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ACTIVITY REPORT

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**THE ISLAMIC CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT
OF TRADE**

TO THE

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CULTURAL AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

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ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE ISLAMIC CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE

This document takes stock of the activities of the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) since 1st January 2017 till 30th December 2017.

PART I: ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

1. Budget: The Centre's Budget for the Year 2018.

The 46th Permanent Finance Committee held in Jeddah from 22nd to 24th May 2017 approved the budgets of the Centre for the financial year 2018 for an amount of **2,536,000.00 US dollars.**

2. Financial Control for the year 2017:

From 24th September to 5th October 2016, the Financial Control Organ (FCO) checked the accounts of the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade for the financial year 2016.

PART II: ICDT's ACTIVITIES

I/ PROMOTION:

A/ FAIRS AND EXHIBITIONS:

1. 10th Exhibition of Agribusiness Industries of the OIC Member States", Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 23rd - 26th April 2017:

Within the framework of the implementation of the Cooperation Agreement signed in May 2008 between the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) and the Saudi Al Harity Company for Exhibitions Limited (ACE), both parties organized under the auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia the 10th Exhibition of Agribusiness Industries in the OIC Member States concomitantly with the 22nd Exhibition of Food/ Hotel/PROPAC Arabia from 23rd to 26th April 2017 at Jeddah Centre for Forums and Events, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

This Exhibitions was inaugurated by His Excellency Mr. Mohammed Al Amri, Director General of the Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage - Province of Makkah Al Mukarrama, which lasted for four days and was opened to the General Public and Professionals from 4 pm to 10 pm.

The Net Exhibition space was spread over approximately 4500 square meters and was attended by 300 businessmen seeking for business and partnership opportunities as well as 8000 visitors who expressed their satisfaction with the fair organization of the Exhibition and the amenities and services made available to them, which meet international standards.

The exhibition recorded the participation of 350 companies representing the following Member States: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Arab Republic of Egypt, Republic of Indonesia, Malaysia, Republic of Lebanon, The Republic of Turkey, the Kingdom of Bahrain, the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the State of Kuwait, Turkmenistan, the State of the United Arab Emirates and the Kingdom of Morocco.

Representatives of the Muslim Minorities in non OIC Member States also participated in this exhibition, namely: The Federative Republic of Brazil, the Republic of Poland, the

Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the Republic of South Africa, the Republic of Italy and the People's Republic of China.

2. The “8th Muslim World Biz” Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 18-21 September 2017:

Within the framework of the joint program of promotion of trade and investment among the OIC Member States, the Islamic Center for Development of Trade (ICDT) and the OIC International Business Center (OICBC) - Malaysia, organize the 8th Edition of the "Muslim World Biz", from 18 to 21 September 2017 at Putra World Trade Center in Kuala Lumpur - Malaysia.

To surround this event with all the conditions of success, ICDT and the OIC International Business Center (OICBC), held the 1st coordination meeting for the organization of this event on 19 January 2017 in Rabat, which was devoted to the modalities of organization and participation of the Member States and the promotion of this event at the 15th Meeting of Economic Advisers at the Embassies of the OIC Member States accredited to the Kingdom of Morocco, organized by the Center on 19 January 2017 in Rabat - Kingdom of Morocco.

3. 1st Exhibition of Green Economy of the OIC Member States, Dakar - Republic of Senegal, 26-29 October 2017:

In pursuance of the resolutions of the 32nd Ministerial Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC), held from 21st to 24th November 2016 in Istanbul - Republic of Turkey, which welcomed the offer of the Republic of Senegal to host the “Exhibition of Green Economy of the OIC Member States”, the ICDT and the National Agency for Renewable Energies (ANER) organized in collaboration with the Senegalese company (EXCAF Communication), under the auspices of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and the Ministry of Energy and Development of Renewable Energies of the Republic of Senegal, the 1st Exhibition of Green Economy of the OIC Member States, from 26th to 29th October 2017 at the International Centre of Foreign Trade of Senegal (CICES), concomitantly with the International Exhibition for Renewable Energies and Environment in Africa (SIERA). This edition was organized under the theme "Towards the Green Economy: Renewable Energies and Sustainable Development".

The Exhibition which lasted 4 days, has covered a gross area of 3000 m² including 1200 m² net space, and was open to the general public and professionals from 9.00 am to 6.00 pm. This 1st Exhibition of Green Economy of the OIC Member States witnessed the participation of the following OIC Member States: Benin, the United Arab Emirates, Cameroon, Cote d’Ivoire, the Kingdom of Morocco (Country Guest of Honour), Mali, Mauritania and Senegal.

The Exhibition also recorded the participation of France, Canada, Italy, Germany and Cape Verde and the following regional organizations: the Office of the African Development Bank in Dakar, ECOWAS, WAEMU and UNCTAD.

• Activities on the sidelines of the Exhibition:

B2B meetings and a scientific symposium were organized for professionals in the renewable energy and green economy sectors.

On the sidelines of the Forum, four sessions were organized in 9 panels:

WORKING SESSION I: Energy policies and sustainable energies

- Panel 1: Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency for Economic Growth
- Panel 2: The issue of the stability of networks integrating renewable energy production plants.

WORKING SESSION II: Renewable energies and productive uses.

- Panel 3: Substitution of Diesel Pumping by Renewable Energy Pumping Systems to Boost the Agricultural Sector
- Panel 4: Development of green cities: status of public lighting by solar power

WORKING SESSION III: Energy Storage / Waste Management.

- Panel 5: Storage of renewable energies and competitiveness of the sector
- Panel 6: Treatment, recycling and recovery of waste

WORKING SESSION IV: Sustainable Management of Natural Resources

- Panel 7: Management and Sustainable Management of Forests
- Panel 8: Preservation of biodiversity (marine protected areas, natural reserves);
- Panel 9: Environmental Management in Mining Projects for Sustainable Development.

Through these different panels, participants highlighted the problems facing the sector, notably the lack of investment and training for operators working in the sector.

They urged for the multiplication of the organization of exhibitions dedicated to this sector and training seminars aimed at strengthening appropriation of renewable energies.

They called for the implementation of a strategy and an action plan for the development of the green economy at the level of the OIC and strengthening collaboration on training in the renewable energy sector and the exchange of experiences between Member States (reverse linkage).

4. 5th Exhibition of Halal Products of the OIC Member States, Istanbul - Republic of Turkey, 23-25 November 2017:

In pursuance of the resolutions of the 32nd Ministerial Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC), held from 21st to 24th November 2016 in Istanbul - Republic of Turkey, and following the success of previous editions held in Sharjah - State of the United Arab Emirates, the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) and the Standards and Metrology Institute for the Islamic Countries (SMIIC), organized in collaboration with «Discover Events», the 5th Exhibition of the Halal Products of the OIC Member States, from 23 to 25 November 2017, at the «Istanbul Lutfi Kirdar International Congress and Convention Centre» - Republic of Turkey.

The Exhibition was inaugurated by HE Mr Nihat ZEYBEKCI, the Minister of Economy of the Republic of Turkey accompanied by Mrs. Rkia DERHAM, Secretary of State to the Minister of Industry, Investment, Trade and the Digital Economy in charge of Foreign Trade of the Kingdom of Morocco and lasted three days and was open to the general public and professionals and recorded the participation of 80 countries (125 exhibitors and visitors) over an area of 4500 m² and a number of visitors reaching 29,800.

Numerous institutions operating in the field of Halal Product Standards also took part in this Exhibition. Several thematic conferences were organized on the sidelines of the Exhibition, notably on the different certification and accreditation systems with a view to accelerating the mutual recognition of Halal Certificates among OIC Member States, the

traceability process of Halal products, the role of NGOs in raising awareness of Halal products as well as the Islamic finance.

