

PRESS RELEASE

Workshop on “The Operationalization of the Single Window and the Implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement in the Arab Countries”

16 -18 April 2017- Dubai - United Arab Emirates

Within the framework of realizing the OIC strategic objective of promoting intra-OIC trade to reach 25% by 2025, as adopted by the 13th OIC Summit, held in Istanbul on 14 and 15 April 2016, and with a view of the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the COMCEC Committee and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of OIC Member States on the Single Window and Trade Facilitation, the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (subsidiary organ of the General Secretariat of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation) in collaboration with the Islamic Development Bank Group (IDB), and under the auspices of the Ministry of Economy of the State of the United Arab Emirates, organized a Workshop on the operationalization of Single window and the implementation of Trade Facilitation Agreement in the Arab countries in Dubai, UAE, from 16 to 18 April 2017.

The aim of the workshop was to discuss the entry into force of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) in the Arab Countries. TFA is considered one of the most important agreements of the multilateral trading system, and among a key outcome of the 9th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization held in Bali, Indonesia in 2013.

According to WTO estimation, the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement will contribute to the increase of the world trade by about one trillion US dollars annually and will contribute to reducing the cost of world trade by around 3.14%.

Have participated in the workshop representatives of Seven Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and experts from international and regional organization (ESCWA, ICDT, IDB and PROTNET).

The workshop discussed important topics, including the implications of the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement in the Arab countries and the operationalization of the Single Window in the OIC Member States, and strategies for the implementation of a Regional Single Window of the OIC Member States, as well as recent developments in the operationalization of the Trade Preferential System of the OIC Member States. The meeting has made several recommendations on the future actions to be taken with regard to the above mentioned issues.

The participants also held a meeting on 18 and 19 April 2017 in order to present the outcome of the study carried out by the ICDT in cooperation with SESRIC and the Islamic Development Bank, on the “Impact of the Brexit on the economies of the OIC countries”.

It should be noted that the Islamic Center for the Development of Trade statistics showed an increase in the share of intra-OIC trade in the total trade volume from 10% in 2000 to 20% in 2015.

The UAE is considered one of the first trade partner among the 57 OIC Member States in intra-OIC trade, and it's one of the first countries to complete the ratification process of the WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement, the Framework Convention on the Trade Preferential System of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (TPS-OIC), as well as its two associated protocols, PRETAS and the Protocol of Rules of Origin.