

ICDT's PROGRESS REPORT

ON

**THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OIC
TEN YEAR PROGRAMME OF ACTION**

DOCUMENTS PRESENTED BY

THE ISLAMIC CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE

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ON
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OIC TEN YEAR PROGRAMME OF ACTION
ADOPTED BY THE 3RD ISLAMIC EXTRAORDINARY SUMMIT CONFERENCE

The present document takes stock of the activities of the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade implemented recently in order to contribute to the achievements of the objectives adopted by the Extraordinary Summit Conference of the OIC Heads of States, held in Makkah Al Moukarramah on 7th and 8th December 2005, notably the increase of intra-OIC trade to 20% of the global trade of the OIC Member Countries by the year 2015..

I. TRADE PROMOTION:

A/ FAIRS AND EXHIBITIONS

- 12th Trade Fair of the OIC Member States (OIC-EXPO): Cairo-Egypt, 11-16 October 2009

Within the framework of strengthening economic and commercial cooperation among the Member States of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference and increasing the volume of intra-OIC trade and boosting investment among the OIC Member States and in compliance with the relevant resolutions of the Council of the Foreign Ministers of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference and those of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC), the General Organisation for International Exhibitions and Fairs (GOIEF) and the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade organised under the High Patronage of H.E. President Mohamed **Hosni MUBARAK of Egypt**, the 12th Trade of the OIC Member States of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC/EXPO) in Cairo from 11th to 16th October 2009 under the Theme "New Economic Partnership in the Service of the Ummah".

The Fair lasted 6 days and was open to professionals, economic operators and the General Public from 10.00 am. to 8.00 p.m.

The 12th Edition of the Trade Fair of the OIC Member States (OIC/EXPO) was attended by 26 OIC Member States as well as by Institutions and the Muslim Communities in Non OIC Member Countries.

The official opening Ceremony of the 12th Trade Fair of the Member States of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference took place on 11th October 2009 at Cairo Fair Ground and was chaired by H.E Mr. Rachid Mohamed RACHID, Minister of Trade and Industry of Egypt. It is worth noting in this regard, that this event was held for the second time in the Arab Republic of Egypt.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by HE Prof. Ekmeleddin IHSAONGLU, Secretary General of the OIC, His Eminence Mohammed SAYYED TANTAOUI, Sheikh Al -AZHAR, Dr. Ahmad AL TAYYEB, President of the AL-AZHAR University, Mr. Allal RACHDI, Director General of the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade, Mr. Sherif SALEM, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the General Organization for International Exhibitions and Fairs (GOIEF) and the Ambassadors of the OIC Countries accredited to Cairo and the Heads of Delegations of participating Countries in the Fair.

On the sidelines of the Fair, the following activities were organised:

- Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the OIC on 11th October 2009;
- Workshop on “Trade and investment in the Cotton Sector in the OIC Member States”, 12-13 October 2009;
- 13th International Businessmen Congress- 13th IBF: Cairo from 13th to 15th October 2009.

In implementation of article 15 of the Regulations of the Trade Fair of Islamic Countries, trophies were awarded to the following countries:

- Kingdom of Saudi Arabia : First Prize
- Kingdom of Morocco. : Second Prize
- State of Kuwait ex aequo with Pakistan : Third Prize

Taking into account the great and commendable efforts deployed by the Arab Republic of Egypt to make a success of this event, a special prize was awarded to this country and participation certificates to other countries.

- 2nd Agribusiness Exhibition of the OIC Member States and 14th Food/ Hotel/ PROPAC Arabia: Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 24th to 28th May 2009.

ICDT jointly organized with Al-Harithy Company for Exhibitions Limited, 2nd Agribusiness Exhibition of the OIC Member States and the 14th Food/ Hotel/ Propac Arabia from 24th to 28th May 2009 in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This Exhibition was attended by a several OIC Member States.

It should be recalled in this regard that the organization of this event falls within the framework of the MOU signed by both parties on 18th May in the presence of H.E. Prof Dr. Ekmeleddin IHSANOGLU, the OIC Secretary General.

- Preparations of the 3rd Tourism Fair of the OIC Member States: Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt, 10-13 December 2010.

In compliance with the relevant resolutions of the 11th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference held on 13th and 14th March 2008 in Dakar and of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers and of the COMCEC relating to the proposal made by the Arab Republic of Egypt to host the 3rd Tourism Fair of the OIC Member States in 2010, ICDT has started the preparations of the 3rd edition of this fair in close collaboration with the Egyptian Authorities in charge of this event.

- Preparations of the 1st Real Estate and Building Exhibition of the OIC Member States (OIC Building EXPO): Dakar, Republic of Senegal, 24-27 June, 2010.

The CICES and ICDT organized the 1st Real Estate and Building Exhibition of the OIC Member States (OIC Building EXPO), from 24th to 27th June 2010 in Dakar inside the Exhibition Grounds of the International Exchange Centre of Dakar (CIED).

The event which is a meeting point for promotion and exchange in the sector of construction, real estate, construction industry professionals and companies, architects, and authorities in charge of promoting the sector. The opening ceremony was co-chaired by Mr. Oumar SARR, Minister of State, Minister of Housing and Construction of Senegal, and Mr. Amadou NIAN, Minister of Commerce of Senegal, in the presence of Mrs. GAKOU Salamata Gassama, Minister of Housing, Construction and Land Matters of Mali, Mr. Allal RACHDI, Director General of ICDT, Mr. Baïdy Souleymane

NDIAYE, Director General of CICES, Ambassadors accredited to Senegal, construction industry professionals and numerous guests.

About twenty OIC member-countries participated in the exhibition with about sixty companies which are exhibiting their products and services. Daily conferences are being held on the sidelines of the exhibition and during which participants talk about their experience and the situation in the sector of construction and real estate in their countries. B2B meetings are also being held everyday between business persons in the sector. Organisers further agreed to perpetuate as well as to hold the second edition of the exhibition in March 2012 in Dakar.

- **Preparations of the 13th Trade Fair of the OIC Member States (OIC-EXPO):** Sharjah, State of United Arab Emirates, 24- 29 April 2011.

On the sidelines of the Fair, a Memorandum of understanding was signed between the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Sharjah on the organisation of the 13th trade Fair of the OIC Member States scheduled to be held with God's will from 24th to 29th April 2011 in Sharjah-State of the United Arab Emirates.

