Malaysia, and was attended by 25 staff members of the Ministry of Labour and Manpower of Pakistan.

Training Course on 'Occupational Hygiene: Chemical Factors and Chemical Exposure' in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The Centre organized a training programme on “Occupational Hygiene: Chemical Factors and Chemical Exposure” at the Ministry of Health of Malaysia, on 6-8 March 2012. The Course was provided by Mr. Kagan Yucel, an expert from Turkish Center for Occupational Health and Safety (İSGUM), and was attended by staff members of the Occupational Health Unit under the Ministry of Health of Malaysia.

Training Course on 'Reserve Management' in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

The Centre organized a training programme on “Reserve Management” at the National Bank of Kyrgyz Republic on 23-24 May 2012 within the framework of OIC Central Banks Capacity Building Programme. The Course was provided by Mr. Suat Aydin, senior portfolio manager from the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey, and attended by relevant members of the National Bank of Kyrgyz Republic.

Training Course on 'Cotton Diseases and Control' in Baku, Azerbaijan

The Centre organised training on “Plant Protection: Cotton Diseases and Control” at the Cotton Research Institute in Azerbaijan, on 11-13 June 2012. The Course was provided by Dr. Oktay Erdoğan, an expert from the Nazilli Cotton Research Institute of Turkey, and attended by approximately 50 staff members of the Cotton Research Institute in Azerbaijan.

Training Course on 'Agronomy: Fertilization' in Kampala, Uganda

The Centre organised training on “Agronomy: Fertilization” at the Cotton Development Organisation of Uganda, on 11-13 June 2012. The Course was provided by Prof. Dr. N. C. Kuchinda, an expert from the Institute for Agriculture Research, Ahmadu Bello University in Nigeria, and attended by approximately 20 field extension workers on cotton agronomy issues and cotton researchers of the Cotton Development Organisation of Uganda.

Training Course on Islamic Financial Instruments in Ankara, Turkey

The Centre organized a training programme on “Islamic Financial Instruments” at the Central Bank of Turkey on 26-28 June 2012 within the framework of OIC Central Banks Capacity Building Programme. The course was provided by Dr. Eko Adi Irianto, Manager in Department of Islamic Banking and Mr. Agung Bayu Purwoko, Manager in Department of Monetary Operation from the Bank Indonesia, and was attended by relevant members of the Central Bank of Turkey.

Training Programme on 'Modern Hospital Management Trends' in Sana'a, Yemen

The Centre organized training programme on “Modern Hospital Management Trends” at Ministry of Health of Yemen on 24-25 June 2012. The training programme was provided by Prof. Adnan Kisa, Head of Zirve University (Turkey), and Prof. Fevzi Akinci, Dean of Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences of Zirve University (Turkey). The course was attended by mid-career and senior-level decision-makers as well as managers who are actively involved in planning and/or directing government-initiated health sector reforms. The course provided the participants an intensive and state-of-the-art knowledge on health sector reforms, hospital management trends.

Training Course on Risk Management in Islamic Financial Instruments in Dushanbe, Tajikistan

The Centre organized a training programme on “Risk Management in Islamic Financial Instruments” at the National Bank of Republic of Tajikistan on 11-12 July 2012 within the framework of OIC Central Banks Capacity Building Programme. The Course has been provided by Dr. Rifki Ismal, Researcher at Directorate of Islamic Banking from the Bank Indonesia, and was attended by relevant members of the National Bank of Republic of Tajikistan.

Food and Life Safety Support Programme in Nouakchott, Mauritania

SESRIC and the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) jointly organised “Food and Life Safety Support Programme” in Nouakchott, Mauritania, on 5-10 May 2012.

The trainings were provided by academicians from various universities of Turkey. 33 veterinary surgeons, food engineers, medical and private sector staff from food sector attended this programme. The aim was to enhance the capacities in producing red meat, fish and other food in compliance with international level of standards.

