



**REPORTS OF ICDT**

**ON**

**THE OIC FAIRS AND EXHIBITIONS**

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**Report of the  
3<sup>rd</sup> Exhibition on "Higher Education Services in the  
OIC Member States"**

**Dakar, Republic of Senegal  
9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

The Ministry of Higher Education and Research of the Republic of Senegal and the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) organized the 3<sup>rd</sup> Forum and specialized Fair on "Higher Education Services in the OIC Member States" from 9 to 12 May 2016 at the International Centre for Foreign Trade of Senegal (CICES) in Dakar - Republic of Senegal.

This edition organized under the theme "Higher Education: Towards better quality and employability", aimed to promote higher education services and to develop partnerships among the OIC Member States in general and the Republic of Senegal in particular, to establish direct contacts between the various stakeholders in the field of training and Higher Education, in order to promote investment in this sector and to develop partnerships between Senegalese universities and those of OIC Member States; particularly through the exchange of students and trainers.

The ICDT was represented at this exhibition by:

- Dr. El Hassane HZAINE, Director General;
- M. Amadou Ciré SALL, Head of Department of Commercial Information & Documentation.

The Fair lasted for 4 days, over a gross area of 3000 m<sup>2</sup>, among which 1,200 m<sup>2</sup> net was opened to the general public and professionals in the higher education services from 09.00 am to 06.00 pm. 85 exhibitors from 12 countries have participated. The Fair also recorded the participation of 53 foreign institutions among them 38 Moroccan. There were 24 Senegalese private institutions and 8 public institutions.

This 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Forum on Higher Education Services witnessed the participation of the following OIC Member States: Benin, Burkina Faso, The Gambia, Iran, Malaysia, Morocco (guest of honor), Nigeria, Uganda, Pakistan, Tunisia, Senegal

The Republic of Rwanda and the Republic of Japan also took part to this Exhibition.

### **1. Opening Ceremony:**

The Exhibition's opening ceremony was held on Monday 9 May 2016 at 10.00 am at the African Unity Room of the International Centre for Foreign Trade of Senegal (CICES) and was chaired by H.E. Mary Teuw NIANE, Minister of Higher Education and Research of the Republic of Senegal in the presence of H.E Lahcen Daoudi, Minister of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Training of the Kingdom of Morocco, H.E the Malaysian Minister of Higher Education, Mr. Cheikh NDIAYE, Director General of CICES, the Director General of ICDT, Ambassadors of some OIC Member States accredited in Dakar, Heads of Delegations and stands Officials of the participating countries in this fair. Following the welcoming addresses, H.E. Mary Teuw NIANE, officially opened this Exhibition.

Before the panel of ministers begins, has been carried the awarding of prizes by the CICES to the following personalities:

- HE Prof. Lahcen Daoudi, Minister of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Training of the Kingdom of Morocco;
- H.E Minister of Higher Education of Malaysia;
- Dr El Hassane HZAINI, Director General of ICDT;
- The Representative of International Consulting ;

H.E. Mr. Mary Teuw NIANE, accompanied by different personalities conducted a tour in the different stands of the exhibition and were able to learn about the higher education offers in the OIC Member States.

The participants highly appreciated the held in the sidelines of the exhibition, of panels related to higher education and B2B meetings between participants.

It should be noted that the Exhibition opening ceremony experienced extensive media coverage, notably by television channels, newspapers and other media professionals of the Republic of Senegal.

## **2. Activities on the sidelines :**

On the sidelines of the Forum, several panels were organized in multiple sessions:

The Ministerial Panel focused on Exchange of experiences of Morocco, Malaysia and Senegal on:

- Access to higher education;
- Quality in higher education;
- The funding of higher education;
- Professionalisation in higher education;
- Digital in higher education;
- The governance of higher education;
- The consideration of the Arab-Islamic education.

Session 1: Exchange of experiences between institutions in the areas of education, training and employment

Session 2: Professionalization of Higher Education

Session 3: Quality Assurance Policy in Higher Education: Sharing Good Practices

Session 4: Digital in higher education: challenges and opportunities in the areas of training and employment

Throughout these various panels, participants highlighted the challenges facing the sector, including the lack of investment and training for operators in the industry.

They urged for the duplication of fairs and Exhibition dedicated to this sector. They expressed the wish for the implementation of a strategy and action plan for the development of higher education at the OIC level, strengthening collaboration on training in higher education services and the exchange of experiences between Member States (reverse linkage).

Thursday 12 May 2016, was dedicated to the closing session chaired by the Minister Mary Teuw NIANE and his Malaysian counterpart who offered forty scholarships to the Republic of Senegal.

**Report of the  
10<sup>th</sup> Exhibition of Agribusiness Industries of the OIC  
Member States**

**Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
23<sup>rd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> 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 Harithy Company for Exhibitions Limited (ACE), both parties organized under the auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia the 10<sup>th</sup> Exhibition of Agribusiness Industries in the OIC Member States concomitantly with the 22<sup>nd</sup> Exhibition of Food/ Hotel/PROPAC Arabia from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at Jeddah Centre for Forums and Events, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

ICDT was represented in this exhibition by Mr. Abdelaziz Alami, Head of Marketing Department;

The Exhibition was open during four days from 16.00 h to 22.00 h to the general public and professionals.