ICDT took the opportunity to promote the Centre's services offered to exhibitors from participating Member States and promoted the following Trade Fairs and Exhibitions, namely: the Exceptional Edition of the Trade Fair of the OIC Member States (6 - 10 February 2018, Kuwait City - State of Kuwait); 11th Exhibitions of the Agribusiness Industries of the OIC Member States (20-23 March 2018, Jeddah - Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) and the 6th Exhibitions of the Halal Products scheduled to be held in November 2018 in Istanbul - Republic of Turkey .

5. Preparations of the Exceptional Edition of the Trade Fair of the OIC Member States, Kuwait City, State of Kuwait, 6-10 February 2018:

In pursuance of resolutions adopted by the 32nd Ministerial Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the OIC Member States (COMCEC), held from 21 to 24 November 2016 in Istanbul - Republic of Turkey, which welcomed the offer of the State of Kuwait to host an exceptional edition of the Trade Fair of the OIC Member States; ICDT and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of the State of Kuwait are organizing an exceptional edition of the Trade Fair of the OIC Member States in collaboration with "Kuwait International Fair Company (KIF)" from 6 to 10 February 2018 at the "International Fairs Ground of Kuwait City", concomitantly with the "International Kuwait Trading Fair".

The MOU on the organization of this Fair was signed at the 1st Coordination Meeting held on 22 and 23 November 2016 in Istanbul on the sidelines of the 32nd Ministerial Session of the COMCEC and the 2nd Coordination Meeting between ICDT and KIF, was held on 18 January 2017 at the ICDT headquarters in Casablanca and was dedicated to organizing and developing the plan to promote the Fair among the OIC Member States.

The 3rd meeting was held between the organizers on 22 and 23 September 2017 in Casablanca and was dedicated to the evaluation of the participation of the Member States and to the promotional campaign of the said Fair among the OIC countries

On the sidelines of this Fair, the following events will be organized:

- 35th Session of the Board of Directors of the ICDT, 9-10 February 2018;
- Meeting of the Secretariats of the TPOs of the OIC Member States, 7 February 2018;
- Workshop on Trade in Services, 10-11 February 2018
- Business Forum of the OIC Member States which will be organized by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Kuwait.
- B2B Meetings between Businessmen of the OIC Member States.

6. Preparations of the 3rd Tourism Fair of the OIC Member States, Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt, October 2018:

In accordance with recommendations of the 9th Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers, held from 21 to 23 December 2015 in Niamey - Republic of Niger, which welcomed the proposal of the Arab Republic of Egypt to host the 3rd Tourism Fair of the OIC Member States in 2017, the ICDT and the Egyptian Authority for Tourism Promotion organize in collaboration with the Egypt Expo and Convention Authority (EECA), the 3rd Tourism Fair of the OIC Member States, to be held in **October 2018**, in Cairo under the theme "OIC-TOURISM: Message of peace between peoples".

And to surround this Fair with all the conditions of success, the organizers held two

coordination meetings respectively in Cairo and Casablanca on the 22 December 2015 and the 27 January 2016.

These two meetings focused on the organizational arrangements, participation and the promotion of this Fair among the Member States.

The 2nd coordination meeting was crowned by the signature of the MOU concerning the organization of this Fair in the presence of H.E. the Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt accredited to Morocco.

The 3rd Coordination Meeting, held between ICDT and EECA on 18 January 2017 at the ICDT headquarters in Casablanca, focused on the organization and distribution of tasks between the organizers for the promotion of the Fair.

With reference to the Verbal Note from the Ministry of Trade and Industry of the Arab Republic of Egypt dated 24 September 2017 stating the wish of the concerned Egyptian authorities to postpone the organization of this fair as well as the Forum at a later date, the organizers have decided to postpone the organization of both events to October 2018 (in Cairo).

A recommendation was adopted at the 33rd Ministerial Session of the COMCEC, held in November 2017 for the organization of this Fair in October 2018, and a recommendation should be submitted for adoption by the 10th Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM) scheduled to be held in Dhaka- People's Republic of Bangladesh.

7. Preparations of the 16th Trade Fair of the OIC Member States, Baghdad, Republic of Iraq, 2019/2020:

In pursuance of resolutions of the 31st Ministerial Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), held from 23rd to 26th November 2015 in Istanbul - Republic of Turkey, which welcomed the offer of the Republic of Iraq to host the 16th edition of the Trade Fair of the OIC Member States in 2017, the Ministry of Trade of the Republic of Iraq and the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) organize under the patronage of the Head of the Iraqi Government, and in collaboration with the State Company for Iraqi Fairs & Commercial Services, the 16th edition of the Trade Fair of OIC Member States, to be held from 2 to 7 April 2017 at the Baghdad International Exhibition Centre - Republic of Iraq.

Due to the low participation rate of the OIC Member States, it has been decided to postpone its organization in 2019.

In this context and in accordance with the calendar of the Trade Fair of the OIC Member States, it is the Republic of Guinea which should host the Fair in 2019.

In this regard and with reference to the Verbal Note of H.E. the Minister of Commerce of the Republic of Guinea dated 11 October 2017, the Republic of Guinea withdrew in favor of the Republic of Iraq for the organization of the 16th Trade Fair of the OIC Member States in 2019, while keeping its right to host the 2020 or 2021 edition

8. Preparations of the 1st OIC Fisheries and Marine Expo, Dakar, Republic of Senegal, May 2018:

In pursuance of the resolutions adopted by the 33rd Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC), held from 10th to 11th May 2017 in Ankara - Republic of Turkey,

which welcomed the offer of the Republic of Senegal to host the "1st OIC Fisheries and Marine Expo", the Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy of the Republic of Senegal and the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) organize under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Senegalese Abroad, the Fisheries and Marine Expo of the OIC Member States, in May 2018 at "Abdou Diouf International Conference Centre (CICAD)" of Diamniadio, in Dakar, Republic of Senegal.

In this regard, the organizers held two coordination meeting on 4th February 2016 and 9th May 2016, respectively at the headquarters of ICDT in Casablanca and at the Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy of the Republic of Senegal, which were dedicated to the organizational arrangements and participation of the Member States to this Fair. The 3rd Coordination Meeting held between ICDT and the Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy of the Republic of Senegal, on 18 January 2017 at the ICDT headquarters was mainly devoted to the organizational modalities and examination of the various articles of the MOU relating to the organization of this Fair.

9. Preparations of the Arab African Conference and Exhibition on Transport and Logistics Rabat - Kingdom of Morocco, 25-27 April 2018:

Within the framework of the joint cooperation between ICDT and regional organizations in areas of common interest aimed at developing trade between the OIC countries, ICDT and the Arab Union for Industrial Exports Development (AUIED) organize, under the aegis of the Ministry of Equipment, Transport, Logistics and Water of the Kingdom of Morocco, the "Arab African Conference and Exhibition on Transport and Logistics", from 25 to 27 April 2018 in Rabat - Kingdom of Morocco.

The Conference will examine on the one hand the opportunities and challenges of the transport and logistics industry in Arab and sub-Saharan African countries in the light of the global digital revolution and the opportunities offered by Morocco as a logistics hub to access African markets on the other.

In order to surround this event with all the conditions of success, the organizers held 3 coordination meetings, which were dedicated to the organizational modalities, participation and promotion of the Exhibition among the OIC Member States.