B/ OTHER PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Setting up of a Business Centre:

ICDT has finalised the feasibility study for the creation of a Business Centre within the Centre and has taken steps seeking a financing outside its ordinary budget, notably from the large private holdings in the OIC Countries.

- 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, the OIC countries' enterprises can promote their products through this virtual fair with a presentation of a catalogue, prices and patterns etc. A plan for the promotion of this Fair has been launched since July 2002 at the level of the enterprises of the OIC countries.

- **Forum on the Development of Food Industry in Africa:** Bamako, Mali, 25-27 February 2009.

The Government of the Republic of Mali, the OIC General Secretariat, ICDT and the IDB Group (ITFC, ICIEC, etc...) organised from 25th to 27th February 2009 a forum on the Development of Food Industries in Africa".

The objectives of the Forum are the following:

- ✓ To promote trade among the OIC Member States in the agribusiness industry;
- ✓ To promote investments in the agribusiness sector in Africa;
- ✓ To establish partnership links between African economic operators and foreign investors;
- ✓ To re-launch economic growth in Africa.

ICDT contributed directly on the one hand, to the organisation and moderation of the special session on "The role of the OIC Institutions in the promotion of the agribusiness in Africa" and to the organisation of the buyers/sellers meeting of agribusiness on the other.

ICDT was provided with a stand within the Fair/exhibition, which was organised in parallel with the forum.

- **“First Annual Meeting of the Network of African French-speaking OIC Member States’ Trade Promotion Organs”**: Casablanca, 23-24 December 2009.

The Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) organised under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Trade of the Kingdom of Morocco and in collaboration with the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC) the *“First Annual Meeting of the Network of African French-speaking OIC Member States’ Trade Promotion Organs”*, on 23th and 24th December 2009 in Casablanca at ICDT’s headquarters.

The most salient recommendations contained in *“Casablanca Declaration”* is the launching of the *“Global Network of the OIC Member States’ Trade Promotion Organs (OIC TPO Network)”* within 2010 in order to start a new era and give an impetus to cooperation among the ICDT, ITFC and the TPOs through a new approach.

This new approach stipulates that ICDT, ITFC and the TPOs will proceed as follows:

1. at the first stage the *“Network of French-speaking OIC Member States’ Trade Promotion Organs”* have been launched on 24th December in Casablanca,
 2. at a second stage launching of the *“Networks of Arab and English speaking OIC Member States’ Trade Promotion Organs”*;
 3. And finally at the 3rd and ultimate stage holding of the Global Conference of Trade Promotion Organs of the OIC in 2010 in order to launch the *“Global Network of the OIC Member States’ Trade Promotion Organs (OIC TPO Network)”* and adopt a *“Framework Agreement”* along with a specific Plan of Action devoted to cooperation among ICDT, ITFC and TPOs.
- **2nd Ministerial Forum on the Implementation of the Special Programme for Development of Africa**: Yaounde, Republic of Cameroon, 8th – 9th June 2010.

The Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) participated in the 2nd Ministerial Forum on the Implementation of the Special Programme for Development of Africa (SPDA) from 8th to 9th June 2010 in Yaoundé, Cameroon , organized in line with the Resolution n°1 of the 24th Session of the COMCEC, is organized by the Government of the Republic of Cameroon with the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and the Islamic Development Bank Group (IDB Group) to familiarize the OIC countries in the Central, Eastern and Southern Africa sub-regions with the operations under the SPDA and the opportunities available for project funding under it.

- BUSINESS FORUMS:

REMINDER:

ICDT is involved in the organization of the World Islamic Economic Forum since 2006.

- **4th World Islamic Economic Forum**: Kuwait, from 29th April to 1st May 2008.

ICDT contributed jointly with the Foundation of the World Islamic Economic Forum to the organisation of the 4th Edition of the World Islamic Economic Forum held in Kuwait from 29th April to 1st May 2008.

This Forum, which was inaugurated by the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, was attended by several Heads of States, Governments and Eminent Personalities such as His Majesty, KING ABDALLAH II, of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Maître Abdoulaye WADE, President of the Republic of Senegal, H.E Mr. Hamid KARZAÏ, President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, H.E Dr. Haris SILADZIC, President of Bosnia-Herzegovina, H.E. Mr Abdullah BADAWI, Prime Minister of Malaysia and the former Prime Minister of Great Britain, Mr Tony Blair and BOB HAWKE, Past Prime Minister of Australia.

The sessions of this Fourth Edition tackled several topical issues, notably the issues relating to the competitiveness of Islamic Countries, Telecommunications, development of infrastructures, the role of the private sector and that of education in development... Two topical issues were also discussed and aroused special attention, notably “the future of energy in a changing world” and the “food crisis in the world”.

This forum was marked by the decision of HRH, the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad-Al Jaber-Al Sabah to create a “Fund for Decent Living” amounting to 100 million US dollars to meet the needs of the most deprived people of the Islamic Ummah affected by the food crisis.

A part from the proceedings of the different sessions of the Forum, several events were organised on the sidelines of this event, notably:

- The businesswomen forum chaired by Sheikha Hissa Saad AL-Abdullah Al Sabah, Chairman of the Council of Arab businesswomen;
- The meeting of the young leaders, chaired by HE Mr Jamal Al-Shihab, Minister of Justice and labour and Social Affairs of Kuwait;
- Exhibition on the investment opportunities in Kuwait organised under the High Patronage of His Royal Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait and inaugurated by HE Mr. Mustafa Jassem Al-Shamali, Minister of Finance of Acting Minister of Commerce and Industry of the State of Kuwait.
- **5th World Islamic Economic Forum: Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia, 1-4 March 2009.**

A Delegation from ICDT took part in the 5th World Islamic Economic Forum organised under the high patronage of His Excellency Mr. SUSILO BAMBANG YUDHOYONO, President of the Republic of Indonesia and H.E HON DATA SERI ABDULLAH HAJ AHMAD BADAWI, Prime Minister of Malaysia, by the WIEF Foundation in Jakarta from 1st to 4th March 2009.

ICDT participated in the proceedings of the Forum and the exhibition, which took place in parallel of the Forum.