The net exhibition space was spread over approximately 4500 square meters and 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.

### **1. The opening Ceremony of the Exhibition:**

The official opening ceremony took place on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2017 at 5:00 p.m. at Jeddah Centre for Forums and Events. It was inaugurated by H.E M. Mohammed Al Amri, General Manager of the Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage –Makkah Province and Mr. Zahour SIDDIQUE, Vice-President of Al Harithy Company for Exhibitions Ltd, in the presence of the Representatives of the Diplomatic Corps accredited to Riyadh, Pavilion officials from participating countries and Businessmen from the OIC Member States operating in the field of Agribusiness Industry. After the inaugural ribbon cutting, the officials toured the pavilions of the participating countries and took note of the developments recorded by the OIC Member States in the agro-food industry.

His Excellency Mr. Mohammed Al Amri stressed that the Agribusiness Industry and all other aspects related to the Hotel Industry contribute effectively to the increase of the index of trade and tourism, adding that the trade and tourism sectors participate to the achievement of the objectives of the National Strategy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Vision 2030). He also recalled that the Exhibition offers promotion opportunities for the participating companies, since it provides the possibility of direct contact with the institutions operating in the procurement branch in the field of Agribusiness and Hotel

industries.

On the other hand, Mr. Zahour declared that this Exhibition, which is constantly evolving, is a platform for all economic actors operating in the sectors of Agribusiness and Hotel industries, as well as for experts in the field so that they can communicate and exchange experiences, inquire about innovations and create partnerships to strengthen their business relations.

It should be noted that the Exhibition and concomitant Events received extensive media coverage in Saudi Arabia (print and broadcast media).

## **2. Activities on the sidelines of the Exhibition:**

On the sidelines of the Expo, a competition was organized on the culinary arts, with the participation of internationally renowned Chefs who have made the reputation of several hotels and restaurants in Saudi Arabia. The competition was held under the arbitration of a jury composed of experts in the field.

During this Exhibition, the Representative of ICDT visited the various stands of the participating countries in order to promote the activities and services of the Centre. He also collected brochures and leaflets on the exhibits in order to expose them into the Virtual Fair developed by the Centre on its website.

## **3. Evaluation of the Exhibition:**

The net exhibition space was spread over approximately 4500 square meters; it was attended by about 300 businessmen from the various OIC Member States seeking business and partnerships opportunities as well as by nearly 8000 visitors. Participants also expressed their satisfaction with the organization and arrangements provided by the organizers which allowed ensuring all services in compliance with international standards of the organization of exhibitions.

The first reading of the opinions collected suggests that several business deals have been concluded. The exhibitors also expressed a real desire to benefit from the services of the Centre, to promote their products and services through the Virtual Fair and to participate in future Fairs and Exhibitions that will be organized by the Centre.

**Report of the Preparations of the  
16<sup>th</sup> Trade Fair of the OIC Member States  
Baghdad, Republic of Iraq**

In pursuance of resolutions of the 31<sup>st</sup> Ministerial Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), held from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015 in Istanbul - Republic of Turkey, which welcomed the offer of the Republic of Iraq to host the 16<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

The 1<sup>st</sup> coordination meeting was held between ICDT and the State Company for Iraqi Fairs & Commercial Services, on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at ICDT's headquarters in Casablanca, and was devoted to the review of the various articles of the MOU concerning the organization of the Fair, and the modalities for the participation of Member States, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2016 in Istanbul on the sidelines of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Ministerial Session of the COMCEC, and which was crowned by the MOU's signature related to the organization of this Fair.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Coordination Meeting was held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at the ICDT headquarters in Casablanca and was devoted to the modalities of promotion of the Fair and the incentives granted to Member States to ensure their participation in a meaningful way.

Due to the low participation rate of the OIC Member States, it was 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 Note Verbal of H.E. the Minister of Commerce of the Republic of Guinea dated on 11 October 2017, the Republic of Guinea withdrew in favor of the Republic of Iraq for the organization of the 16<sup>th</sup> Trade Fair of the OIC Member States in 2019, taking in the account that it will keeps its right to organize the next edition of the fair on 2020 or 2021.

## Report on the 8<sup>th</sup> Muslim World Biz

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

18<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> September 2017

The Islamic Centre for Development of Trade participated in the 8<sup>th</sup> Muslim World Biz which was organised by the OIC International Business Centre Malaysia in collaboration with ICDT in Kuala Lumpur on 18-21 September 2017.

ICDT was represented by a team composed of Dr ElHassane HZAINÉ, Director General, Dr. Mokhtar WARIDA, Assistant Director General and Mr. Mamoudou Bocar SALL, Head of Studies and Training Department. Dr HZAINÉ and Mr. Mohamad Taleb Bin Dr Abdullah Raja inaugurated many forums and the official launch of this 8th Edition.

More than 500 entrepreneurs, 35 countries, 1200 delegates, 200 speakers attended this largest event in the Muslim world, with more than 300 participants for each panel and around 10,000 visitors.

The following OIC Countries attended the Forums and the Expo of this event namely: Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Qatar, UAE, Yemen, Turkey, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Somalia and Malaysia.

