

Report of SESRIC's Meeting with the NSOs of the OIC Member Countries

SESRIC organized a sideline meeting on February 26, 2009 with the delegates of the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of the Member Countries of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) during the 40th Session of the UN Statistical Commission.

The representatives of the NSOs of 31 OIC Member Countries as well as the representatives of the international organizations such as the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the Statistical Office of the European Union (EUROSTAT) and Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) participated in the meeting.

Dr. Savas Alpay, Director General of the SESRIC made a presentation and briefed the delegates on the statistical activities of SESRIC.

The delegates were informed on SESRIC BASEIND, the database of basic social and economic indicators of the member countries, as well as on the current level of data availability in the BASEIND database for each country. An online data submission interface for the NSOs was introduced. The application will allow the users from NSOs to submit new or missing data for old years or update the present data electronically. The system will be operational through a country specific username-password pair. The username and password of their countries have been distributed to the delegates. SESRIC kindly requested the contact information of focal points for data submission from each NSO.

The SESRIC's motion chart generator, a cutting-edge technology for visual presentation of the country data in a comparative manner across years was also introduced to the delegates, and they were informed that they could make use of this tool through SESRIC website. The delegates were also informed on the SESRIC thematic maps and publications.

The delegates were informed on the Statistical Capacity Building Programme of SESRIC, the training activities realized in 2007 and 2008 and to be realized in 2009. The importance of the timely response to the Questionnaire on Statistical Capacity Building and the contribution of the NSOs in providing trainers as part of their commitment for technical cooperation, were highlighted.

Recent initiatives towards coordinating statistical activities at the OIC level were introduced, and the delegates were informed about the Statistical Working Group, recently established by the joint effort of SESRIC and IDB.

Finally the representative of IDB made a presentation on the Statistical Capacity Building initiative of IDB.

After the presentations, the delegates expressed their strong appreciation and support for SESRIC for organizing this meeting.

A very lively discussion session followed and the delegates agreed on the following main recommendations.

Recommendations

The proposal of organizing annual regular meetings for NSOs of OIC Member Countries, made by the delegate of the United Arab Emirates was supported by all the delegates. It was agreed that the first meeting of the NSOs should be organized either in the last quarter of 2009 or first quarter of 2010 by SESRIC and IDB. The representative of IDB expressed their support to the recommendation on regular meeting.

The NSOs also recommended that SESRIC continue to organize a half-day meeting of the NSOs of the OIC Member Countries as a side event during the annual sessions of the UN Statistical Commission.

All delegates agreed on a proposal by the delegate of Lebanon, that SESRIC should directly communicate with the NSOs, besides communicating via the diplomatic channels.

The delegates expressed their support to the Statistical Capacity Building Programme of SESRIC and mentioned that they are ready to provide experts as trainers for training activities to be organized by the SESRIC.

The representatives of the international organizations, IDB, UNSD, EUROSTAT and PARIS21 expressed their support to joint statistical activities and cooperation with the NSOs of OIC member countries and SESRIC.

Annex I

List of Participants

NSOs of the Member Countries

Algeria
Azerbaijan
Bangladesh
Brunei
Cameroon
Côte d'Ivoire
Egypt
Gabon
Gambia
Guyana
Indonesia
Iran
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kuwait
Lebanon
Morocco
Mozambique
Niger
Oman
Palestine
Qatar
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Suriname
Togo
Turkey
Uganda
United Arab Emirates
Yemen

International Organizations

Islamic Development Bank (IDB)
United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)
Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21)
Statistical Office of the European Union (EUROSTAT)