- It should be recalled in this regard that the Director General of ICDT participated in two meetings of the follow up committee of the world Islamic Economic Forum in Jeddah in September 2008 and in Jakarta on 28th February 2009.

- **Workshop on "Trade and Investment in the Cotton Sector in OIC Member States":**
Cairo, 12th - 13th October 2009.

In pursuance of the relevant resolutions of the 24th Ministerial session of the COMCEC held in Istanbul in October 2008, the Ministry of Trade and Industry of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) in collaboration with the General Organization for International Exhibitions and Fairs (GOIEF) and the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC) organized a Workshop on "Trade and Investment in the Cotton Sector in OIC Member States" in Cairo on 12th - 13th October 2009 on the sidelines of the 12th Trade Fair of the OIC Member States (12th OIC/EXPO 2009, 11th - 16th October 2009) in the Conference Hall AHMOUSS of the General Organization for International Exhibitions and Fairs,.

The aims of the workshop were to gather economic operators and experts from the OIC Member States, the OIC institutions, regional and international organizations of the OIC Member States in order:

- Identify the ways and means likely to strengthen the cotton sector with a view to recovering the potentialities for a lasting trade development
- Create business opportunities between economic operators so as to enable them to establish direct relations between them.
- Formulate a set of concrete recommendations to be submitted to the Steering Committee on cotton chaired by the Republic of Turkey.

This workshop was composed of three tracks:

- a seminar (12th of October 2009);
- a buyers/sellers meeting and visits to some leading Egyptian factories working in the cotton sector and products thereof in Alexandria (13th October 2009).

The Representatives of the following OIC Member States:

Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Egypt, Iraq, Libya, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Niger, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sudan, Syria, Turkey, Uganda, Uzbekistan.

➤ The OIC following Institutions:

- The International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC);
- The Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI).
- The Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT).

➤ The Representatives of the following International and Regional Organizations:

- The International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC);
- The African Cotton Association (ACA).

ICDT will organize in September 2010 a Meeting on Cotton in Casablanca.

II. TRADE NEGOTIATIONS:

A/ TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE TPS/OIC:

REMINDER:

Since the coming into force of the Framework Agreement on the Trade Preferences System among Islamic Countries and in compliance with the COMCEC's resolutions, ICDT and the COMCEC Coordination Office act as the Secretariat of the Trade Negotiating Committee and have supervised the 1st and 2nd Rounds launched in Antalya (Republic of Turkey) in April 2004 and in Ankara in 2007 under the auspices of the COMCEC.

➤ **SECOND ROUND OF TRADE NEGOTIATIONS:**

- **First meeting for the launching of the second round of trade negotiations for the establishment of a Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member States:** Istanbul, Republic of Turkey, 24-26 November 2006.

ICDT participated in the Ministerial Meeting for the launching of the second round of trade negotiations within the framework of the TPS/OIC held in Istanbul from 24th to 26th November 2006. This meeting was chaired by the Minister of State in charge of foreign trade of the Republic of Turkey Mr. Kursad TUZMEN.

- **Second Meeting for the launching of the Second Round of Trade Negotiations for Establishing the Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member States:** Ankara, March 2007.

ICDT participated in the Second Meeting of the 2nd Round of Trade Negotiations for Establishing a Preferential Trade System among the OIC Member States held in Ankara from 27th to 30th March 2007. The Centre was represented by Mr. HZAINÉ, Director of Studies and Training. This meeting mainly examined the following two points: the Rules of origin and the Para-Tariff and non-Tariff Measures contained in the Protocol on the Preferential Tariff Scheme for the TPS/OIC (PRETAS). **Third Meeting for the launching of the Second Round of Trade Negotiations for establishing a Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member States:** Ankara, June 2007.

ICDT participated in the Third Meeting of the Second Round of Trade Negotiations held in Ankara from 19th to 22nd June 2007. The Centre was represented by Mr. HZAINÉ, Director of Studies and Training.

During this meeting, the Trade Negotiations Committee examined the Draft Rules of Origin of the TPS/OIC based on the proposal made by Turkey in November 2006 and amended in compliance with the observations made by the Participating States during the Second Meeting.

- **Fourth Meeting for the launching of the Trade Negotiations Committee for establishing a Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member States:** Ankara, 10th - 13th September 2007

ICDT participated in the Second Ministerial Meeting for the launching of the Second Round of Trade Negotiations within the framework of the TPS/OIC held in Ankara from 10th to 13th September 2007. This Meeting was chaired by the Minister of State in charge of foreign Trade of the Republic of Turkey.

Previously, the Committee of Trade Negotiations had finalised the draft text of the Rules of Origin that is submitted for signature by the Participating States.

➤ **Evaluation Meeting of the Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) among the OIC Member States:** Ankara (Republic of Turkey) from 17th to 19th June 2008.

ICDT participated in the Evaluation Meeting of the Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) of the TPS/OIC held from 17th to 19th June 2008 in Ankara (Republic of Turkey).

The agenda items mainly dealt with the evaluation of the results of the two negotiations rounds of the TNC and the required actions to be carried out for the implementation of the PRETAS and the Rules of Origin of the TPS/OIC on 1st January 2009) date fixed by the COMCEC for its coming into force.

Sixteen countries of the Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) participated in this meeting of which The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia which participated for the first time in this meeting as full member after having accomplished the ratification procedures of the TPS/OIC in August 2007.

Seven Member states also participated in this evaluation meeting as observers along with the Representatives of the following organisations: the Members of the TNC Secretariat (the COMCEC Coordination Office and ICDT), IDB, SESRIC and the West African and Monetary Union (WAEMU).

ICDT'S ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE SECRETARIAT OF THE TRADE NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE

- The 9th Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation has entrusted to ICDT and the COMCEC coordination Office the Secretariat of the Trade Negotiating committee.

Within this framework, the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade provides to Member States technical assistance under 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 for TPS/OIC (PRETAS) and the protocol on the Rules of Origin.

It should be noted in this respect that the Trade Negotiating Committee has requested the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade and the COMCEC Coordination Office during the Evaluation Meeting held in June 2008 in Ankara to present explanatory notes on the dispute issues raised by some Member States.