The following forums were also organised:

- The Muslim World Infrastructure and Investment Conference 2017;
- OIC ASIA-AFRICA Trade and Economic Forum by ICDT and International OIC Business Centre which identified trade and investment opportunities and barriers between Asian and African Countries. ICDT's delegation presented working papers on Africa-Asia Trade potential, Africa-Asia trade in services, Agribusiness and Halal in Asian and African Member States, Doing business in the OIC African Asian Member Countries and Muslim Friendly Tourism Branding in the Global Market ;
- World Islamic Tourism Conference and Expo ;
- The Muslim World Women's Summit 2017;
- The Round Table Talk of the Jewels of Muslim World Movers and Shakers 2017;
- The OIC Higher Education Fair 2017.

Besides, all speakers presented in depth discussions and papers focused on ways to increase intra-OIC trade and investments as well as with non- Islamic countries.



**Report on the preparation of the  
3<sup>rd</sup> Tourism Fair of the OIC Member States  
Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt  
18-21 October 2017**

In accordance with recommendations of the 9<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Tourism Fair of the OIC Member States in 2017, the ICDT and the Egyptian Authority for Tourism Promotion organized in collaboration with the Egypt Expo and Convention Authority (EECA), the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tourism Fair of the OIC Member States, from 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> October 2017 in Cairo under the theme "OIC-TOURISM: Message of peace between peoples".

The aim of this Fair is to strengthen cooperation among the OIC Member States within the tourism sector, to promote tourist attractions and historical monuments of the Member States and to encourage investment in this sector.

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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

On the sidelines of this fair, the following activities will be organized:

- Forum of "public and private investors in the field of tourism", 18 October 2017
- Celebration of the city of Al-Madina Al-Munawara, as the capital of Islamic Tourism in 2017 by granting to the city of Al-Madina a booth free of charge by the organizers to promote the city of Al-Madina as a religious and tourist destination.

With reference to the Note Verbal 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 decided to postpone the organization of both events to October 2018 (in Cairo). A recommendation should be submitted for adoption at the 10<sup>th</sup> Islamic Conference Tourism Ministers of (ICTM) in Daka- People's Republic of Bangladesh.

**Report on the  
Exhibition of Green Economy of the OIC Member States  
Dakar - Republic of Senegal  
26-29 October 2017**

In pursuance of the resolutions of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Ministerial Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC), held from 21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> 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-Senegal) organized in collaboration with the Senegalese company EXCAF Communication, under the aegis of the Ministry of Energy and Development of Renewable Energies and the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of the Republic of Senegal, the Exhibition of Green Economy of the OIC Member States, from 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> 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 general theme "Towards the Green Economy: Renewable Energies and Sustainable Development"

The Exhibition welcomed the actors of the green economy in the OIC countries (Public Administrations, decision-makers and private companies in the sub-sectors of: Renewable Energies; ecological construction, optimization of the use of fossil fuels by controlling greenhouse gas emissions, water sanitation, waste management and land use planning through the preservation of ecosystems and the integrity of biodiversity, and biological agriculture). This event also served as a platform for companies and stakeholders to promote their products and services and to establish business and business partnerships among economic operators in the green economy sectors in the OIC Member States.

This Exhibition lasted for 4 days, and the net exhibition space was spread over approximately 1200 square meters (3000 sqm/bare space) and was opened to the general public and professionals from 9 am to 6 pm. The 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the OIC Exhibition of Green Economy recorded the participation of the following OIC Member States:

- Republic of Benin
- Republic of Cameroon
- Republic of Cote d'Ivoire
- United Arab Emirates
- Kingdom of Morocco (guest of honor)
- Republic of Mali
- Islamic Republic of Mauritania
- Republic of Senegal

The exhibition also witnessed the participation of France, Canada, Italy Germany and Cap Vert.

The regional organizers as: African Development Bank, ECOWAS, UEMOA and UNCTAD.

## **Opening Ceremony:**

The Opening Ceremony of the Exhibition was held on Thursday 26 October 2017 at 9.30 am in the conference room of 'Senegal Pavilion' of the International Center for Foreign Trade of Senegal (CICES), and was chaired by HE Mrs. Sokhna Dieng NDIAYE, Secretary General of the Ministry of Energy and Development of Renewable Energy of the Republic of Senegal.

The ceremony was also attended by Mr Abderrahim EL HAFIDI, Secretary General of the Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Sustainable Development of the Kingdom of MOROCCO, also took part, Dr. El Hassane HZAINI, Director General of ICDT, Mr. Djiby NDIAYE, Director General of ANER and Mr. Sidy DIAGN, CEO of EXCAF, in the presence of Ambassadors from some OIC Member States accredited to Dakar and Heads of Delegation and Stand Officials from the participating countries to this exhibition.

After the opening speeches, Mrs. Sokhna Dieng NDIAYE, officially opened this exhibition and wished every success to the various panels that would follow.

The officials proceeded to the inaugural ribbon cutting to mark the official launch of this **1<sup>st</sup> edition of the Exhibition of Green Economy of the OIC Member States**, which was held concomitantly with the International Exhibition for Renewable Energies and Environment in Africa (SIERA).