B. CONTINUOUS & PLANNED ACTIVITIES

1. VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR OIC-MEMBER COUNTRIES (OIC-VET)

The following activities and projects are under the process of implementation and planned to be finalised during the next year:

a. The Fourth Meeting of the Monitoring and Advisory Committee (MAC) of the Vocational Education and Training Programme for OIC Member Countries (OIC-VET)

The Fourth Meeting of the Monitoring and Advisory Committee (MAC) of the Vocational Education and Training Programme for OIC Member Countries (OIC-VET) will be held in Yaoundé, Republic of Cameroon. The meeting will be hosted by Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training and will be attended by the delegations of the National Focal Points (NFPs) of the OIC Member States and the Representatives of the concerned OIC institutions. The main purpose of the meeting is to review the progress since the Third Meeting of MAC and to discuss the ways and means of collaboration within the scope of on-going and planned projects under the framework of OIC-VET Programme.

b. Thematic Working Groups within the framework of OIC-VET Programme

In line with the recommendations adopted at the Third Monitoring and Advisory Committee Meeting held on 17-18 July 2011, three thematic working groups will be established and led by three OIC Member Countries respectively, while SESRIC will coordinate the functioning of these groups. The working groups will work on the subjects they are dedicated to and develop their own terms of references. All Member Countries could become members of the working group(s) they would like to participate in. Three working groups are:

- i. Working Group on “Virtual Training and Simulation” led by the Islamic Republic of Iran
- ii. Working Group on “Training of Trainers” led by the Republic of Turkey
- iii. Working Group on “Sharing of Best Practices in Vocational Education and Training (VET)”

c. İSMEK Master Trainer Programme

The Centre will coordinate training programmes for groups of master trainers from Azerbaijan and Indonesia within the framework of İSMEK Master Trainer Programme (İMTP). In this context, the Centre for Art and Vocational Training Courses of İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality (İSMEK) will provide free training courses to master trainers from various institutions in Azerbaijan and Indonesia, under requested branches in previously defined nine different categories.

d. Skill Development for Youth Employment Project

After the Study Visit, four countries namely Cameroon, Egypt, Kyrgyzstan and Tunisia indicated their strong interest to elaborate more on the possible ways and means of transferring the Turkish experience in “Skill 10 Project” as a best practice to their countries. Taking this interest into account, SESRIC will organize, in collaboration with the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), a study visit as a second phase of the project to Tunisia and Cameroon in September 2012. A delegation composed of the representatives of the project partners will visit related ministries and institutions with the aim of searching the possibility of establishing a network for exchanging experiences and technical support.

e. OIC Poverty Alleviation Programme (OIC-PAP)

In September 2012, Executive Bureau of the Council of Ministers of Social Affairs in GCC States will visit the Ministry of Family and Social Policy to share the experiences in the field of social security including social protection, work-related income, and access to health care and family support.

f. Workshop on Vocational Training Need Analysis in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Sector in OIC Member Countries

The Centre will organize a workshop, in collaboration with Turk Telekom Academy, on “Vocational Training Need Analysis in ICT Sector in OIC Member Countries” with the participation of the representatives from national authorities of the ICT Sector in OIC Countries in 2012, in İstanbul, Turkey.

2. TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES

a. The Annual Meeting of the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the OIC Member Countries

The Annual Meeting of Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the OIC Member Countries-2013 and 2014 will be hosted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Republic of Indonesia, respectively. SESRIC is an active member of the Meeting Secretariat.

b. Atlas of Islamic World Science and Innovation

In line with the decisions taken at the Third Joint Management Team Meeting held on 11-12 June 2011 in Istanbul, Turkey, next tranche of countries are Indonesia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Nigeria and Senegal. SESRIC will lead the country case studies of Kazakhstan and Nigeria. The due date for all country studies and the final report is the end of 2012, with a final report launch taking place late 2012 or early 2013.

c. OIC-UN General Coordination Meeting

The Centre participates the meetings in its capacity as the OIC focal point for technical cooperation activities with a view to promote and enhance cooperation with the related UN Agencies, aiming at organizing joint activities that would add to the specialisation efforts of experts in general and play an important role in the improvement of human capital in member countries. The 2014 OIC-UN Meeting will be organized in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey.

d. Preparations for the COMCEC Exchange of Views Sessions

The 28th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC which was held on 09-10 May 2012 in Ankara, Turkey took note of the following proposals as possible themes for the exchange of views sessions to be held during the 28th Session of the COMCEC: (1) The role of PPP (Public Private Partnership) in tourism sector development in the Member States; (2) Increasing FDI Flows to the OIC Member States; and (3) Promoting Islamic Financial Services in the OIC Countries. In this context, SESRIC will circulate a questionnaire to the Member States to explore their views on the above-mentioned themes and report to the 28th Session of the COMCEC, which will be held in Istanbul on 08-11 October 2012.

3. CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMMES (CBPs)

a. Central Banks Capacity Building Programme in the OIC Member Countries

The Centre will organise the following Central Banks training programmes:

1. Training Course on “Financial Stability” in Jakarta, Indonesia in October 2012.
2. Training Course on “Macroeconomic Modelling” in Almaty, Kazakhstan in October 2012.

3. Training Course on “Islamic Financial Instruments” in Ankara, Turkey in October 2012.

b. OIC Cotton Training Programme (OIC-CTP)

The Centre will organise the following cotton training programmes:

1. Training Course on “Plant Protection: Diseases and Insects” in Khartoum, Sudan on 20-22 October 2012.

c. Environment Capacity Building Programme

The Centre will organise the following environment training programmes:

1. Training Course on “Forests, Land and Biodiversity: Desertification and Land Degradation (Soil Erosion)” in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan in October 2012.
2. Training Course on “Environmental Pollution: Air” in Astana, Kazakhstan in October 2012.

d. Ibn Sina Programme for OIC Health Capacity Building

The Centre will organise the following health training programmes:

1. Training Course on “Maternal Mortality” in Mogadishu, Somalia in September 2012.
2. Training Course on “Pneumonia” in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic in October 2012.

e. Occupational Safety and Health Capacity Building Programme (OSH-CaB) in the OIC Member Countries

The Centre will organise the following occupational safety and health training programmes:

1. Training Course on “Occupational Health: Occupational Health, Occupational Diseases and Basic Occupational Health Services” in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 10-12 October 2012.
2. Training Course on “Occupational Hygiene: Noise” in Tiran, Albania in October 2012.

3. Training Course on “Occupational Health: Occupational Health, Occupational Diseases” in Sana’a, Yemen in September 2012.

f. OIC Poverty Alleviation Capacity Building Programme (OIC-PAP)

Taking the strong support from the representatives of OIC Member Countries after the Workshop on Innovative Social Assistance Strategies in Poverty Alleviation, held in Ankara, Turkey on 12-14 December 2011, SESRIC has recently initiated OIC Poverty Alleviation Capacity Building Programme (OIC-PAP). The Centre will organise the following training programmes:

1. Training Course on “Rural Development Projects” in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in October 2012.
2. Training Course on “Conditional Cash Assistance” in Amman, Jordan in November 2012.

g. Stock Exchanges Capacity Building Programme

The Centre will organise the following training programmes:

1. Training Course on “Financial Risk Management” in Khartoum, Sudan in October 2012.
2. Training Course on “Exchange Basics” in Khartoum, Sudan in November 2012.

h. OIC Tobacco Training Programme

Tobacco Training Programme is an initiative recently developed by the Centre in response to the spread of tobacco epidemic in the OIC Member Countries. The Centre will organise the following training programmes:

1. Training Course on “Smoke Cessation” in Dushanbe, Kyrgyz Republic in October 2012.
2. A Study Visit on “Tobacco Control: Laws and Regulations” in Ankara, Turkey with the participation of representatives from Jordan and Saudi Arabia (comprising of decision makers from Ministry of Health, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Finance and Security Forces) in September 2012.

i. Information and Communications Technology Capacity Building Programme (ICT-CaB)

In light of the importance of ICT technologies, SESRIC has recently initiated the Information and Communications Technology Capacity Building Programme (ICT-CaB). The Centre will distribute the questionnaire and analyses these needs and capacities through the responses of the related questionnaires and mobilizes ICT experts across the member countries to perform the needed training programmes.

j. Capacity Building Programme on Peace and Security

The Centre has recently initiated Peace and Security Capacity Building Programme in order to develop increased knowledge on issues relating to peace and security as well as of practical methods and tools for improving and strengthening the work for peace and security in the OIC region. The Centre will distribute the questionnaire and analyses these needs and capacities through the responses of the related questionnaires and mobilizes experts across the member countries to perform the needed training programmes.

PUBLICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Centre exercises special care to ensure that the end-results of its activities in the areas of statistics and information, technical cooperation and training, and socio-economic research are documented and disseminated as widely as possible through the publication of periodicals, directories, books, papers and reports in the three official languages of the OIC.

The Centre's publications are published online through its web site (www.sesric.org) and circulated in hard copies to a large number of libraries, universities, government offices and individual researchers in the OIC member countries and elsewhere. They are also exchanged with the publications of a large number of national institutions and international organisations.