10. Preparations of the 4th Specialized Exhibition on "Higher Education Services in the OIC Member States", Casablanca - Kingdom of Morocco, 26-29 April 2018:

In pursuance of the resolutions adopted by the 33rd Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC), held from 20th to 23rd November 2017 in Istanbul - Republic of Turkey, the Islamic Center for Development of Trade (ICDT) and the Group of "L'Etudiant Marocain" organize, under the High Patronage of His Majesty the King Mohammed VI - King of Morocco, the 4th edition of the Specialized Exhibition on "Higher Education Services in the OIC Member States", from 26 to 29 April 2018 at the Office of Fairs and Exhibitions of Casablanca (OFEC), in concomitance with the 27th edition of the International Forum of the Student. The State of the United Arab Emirates and Malaysia are expected to be the guests of honor of this edition.

The ICDT and the Group of "L'Etudiant Marocain", held the 1st coordination meeting concerning the organizational aspects of the Exhibition on 15th November 2017 at the headquarters of the ICDT in Casablanca - Kingdom of Morocco and committed to make every effort to ensure the success of this Fair as in previous editions.

11. Preparatory meetings for the organization of joint activities with the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire:

Within the framework of the revitalization of the cooperation between the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and the Islamic Center for Development of Trade (ICDT) for the joint organization of the activities scheduled for 2018, the Center and the relevant Ivorian authorities held several coordination meetings.

During these meetings, participants agreed on the organization of:

- The Exhibition of Social and Solidarity Economy of the OIC Member States, 30 March - 8 April 2018 in Abidjan - Republic of Côte d'Ivoire:

The Exhibition will be organized by the Ministry of National Entrepreneurship, Handicrafts and Promotion of SMEs of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire,

ICDT in collaboration with the (Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development / IDB Group) and the Office of Fairs and Exhibitions of Casablanca (OFEC), in Abidjan in 2018/2019, concomitantly with the International Ivoirian handicraft Market (MIVA) 2018.

This fair will bring together the actors of the social and solidarity economy whose activities are based on a principle of solidarity and social utility, with the objectives of eradicating poverty and ensuring sustainable development (associations and cooperatives, producers of organic products, crafts, etc ...). These companies that adopt participative management methods and strictly control the use of the profits they realize by reinvesting them, will have an opportunity to find market opportunities for their productions and to present their projects to investors in order to ensure their growth and sustainability.

On the sidelines of the Exhibition, will be organized B2B meetings and an awareness seminar on ways and means to promote and to market the productions of the social and solidarity economy through the use of new technologies (website creation and promotion through social medias,.).

- 4th OIC Health Expo of the OIC Member States, Abidjan 2018 - Republic of Côte d'Ivoire:

This Exhibition will be organized by ICDT, the Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene of Côte d'Ivoire, in collaboration with "Building Events" Company, concomitantly with MEXCI 2018.

B/ OTHER PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

1. The 15th Meeting of the Economic Advisers to the Embassies of the OIC Member States accredited to the Kingdom of Morocco, Rabat - Kingdom of Morocco, 19 January 2017:

Within the framework of its regular contacts with the Embassies of the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) accredited to the Kingdom of Morocco, the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) organized the 15th Meeting of Economic Advisers of the Embassies of the OIC Member States accredited to the Kingdom of Morocco in 19th January 2017 in Rabat - Kingdom of Morocco.

This meeting focused on the presentation of the latest developments in the trade between the OIC Member States, Fairs and Exhibitions organized by the ICDT, trade missions, forums and seminars scheduled in 2017. The discussions also focused on cooperation between the ICDT and the Embassies of the OIC Member States accredited to the

Kingdom of Morocco for the implementation of the work program of the Centre for 2017.

The meeting was attended by the officials in charge of economic and trade affairs at the Embassies of the OIC Member States accredited to the Kingdom of Morocco as well as the representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Kingdom of Morocco, the Ministry of Industry, Trade, Investment and Digital Economy of the Kingdom of Morocco, the Regional Office of the Islamic Development Bank Group (IDB) in Rabat, the General Secretariat of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), the Arab Organization for Industrial Development and Mining (AIDMO), the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) and Bayt Mal Al Quds Acharif Agency and OIC Observer Members (Russian Federation).

2. Activities of the Business Centre for Islamic Countries (BCIC):

The Islamic Countries' Business Centre is a space for meetings and exchanges dedicated to Business People. Located at the headquarters of ICDT, it was inaugurated in December 2013.

The Business Centre's objectives are:

- ❖ To develop trade and partnership agreements between the OIC Countries;
- ❖ To serve as a platform for exchanges and B2B meetings between the business people of Islamic Countries;
- ❖ To host seminars dedicated to the OIC countries and specific markets;
- ❖ To provide assistance to the businessmen of the OIC Countries in order to facilitate business contacts.

It should be noted that since the creation of the Business Centre, ICDT hosted business missions from Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Indonesia and Tunisia interested in developing their trade with the OIC Countries. In order to encourage the Economic Operators of the OIC Countries to use this meeting and exchange platform in a bid to develop their business, ICDT made a plea at the last meeting of Economic Advisers to the Embassies of the OIC Member States accredited to the Kingdom of Morocco held in Rabat on 19th January 2017. The Centre intends to do so in the next institutional meetings of the OIC and other meetings.

3. Morocco-Gabonese Business Forum, 14-15 September 2017, Rabat - Kingdom of Morocco:

Within the framework of its program of cooperation with the OIC Member States, the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) organized in collaboration with the Embassy of the Republic of Gabon accredited in Rabat and the Moroccan authorities, a Moroccan-Gabonese Business Forum in the premises of the Embassy of the Republic of Gabon in Rabat, on the 14th and 15th September 2017.

This Forum, which aimed to boost trade flows between Morocco and Gabon, was organized in collaboration with the Gabonese Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Francophonie and Regional Integration, in charge of Gabonese abroad; and the Promotion of Private Investment, Trade, Tourism and Industry; and the Moroccan Ministries of Industry, Trade and Digital Economy; Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

A number of Moroccan and Gabonese economic operators took part in this Forum, whose main objective is to strengthen economic and commercial exchanges between Libreville and Rabat. Gabon, which undergoes significant changes, wants to invest USD 21 billion over the next few years to strengthen infrastructure and support non-oil growth poles.

The Forum has enabled Moroccan investors to discover the investment opportunities offered by the Gabon, Agencies, stakeholders in the Gabonese's new development strategy, in order to explain to various Moroccan operators and actors, how they operate and their expectations in this regard.

Two panels were organized:

- The potentials of Morocco and Gabon, and investment opportunities.
- The role of Agencies, Sovereign Funds, and Deposit Funds in developing economies and boosting trade.

- In the sidelines of the Forum, the Representative of ICDT held a working meeting with Mrs. Nina Alida Abouna - Director General of the National Agency for Investment Promotion of Gabon.

This meeting was an opportunity for Ms. Abouna to reaffirm her intention to organize in the near future in collaboration with the Center several activities for the benefit of Gabonese operators, including a Seminar on Wood Export Strategies, a Seminar on the sidelines of the meeting of the network of the French speaking Investment Promotion Agencies as well as an open day on investment opportunities in Gabon.

4. Buyers / sellers meeting on pharmaceuticals and medical equipment, Abidjan - Republic of Cote d'Ivoire, 2-3 November 2017:

The Islamic Centre for Development of Trade participated in the Buyers/Sellers meeting on Pharmaceutical and Paramedical Products organized by the ICDT and the ITFC in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene and the Ministry of Commerce, Handicrafts and Promotion of SMEs in Abidjan, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire from 2 to 3 November 2017.

This Meeting was organized as part of the implementation of the ITFC's Arab-Africa Trade Bridge Program (AATB) and the Sub-Committee on Trade and Investment (TISC) of the ACMOI but also within the framework of bilateral cooperation between ICDT and ITFC.