Mrs Sokhna Dieng NDIAYE, Mr Abderrahim EL HAFIDI, Secretary General of the Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Sustainable Development, H.E Taleb BERRADA, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco, Dr. El Hassane HZAINI, Director General of ICDT, Mr. Djiby NDIAYE, Director General of ANER, accompanied by various personalities toured the different stands of the Exhibition in order to learn about the diversity of exhibited products and services and the potential of trade between OIC Member States in the field of renewable energies and the green economy.

It is noteworthy that the Exhibition's opening ceremony was the subject of wide media coverage by TV channels, newspapers and other press organs of the Republic of Senegal.

## **Activities on the sidelines:**

B2B Meetings and a scientific seminar have been organised for the benefit of the renewable energies and green economy field professionals.

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, including the lack of investment and training for operators in the sector.

They urged for the multiplication of the organization of fairs and exhibitions dedicated to this sector. 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).

The closing session was held on Sunday 29 October 2017, during which the Directors General of ANER and ICDT gave closing speeches.

During the Forum, the exhibitors have expressed the wish to benefit from the Centre's services particularly regarding the promotion of their products and services through the ICDT's Virtual Fair.

**Report on the  
5<sup>th</sup> Exhibition of Halal Products of the OIC Member States**

**Istanbul - Republic of Turkey  
23-25 November 2017**

In pursuance of the resolutions of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Ministerial Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC), held from 21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

This Exhibition, which aims to welcome the players of the Halal industry in quest of business and partnership opportunities in the OIC Member States, represents an opportunity for companies and actors in the Halal industry to promote their products and services and increase investment in this sector.

This Exhibition witnessed the participation of experts, entrepreneurs and public and private institutions, which will deal with topics related to the Halal industry.

The Exhibitions lasted for 3 days and was opened to the public and professionals and recorded the participation of 12 OIC Member States as well as other non-OIC Member Countries (Austria, Ghana, USA, Australia, Italy, Japan, Germany,) over an area of 2000sqm. Institutions operating in the field of Halal product standards also took part in this Exhibition.

SMIIC and Discover Events organized on the sidelines of this Fair, several thematic conferences, in particular on the health benefits of the HALAL Butchery and the various certification and accreditation systems with a view to accelerating the mutual recognition of Halal certificates between the OIC Member States.

ICDT took the opportunity to promote the Center's services to exhibitors from participating Member States and promoted the following Fairs and Exhibitions:

- The Special Edition of the Trade Fair of the OIC Member States, 6 - 10 February 2018, Kuwait City - State of Kuwait;
- 11<sup>th</sup> edition of the Exhibition of Agribusiness Industries of the OIC Member States, 20-23 March 2018, Jeddah - Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

It should be noted that the 6<sup>th</sup> OIC Halal expo will take place in Istanbul in 2018.

**Report on the Exceptional Edition  
of the Trade Fair of the OIC Member States  
Kuwait City, State of Kuwait  
6-10 February 2018**

In pursuance of the resolution adopted by the 32<sup>nd</sup> 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, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of the State of Kuwait and the Islamic Center for Development of Trade (ICDT) organized in collaboration with "Kuwait International Fair Company" an exceptional edition of the Trade Fair of the OIC Member States, from 6 to 10 February 2018 at the "International Fairs Ground of Kuwait (KIF)", concomitantly with the International Kuwait Trade Fair 2018.

The organization of this edition of the Trade Fair was held in conjunction with the celebrations of the State of Kuwait of the 57<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Day, the 27<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Day of Liberation and the 12<sup>th</sup> anniversary of accession to the throne of His Highness the Emir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

The Fair lasted for 5 days and was open to the general public and Businessmen from 9.00 am to 13.00 and from 16.00 to 21.30.

The following countries took part in this event:

- ✓ Islamic Republic of Afghanistan,
- ✓ Republic of Azerbaijan,
- ✓ People's Republic of Bangladesh,
- ✓ Republic of Guinea,
- ✓ Kingdom of Morocco,
- ✓ Republic of Senegal,
- ✓ Republic of Tajikistan,
- ✓ Republic of Togo,
- ✓ State of Kuwait,
- ✓ Islamic Republic of Pakistan,
- ✓ Republic of Turkey;
- ✓ Republic of Tunisia,
- ✓ Federal Republic of Nigeria,
- ✓ Republic of Uzbekistan,
- ✓ State of Qatar,
- ✓ Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan,
- ✓ Republic of Lebanon,
- ✓ Turkmenistan
- ✓ Republic of Sudan,
- ✓ Islamic Republic of Mauritania,
- ✓ Republic of Niger,
- ✓ Islamic Republic of Iran,
- ✓ Republic of Guyana,
- ✓ Republic of Yemen.

Representatives of the following Muslim communities were also present: Philippines, Kenya, Botswana, South Africa, Great Britain, China and Switzerland.

The International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC) – IDB Group has covered the costs of the participation of the following OIC Member States: Senegal, Mauritania, Afghanistan and Guinea.

### **1. Opening Ceremony:**

The official opening ceremony of the Fair took place on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2018, in presence of His Excellency M. Hossam Abdullah Al-Roumi - The Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and HE Mrs. Hind Sabeeh Barrak Al- Sabeeh, Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Economic Affairs of the State of Kuwait, in presence of Her Excellency Mrs. Rkia DERHAM, Secretary of State, in charge of Foreign Trade of the Kingdom of Morocco, His Excellency the Minister of Commerce of the Republic of Afghanistan, His Excellency the Deputy Minister of Development of the Republic of Turkey, the Director General of the Islamic Center for Development of Trade, Their Excellencies the Ambassadors of the OIC Member States accredited to Kuwait and the Heads of Delegations of the Participating Countries.