During the period that elapsed since the last meeting of the Board of Directors in September 2011, our Publications Department has processed the following documents and volumes:

A. SERIAL/PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

1. Journal of Economic Cooperation and Development

Published quarterly since 1979, it is a journal of applied research in development economics aimed at enhancing cooperation among the members of the OIC and welcomes original

papers dealing with important economic and social issues of immediate concern to the OIC Member Countries.

The electronic archive of the Journals published since 1990, is accessible online through the following addresses:

English: <http://www.sesric.org/publications-jecd.php>
Arabic: <http://www.sesric.org/publications-jecd-ar.php>
French: <http://www.sesric.org/publications-jecd-fr.php>

All versions of the Journal in this archive are downloadable in full versions whereas only the last issue is in abstract format.

2. Economic Cooperation and Development Review

The electronic archive of the issues of the Economic Cooperation and Development Review, published since its inception in 2008, is accessible online through the following addresses:

English: <http://www.sesric.org/publications-review.php>
Arabic: <http://www.sesric.org/publications-review-ar.php>
French: <http://www.sesric.org/publications-review-fr.php>

3. Annual Economic Report on the OIC Countries

The electronic archive of issues of the Annual Economic Report on the OIC Countries published since 2007 is accessible online through:

English: <http://www.sesric.org/publications-aer.php>
Arabic: <http://www.sesric.org/publications-aer-ar.php>
French: <http://www.sesric.org/publications-aer-fr.php>

4. Economic Problems of the Least-Developed and Land-Locked OIC Countries

The electronic archive of the Economic Problems of the Least-Developed and Land-Locked OIC Countries published since 2008 is accessible online through:

English: <http://www.sesric.org/publications-ldc.php>
Arabic: <http://www.sesric.org/publications-ldc-ar.php>
French: <http://www.sesric.org/publications-ldc-fr.php>

5. International Tourism in the OIC Countries: Prospects and Challenges

The electronic archive of the issues of International Tourism in the OIC Countries: Prospects and Challenges published since 2008, is accessible online through:

English: <http://www.sesric.org/publications-tourism.php>

Arabic: <http://www.sesric.org/publications-tourism-ar.php>

French: <http://www.sesric.org/publications-tourism-fr.php>

6. Statistical Yearbook of the OIC Member Countries

The electronic archive of the Statistical Yearbook of the OIC Member Countries published since 2007, is accessible online through:

English: <http://www.sesric.org/publications-syb.php>

Arabic: <http://www.sesric.org/publications-syb-ar.php>

French: <http://www.sesric.org/publications-syb-fr.php>

7. Basic Facts and Figures on OIC Member Countries

The electronic archive of issues of the Basic Facts and Figures on OIC Member Countries, published since 2007, is accessible online through:

English: <http://www.sesric.org/publications-bff.php>

Arabic: <http://www.sesric.org/publications-bff-ar.php>

French: <http://www.sesric.org/publications-bff-fr.php>

8. OIC Outlook Reports

The electronic archive of OIC Outlook Reports is accessible online through:

English: <http://www.sesric.org/publications-oic-outlook.php>

Arabic: <http://www.sesric.org/publications-oic-outlook-ar.php>

French: <http://www.sesric.org/publications-oic-outlook-fr.php>

9. Training Cooperation E-Newsletter

The electronic archive of issues of the Training Cooperation E-Newsletter published since its inception in 2009 is accessible online through:

English: <http://www.sesric.org/publications-newsletter-training.php>

Arabic: <http://www.sesric.org/publications-newsletter-training-ar.php>

French: <http://www.sesric.org/publications-eneewsletter-training-fr.php>

10. The Official Newsletter of the OIC Statistical Working Group

Started on June 2010, the OIC-SWG Newsletter, prepared by the SESRIC Statistics and Information Department, is published in English, Arabic and French on a semi-annual basis in June and December.

The online electronic versions are available through the addresses below:

English: <http://www.sesric.org/publications-newsletter-oicswg.php>

Arabic: <http://www.sesric.org/publications-newsletter-oicswg-ar.php>

French: <http://www.sesric.org/publications-newsletter-oicswg-fr.php>

B. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS

1. The SESRIC Web Site

SESRIC was the first OIC subsidiary organ to launch its own web site on the Internet in July 1997. The site has now developed into a renowned source of information on OIC Member Countries and is accessible through:

English: <http://www.sesric.org>

Arabic: <http://www.sesric.org/index-ar.php>

French: <http://www.sesric.org/index-fr.php>

The site is being visited by an ever-increasing number of users (a daily visitor count that never drops below 1000) and special care is taken to make its coverage as comprehensive as possible and its content updated, virtually on a daily basis. It is available in the three official languages of the OIC and includes the following sections:

a) Publications e-Archive

Serial issues and other books/reports of SESRIC, since 1995, are all electronically downloadable in their full PDF versions through the following address:

English: <http://www.sesric.org/publications-earchive.php>

Arabic: <http://www.sesric.org/publications-earchive-ar.php>

French: <http://www.sesric.org/publications-earchive-fr.php>

b) Online Activities Archive

The e-archive of all activities/events/workshops organised/participated by SESRIC and the related documents are all grouped by year and available through:

English: <http://www.sesric.org/activities-archive.php>
Arabic: <http://www.sesric.org/activities-archive-ar.php>
French: <http://www.sesric.org/activities-archive-fr.php>

The Calendar of upcoming events is also available through:

English: <http://www.sesric.org/calendar.php>
Arabic: <http://www.sesric.org/calendar-ar.php>
French: <http://www.sesric.org/calendar-fr.php>

c) Directories of Institutions

National Statistical Organizations

The Directory of National Statistical Organisations (NSOs) of the OIC Member Countries including continuously updated information is available through:

English: <http://www.sesric.org/databases-nso.php>
Arabic: <http://www.sesric.org/databases-nso-ar.php>
French: <http://www.sesric.org/databases-nso-fr.php>

Universities, Research and Training Institutions

The Directory of Universities of OIC Member Countries is available through:

English: <http://www.sesric.org/databases-universities.php>
Arabic: <http://www.sesric.org/databases-universities-ar.php>
French: <http://www.sesric.org/databases-universities-fr.php>

The Directory of Research Institutions of OIC Member Countries is available through:

English: <http://www.sesric.org/databases-research-inst.php>
Arabic: <http://www.sesric.org/databases-research-inst-ar.php>
French: <http://www.sesric.org/databases-research-inst-fr.php>

The Directory of Training Institutions of OIC Member Countries is available through:

English: <http://www.oicvet.org/training-institutions.php>
Arabic: <http://www.oicvet.org/training-institutions-ar.php>
French: <http://www.oicvet.org/training-institutions-fr.php>

Central Banks

The Directory of Central Banks of the OIC Member Countries including continuously updated information is available through:

English: <http://www.sesric.org/central-banks.php>
Arabic: <http://www.sesric.org/central-banks-ar.php>
French: <http://www.sesric.org/central-banks-fr.php>

d) Expert Directories

Roster of Statistics, Environmental and e-Government Experts

The Roster of Statistics Experts is accessible online through:

English: <http://www.sesric.org/statistics-experts.php>
Arabic: <http://www.sesric.org/statistics-experts-ar.php>
French: <http://www.sesric.org/statistics-experts-fr.php>

The Roster of Environmental Experts is accessible online through:

English: <http://www.sesric.org/environment-experts.php>
Arabic: <http://www.sesric.org/environment-experts-ar.php>
French: <http://www.sesric.org/environment-experts-fr.php>

The Roster of e-Government Experts is accessible online through:

English: <http://www.sesric.org/egovernment-experts.php>
Arabic: <http://www.sesric.org/egovernment-experts-ar.php>
French: <http://www.sesric.org/egovernment-experts-fr.php>

2. OIC-VET

The Vocational Education and Training Programme for the Member Countries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC-VET) web site is accessible online through:

English: <http://www.oicvet.org>

Arabic: <http://www.oicvet.org/index-ar.php>

French: <http://www.oicvet.org/index-fr.php>

a) OIC-VET Partners Database

The OIC-VET Partners Database is accessible online through:

English: <http://www.oicvet.org/partner-introduction.php>

Arabic: <http://www.oicvet.org/partner-introduction-ar.php>

French: <http://www.oicvet.org/partner-introduction-fr.php>

b) Training Opportunities (TROP) Online System

SESRIC fully automated the process of information related to training opportunities in the digital environment with the participation of the OIC Training Institutions. All registered training institutions are given online access to the TROP system, enabling them to maintain, monitor and enhance information of their institutions and available training programmes. The Training Opportunities (TROP) Online System is accessible online through:

English: <http://www.oicvet.org/trop-index.php>

Arabic: <http://www.oicvet.org/trop-index-ar.php>

French: <http://www.oicvet.org/trop-index-fr.php>

3. Atlas of Islamic-World Science and Innovation (AIWSI) Web Site

The Atlas of Islamic-World Science and Innovation (AIWSI) web site is accessible online through:

English: <http://www.aiwsi.org>

Arabic: <http://www.aiwsi.org/index-ar.php>

French: <http://www.aiwsi.org/index-fr.php>

4. Organisations of the Islamic Cooperation Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom) Web Site

The Organisations of the Islamic Cooperation Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom) web site is accessible online through:

English: <http://www.oicstatcom.org>

Arabic: <http://www.oicstatcom.org/index-ar.php>

French: <http://www.oicstatcom.org/index-fr.php>

5. OIC-HEALTH

OIC-Health web site is accessible online through:

English: <http://www.sesric.org/health/>

Arabic: <http://www.sesric.org/health/index-ar.php>

6. Tobacco Free OIC

Tobacco Free OIC web site is accessible online through:

English: <http://www.sesric.org/tfo/>

7. OIC-OSHNET

OIC Network for Occupational Safety and Health (OIC-OSHNET) web site is accessible online through:

English: <http://www.oicvet.org/oshnet/>

C. SPECIAL SOFTWARE APPLICATIONS

1. Basic Social and Economic Indicators Database (BASEIND)

The Basic Social and Economic Indicators Database (BASEIND) is accessible online through:

English: <http://www.sesric.org/baseind.php>

Arabic: <http://www.sesric.org/baseind-ar.php>

French: <http://www.sesric.org/baseind-fr.php>

2. SESRIC Motion Chart Generator (SMC)

The SESRIC Motion Chart Generator (SMC) is accessible online through:

English: <http://www.sesric.org/smc.php>

Arabic: <http://www.sesric.org/smc-ar.php>

French: <http://www.sesric.org/smc-fr.php>

3. Member Countries in Figures

Member Countries database is accessible online through:

English: <http://www.sesric.org/oic-member-countries.php>

Arabic: <http://www.sesric.org/oic-member-countries-ar.php>

French: <http://www.sesric.org/oic-member-countries-fr.php>

D. MEETING DOCUMENTS

Twenty-Seventh Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (COMCEC), 17-20 October 2011, Istanbul, Turkey

- ▶ Annual Economic Report on the OIC Countries 2011 (English, Arabic and French)
- ▶ Economic Cooperation and Development Review Vol.4 No.2
- ▶ SWOT Outlook on OIC Member Countries
- ▶ Implementation Report Vocational Education and Training Programme for OIC Member Countries (OIC-VET)
- ▶ Activities of the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom)
- ▶ Results of the Questionnaire Circulated by the SESRIC to the Member Countries on the Proposed Themes for the COMCEC Exchange of Sessions

Fourth WIEF-UiTM Global Discourse on Nanotechnology, 14 October 2011, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

- ▶ Current Stance of Science and Technology in OIC Countries

Forum on Development of Agro-Food Industries in OIC Member States, 11-12 October 2011, Kampala, Uganda

- ▶ State of Agro-Food Industries in the OIC Member Countries: Prospects and Challenges

Fourth Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Islamic Conference of Health Ministers, 28 September - 01 October 2011, Astana, Kazakhstan

- ▶ OIC Health Report 2011
- ▶ Pharmaceutical Industry in OIC Member Countries: Production, Consumption and Trade
- ▶ The State of Maternal and Newborn Health in OIC Member Countries
- ▶ The State of Polio in OIC Member Countries - "Enhancing Multilateral Cooperation to Eradicate Polio"

E. PUBLICATIONS

- ▶ Journal of Economic Cooperation and Development: vol. 32 No. 2, 3, 4 and vol. 33 No.1,2; English edition
- ▶ Economic Cooperation and Development Review: vol.4 No.1, 2 and vol.5 No.1; English edition
- ▶ Annual Economic Report on the OIC Countries: 2011; English, Arabic and French editions
- ▶ OIC Outlook Reports
 - The Parliaments of OIC Member Countries Details
 - Current Stance of Statistical Capacity in the OIC Member Countries Details
 - Exchange Rate Regimes in the OIC Member Countries Details
 - Explaining Income Disparity among the OIC Member Countries Details
 - Assessment of Sustainability and Insolvency of the External Debt Details
 - Current Stance of Science and Technology in OIC Countries Details
 - Human Capital Accumulation in OIC Member Countries Details
 - Transportation Networks in the OIC Member Countries: Impact on Trade and Tourism
- ▶ SWOT Outlook on OIC Member Countries, 2011, 2012; English and Arabic editions
- ▶ OIC Health Report 2011: English edition