This meeting was attended by 50 companies and 10 National Agency of Drug Supply from 17 countries including 16 OIC countries namely: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Mali, Niger, Guinea, Senegal, Morocco, Gabon, Togo, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Palestine, Jordan, Tunisia, Burundi and Cote d'Ivoire. Two institutions also took part in this event: ICDT and ITFC. The meeting generated a turnover of 80 Million US Dollars and allowed to organize 344 B2B and to generate 97 service offers.

5. Meeting between Tunisian exporters and Moroccan importers of dates, Casablanca - Kingdom of Morocco, 19th December 2017:

As part of its activities aimed at facilitating contact between economic operators of OIC Member States in various sectors, ICDT hosted and organized with the Tunisian Trade Representation in Morocco, a meeting between the Tunisian exporters of dates members of the association "GIFruits Tunisia" and the Moroccan importers of dates, on 19th December 2017 at ICDT Business Centre in Casablanca.

This meeting was an opportunity to review the obstacles hampering the export of Tunisian dates in Morocco and Moroccan importers' expectations in terms of quality and compliance with sanitary and phytosanitary standards.

6. Virtual Fair:

The project of a virtual Fair adopted by the 17th Session of ICDT's Board of Directors has

been developed on the Internet Site of ICDT. Henceforth, companies of the OIC countries can promote their products through this virtual fair with a presentation of a catalogue, prices and items etc.

It is planned to intensify the promotion of this Fair at the level of the enterprises of the OIC Member States.

II/ TRADE NEGOTIATIONS:

The 19th Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) has entrusted the ICDT and the COMCEC coordination Office the Secretariat of the Trade Negotiating committee.

Within this framework, the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade provides technical assistance to the OIC Member States in the form of training sessions intended for the executive staff operating in the field of foreign trade or by submitting explanatory notes on the framework Agreement on the Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member States and on the Protocol on the Preferential Tariff Scheme of the TPS/OIC (PRETAS) and the protocol on the Rules of Origin.

The Islamic Centre for Development of Trade provides detailed explanatory notes related to issues debated within the framework of the negotiations on the Trade Preferential System (TPS/OIC), the Protocol on the Preferential Tariff Scheme (PRETAS) and the Protocol on the Rules of Origin.

In this regard, the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade has recently prepared explanatory notes on "the Framework Agreement on the Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member States as well as on the Preferential Tariff Scheme (PRETAS) Protocol intended for the Countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council and Indonesia.

Upon the conclusion of the 1st and 2nd Rounds, the Trade Negotiating Committee will carry on its work that will focus on two main actions: on the one hand, the implementation of the PRETAS, notably by applying the fast track and the consideration of issue relating to the removal of para-tariff and non-tariff measures on the other.

Within the framework of the operationalization of the TPS/OIC Agreement and its protocols, ICDT sent circular letters to participating Member States in March, April and May 2015 relating to checklist of the implementation process of the Rules Origin, the conversion of the 2003 tariff lines to the 2015 version of the applied tariffs with a view to facilitating trade negotiations between these countries. The deadline for the submission of this information was 31st July 2015 as recommended by the 31st Session of the COMCEC Follow-up Committee held in May 2015 in Ankara.

During the 32nd Session of the COMCEC, the OIC Institutions were requested to actively participate in the activities of the COMCEC planned for 2017 (Trade Working Groups):

The 9th Meeting to be held on 9th March 2017 on the Single Window System of the OIC Countries in Trade Facilitation and the 10th Meeting on Special Economic Zones in the OIC Countries, scheduled for 2nd November 2017, and welcomed the offer of Indonesia to host a training session on the "TPS/OIC and its protocols" for the benefit of the Asian Member States of the OIC in Jakarta in 2017, and requested the GCC countries and the Kingdom of Morocco to transmit their concession list to the TNC.

III/ TRAINING, FORUMS AND SEMINARS:

A/ TRAINING:

1. Training Workshop on "Trade in Services of OIC Member States", Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco, 22-24 March 2017:

Within the framework of the implementation of technical assistance to OIC Member States on WTO issues, the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), the Statistical, Economic, Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) and the Department of Cooperation and Resource Mobilization of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) organized, in collaboration with the Ministry in Charge of Foreign Trade of the Kingdom of Morocco a Training Workshop on "Trade in Services of OIC Member States", 22-24 March 2017, Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco.

The objective of the workshop is to build the capacity of OIC Member States to negotiate in the Trade in Services sector, and to increase their capacity to promote trade in services at the OIC level, thereby stimulating intra-OIC trade and assisting OIC Member States in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The following countries took part in this seminar namely: Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Azerbaijan, Benin, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Gabon, Indonesia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Oman, Palestine, Senegal, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia and Turkey.

Experts from the following regional and international organizations also participated: COMCEC Coordination Office, ICDT, SESRIC, IDB, League of Arab States (LAS), International Trade Centre (ITC) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

2. 6th Regional online Marketing Workshop, Conakry: 2 - 6 April 2017:

Within the framework of its capacity building program to the OIC Member States, the Islamic Center for Development of Trade (ICDT), the World Islamic Economic Foundation (WIEF) and the Private Investment Promotion Agency of the Republic of Guinea have organized " **Regional online Marketing Workshop** ", in Conakry from 2nd to 6th April 2017 for the benefit of some 40 women entrepreneurs of the following OIC Member States: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Morocco, Mauritania, Guinea, Jordan and Senegal.

International experts from ICDT have led this workshop.

This workshop takes place in the context of boosting cooperation between the ICDT and the Republic of Guinea in the field of capacity building which is one of the cornerstones of the ICDT activities.

The workshop was exclusively dedicated to businesswomen and women entrepreneurs from Guinea and the West Africa sub region.

The main objectives of this seminar were:

- To have a web presence and website development;
- Ensure Internet Marketing and search engine optimization techniques;
- Understand social media marketing tools and strategies;
- Increase leads and queries from the web;
- Extend the marketing approach to new sectors and customers;
- Establish a presentable online profile and enhancing the overall image of the

company;

- Increase the visibility of current and potential customers;
- Strengthen the company profile;
- Networking platform for women entrepreneurs.

During the 5 days, the main facilitator of the workshop shared his experience through simplified interactive presentations to facilitate the understanding of social networks in promoting the products and services of women entrepreneurs.

The ICDT consultant animated courses on the following module: International webmarketing and the importance of using social networks for the promotion of products and services.

It has been reviewed the Introduction to Online Business Marketing, how to Adopt a Strategy for Your Internet Presence, Search Engine Optimization (SEO), Web content creation with significant impact on businesses, Online marketing strategy and tools, adding components, virtual store creation (eShop) as well as publishing the website through free tools such as WIX, Mastering WIX Applications Apps-Store & Facebook, Introduction to the Online Store and Ecommerce, Merging the Website and Social Media Marketing and the use of YouTube, Instagram, Twitter and others.

3. Workshop on “The Operationalization of the Single Window and the Implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement in the Arab Countries”, 16-17 April 2017- Dubai - United Arab Emirates:

Within the framework of facilitating trade among the OIC Member Countries and accelerating the achievement of the target consisting of the increase to 25% the share of the intra-OIC Trade by 2025 as recommended in the OIC Ten Year Programme of Action (TYPOA) adopted by the 13th OIC Summit, held in Istanbul in April 2016 and following the outcomes of the 2nd Annual Coordination Meeting of the OIC Institutions (ACMOI) held in Jeddah in December 2016 and the 2nd Trade and Investment Sub-Committee (TISC) held on March 6th, 2017 relating to the implementation of the OIC Single Window, the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) and the Department of Resource Mobilization and Cooperation (DRMC) of the Islamic Development Bank organized under the auspices of the Ministry of Economy of the State of United Arab Emirates, a Workshop on the operationalization of Single windows and the implementation of Trade Facilitation Agreement in the Arab countries in Dubai, UAE, on 16-17 April 2017.