After the opening statements and the inaugural ribbon cutting, the officials toured the pavilions of the participating countries and took note of the developments recorded by the OIC Member States in the different sectors covered by this Fair.

His Excellency the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Youth of the State of Kuwait, accompanied by His Excellency the Minister of Commerce of Nigeria, visited the stands of the various participating countries on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

It should be noted that the opening ceremony of the Fair has received wide media coverage by television channels and Kuwaiti print and broadcast media.

### **2. Activities on the Sidelines of the Exhibition:**

On the sidelines of the Fair the following events were organized:

- "Kuwait Maker-Faire 2018", a local version of the Exhibition held annually in the United States, which aims to present innovations in the fields of Handicraft and Technology, which promotes the idea of production and offers visitors the opportunity to exhibit their products and projects.

- B2B meetings;

### **3. Distribution of Trophies and Certificates:**

During the Closing Ceremony, held on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2018, HE Khaled Nasser Al-Roudhan, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Youth of the State of Kuwait, presented awards to the organizers and to participating countries.

The representative of the Islamic Center for Development of Trade (ICDT) seized this opportunity to promote the activities and services of the Center as well as the upcoming Fairs planned to be organized.

### **4. Evaluation of the Exhibition:**

The Fair was held over an area of 7,000 square meters and registered the participation of about 300 companies and 3,000 Businessmen from the OIC Member States seeking for business opportunities and partnership.

Participants also expressed their satisfaction with the organization and arrangements provided by the organizers which allowed ensuring all services in compliance with international standards of the organization of exhibitions.

Through a preliminary analysis of the questionnaire of the Exhibitors, it was considered that they have real desire to benefit from the services of the OIC institutions, and those of the ICDT, the IDB Group and the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC), in particular with regard to the promotion and financing of their products and services. Participants also called for the organization of other Annual Sector-specific Fairs as well as Forums to facilitate direct contact with Businessmen of the OIC Member States.

The participants appreciated very much the holding of Bilateral Meetings in concomitance with this Fair which represented an opportunity for Businessmen to conclude business transactions and to develop cooperative and partnership relations among the OIC Member States.

#### **5. ICDT's meetings on the Sidelines of the Exhibition:**

It should be noted that the ICDT delegation held on the sidelines of the Fair, two coordination meetings on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2018 with:

- HE Mr. Abdulrahman Al-Nassar, CEO of "Kuwait International Fair Company", in order to discuss the improvement of cooperation with the Center through the joint organization of the Furniture and Decoration Exhibition of the OIC Member States, the Tourism and Handicrafts Exhibition of the OIC Member States, as well as the participation of the State of Kuwait in the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the Exhibition of Higher Education of the OIC Member States, which will be organized from 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2018 in Casablanca - Kingdom of Morocco.

- Dr. Waleed Abdul Mohsin AL WOHAIB, CEO of the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD), to strengthen cooperation in areas of common interest to alleviate poverty by facilitating the export and trade of small artisans and traders from the OIC Member States.

In this regard, Mr. AL-WOHAIB has suggested to the Director General of ICDT to consider the establishment of a Waqf Fund at the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) whose investment revenues will be used to finance the Center's trade dedicated programs.



**UPCOMING FAIRS**

**AND**

**EXHIBITIONS**

**Report on the Preparations of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Exhibition of Furniture and Interior  
Design of the OIC Member States  
Jeddah- Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
13 -16 March 2018**

Within the framework of the implementation of the OIC Ten-Year Program of Action (2016-2025) which aims to bring the intra-OIC trade share to 25% of the global trade of the OIC Member States by 2025, ICDT will organize, in collaboration with the Saudi Society "Al Harithy Company for Exhibitions Ltd", the "2nd edition of the Exhibition of Furniture and Interior Design of the OIC Member States", concomitantly with the 27<sup>th</sup> edition of the Saudi Building & Interiors Exhibition from 13 to 16 March 2018, at the Jeddah Center For Forum & Events - Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

This Exhibition will be an opportunity for participating countries to promote their products and services and to learn about the latest developments in technological innovations in the furniture and interior design industry.

This event will also be an opportunity for exhibitors, architects, contractors and government officials from Member States, to learn about the know-how and experiences of the participating States in the sectors covered by the Exhibition and to select the best products and services to be integrated in their future and ongoing projects.