In pursuance of this request, the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade expounded the dispute issues on which some countries made official reserves or expressed divergent opinions and explanations. However, during the Twenty Fourth Session of the COMCEC held in Istanbul in October 2008, some countries noted that further discussions and investigations on these issues would be utterly useless since the meetings of the Trade Negotiations Committee has made final and irreversible decisions on them.

Still, the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade is fully ready to provide comprehensive explanatory notes related to issues debated within the framework of negotiations on the Trade Preferential System (TPS/OIC), the Protocol on the Preferential Tariff Scheme (PRETAS and the Protocol on the Rules of Origin as soon as he receives official requests from your August Meeting or from any relevant organ of the organization of the Islamic Conference or from Member Countries.

In this regard, I would like to inform your August Meeting that 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, the PRETAS Protocol, intended for the Countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council and Indonesia.

B/ MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE WTO:

- 1. Meeting on the accession of the OIC Member States to the WTO:** Jeddah 28-29 March 2006.
- 2. Round Table on “the WTO Negotiations”: What Stakes for the OIC Member States”** Casablanca.
- 3. Inter-regional Workshop on “the Geographical Indications”:** Ankara, 3-4 April 2008.
- 4. Training Seminar on the “use by Developing countries of the flexibilities provided for in the Agreement of the “TRIPs”:** 9-12 June 2008, Casablanca-Morocco.
- 5. Seminar on trade in services:** Casablanca, 15.18 June 2009.
- 6. Seminar on Non-tariff Barriers and their impacts on the development of the OIC Member States:** Tunis-05-07 October 2009.
- 7. Study on “the lack of progress of the DOHA Round and its impact on the OIC Member States”.**

III/ SEMINARS AND TRAINING SESSIONS:

- **Training Seminar on TPS/OIC: Damascus Syria 30-31 January 2008**

This meeting was attended by about 25 executives from the Ministry of Economy and Commerce of the Arab republic of Syria.

The papers of ICDT’s experts dealt with the following points:

- ✓ General presentation of the main provisions of the TPS/OIC Agreement;
- ✓ Structure and methodology of negotiations;
- ✓ The TPS/OIC Agreement and the regional preferential agreements;
- ✓ The TPS/OIC and the WTO agreements;
- ✓ Results of negotiations;
- ✓ The probable impact of the Agreement on Syrian economy.

➤ **Training Workshop on “Exports Promotion and Investment Strategies in the Context of Globalization”**: Casablanca, 12-16 January 2009.

Within the framework of the implementation of practical and operational activities with a view to promoting trade and investments among the OIC Member States and contribute to implementing “the Ten Programme of Action to meet the challenges facing the Islamic Ummah in the 21st Century” adopted by the 3rd Extraordinary Session held in Makkah AL Mukarramah in December 2005; the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) and the Islamic Research and Training Institute of the IDB Group (IRTI) jointly organized a training workshop on “Exports and Investment Promotion Strategies in the Context of Globalisation” from 12th to 16th January 2009 at ICDT’s headquarters in Casablanca.

In fact, ICDT has invested training of human resources with a prime importance as one of its main missions. In so far as without a permanent and regular capacity building of human resources, all the efforts deployed at the level of the institutional and conventional system; promotion, financing or others, would remain ineffective if they are not coupled with efforts aiming at building the human capacities of Member States.

The aim of this workshop is to provide a capacity building and bringing up to the required standard the human resources operating in the fields of export and investment promotion in order to derive benefit from the new methods and techniques applied in these fields.

This workshop was attended by the following Member States:

Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Djibouti, Guinea, Mali, Morocco (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, the Ministry of Foreign Trade, the Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and the New Technologies and the Moroccan Export Promotion Centre (CMPE)), Senegal and Tunisia.

At the end of this workshop, certificates were delivered to participants along with a much diversified pedagogical material including a CD-ROM and printed documents covering all the modules.

➤ **Workshop on the “Impact of Food Crisis on the Economies of the Member States of the OIC and the Developmental Prospects of Trade and Investments in the Agricultural Sector”**: Casablanca 17th and 18th June 2009.

In compliance with the relevant Resolution of the 24th Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation among the OIC Member States (COMCEC), held from 20th to 24th October 2008 in Istanbul and which decided that the next exchange of views of the 25th Session of the COMCEC shall deal with “The Impact of Food Crisis on the Economies of the Member States of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC)”, the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) organised under the patronage of the Ministry of foreign Trade of the kingdom of Morocco and in collaboration with the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC) -Islamic Development Bank Group-, a workshop on the **“Impact of Food Crisis on the Economies of the Member States of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and the Developmental Prospects of Trade and Investments in the Agricultural Sector”**: Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco, 17th and 18th June 2009.

The major aims of the workshop were to gather Experts from the OIC Member States, the OIC institutions, regional and international organizations of the OIC Member States:

- To assess the impact of the world food crisis on the economies of the OIC Member States;
- To identify the developmental prospects of trade and investment in the agricultural sector;
- To explore the ways and means likely to ensure food security and partnership in the agricultural sector and agro-food industry among the OIC Member States.
- To formulate a set of concrete recommendations that will be submitted to the 25th Ministerial Session of the COMCEC to be held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey from 5th to 7th November 2009.

This workshop was attended by:

- The Representatives of the following OIC Member States:

Algeria, Azerbaijan, Egypt, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mali, Morocco (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Agriculture and Sea Fishery), Oman, Uganda, Pakistan, Senegal, Turkey, Tajikistan and Tunisia.

- The OIC following Institutions: COMCEC, ITFC, ICDT, ICD, ICIEC, The Department of Economic Policy and Economic Planning (IDB Group), SESRIC, ICCI.
- The Representatives of the following International and Regional Organisations:
 - The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO);
 - The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD);
 - The International Food Policy Research institute (IFPRI);
 - The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD);
 - Arab Organisation or Agricultural Development (AOAD);
 - The General Secretariat of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU);
 - The African Development Bank (Regional Office in Rabat)

At the end of these proceedings, participants adopted the report and recommendations that were submitted for adoption to the 25th Ministerial Session of the COMCEC held in Istanbul from 5th to 7th November 2009.

- **Participation of ICDT in the seminar on the Proliferation of the Regional and Bilateral Trade Agreements and their Impact on the WTO Multilateral Trading System:** Abu Dhabi-UAE, 16th - 19th May 2010,

Upon invitation of the Cooperation Department of the Islamic Development Bank Group (IDB Group), the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), participated in the seminar on the “Proliferation of the Regional and Bilateral Trade Agreements and their Impact on the WTO Multilateral Trading System” in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates from 17th to 19th May 2010.

