



العُرْفَةُ الْإِسْلَامِيَّةُ لِلتِّجَارَةِ وَالصَّنَاعَةِ

Islamic Chamber of Commerce & Industry
La Chambre Islamique de Commerce et d'Industrie

Paper of
Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry
On the Collection and usage of Secondary Data
At the 2nd Meeting of the Statistical Working Group
Ankara – Turkey, 15-16 June 2009

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Honorable Participants,

At the outset, ICCI presents its apologies for not being able to attend this important 2nd Meeting of the Statistical Working Groups. We have sought the kind indulgence of SESRIC to present the ICCI paper.

We also wish to thank SESRIC and H.E. Dr. Savas Alpay, Director General, SESRIC for organizing this Meeting and for his leadership role in the field of research and studies.

We have before us the framework for statistical coordination among the OIC Institutions, which gives the direction and the modus operandi.

It is a known fact that secondary data needs to be used by the OIC Countries and the Institutions, because of the lack of the required information within the OIC Countries. Having said that, the OIC Countries are also not in a position to get primary data, given the cost involved and the time needed.

Evaluating the situation as it stands now, the initiatives undertaken by SESRIC are commendable through BASEIND and the SESRIC Motion Charts. A lot of effort has gone into preparing these databases and to obtain, wherever possible, primary data.

As regards the secondary data, it does not only mean that it is obtained through other sources, but it could be available to fulfill other purposes. Hence, there is a need to evaluate the secondary data with regard to its purpose, methodology, definition of the concepts and the time taken to get the secondary data.

As was agreed upon during the 1st Statistical Working Group Meeting emphasis needs to be given to sourcing primary data directly from member countries and at the same time to collect secondary data from international sources. As regards the Islamic Chamber, the requirement is relevant to the private sector. The database created be such that it analyzes the business potential and also lists them so as to enable the members of the business community to be in contact. As such, the private sources being used by the Islamic Chamber have been largely dependant on National Chambers of Commerce and Local Chambers of member countries, trading centres, and business associations, buyers / manufacturers' guide etc.

However, with reference to the reliability of the secondary data, it has been found that at times the data is not updated. The reason being that the Chambers of Commerce of the member countries representing 57 Members Countries, are at various stages of development. Some being categorized as less developed. As such, there is a lack of know-how and expertise with regards to the collection and compilation of data.

With regards to defining the reliable sources, till such time that the various projects being undertaken by the OIC Institutions, each addressing the area of its activity, are being developed and strengthened, there is a need to rely on International sources.

The most commonly used source, which to a large extent meets the requirement of all is, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OCED). The OECD, regularly gathers statistical information on foreign trade of its member countries and makes the statistics internationally comparable by converting the information into uniform units.

The ICCI, is of the view that there is a need to develop a coordinated mechanism which would enable member states of the OIC to be better informed of each others potentials and needs. This would then facilitate economic promotion leading to enhancing the level of intra-Islamic Trade and Investment.

Recommendations:

In developing a mechanism, attention should be given that the efforts of each OIC Institution and the National Statistical Organizations, should be coordinated in a way that it should avoid duplication, and work in a way that each stakeholder has a role in contributing the related data, thereby leading to the end result, which would facilitate interaction among the member countries.

It is proposed that training programmes be held in OIC countries, where needed, to upgrade their skills in IT and method for collection, compilation and dissemination of data according to Standard International Trade Classification (SITC).

Conclusion:

The ICCI as one of the members of the SWG, extends full cooperation in order to meet the objectives.

Due to its inability to attend, it counts on SESRIC and all other members to appropriately reflect the views of the ICCI in the final report.

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