Details about the Exhibition are available on the following link: [www.sbie-arabia.com](http://www.sbie-arabia.com)

For information or booking, the relevant departments of the OIC Member States may contact:

**Mr. Zahoor Siddique**  
**Vice President**  
**Al Harithy Company for Exhibitions (ACE)**  
**P.O.Box: 40740 Jeddah: 21511**  
**Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**  
**Phone: + 96612 654 6384 - Fax: + 96612 654 6853**  
**Mob : +966 530 50 78 78**  
**E-mail: [zahoor@acexpos.com](mailto:zahoor@acexpos.com)**  
**E-mail: [ace@acexpos.com](mailto:ace@acexpos.com) ; Web site : [www.acexpos.com](http://www.acexpos.com)**

**Report on the Preparations of the  
11<sup>th</sup> Exhibition of Agribusiness Industries of the OIC Member States  
Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
20-23 March 2018**

Within the framework of the implementation of the Cooperation Agreement signed between the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) and the Saudi Al Harithy Company for Exhibitions Ltd, in May 2008, the both parties will organize under the auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia the 11<sup>th</sup> Exhibition of Agribusiness Industries of the OIC Member States concomitantly with the 23<sup>rd</sup> Saudi food, hotel & hospitality Fair from 20 to 23 March 2018 at Jeddah Centre for Forums and Events, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

This Exhibition represents an opportunity for all operators in this sector (food products, beverages, supplies, packaging and conditioning etc.) in OIC Member States and Muslim communities in non-Member States to promote their products and services and to establish business and partnership relations in this important sector.

The price per square meter of the exhibition space has been set as follows:

- ✓ The square meter equipped (shelf scheme): US\$ 465
- ✓ The square meter not equipped (indoor bare space): US\$ 415

Details relating to this Exhibition are available at the following link:  
<http://sfhh-arabia.com>.

For information or booking, the relevant departments of the OIC Member States may contact:

**Mr. Zahoor Siddique, Vice President  
Al Harithy Company for Exhibitions (ACE)  
P.O.Box: 40740 Jeddah: 21511  
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Phone: + 96612 654 6384 - Fax: + 96612 654 6853  
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E-mail: [ace@acexpos.com](mailto:ace@acexpos.com) ; Web site: [www.acexpos.com](http://www.acexpos.com)**

**Report on the Preparations of the 1<sup>st</sup> OIC Fisheries and Marine Expo**

**Dakar, Republic of Senegal**

**May 2018**

In pursuance of the resolutions adopted by the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC), held from 10<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> May 2017 in Ankara - Republic of Turkey, which welcomed the offer of the Republic of Senegal to host the “1<sup>st</sup> 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, on May 2018 at “Abdou Diouf International Conference Centre (CICAD)”, in Dakar, Republic of Senegal.

The objective of this Fair is to bring together in a single forum all stakeholders and players in the fisheries sector (Ministries in charge of fisheries, aquaculture, maritime transport and port activities, national and international technical and financial partners, industry associations, R&D institutes in the sector, etc..) of the OIC Member States in order to promote their products and services and to develop investment in this sector as well as to inquire about the latest techniques of the fishing industry and to ensure sustainable development of the sector.

In this regard, the organizers held two coordination meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2016 and 9<sup>th</sup> 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 terms of organization and participation of the Member States to this Fair. The 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 organization and examination of the various articles of the MOU relating to the organization of this Fair.

The price per square meter of the exhibition space has been set as follows:

- ✓ The square meter equipped (shelf scheme): US\$ 150
- ✓ The square meter not equipped (indoor bare space): US\$ 100
- ✓ The square meter (outdoor): US\$ 75

Details relating to this Exhibition are available at the following link:  
<http://icdtevents.org/1st-oic-fisheries-maritime-expo/>

For information or booking, the relevant departments of the OIC Member States may contact:

**Mr. Papa Namsa KEITA**  
**Steering Committee of the 1<sup>st</sup> OIC Fisheries and Marine Expo**  
**Phone : 00 221 77 638 39 11**  
**E-mail : pnkeita@gmail.com**

**REPORT ON THE ARAB AFRICAN CONFERENCE  
AND EXHIBITION ON TRANSPORT AND  
LOGISTICS**

**Rabat - Kingdom of Morocco  
25-27 April 2017**

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.

The conference will be attended by Arab and African transport ministers, senior officials, transport and logistics companies, specialists, consultants and experts, government representatives, investors as well as Arab, African and international banks and financing funds.

Details relating to this Conference are available at the following link:  
[www.translogmorocco.com](http://www.translogmorocco.com)

For more information and booking, relevant departments in Member countries are requested to book online the exhibition space at the following link:

[www.translogmorocco.com/book-your-stand/](http://www.translogmorocco.com/book-your-stand/)

For information or booking, the relevant departments of the OIC Member States may contact:

**Mr. Ahmed El-Dib - Consultant - AUIED**  
**Mobile: +201146744777**  
**Tel: +202-22752189 -22754312 - 22734950**  
**Fax: +202-22754312 - 22734950**  
**E-mail: aeldib@outlook.com ; auied@auied.com**  
**WebSite: www.auied.com**

**EXHIBITION ON  
“ISLAMIC FASHION CLOTHING EXPO AND CONFERENCE”  
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran  
22-25 April 2018**

Within the framework of the celebration of the City of Tabriz as the Capital of Islamic Tourism in 2018, the ICDT plans to organize in collaboration with the Iranian authorities, the OIC General Secretariat, IRCICA, ISESCO, SESRIC and the IDB Group, activities to develop the visibility of tourism resources of the city of Tabriz among the OIC Member States.

On this occasion, ICDT is willing to organize with the relevant Iranian authorities and in collaboration with the Iranian company 'Hamayeshgaran Sam Exhibition Company' an Exhibition and forum on “Islamic Fashion Clothing”, from 22 to 25 April 2018.