21 OIC Member States and several International Organizations (World Trade Organization, International Trade Centre, International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development, Arab League, Economic Cooperation Organization, UNCTAD and ICDT) also attended this seminar.

On this occasion, ICDT’s Representative made two presentations. The first on the Trade Preferential System among OIC Member States and the Second on the Project of the OIC Free Trade Area and the prospects of the intra-OIC Trade. In this regard, participants raised many questions on the TPS/OIC, PRETAS and Rules of Origin.

- ✦ **Co-organization of a seminar on trade facilitation:** Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic, 6th to 8th July 2010.

The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Cooperation Office with the participation of the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) organized in Damascus a Seminar on "Trade Facilitation among Arab Countries and their Integration into the Multilateral Trading System" from 6th to 8th July 2010.

On this occasion, OIC institutions (IDB, ICDT) and United Nations institutions (WTO, UNCTAD, ITC) as well as the League of Arab States and the Syrian Ministry of the Foreign Trade presented topics related to the theme of the Seminar.

It is worth underlining that ICDT's presentation entitled "Trade Facilitation among OIC Member Countries: Realities and Prospects" contained among others recommendations to improve the business climate and facilitate trade between OIC Member States.

During the seminar, the national experiences of Syria and other Arab Member Countries were also tackled.

IV- PROJECTS UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE COMCEC:

A/ Project Committee on the "Technical Cooperation between the Industrial Property Offices in the OIC Member States":

REMINDER:

Within the framework of the implementation of the Plan of Action of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) adopted by the 7th OIC Summit in Casablanca in December 1994, which scheduled the holding of sector based meetings to bring out concrete cooperation projects in six priority areas of the Plan of Action, namely: Human development, training, agriculture, health, technical cooperation and trade.

And following the recommendations of the Standing committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation among the OIC member States (COMCEC) at its session held in Istanbul-Republic of Turkey from 22nd to 25th November 2005, the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) was entrusted to ensure the coordination of the technical cooperation project between the Patent Offices in the OIC Member States.

ICDT organises two conferences in collaboration with the Turkish Patent Institute.

- ✦ **First Conference on "Technical Cooperation between the Industrial Property Offices in the OIC Member States":** Ankara, 14th - 15th December 2006.

In compliance with the resolution of the 22nd Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) held on November 21-24, 2006 in Istanbul, ICDT and the Turkish Patent Institute organised jointly from 14th to 16th December 2006 in Ankara a Conference on "Technical Cooperation among the Industrial Property Offices (IP) in the Member States of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC)".

The Conference was attended by representatives of 16 OIC Member States: Burkina Faso, Comoros, Guinea, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Morocco, Mozambique, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, in addition to the Islamic Centre for development of Trade (ICDT), Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and other international institutions, namely the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), World Trade Organisation (WTO), European Patent Office (EPO) and the Patent Office of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

After the opening ceremony, presentations on the role of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in international trade and the recent developments and common problems of IP Offices in the OIC Member States, were made by representatives from WIPO, WTO, EPO, Hungarian, Moroccan and Turkish IP Offices.

After fruitful discussions, two sub-committees were formed on:

- 1) "Institutional Capacity Building" to be coordinated by the Turkish Patent Institute;
- 2) "Information Technology" to be coordinated by the Moroccan Office for Industrial and Commercial Property (OMPIC).

In order to launch the proceedings of these two sub-committees an action plan was adopted.

- **2nd Conference on «Technical Cooperation among the Industrial Property Offices in the Member States of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC): Casablanca-Kingdom of Morocco, 11-13 July 2007.**

The Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) and the Turkish Patent Institute (TPI) in collaboration with the Moroccan Office for Industrial and Commercial Property (OMPIC) organised the Second Conference on "Technical Cooperation among the Industrial Property Offices in the Member States of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference" from 11th to 13th July 2007 in the Complex of the Moroccan Office for Industrial and Commercial Property (OMPIC) in Casablanca-Kingdom of Morocco.

The main goal of this Conference is to adopt the work programmes of the two sub-committees that were set up during the 1st Conference held in Ankara in December 2006, on the basis of the answer to the questionnaire sent by ICDT to the Industrial Property Institutions in March 2007.

This Conference was attended by:

- The Representatives of the Industrial Property Offices in the following Member States: Albania, Algeria, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Gabon, Iran, Jordan, Libya, Malaysia, Mauritania, Morocco, Pakistan, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bahrain, Indonesia, Iran, Mali, Malaysia, Nigeria, Palestine, Senegal, Sudan, Tunisia. Arab Maghreb Union (UMA) and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

- Two workshop activities are foreseen to take place in close cooperation between the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), the Turkish Patent Institute (TPI) and WIPO in 2009, namely:

1. The Inter-regional Workshop on Industrial Property Policies: (first/second quarter of 2010)

In this regard, the Turkish Patent Institute has invited the host offices of Saudi Arabia and Malaysia on September 2008 to renew their commitment to organize respective workshops. TPI has not received any information from these Offices so far regarding the date of organization of these workshops. In this regard, the TPI has requested the assistance of WIPO in order to facilitate the process.

- Portal dedicated to Intellectual Property Information (PI) in the OIC Member States:

ICDT will set up in close collaboration with the OMPIC (Morocco) a Portal dedicated to Intellectual Property Information (PI) in the OIC Member States that will be hosted by ICDT.

This portal will provide access to the general information on the IP in the OIC Member States, the laws and inquiry forms, procedures, search engines, on brands in a first stage and later on, it will be extended to other fields of the IP.

It will also contain an extranet as platform for discussions and information exchange between the staff of the Industrial Property Offices.

Assistance will be extended to the LDCs to enable them to have access to the Extranet and participate in the information dissemination within the portal.

ICDT has sent the terms of references of this portal to IDB Group in July 2008 in order to examine the possibility of financing this project.

TPI and ICDT informed the meeting that the duration of this project shall be extended in order to achieve the remaining activities included in the business plan adopted by the 2nd Conference on "Technical Cooperation between the Industrial Property Offices in the OIC Member States" held in Casablanca from 11th to 13th July 2007.

