

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR SESRIC

On Enhancing Economic and Commercial Cooperation among OIC Member Countries

I. The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC)

The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) is a subsidiary organ of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC). The Centre is carrying out its activities in Ankara since 1978. The basic mandate drawn up for SESRIC is threefold:

1. To collate, process and disseminate socio-economic statistics and information on and for the utilisation of the member countries,
2. To study and evaluate the economic and social developments in the member countries to help generate proposals that will initiate and enhance cooperation among them, and
3. To organise training programmes in selected fields geared to the needs of the member countries as well as to the general objectives of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference.

In addition to the implementation of the above-mentioned mandate, the Centre assumes the role of focal point for the technical cooperation activities and projects between the OIC system and the related UN agencies. It also acts as the major research arm of the OIC whereby it is assigned the task of preparing the main economic and social reports and background documents for the multitude of economic, social and technical cooperation meetings and conferences held at different levels under the umbrella of the OIC every year.

At the threshold of its 31st year of existence and active involvement, within the framework of its field of specialisation, in the common effort towards the realisation of the noble objectives of the OIC, SESRIC is increasingly solicited to put its accumulated experience and acquired know-how at the service of the OIC and its member countries as reflected in the ever-expanding scope of activities it carries out.

II. Project Objective

The objective of the project is to develop new proposals for increasing and enhancing commercial cooperation and investment among the OIC member countries with a view to increasing the volume of intra-OIC trade. The proposals should be prepared in light of the current and prospected global developments and challenges as well as the relative agenda of the other intergovernmental and international organisations, considering the following criteria:

- 2.1. The proposals should focus on potential areas of cooperation among the OIC member countries in trade and investment including, but not limited to, agriculture and tourism sectors.

- 2.2. The proposals should be based on the current state and level of cooperation among the OIC Member Countries in these areas as well as on data analysis, findings of research and outcome of workshop, interviews, etc. as necessitated by the methodology.
- 2.3. The proposals should be concrete, feasible and practical, and clearly identify the implementation methodology among the Member Countries.

III. Scope of Services and Deliverables

3.1. The scope of work will cover the following:

1. Design of the proposal development process.

- 1.1. Methodology and time-plan design.
- 1.2. Identification of experts/ eminent people to be involved.

2. Implementation of the process.

- 2.1. Background report(s)
- 2.2. Workshop Organization
- 2.3. Progress meetings
- 2.4. Monthly progress reports
- 2.5. Final report

The design of methodology should be developed in cooperation with and under approval of SESRIC experts and will require meetings and presentations with SESRIC. The consultant will also conduct regular monthly progress meetings with SESRIC experts during the period of consultancy services. In developing the cooperation proposals, the consultant will be involved in the organization of an international workshop in Istanbul or Ankara, Turkey.

3.2. The deliverables of the consultancy services will be a Final Report in Turkish and English language and will include:

1. Concrete proposals and their rationales on possible areas of cooperation among the OIC member countries in trade and investment including, but not limited to, agriculture and tourism sectors.
2. Process design and implementation.
3. Background reports as annexes.

IV. Period of Consultancy Services

The consultancy services will be performed between 23 March 2009 and 31 August 2009. The deliverable will be submitted to SESRIC in Turkish and English no later than 31 August 2009.

V. Award Criteria

The proposals will be assessed on the basis of consultants' experience and credentials. Please reflect all related experience and background of the consultant company as well as the consultants to take part in the project. At the minimum, SESRIC requires the following criteria from interested consultancy companies:

- ✓ At least one regular full-time consultant in the company (partners included) should have strong familiarity in commercial cooperation among Member Countries in the context of Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.
- ✓ Names and brief resumes of key consultants to take part in the project. Key consultants will be required to attend regular progress meetings with SESRIC.
- ✓ Proof of experience in dealing with and providing professional consultancy services to international institutions.

VI. Submission of Proposals

The proposals will be submitted to the address below before 17.00 hours, 18 March 2009 in a sealed envelope.

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Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC)

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