In this regard, ICDT will be holding coordination meetings with the relevant Iranian authorities and will forward letters to the ministries and promotional agencies in charge of tourism, trade and investment in the OIC countries, as well as the private sector and regional and international specialized organizations to invite them to take part in this exhibition.

In addition, the Center will publish a special issue on this city in its magazine Tijaris and will disseminate information on its website and grant a free stand equipped to the authorities of Tabriz during the Special edition of the Trade Fair of the OIC Member States to be held from 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> February 2018 in Kuwait City - State of Kuwait.

In addition to this Exhibition, the Center will publish a special issue of “Tijaris” on Tabriz in 2018 to promote the tourism resources of this city among the Member States.

**4<sup>th</sup> Specialized Exhibition on "Higher Education Services  
in the OIC Member States"  
Casablanca - Kingdom of Morocco  
26 – 29 April 2018**

Within the framework of the activities to promote services among the OIC Member States and after the great success of previous editions, the ICDDT plans to organize under the auspices of the Ministry of National Education, Vocational Training, Higher Education and Scientific Research of the Kingdom of Morocco and in collaboration with the "Groupe de l'Etudiant", the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the Specialized Exhibition on "Higher Education Services in the OIC Member States" in Casablanca on 26 – 29 April 2018.

The objective of this Exhibition is to promote the higher education services of the OIC Member States, to create direct contacts between the different stakeholders in the field of training and higher education, to promote investment in this sector and to develop partnerships among the universities of the OIC Member States, including through the exchange of students and trainers.

**9<sup>H</sup> MUSLIM WORLD BIZ**  
**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**  
**2018**

As part of their cooperation program, OIC International Business Center (OICBC) - Malaysia and ICDT have been organizing since 2013 the Muslim World BIZ Forum and Exhibition as well as the OIC/Asia Economic and Trade Forum, in order to promote trade between OIC Member States.

The objective of this event is on the one hand, to raise awareness among the economic operators on the business opportunities of the Muslim world and to present to the participants the different services and products offered to the business community, the OIC Institutions, and Regional and International Organizations.

This annual event brings together public authorities, decision makers, businessmen and private sector representatives from Muslim countries and discusses developments in key economic sectors such as Halal, Higher Education Services and Tourism. .

This event includes the following activities:

- "MUSLIM World BIZ" Forum ;
- OIC/Asia Economic and Trade Forum
- Round Table of Decision Makers and Businessmen of the Islamic World;
- Forums and Exhibition concerning the main economic sectors

It should be noted that, on the sidelines of these events, the "Jewels of the Muslim World Award" Ceremony will also be held and intended to pay tribute to the personalities who have contributed to the development and the well-being of the Islamic Ummah.



**6<sup>TH</sup> EXHIBITION OF HALAL PRODUCTS OF THE OIC  
MEMBER STATES**

**29 November – 2 December 2018, Istanbul - Republic of Turkey**

In pursuance of the recommendations of the 34<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the ICDDT Board of Directors, held on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017 in Casablanca, the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDDT) and the Standards and Metrology Institute for the Islamic Countries (SMIIC), organize in collaboration with «Discover Events», the 6<sup>th</sup> Exhibition of the Halal Products of the OIC Member States, on 29 November – 2 December 2018, in Istanbul - Republic of Turkey.

This Exhibition will be dedicated to halal trade and Halal standards of production and logistics will be an excellent opportunity for Halal industry players to promote their products and services and develop trade and investment in this important sector.

The price per square meter of the exhibition space has been set as follows:

- ✓ The square meter equipped (shelf scheme): US\$ 300
- ✓ The square meter not equipped (indoor bare space): US\$ 270

For information or booking, the relevant departments of the OIC Member States may contact:

**Ms. Betul BOSTAN - Project Officer  
Discover Events**

**Mobile : +90 554 887 87 20**

**Tel: +90 212 485 82 10**

**Fax: +90 212 485 55 79**

**E-mail: betul@discoverevents.com.tr; info@discoverevents.com.tr**

**Website : www.helalexpo.com.tr; worldhalalsummit.com.tr**

**PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE ORGANIZATION  
OF THE EXHIBITION OF SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY  
ECONOMY OF THE OIC MEMBER STATES**

**Abidjan, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire**

**2018**

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 activities scheduled for 2018/2019, the Center and the relevant Ivorian authorities held a coordination meeting attended by:

- ✓ Ministry of National Entrepreneurship, Handicrafts and Promotion of SMEs of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire;
- ✓ The Office of Fairs and Exhibitions of Casablanca (OFEC).

During these meetings, the participants agreed on the organization of the Exhibition of Social and Solidarity Economy of the OIC Member States, in 2018/2019 in Abidjan - Republic of Cote d'Ivoire. It 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).

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 for 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).

## **BUSINESSMEN FORUMS AND TRADE MISSIONS**

### **1. Moroccan-Saudi Businessmen Mission to Morocco, Casablanca, 19<sup>th</sup> November 2015:**

Within the framework of its cooperation program with the OIC Member States, the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Saudi Export Development Authority (SEDA), a "Moroccan-Saudi Businessmen Mission" on the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2015 in Casablanca - Kingdom of Morocco.