The objectives of this workshop are to sensitize Member Countries on the importance of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) and its implications since the full implementation of the OIC Member States. TFA will facilitate cross-border operations and reduce trade cost. On the other hand, the objective is to share experiences at national and regional levels on trade facilitation in Arab Region.

This workshop was devoted to present the guidelines for the implementation of national single window, to study the Feasibility of the OIC Single Window and to inform about the recent developments of the Trade Preferential System of the OIC Countries and their role in facilitating Intra-OIC Trade.

The following countries attended this workshop: Egypt, Kuwait, Morocco, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and United Arab Emirates.

Experts from national and regional and international Institutions also participated: ICDT, DRMC/IDB, PortNet (Morocco) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission

for Western Asia (UNESCWA).

4. Workshop on “the Impact of Brexit on the Economies of the OIC Member States”, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 18 – 19 April 2017:

Within the framework of the implementation of the Resolution 6/43-E of the OIC Council of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs held in Tashkent, on Activities of the OIC Institutions working in the economic field, which called on ICDT to conduct a preliminary study on the Impact of Brexit on OIC Member States in cooperation with SESRIC and IDB Group and to submit a report to the relevant OIC fora.

In this regard, the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) and the Department of Resource Mobilization and Cooperation (DRMC) of the Islamic Development Bank and the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC),

organized under the auspices of the Ministry of Economy of the State of United Arab Emirates, a the workshop on “*Impact of Brexit on the Economies of the OIC Member States*” in Dubai, UAE, on 18 and 19 April 2017.

The objective of this workshop was to seek the views of Member States on this issue and present to OIC Member States the preliminary findings of the joint study composed of three chapters:

- ✓ “Brexit Impact on OIC Countries’ Foreign Trade”;
- ✓ “Financial Implications of the Brexit Decision for the OIC Member Countries”;
- ✓ “Impact of Brexit on Immigration and Labor Market.

The following countries attended this workshop: Bangladesh, Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Gabon, Egypt, Oman, Pakistan, Tunisia and United Arab Emirates.

Experts from OIC Institutions also participated: ICDT, IDBG and SESRIC.

5. Workshop on the preparation of the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference: An African Perspective, Casablanca-Kingdom of Morocco, 17-19 July 2017:

As part of their technical assistance program on WTO issues for Member States, the Department of Resource Mobilization and Cooperation of the Islamic Development Bank (DRMC-IDB) and the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) organized, in collaboration with the Secretariat of State in charge of Foreign Trade of the Kingdom of Morocco, a Seminar on the Preparation of the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference: An African Consultation dedicated to African States Members of the OIC, from 17 to 19 July 2017 in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco.

The following countries took part in this seminar: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d’Ivoire, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Morocco, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Chad, Togo, Tunisia and Uganda .

The following institutions also attended and directed the seminar: FAO, UNCTAD, CUTS International, IDB and ICDT.

6. Training Workshop on the “Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member States (TPS OIC), Jakarta - Republic of Indonesia, 13-14 September 2017:

As part of the implementation of the resolutions of the 32nd Session of the COMCEC relating to the TPS-OIC and other relevant resolutions of the Ministers of Foreign Trade of the OIC Countries, and particularly those relating to raising-awareness over the

Framework Agreement on the Trade Preferential System among OIC Member States (TPS / OIC) and its Protocols, the Islamic Center for Development of Trade and the COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO) organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce of the Republic of Indonesia, a training workshop on the "Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member States (TPS-OIC)" in Jakarta from 13th to 14th September 2017.

The workshop aimed at raising-awareness among officials and economic actors of Indonesia, Malaysia and Sultanate of Brunei on the implementation of the TPS-OIC and its benefits. The Workshop also witnessed an interactive discussion which allowed participants to tackle some of the issues and challenges faced by the Indonesian government in finalizing the TPS-OIC ratification process.

More than 80 Participants from Indonesia (Public and Private Sector), Malaysia, Pakistan, Tunisia, Turkey, Kuwait, Bangladesh, Qatar, Iran and also COMCEC Coordination Office and ICDT attend this workshop.

7. Forum on "The role of Industrial Free Zones in attracting Industrial Investment and Expanding Exports", 23-25 October 2017, Tangier - Kingdom of Morocco:

The Islamic Center for Development of Trade (ICDT), the Arab Industrial Development and Mining (AIDMO), The Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Services of Tangier-Tetouan-Al Hoceima region and the "MEDZ" Institution, organized under the auspices of the Ministry of Industry, Trade, Investment and Digital Economy of the Kingdom of Morocco, a **Forum on "The role of Industrial Free Zones in attracting Industrial Investment and Expanding Exports"**, from 23 to 25 October 2017 in Tangier - Kingdom of Morocco

The objective of this Forum is to serve as a platform to highlight the important role of industrial free zones and to attract local and foreign investment and advanced technology, as well as to create new jobs opportunities and to increase exports.

The Forum focused on the following themes:

- Development of the Industrial and Free Zones in the Kingdom of Morocco.
- Status and Roles of the Industrial and Free Zones
- Legislation and Investment benefits of the Industrial Free Zones
- Development and Environmental Roles of Industrial Free Zones

It should be noted that the Forum was moderated by experts from ICDT, SESRIC, the AIDMO and MEDZ Institute.

8. Regional Training Workshop on Export Strategies for Primo-Exporters of OIC Member States, Girne, Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), 5 - 7 December 2017:

Within the framework of the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers relating to strengthening solidarity with the Turkish Muslim People of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) with a view to helping them materially, economically and politically to overcome the inhuman isolation and following the outcomes of the our previous successful workshops, the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) organized in collaboration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of TRNC and SESRIC, a Regional training workshop on "*Export strategies for primo-exporters of OIC Member States*" in Girne, TRNC, from 5th to 7th December, 2017.

The main goals of this workshop are:

- ✓ to help Member States to develop the capacity building and to upgrade the human resources operating in the field of export strategies for Primo-Exporters of the OIC Member Countries;
- ✓ to contribute of achieving the goals set by the New-Ten Year Programme of Action (TYPOA) of the OIC (OIC-2025) which is the to reach 25% of intra-OIC trade share in total OIC Member States' foreign by 2025.

More than 30 participants attended this workshop from the Gambia, Lebanon, Palestine, Turkey, Pakistan, Jordan and TRNC.

B/ FORUMS AND SEMINARS:

1. 3rd Forum of the Trade Promotion Organs of the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Casablanca- Kingdom of Morocco, 11-12 October 2017:

Within the framework of the implementation of the recommendations of the 2nd Forum of the Trade Promotion Organs of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation held in Riyadh on May 2016, the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) and Morocco Export organized in collaboration with the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC) the “**3rd Forum of the Trade Promotion Organs (TPOs)** of the OIC Member States held on 11th -12th October 2017 in Casablanca – Kingdom of Morocco.

Participated in this Forum:

- **Representatives of the Trade Promotion Organs of the following OIC Member States:** Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, United Arab Emirates, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Lebanon, Malaysia, Morocco, Nigeria, Uganda, Pakistan, Palestine, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tunisia and Representatives of the accredited Embassies in the Kingdom of Morocco (Nigeria, Brunei, Libya, Cameroon, Turkey, Oman, Kuwait, Gabon, Iran).
- **The Forum was also attended by representatives of the following Ministry and Institutions:** Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Morocco, the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC), the International Trade Center (ITC), BAYT MAL ALQUDS and ICDT.

In addition, the opening ceremony was crowned with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the ITFC and the National Transport and Logistics Company (SNTL).