B/ Regional Project "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 nine OIC Member States (Benin, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Sierra Leone).

REMINDER:

- **1st Meeting of the Committee on the Regional Project of "Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa":** Casablanca, 10-11 July 2006.

A meeting of the Project Committee was held on 10th and 11th July 2006 in Casablanca (Kingdom of Morocco) at the headquarters of the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT).

This Committee is composed of the Regional Representative of the World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) for Africa, the Regional Coordinator of the Project, Mr. Mohamed Sakho and SESRIC.

The aim of this meeting was to:

- Present the Activity Programme approved on the sidelines of the 44th Meeting of the UNWTO Committee for Africa held in Bamako (Mali) 8th May 2006;
- To discuss the support modalities to the mobilisation of needed resources for the working out of the feasibility study;
- To discuss the coordination mechanisms for the implementation of this project.

The outcomes of the meeting were as follows:

- Signature of a Memorandum of Understanding between contracting parties;
 - The setting up of a Follow up Permanent Committee (ICDT, SESRIC, Regional Coordinator and the UNWTO);
 - Adoption of the draft terms of References of the Feasibility Study of the Project and submission of funding application of the project to IDB;
 - Drawing up of a programme of Planned Activities;
 - Contribution of the UNWTO for an amount of US\$ 50,000 within the framework of the financing of the feasibility study of the project whose total budget amounts to US\$ 425,000.
- **2nd Meeting of the Committee on the Regional Project of “Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa”**: Baku, Azerbaijan, 10th September 2006.

In compliance with the recommendations of the First Meeting of the Committee on the Regional Project of *“Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa”* held in Casablanca from 10th to 12th July 2006, ICDT has invited the contracting parties to the project to a 2nd meeting of the said Committee extended to 9 Member Countries, the Representatives of the OIC General Secretariat and the IDB’s Representative, which took place on 10th September 2006 in Gulustan Palace on the sidelines of the 5th Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers held at the same place from 9th to 12th September 2006.

Upon deliberations, the meeting recommended among other the following:

- Approves the Reports of the Regional Coordinator and ICDT and the terms of reference of the Feasibility Study of the Project with four components as presented for its financing;
 - Recommends the sending within the shortest possible time of a Ministerial Delegation of Member States accompanied by the Representatives of the contracting parties to IDB to raise its awareness to the importance of this project and make it grant a substantial financial contribution to the concerned study;
 - Kindly requests H.E the OIC Secretary General to get involved in this initiative;
 - Requests the Republic of Guinea to prepare this mission in coordination with the different contracting parties and to agree within the shortest possible time on the most convenient date to carry it out.
- **Meeting of the Committee on the Regional Project of “Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa”**: Casablanca, 24th March 2008.

Within the framework of the implementation of the Plan of Action of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) for the strengthening of Economic and Commercial Cooperation, 9 OIC Member States and the UNWTO: Benin, the The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Sierra-Leone have initiated a project on *“Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas”*.

To that effect, the Steering Committee held a meeting in Casablanca on 24th March 2008.

It is worth recalling that the Steering Committee was held successively in Dakar (March 2005), Bamako (May 2006), Casablanca (July 2006), Baku (September 2006), Accra (October 2007), Carthagène De Indias (November (2007)).

The aim of this meeting was to take stock of the progress achieved in the implementation of the project and to update the Programme of planned activities for the year 2008/2009.

This meeting was attended by:

- Republic of Guinea; Islamic Republic of Mauritania; Republic of Mali; Republic of Senegal ; the Regional Coordinator of the Project ; the OIC General Secretariat ; UNWTO, ICDT and SESRIC.
- ✦ **6th Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers:** Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic, 29th June-2nd July 2008.

ICDT participated in the proceedings of the 6th Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM) as well as in the preparatory Meeting of the Senior Officials, which took place in Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic, from 29th June to 2nd July 2008.

This Conference was attended by 36 Member States of the OIC in addition to the Representatives of the OIC General Secretariat, and the following subsidiary organs and specialised and affiliated institutions: SESRIC, IRCICA, ICDT, IDB, ISESCO, ICCI and ICYF-DC. The UNWTO and the Arab Tourism Organisation were also represented at this Conference.

- ✦ **Meeting of the Steering Committee of the “Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa”:** Madrid, 6-7 February 2009.

The Director General of the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), Mr. Allal RACHDI, participated in the meeting on the “Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa”, Madrid 6-7 February 2009 at the headquarters of the World Tourism Organisation in Madrid, Kingdom of Spain.

This meeting focused on the consideration of the results of the 1st stage of the Feasibility Study prepared by the Consulting Company.

During this meeting, ICDT which ensures the coordination of the project at the level of the OIC reiterated the support of the OIC to this project and informed participants of the steps taken by the OIC and the Islamic Development Bank Group to ensure the implementation of this project.

- **Meeting of the Committee on the Regional Project of “Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa”:** Casablanca, 9-10 July 2009.

Within the framework of the implementation of the Plan of Action of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) for the strengthening of Economic and Commercial Cooperation, 9 OIC Member States and the UNWTO: Benin, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Sierra-Leone have initiated a project on “Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas”.

To that effect, the Steering Committee held a meeting in Casablanca on 9th and 10th July 2009.

It is worth recalling that the Steering Committee was held successively in Dakar (March 2005), Bamako (May 2006), Casablanca (July 2006), Baku (September 2006), Accra (October 2007), Carthagène De Indias (November (2007), Casablanca (24th March 2008) and Madrid on (6th February 2009).

This meeting was attended by:

- Burkina Faso; Republic of the Gambia; Republic of Guinea; Republic of Mali; Republic of Niger; Regional Coordinator of the Project; UNWTO, ICDT and Research Firm “Secheresse Consultants” .

The steering committee approved the strategic orientations proposed by the Research Firm “Secheresse Consultants” provided that the latter takes into account the recommendations, observations and suggestions formulated during the meeting for the working out of the final strategy of the project.

- **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”**: Astana, 3rd October 2009.

On October 3rd, 2009 the Steering Committee of the « Regional Project on Sustainable Tourism Development in a network of Cross-border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa” met in Astana (Republic of Kazakhstan) to examine the remaining activities of the project. The Republics of Benin, Niger, Mali, Senegal, Mauritania and Burkina Faso were represented during this meeting in addition to the Ministers of Benin and Niger.