The aim of this trade mission was to organize B2B meetings between Saudi exporters and Moroccan importers in the following sectors: Agribusiness, chemicals and polymers, pharmaceuticals, construction materials, precious metals and jewellery, packaging, general consumer goods.

Also took part in these meetings the Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Rabat, the General Confederation of Moroccan Enterprises (CGEM), the Moroccan Chambers of Commerce and the Association of Moroccan Exporters (ASMEX).

An opinion survey of Businessmen has identified a general satisfaction feeling with the organization's quality standard of this mission and the good number of concluded business transactions. In this respect, the Saudi Export Development Authority (SEDA) requested the Centre to accompany it in other Businessmen Missions to East and West Africa.

### **2. Moroccan-Malaysian Business Forum, Casablanca, 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2016, Casablanca - Kingdom of Morocco:**

Within the framework of its cooperation program the OIC Member States, the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) organized at its headquarters on Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2016 a Moroccan-Malaysian Business Forum. On this occasion, the Malaysian delegation was led by their Excellencies Jamal BEN HASSAN, Ambassador of Malaysia to the Kingdom of Morocco and Mahmud DZULKIFLI, CEO of the Trade Promotion Agency of Malaysia "MATRADE."

The aim of this visit is to organize B2B meetings between Malaysian Businessmen and their Moroccan counterparts. The Malaysian delegation was composed of companies covering the following sectors: food industry (cereals, canned goods, bottled products, snacks, sauces, and instant food), pharmaceuticals latex products, automotive equipment (speakers, accessories and car parts), construction (paint, coating) and bedding.

Also took part in this important event, the Ministry in charge of Foreign Trade of Morocco, Morocco Export, Administration of Customs and Indirect Taxes of Morocco, the Moroccan Investment Development Agency (AMDI) as well as members of the General Confederation of Moroccan Enterprises (CGEM), the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Services of Casablanca and the concerned professional federations.

### **3. Morocco-Indonesia Business Forum, 28-29 September 2016, Casablanca - 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 Indonesia and the Indonesian authorities, a Morocco-Indonesia Business Forum. The Indonesian delegation was led by H.E. Mr. Alwi SHIHAB, the special envoy of the President of the Republic of Indonesia to establish business relations with their Moroccan counterparts, on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> September 2016 in Casablanca - Kingdom of Morocco.

This forum witnessed the organization of a seminar and B2B meetings between Moroccan and Indonesian economic operators in the following areas: food industry, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, building materials, crafts, Furniture & decoration, various consumer goods.

Also took part in these meetings the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Rabat, the General Confederation of Moroccan Enterprises (CGEM), The National Agency for the Promotion of SMEs (ANPME), Moroccan professional associations, Chambers of Commerce of Morocco and the Association of Moroccan Exporters (ASMEX).

### **4. Morocco-Gabonese Business Forum, 14-15 September 2017, Rabat - Kingdom of Morocco.**

As part of its program of cooperation with OIC Member States, the Islamic Center 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 on the premises of the Embassy of the Republic of Gabon in Rabat, on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

This Forum, which aimed to boost trade between Morocco and Gabon, was organized in collaboration with the Gabonese ministries of Foreign Affairs, la 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.

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

The Forum has enabled Moroccan investors to discover the investment opportunities offered by Gabon and the Agencies, stakeholders of the new development strategy of Gabon, to explain to various operators and Moroccan actors, their functioning, as well as their expectations.

Two panels were organized:

- The potentials of Morocco and Gabon, and investment opportunities.
- The role of Agencies, Sovereign Funds, and deposit funds 'Caisses de Dépôts' in developing economies and boosting trade.

## **NOTE ON THE PARTICIPATION OF OIC COUNTRIES IN FAIRS AND EXHIBITIONS**

In recent years, there has been a decline in the participation of OIC Member Countries in Fairs and Exhibitions organized by ICDT. The Center has conducted a survey to identify the reasons behind this lethargy, which resulted in the identification of the following causes, also mentioned by the World Association of the Exhibition Industry (UFI), based in Paris:

- **Use of e-marketing via social media and virtual fairs which have become tools for promoting products and services with low-cost.**
- **Many event companies have moved from their core business, i.e. media and advertising to the organization of fairs and exhibitions, leading to fierce competition in this industry.**
- **Privatization of the industry and increase of the number of exhibitions in the same sectors.**
- **The economic and financial crisis had a negative impact on the budgets allocated by Trade Promotion Organs for the participation in fairs and exhibitions.**
- **Another trend in the exhibition industry is the holding of more bilateral B2B trade missions and B2B events.**

To alleviate this problem and to ensure a massive participation of Member States and economic operators in the various editions of the OIC trade fairs, and to improve their efficiency and following a resolution of the Board of Directors of the ICDT ; the 32nd Ministerial Session of the COMCEC adopted an amendment to the Rules of Procedure of the OIC Trade Fair by adding a new clause to Article 2, specifying:

- **Any candidate (country) to host the Islamic trade fair or a specialized exhibition must meet the following conditions:**
- **The chosen venue must have a fairground with international standards;**
- **The co-organizing company (responsible for organizing the fairs in the host country) must have a solid experience in organizing international exhibitions;**
- **The co-organizing company must have a strong financial resources;**
- **The selected city must be connected by regular flights;**