2. Workshop on “Identifying Non-Tariff Barriers among the OIC Member States”, Rabat- Kingdom of Morocco, 24-25 October 2017:

Within the framework of the implementation of the COMCEC-ICDT Project entitled: “Project Cycle Management/PCM” funded by the two Institutions on Facilitating Trade: identifying Non-Tariff Barriers to Trade among the OIC Member States” (2016-ICDT-247) 2016-2017, the COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO) and the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) organized in collaboration with the Ministry in Charge of Foreign Trade of the Kingdom of Morocco, a workshop on “**Identifying NTBs among the OIC Member States**” in Rabat- Kingdom of Morocco on 24-25 October 2017.

The following countries and Institutions participated in this workshop:

- Countries: Saudi Arabia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei Darussalam, Egypt, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Indonesia, Iraq, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mali, Morocco, Mauritania, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Senegal, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey and Yemen.

- *Institutions*: OIC General Secretariat, COMCEC Coordination Office, ISESCO, IDB Group (Rabat Office), ICDT, UNCTAD, WTO, ITC, UNECA (Rabat Regional Office) and Bayt Mal AlQuds.

The following axes were developed by different experts:

- **Panel I: Overview of the current situation of the NTMs/NTBs worldwide** (WTO, UNCTAD, ITC, UNECA)
- **Panel II: NTMs and NTBs in the OIC Member States and impact on intra-OIC Trade** (ICDT, COMCEC)
- **Panel III: National experiences on NTMs/NTBs** (Morocco, Tunisia, Senegal, Guinea, Togo, Niger, Mali, Indonesia, Lebanon, Jordan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Egypt.)

3. 3rd Annual Conference of the Single Window PortNet, Rabat- Morocco, 12 December 2017:

ICDT took part in the 3rd Edition of the PortNet Single Window Annual Conference, which was held on 12 December 2017 in Rabat - Kingdom of Morocco. The event which was organized by the National Ports Agency (ANP) and PORTNET S.A, under the aegis of the Ministry of Equipment, Transport, Logistics and Water, under the theme: "Virtual single window, challenges and opportunities for the competitiveness of economic operators".

This 3rd edition welcomed experts and prominent world figures. More than 500 participants including 15 foreign delegations, and about thirty speakers have participated in this 2017' edition, including the Minister of Equipment, Transport, Logistics and Water, policy makers, business leaders, institutional actors, port operators and international trade, prominent experts, academics as well as representatives of civil society and the media.

Stakeholders at the Conference discussed the role of Single Windows and smart ports in improving the business environment, the contribution of Single Windows in the prospects for developing air cargo, as well as good practices among single window communities related to resilience, robustness and security.

This conference sponsored by ICDT was a great success.

IV- STUDIES:

1. Annual Report on Trade among the OIC Member States, 2016-2017:

The Annual Report on Trade among the OIC Member States was published in January 2017. It presents the evolution of the foreign trade of the OIC Member States in general and intra-OIC trade in particular at the level of the product structure of exports and imports and at the level of the geographical orientation of trade flows.

Besides, the report contains a new chapter on potential trade among the OIC Member States in addition to the chapter on "Intra-OIC Trade Expansion; problems and prospects", which brings out the obstacles that are hampering intra-OIC Trade Development and proposes a series of recommendations concerning measures to be taken in order to increase the levels of intra-OIC Trade and trade related investments. It also includes statistical annexes, which present intra-OIC trade of each Member State.

2. Report on “Multilateral Trade Negotiations within the WTO”:

In compliance with the recommendations of the 24th session of the COMCEC, the ICDT prepares the report on multilateral trade negotiations within the WTO on an annual basis and published at the meetings of the COMCEC, the CFM and the WTO.

3. Study on the impact of (TPS/OIC) on trade in WAEMU Countries:

Within the framework of the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the OIC Foreign Trade Ministers, and particularly those relating to rising awareness of the Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System of the OIC (TPS/OIC) and its protocols for the benefit of Regional Economic Groupings, the ICDT has conducted a study on the impact of the TPS/OIC on the trade of WAEMU countries in order to allow its Members to accelerate the signature and the ratification of this Agreement to develop Trade flows between the WAEMU and the OIC countries. This study has been submitted to the OIC General Secretariat, the WAEMU Commission and the IDB Group. Furthermore, the said study reflects a positive impact on the accession of WAEMU countries to the TPS/OIC.

4. Study on the promotion of Islamic Family Tourism destinations on a global scale:

This study, which was carried out at the request of the Members of the Board of Directors of ICDT and the OIC General Secretariat, has enabled to take stock of the situation of this sector on a global scale and more particularly in the Muslim world.

It provides Member States with specific recommendations allowing them to position themselves in this very promising market and to benefit from the increase in arrivals of Muslim tourists in their respective countries. This study will serve as a reference document for the 2nd meeting of the Working Group on Islamic Tourism to be held in Indonesia during the first quarter of 2017.

5. Study on Muslim Friendly Tourism Branding in the Global Market:

This study has been prepared by ICDT to address the various aspects related to Halal Tourism Branding in the Global Market. Travel and Tourism are key economic drivers contributing to the economic growth and employment. Given the demographic fact that by 2020, the Muslim population will be around 26% of the world’s population, the Muslim Travel Market should witness a sustained growth beyond 2020. The study outlines in details the current situation of Muslim friendly Tourism data and statistics, present case studies from OIC Member States, and concludes with recommendations related to areas concerning directly the Muslim Friendly Tourism sector.

6. Study on the “Major challenges facing North African Oases in the context of Globalization”:

This Study which was conducted by ICDT in 2017 aims to uncover the challenges facing the economy of oases in the case of North African countries (Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia), to explain in a comparative perspective how these countries have used their knowledge and expertise to implement their practices in order to monitor the different levels of change, and to provide a series of policy recommendations for a better integration of the oases in the globalizing process.

The Study concludes with strategic recommendations to achieve a renewed vision of the oases and to overcome the dramatic consequences of globalization.

V - DOCUMENTATION AND INFORMATION:

1. Documentation:

The documentary material is progressively developing thanks to the contribution of Member States and international organisations: the documentation service steadily receives inquiries concerning Inter-Islamic Trade exchanges from businessmen or academics.

2. Information:

Trade Information Network for Islamic Countries (TINIC):

Like in the previous years, the content of the existing databases of the Trade Information Network for Islamic Countries (TINIC) will be updated, new databases of this network will be launched and the Site's design will be improved.

In this direction, periodical adjustments are rigorously and steadily made every 3 months at the utmost. These adjustments are absolutely necessary in order to take into account the latest technologies and trends of the NICT that are developed worldwide. Besides, during this financial year, special efforts will be made for the permanent promotion of the site and with respect to cooperation in this field, especially, with the TINIC, National Focal Points, IDB, ITC and UNIDO.

Well laid out search engines have been developed concerning the main databases to help the visitors of ICDT's site to find well screened required information in a simple manner. Furthermore, subscription forms are also available and operational on the site to help those visitors wishing to subscribe to ICDT's databases, to do so directly on the Internet, which would allow them to gain time and benefit from increased efficiency.

With the aim of providing additional and updated information, ICDT launched the first part of the OIC Trade Embedded Map on the ICDT's website with data from Morocco since October 2016. This new database, which is entitled OIC Trade Embedded Map, provides information on trade flows in a user-friendly and easily accessible format.

TINIC users can now have access to indicators on national export performance, international demand, alternative markets and the role of competitors from the product and country perspective, and will help companies and the business community to tackle issues related to international trade, and thus facilitate strategic market studies.

Regarding the regional version which allowed displaying on the TINIC the data available in the Trade Map for the 57 OIC Member States, was finalized in March 2017.