This meeting was held on the sidelines of the 18th Session of the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization (WTO) which on this occasion adopted a resolution on the project.

- **Meeting of the Committee on the Regional Project of “Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa”** Madrid, on December 15th - 16th, 2009.

ICDT participated at the Steering Committee of the « Regional Project on Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa” held in Madrid, on December 15th - 16th, 2009.

This meeting was held in order to examine and endorse project proposals and related costs within the framework of the “Phase 3: Plan of Action” of the feasibility study on the “Regional Project on Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa”.

❖ **This meeting was attended by:**

- The Representatives of Benin, Burkina Faso, the Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania and Niger; ICDT, SESRIC, UNWTO, UNWTO STEP Foundation; the Regional Coordinator of the Project, the Research Firm « Secheresse Consultants ».

The Experts of the Research Firm "Sécheresse Consultants" presented a working paper entitled "Phase 3: Plan d'Actions" which proposes several projects, as well as related costs, to be implemented for the development of West African Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas. The Experts indicated that the amount of investments to realize on these Cross Border Parks and Protected Areas would reach around 45 678 742 Euros. They also proposed a planning of realization of these investments.

Participants agreed inter alia on the following:

1. The organization of a joint mission composed of the Director General of ICDT, the Regional Representative of the WTO for Africa and the Regional Coordinator of the Project to raise financial Institutions awareness, notably those located in the Gulf, participants requested the support of OIC for this mission;
2. The holding of a Seminar with the financial Institutions at the end of March 2010, in Dakar; the importance of the participation of the Ministers of Tourism of all concerned countries to this Seminar was stressed.

V/ STUDIES AND PUBLICATIONS:

1. Annual Report on Trade among the OIC Member States, 2009 edition:

The Annual Report on Trade among the OIC Member States was published in October 2009. 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 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 both the levels of intra-OIC Trade and trade related investments.

It also includes statistical annexes, which present intra-OIC trade of each Member State.

- OTHER PUBLICATIONS:

- ✓ **Technical study on negotiations within the framework of the Trade Preferences System among the OIC Member States.**
- ✓ **Follow up Reports on the multilateral trade negotiations within the WTO**
- ✓ **Publication of a work 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 of products of information and communication technologies between the Member States of the OIC".**
- ✓ **Publication of the Report and recommendations of the Workshop on "the Impact of the Foods Crisis on the Economies of the Member States of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference and the Developmental Prospects of Trade and Investment in the Agricultural Sector" organised by ICDT in Casablanca on 17th and 18th June 2009.**
- ✓ **Study relating to trade in utility and industrial vehicles of the Autonomous Republic of Tatarstan with the OIC member States and the launching opportunities of these vehicles on the market of the AMU and the ECOWAS:**

✓ **Magazine TIJARIS**

VI/ TRADE INFORMATION:

Trade Information Network for Islamic Countries (TINIC):

TINIC has been redesigned and restructured in 2007/2008 in such a manner as to meet the needs and expectations of the private sector and professional associations.

It should be also underlined that Arabic version of ICDT's website is now available since July 2008.

It is operational and accessible at the following address: (<http://www.icdt-oic.org>). A CD-ROM presenting the existing TINIC's databases are also available for visitors. Well structured research engines have been developed focusing on the major databases so as to help Internet visitors of our web site to find and screen required information in a simple manner. Additionally, subscription forms are also available and operational on our web site. They are meant to help visitors to directly subscribe to our databases through Internet, in order to help them save time and retrieve data in a more efficient manner.

Technical Assistance:

ICDT provided technical assistance to the Republic of Guinea relating to the creation of a Documentation and Trade and Information Centre in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the SMEs.

Within this framework, ICDT has received a request for technical assistance made by the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and the Republic of Cameroon with a view to setting up a Trade Information Network within the Ministry of Commerce. These requests are currently being examined by ICDT in close collaboration with the Islamic Development Bank.

VII/ COOPERATION:

ICDT has undertaken this year 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 with the Saudi Development Fund (MOU on February 5th, 2002);
- Memorandum of Understanding with the International Trade Center (ITC) (on April 17th, 2003);
- Memorandum of Understanding with the Common Fund for Commodities (on 21st September 2001).
- Memorandum of Understanding 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 HARTY COMPANY FOR EXHIBITIONS" (ITFC) (18th May 2008);
- The International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC) (11th February 2009).

The Centre is currently engaged in talks with the UNIDO, WTO and GCC with a view to signing an MOU.

ICDT and the Cooperation Office of the IDB Group held on 12th and 13th February at the Centre's headquarters in Casablanca, a coordination bilateral meeting for the consideration of the preparations of the joint organisation of the seminar on the "ways and means for the "Establishment of a Free Trade Area among the OIC Member States".

VIII/ FOLLOW UP REPORT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE "EXECUTIVE PROGRAMME OF THE ROAD-MAP FOR ACHIEVING INTRA-OIC TRADE TARGETS ON INTRA-OIC TRADE".

In the context of the implementation of the Ten Year Plan of Action adopted by the 3rd extraordinary Islamic Summit, the Islamic Centre for development of trade (ICDT) organized a "consultative meeting of the OIC Institutions on Enhancing intra-OIC trade" at ICDT's headquarters in Casablanca on 11th and 12th February 2009.

The following Institutions attended this meeting:

- ✓ The General Secretariat of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (Department of Economic affairs);
- ✓ The COMCEC Coordination Office;
- ✓ The Islamic Development Bank Group :
The International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC)
The Islamic Corporation for Insurance of Investments and Export Credit (ICIEC)
The IDB (Cooperation Office)
- ✓ The Islamic Centre for Development of Trade;
- ✓ The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC);
- ✓ The Organization of Islamic Ship-owners Association (OISA)
- ✓ The Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI).

This meeting was also attended by the following institutions as observers:

- ✓ The Saudi Fund for Development
- ✓ The International Trade Centre

During four working sessions participants examined the projects to be implemented by each OIC Institution within the framework of the OIC Ten Year Programme of Action and the Roadmap for enhancing intra-OIC trade in the following fields:

- ✓ Trade Financing
- ✓ Trade Promotion
- ✓ Trade Facilitation
- ✓ Development of Strategic Commodities
- ✓ Capacity Building

At the end of the deliberations, the Meeting adopted the whole proposed activities put in a matrix entitled "Executive Programme of the Road-MAP for Achieving intra-OIC Trade Targets on Intra-OIC trade".