In addition, this new version of OIC Trade Embedded Map is closely linked to Market Access Map, providing information on tariffs (including preferential tariffs) applied by more than 200 countries and established in 239 countries and territories, tariff quotas, trade remedies, rules and certificates of origin, bound tariffs of WTO Member Countries, non-tariff measures and trade flows in order to help users prioritize and analyze export markets as well as to prepare negotiations on market access conditions.

Users can also find ad valorem equivalents for all non-ad valorem tariffs and perform product and country aggregations as well as simulations of tariff reduction scenarios.

3. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:

❖ **Regional Project on "Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa:**

In compliance with the decision of H.E the OIC Secretary General, ICDT ensures, since 2006, the follow up of the implementation of the project on "Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas". This project includes ten OIC Member States (Benin, Burkina Faso, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Sierra Leone).

Objectives of the Project:

- Support the process of sub-regional economic integration on the basis of rational management of Cross-border protected areas;
- Promote sustainable tourism and ecotourism;
- Ensure the conservation of biological diversity at sub-regional level;
- Reduce poverty in local communities through increased incomes, increased employment and the promotion of income-generating activities;
- Create a network of national and regional parks of Cross-Border Protected Areas.

The Cross-border Parks and Protected Areas concerned by the Project:

- Djoudj - Diawling (Senegal / Mauritania);
- Niokolo Koba - Badiar (Senegal / Guinea);
- Gambia River Basin - Kayanga - Geba - Koliba - Corubal (Gambia / Guinea Bissau/Senegal);
- Rios Kogon - Korubal - Nunez (Guinea Bissau / Guinea);
- Pinselli - Outamba - Kilimi (Sierra Leone / Guinea) ;
- Bafing - Faleme (Mali / Guinea);
- W (Benin / Bukina Faso / Niger).

The Project Feasibility Study, adopted at the Steering Committee Meeting held at WTO Headquarters in Madrid in December 2009, was conducted by the Cabinet "Sécheresse Consultant" with funding from the South- Korean agency - KOICA. The cost of the Project has been estimated at approximately USD 46 million. The Project is currently in its implementation phase and requires the mobilization of funds for its implementation.

Since 2006, ICDT has initiated many actions to promote this project at the OIC institutional meetings and more particularly at the Islamic Conferences of the Ministers of Tourism. The Center also held at its headquarters in Casablanca several meetings of the Steering Committee of the Project, including the latest one as announced below.

❖ **Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Regional Project on "Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa", Casablanca, 15th – 17th February 2016:**

The Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Regional Project on "Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa" was held on the 17th February 2016 at the headquarters of the ICDT in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco, to examine the issues on the attached agenda.

This meeting which was chaired by His Excellency Thierno Ousmane DIALLO, Minister of State for Hospitality, Tourism and Handicrafts of the Republic of Guinea, Chairman of the Steering Committee brought together the Representatives of the following Countries:

Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania and Niger. Also took part in the meeting the Representatives of the Ministry of Tourism of the Kingdom of Morocco, the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) and the Regional Office of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) in Rabat.

It is worth noting that this meeting was preceded by a Training Workshop on the Setting up of Tourism Projects, organized for the benefit of the focal points of the beneficiary Countries in order to familiarize them with the methodologies and procedures of the Arab, African and international Financial Institutions.

On this occasion, the participants discussed the following topics:

- *Recent Developments of the Project:*
- *Issues related to the elaboration of cross-border bankable projects forms*
- *Presentation of the Results of the 1st Donors Conference and the preparations of the 2nd Conference scheduled to be held in 2017:*
- *Creation of Regional Coordination Unit of the Project:*

It should be noted that during the meeting, the participants welcomed the candidacies of the Islamic Republic of The Gambia, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and the Republic of Guinea to host the next Donors Conference in 2017 and encourages other countries to propose their candidacy.

At the end of the meeting, the participants made several recommendations for the effective implementation of the Project.

Latest developments:

A delegation from the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), led by the Director General, participated in the "United Nations Climate Change Conference 2016" (COP 22) held from 7 to 18 November 2016 in Marrakech, Morocco.

ICDT seized this opportunity to organize on Friday, 11th November 2016, in the pavilion of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Group, an information seminar on the Regional Project on "Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa". This meeting was an opportunity for the participants to be informed of the positive environmental and economic impacts in the case of the implementation of such a project for the protection of the environment, the development of ecotourism and the fight against Poverty in West Africa Region.

❖ Websites Project for the benefit of the Embassies accredited to Rabat:

Within the framework of technical assistance to Member States of the OIC, ICDT launched a program for creating websites for the benefit of Embassies to develop E-commerce.

The pilot experience started on 5th April with the Embassies of the Republic of Benin and the Republic of Tunisia. To that effect, ICDT has been working to prepare a 'project type' in collaboration with Guidelines Group Company, which project was presented at the 10th Meeting of Economic Advisers of the Embassies of the OIC Member States accredited to Rabat, held on 12th January 2012 in Rabat-Kingdom of Morocco.

The Islamic Republic of Mauritania and the Republic of Senegal adhered to this project on 18th April 2012. A pilot experience was launched with the Embassy of the Republic of Senegal accredited to Rabat and the web site of the Embassy was launched at 11th Meeting of Economic Advisers to the Embassies of the OIC Member States accredited to the

Kingdom of Morocco held on 16th January 2013 in Rabat.

❖ **Portal for the benefit of the craftsmen of the OIC Member States:**

Following the proposal of the Arab Organization for Industrial Development and Mining (AIDMO) made to ICDDT at the 10th Meeting of the Economic Advisers to the OIC Embassies accredited to Rabat held on 12th January 2012, relating to the possibility of creating a portal for the benefit of the craftsmen of the OIC Countries aiming at developing e-commerce.

This portal will provide access to general information on Handicraft in the OIC Countries, encompassing regulations in force, application forms, etc... For this purpose ICDDT submitted Draft TOR relating to this portal to AIDMO for comment.

VI- PUBLICATIONS:

1. Tijaris:

At the request of the Board of Directors, this magazine is henceforth issued every two months, in English and Arabic and continues to cover international and inter-Islamic Trade issues. A special "Country" is published in each issue of "Tijaris" in order to provide information on each Member State (description of economic sectors, the business climate,) and highlight trade and investment opportunities of the Islamic World.

ICDDT added new headings in the magazine as the one dedicated to the promotion of SMEs and the part "practical and useful information» for business has been enriched.

2. Businessmen guide of the OIC Member Countries (OIC Business Guide):

Combination and updating of the exporter's and the investor's guides of the OIC Member States and inclusion of the countries that have not been covered yet.

This guide presents to the businessmen of Member States the general business environment and conditions in each country along with the trade and investment regulations in force in each studied country.

- Publication of the study on "the Project of a Free Trade Area among the OIC Member States".
- Publication of the study on "the Impact of the High Energy and basic products Prices on the Foreign Trade of the OIC Member States".
- Publication of the study on "the trade in products linked to information and communication technologies between the OIC Member States".
- Publication of the Study on Central Asia Countries, Members of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation.
- Publication of the Study on Export Competitiveness of the OIC SMEs. Barriers and leverages of improvement;
- Study on pharmaceutical Industry in the OIC Member States.

VII- COOPERATION:

ICDDT has undertaken this year the follow up of the implementation of the memorandums of understanding and agreements signed with the different national, regional and international organisations that were approved by its Board of Directors, notably with:

- IDB (MOU on September 18th, 2000);
- Memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Saudi Development Fund (MOU on February 5th, 2002);

- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the International Trade Centre (ITC) (on April 17th, 2003);
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Common Fund for Commodities (on 21st September 2001).
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Turkish Patent Institute (24th May 2006).
- University Hassan the Second, Faculty of Law, Economic and Social Sciences of Casablanca (June 2006).
- The Saudi Corporation "AL HARITHY COMPANY FOR EXHIBITIONS" (18th May 2008);
- The International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC) (11th February 2009).
- Export Promotion Centre of Kazakhstan (KAZNEX INVEST) in June 2011;
- Libyan Export Promotion Centre (July 2012);
- Arab League (MOU on 23rd September 2013).
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the GCC Chambers (4th August 2014).
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Egyptian Authority for Tourism Promotion and the Egyptian Authority for the Organization of Fairs and Conventions for the hosting of the 3rd Tourism Fair of the OIC Member States.
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with "State Company for Iraqi Fairs & Commercial Services" for the organization of the 16th Trade Fair of the OIC Member States (22 November 2016).
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with "Kuwait International Fair Company" for the organization of an exceptional edition of the Trade Fair of the OIC Member States (23 November 2016).
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between the Minister of National Entrepreneurship, Crafts and Promotion of SMEs of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and ICDT for the organization of the 3rd Halal African Forum in Istanbul (24 November 2016)
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the National Agency for Renewable Energies (ANER) and the Senegalese Agency EXCAF Communication for the organization of the Exhibition of Green Economy of the OIC Member States (15 November 2016).
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Standards and Metrology Institute for the Islamic Countries (SMIIC) and "Discover Event" for the organization of the 5th Halal Products Fair of the OIC Member States (7 November 2016).
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Agadir Technical Unit (ATU).

The Centre is also holding talks with UNIDO, and the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Russia and South- South Office with a view to signing an MOU.

VIII- INSTITUTIONAL MEETINGS:

1. 34th Session of the ICDT's Board of Directors, Casablanca, 7-8 March 2016:

The Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) held its 34th Ordinary Session in Casablanca- Kingdom of Morocco, from 8 to 9 Jumada Al Thania 1438 H (8-9 March 2017).

The Board of Directors examined the following agenda items:

- The Activity Report of the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade;

- Closing Accounts for the year 2017,
- Work programme for the year 2018,
- Draft Budget for the year 2018;
- Miscellaneous (MOU project, New Headquarters and ICDT's Draft Logo);
- Date and venue of the next meeting.

2. 9th Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group, 9 March 2017:

ICDT took part in the 9th Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group, held on March 9th, 2017 in Ankara, Turkey under the theme "Single Window Systems in the OIC Member States".

The Meeting was attended by the representatives of 25 Member States, which have notified their focal points for the Trade Working Group. Representatives of the following OIC Institutions and International Organizations: COMCEC Coordination Office, ICDT, SESRIC, SMIIC, ITFC, WCO, UNESCAP and UND have also attended the Meeting.

The Representatives of the Member States have shared their experiences, best practices, achievements and challenges in implementing the single window systems in their respective countries. The Meeting has considered the Study "Single Window Systems in the OIC Member States" and the "COMCEC Trade Outlook 2016" commissioned and prepared by the COMCEC Coordination Office.

3. 40th Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs, Jeddah, 25-27 April 2017:

The Islamic Centre for Development of Commerce took part to the proceedings of the 39th Islamic Commission for Economic Social and Cultural Affairs held in Jeddah -Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from 25-27 April 2017.

The Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs (ICECS), met beforehand as the Assembly General of the subsidiary organs of the OIC, before continuing its work as the 40th Commission of Economic and Social Affairs. On this occasion, the Centre has been praised by relevant bodies and OIC Member States for the quality of the activities organized during the past year.

4. 33rd Session of the Follow-Up Committee of the COMCEC, Ankara - Republic of Turkey, 10-11 May 2017:

The Islamic Centre for Development of Trade participated in the 33rd Session of the Follow-Up Committee of the COMCEC held in Ankara, Republic of Turkey from 10 to 11 May 2017.

During the meeting, the Centre presented the following reports:

- a) Intra-OIC Trade;
- b) Exhibitions and Trade fairs of the OIC Member States;
- c) Roadmap for the promotion of intra-OIC trade;
- d) Activities related to the WTO;
- e) The Regional Project of Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa

5. 46th Permanent Finance Committee, Jeddah, 22 - 24 May 2017:

The Islamic Centre for the Development of Trade took part in the work of the 46th Permanent Finance Committee held in Jeddah from 22th to 24th May 2017.

The session was chaired by Mr GBANE Daouda, Head of the delegation of the Republic of

Côte d'Ivoire.

The 46th Permanent Finance Committee adopted unanimously the ICDT budget for 2018 for an amount of US \$ 2,536,000.

6. 44th Council of Foreign Ministers, Abidjan - Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, 10-11 July 2017:

ICDT participated in the 44th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers, held on 10 and 11 July 2017 in Abidjan, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire.

This Session was organized under the theme: "Youth, Peace and Development in a World of Solidarity".

The Center delegation held several sideline meetings with delegations from OIC Member Countries in a bid to strengthen cooperation in areas of common interest, including through the organization of capacity-building seminars, the organization of Fairs and Exhibitions and Businessmen Missions.

7. 33rd Session of the COMCEC, Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, 20-23 November 2017:

ICDT participated in the 33rd Ministerial Session of the COMCEC held from 20 to 23 November 2017 in Istanbul - Republic of Turkey. During this meeting, the ICDT delegation presented the following reports:

- ✓ Intra-OIC trade;
- ✓ Trade Fairs and Exhibitions of OIC Member States;
- ✓ Road Map for the Promotion of Intra-OIC Trade;
- ✓ Activities related to the WTO.

This Session recorded the participation of 46 OIC Member States, 3 Observer Countries, 1 Invited Country and 12 OIC Organs and 4 Regional Organizations

On the sidelines of the 32nd Meeting of the COMCEC, the ICDT delegation met with several delegations for the organization of capacity-building seminars, the organization of fairs and exhibitions and Businessmen Missions especially with the following delegations:

- Kuwait;
- Cote d'Ivoire;
- Egypt.

8. Annual Coordination Meeting of the OIC Institutions "ACMOI", , Jeddah- Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 4-5 December 2017:

The Director General of ICDT took part in the "Annual Coordinating Meeting of the OIC Institutions", which was held on 4th and 5th December 2016 at the headquarters of the OIC General Secretariat in Jeddah- Kingdom. 'Saudi Arabia.

This meeting, which was chaired by the Secretary General of the OIC, was attended by the heads of institutions and bodies affiliated to the OIC.

The purpose of this meeting was to ensure coordination and effective allocation of resources among the OIC institutions in order to report back to the Council of Foreign Ministers.

9. 11th Ministerial Conference of the WTO (MC11), Buenos Aires- Argentina, 10 - 13 December 2017:

ICDT participated in the 11th Ministerial Conference of the WTO, as a special guest of the President of the Conference and after receiving an official invitation from the Foreign

Minister of Argentina (President of the Conference) owing to ICDT's mandate on trade-related investment issues in the OIC Countries. 4,000 ministers, senior trade officials and other delegates from the WTO's 164 members and observers, as well as representatives of civil society, business environment and the global media attended the conference.

As a prelude to this conference, ICDT participated in the Ministerial 'Consultative' Coordination Meeting for OIC Member States held on 9 December 2017 after receiving an official invitation from the President of the IDB.

The meeting was organized by the IDB Group (Cooperation and Integration Department and ITFC) and aimed at exchanging views on important issues prior to MC11 and the IDB's Action Plan for 2018/2019.

The meeting was chaired by the Minister of Trade and Industry of the Arab Republic of Egypt and brought together about 40 OIC Member States.

January 2018