ICDT was entrusted with the task of assuming the Secretariat of the "Executive Programme of the Road-MAP for Achieving intra-OIC Trade Targets on Intra-OIC trade" and the Coordinators of each different field are the following:

1. Trade Financing: ITFC
2. Trade promotion: ICDT

3. Trade facilitation : ICDT
4. Development of Strategic Commodities : ITFC
5. Capacity Building: SESRIC in collaboration with ICDT and ITFC.

The first assessment report was submitted by ICDT to the 25th session of the COMCEC.

➤ **2nd Consultative Meeting of the OIC Institutions on enhancing intra-OIC Trade:**
Casablanca, 31st May-1st June, 2010

From 31st May to 1st June 2010, the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) organized in collaboration with the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC) the “2nd Consultative Meeting of the Institutions of the Organization of the Islamic conference (OIC) on Enhancing Intra-OIC trade” in Casablanca.

The aim of this meeting was mainly to ensure the follow up of the Executive Programme of the Road Map for enhancing intra-OIC Trade adopted by the OIC Institutions in February 2009 within the framework of the *“Ten Year Programme of Action to meet the Challenges Facing the Islamic Ummah in the 21st Century”* adopted by the 3rd Extraordinary Summit conference held in Makkah Al Moukarmah in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in December 2005.

Held under the chairmanship of HE Allal RACHDI, Director General of ICDT and HE Eng. Hani SONBOL, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the ITFC, this meeting was attended by the General Secretariat of the OIC, the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) Coordination Office, the Islamic Development Bank Group (IDB) : the Regional Office of IDB in Rabat / ITFC / the Islamic Corporation for Insurance of Investments and Export Credit (ICIEC), the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and the Statistical Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC).

Also participated Representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Trade and Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Kingdom of Morocco, the Ministry of Finance of the State of Kuwait and the Arab Petroleum Investments Corporation (APICORP).

After the presentations of the OIC Institutions, participants reviewed the implementation of the “Executive Programme of the Road-Map for Achieving intra-OIC Trade Targets”, the New Modalities of Cooperation to be developed and the new “Executive Programme of the Road-Map for Achieving intra-OIC Trade Targets” to be implemented by the OIC Institutions during the years 2011/2015.

The meeting highlighted that about one quarter of the projects of the “Executive Programme of the Road-Map for Achieving intra-OIC Trade Targets” were fully implemented up to May 2010, 36% are in process of implementation and 39% are waiting to be implemented knowing that the deadline for the finalization of the implementation of the programme is year 2015.

In this regard, participants requested more coordination among OIC Institutions to enhance efficiency and adopted the Guiding Principles and foundations for cooperation between the OIC Institutions active in the field of economic and commercial cooperation within the framework of the New Modalities of Cooperation;

At the end of the meeting, participants agreed upon the following:

- Submission, within one month, of OIC Institutions views on the new “Executive Programme of the Road-Map for achieving intra-OIC Trade Targets” for the period 2011/2015 drafted by ICDT;
- Launching of a new wave of joint activities based on integrated programmes approach focused on targeted products and Countries. To this end, OIC Institutions were invited to send to ICDT within one month the list of products which can be selected to be subject to the first pilot programme;
- Renaming of the OIC Consultative meeting as “Consultative Group for enhancing Intra-OIC Trade”.

Issues related to the Trade Negotiations of the Trade Preferences System among the OIC Member States (TPS/OIC) and the WTO matters were also discussed during plenary sessions of this meeting.

✦ **Participation in the 35th Annual Meeting of the Council of Governors of the IDB Group:** Baku, Azerbaijan, 21-22 June 2010,

From 21st to 24th June 2010, the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), participated in the 35th Annual meeting of the Council of Governors of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Group in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan.

ICDT took actively part to the Meeting organized by ITFC on “the Road Map for enhancing intra-OIC trade” held on 21st and 22nd June 2010.

This Meeting was also attended by the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and related institutions (COMCEC, ITFC, ICDT, ICCL, SESRIC and ICIEC), the United Nations institutions (WTO, ITC, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNIDO) and Representatives of private banks operating in OIC Member Countries.

During this Meeting, ICDT Representative delivered a lecture on the “Recent developments of intra-OIC trade” and chaired the 2nd working session on trade facilitation.

The main objective of this meeting was to share United Nations international institutions views to improve the implementation process of the Executive Program of the Road Map for enhancing intra-OIC trade and inform the Members of the Council of Governors of the IDB Group of the efforts undertaken by ITFC and other OIC institutions for the expansion of intra-OIC trade.

On this occasion, participants underlined, among others, the importance of:

1. Involving Member States and Regional Economic Groups in the implementation of the Executive Program;
2. Enhancing the process of signature and ratification of agreements and protocols concluded under the auspices of OIC in particular the Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member States (TPS/OIC), the Preferential Trade Agreements (PRETAS) and the Rules of Origin (ICDT proposal);
3. Accelerating the joining process of OIC Member States in the World Trade Organization and international agreements aiming at facilitating exchanges in order to harmonize legislations and procedures;

4. Implementing sustainable trade by investing in products with high exchange potentials and value added and for which there are complementarities within OIC Member States;
5. Paying a special attention to trade in services and exports insurances as well as small and medium enterprises within the framework of trade development programs;
6. Developing competitiveness and conformity of products with international standards;
7. Creating a fund for trade promotion;
8. Evaluating the implementation of the Road map.

In this regard, it is worth underlining that participants requested ICDT to follow up the recommendations of this meeting.

On the sidelines of this meeting, ICDT Representative participated in the Council of Governors of the IDB Group, the 3rd annual Meeting of the Council of Governors of the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development, the 17th annual Meeting of the Council of Governors of the ICIEC and the 5th General Assembly of ITFC.

He also held talks with ITFC and COMCEC Representatives whom requested ICDT Director General to examine the possibility to:

- Organize a conference on the latest developments of intra-OIC trade for the benefit of ITFC executive staff;
- Give thought to the celebration of the achievement of the objective of 20%;
- Promote the ratification of the Rules of Origin.