

The Director General of SESRIC, H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR addressed the 11th Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers



The 11th Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM) was held on 27-29 June 2022 in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan. The Conference brought together Ministers of Tourism and high level officials from the OIC Member States along with representatives of relevant OIC institutions and international organizations. SESRIC was represented by the H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR, Director General and Dr. Cem Tintin, Senior Researcher, thereat.

The Conference provided the OIC Member States and institutions with an important opportunity to discuss the state of the tourism sector in the OIC Member States; review the progress made towards the implementation of the “**Strategic Roadmap for the Development of Islamic Tourism in OIC Member Countries**”; exchange ideas on how to enhance the intra-OIC tourism cooperation and announce the ‘OIC City of Tourism’ award for the years 2023 and 2024.

H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR, DG of SESRIC, addressed the Ministerial Session of the Conference on 29 June 2022 and briefed the Ministers about the activities and programmes of the Centre in the domain of tourism under its three mandated areas of statistics, research and training. Prior to the Ministerial Session, Mr. DABUR also addressed the Senior Official Meeting (SOM) of the Conference on 27 June 2022 and apprised the participants of the activities undertaken by the Centre towards the implementation of the “**Strategic Roadmap for the Development of Islamic Tourism in OIC Member Countries**” and the tourism capacity building programmes of the Centre.

During the SOM, H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR, DG of SESRIC, also launched and presented the main findings of SESRIC’s regular report on “[International Tourism in the OIC Countries 2022: Prospects and Challenges amid the Covid-19 Pandemic](#)”. The report serves as the main technical background document of the ICTM and provides a comprehensive analysis of the state of international tourism in the OIC Member States and proposes a number of policy recommendations for the post-pandemic recovery and development of the tourism sector in the OIC Member States. During his presentation, Mr. DABUR highlighted that while the COVID-19 pandemic has emerged as the biggest crisis in the recent history of the tourism sector with the reversal of tourist arrivals and receipt trends across the world, OIC Member States have taken a wide range of measures to mitigate the negative impacts on the sector, support tourism stakeholders and revive tourism activities.

STATISTICS

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SESRIC continues updating its OIC Statistics Database (OICStat) which serves as the primary online statistical source for users all over the world who are interested in data and information about OIC countries...

RESEARCH

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SESRIC launched and presented its flagship report on “**International Tourism in the OIC Countries 2022: Prospects and Challenges amid the COVID-19 Pandemic**” during the 11th Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers ...

TRAINING

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The Centre organises capacity building training activities under 19 different sector-specific capacity building programmes. Various modalities are being utilised while implementing these activities in line with the needs and capacities of the OIC Member Countries ...

He further stressed that intra-OIC tourism cooperation has the potential to boost international tourism activities in the OIC member states and support the post-pandemic recovery efforts such as through the exchange of knowledge and best practices among the Member States.

On the sidelines of the 11th ICTM, SESRIC delegation also participated in the 7th Coordination Committee Meeting on 'Tourism' which was held on 26 June 2022 in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan. During the meeting, H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR, DG of SESRIC, briefed the members of the committee about the SESRIC's contribution to the assessment of the nominated cities for the 'OIC City of Tourism' award for 2023 and 2024.

The 11th ICTM was concluded with the adoption of a number of resolutions and the Baku Declaration with a view to spearheading the intra-OIC tourism cooperation. The Conference also announced the cities of Şanlıurfa (Republic of Türkiye) and Khiva (Republic of Uzbekistan) as the 'OIC City of Tourism' for 2023 and 2024, respectively. The 12th Session of the ICTM will be held in the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2024 and the 13th Session will be hosted by the State of Qatar in 2026.

The Director General of SESRIC Addressed the 4th OIC Member States Conference on Mediation



H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR, the Director General of SESRIC, addressed the 4th OIC Member States Conference on Mediation during the first session titled “the Role of the OIC and its Member States in the Area of **Mediation**”. He dedicated his address to highlighting the unique assets that the OIC has in fulfilling its mission in establishing peace and gave a historical perspective on the tireless efforts of the OIC, since its inception in 1969, to promote global peace, stability and security. In this context, Mr. DABUR pointed out that despite all the efforts of the OIC, achieving peace and security remains one of the most challenging tasks facing the OIC due to the undesirable state of conflicts in a great number of the Member Countries. He mentioned that the number of conflicts in OIC countries is showing an upward trend and currently the majority of conflicts in the world are taking place in OIC countries with devastating consequences on human life, society and the economy.

In his address, Mr. DABUR emphasised that prevention is the least costly way to avoid the consequences of

conflict. To succeed at this, he underlined that there is a need to understand the drivers of conflict. Here, he emphasised the importance of promoting research on peace building and conflict resolution in order to identify the drivers of conflict and eliminate them. Mr. DABUR also underscored the need to develop new ideas, models, tools and proposals for conflict resolution and prevention relevant to the OIC context with special attention to the areas of power sharing and wealth sharing as these are now among the contentious issues in OIC Countries experiencing conflicts.

Mr. DABUR concluded his address by expressing his confidence that the 4th OIC Member States Conference on Mediation will contribute to enhancing the role of the OIC and its Member States in conflict resolution and peace building and in strengthening the Mediation Capacity of the OIC. To that end, he stated that SESRIC stands ready to provide any support that the OIC and its Member States may require in the Nobel goal of achieving peace.

The 4th OIC Member States Conference on Mediation “Experiences and Prospects” was organized by the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs in collaboration with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) with the participation of more than 200 participants representing the OIC Member States, OIC institutions, the United Nations, the International Committee of Red Cross, the European Union, The Arab League, the Gulf Cooperation

Council, special research centers, and regional and international figures in the field of mediation. The conference sought to enhance the OIC’s role in the field of establishing peace and security, as well as creating new mechanisms for mediation using OIC’s capacities and capabilities. It also aimed at exchanging regional and global experiences in the field of mediation and the prevention and settlement of conflicts.

As a Special Guest, the Director General of SESRIC Addressed the Launching Ceremony of the Pilot Program to Introduce ICESCO Peace 360° Approach in Academia



Invited as a special guest; H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR, the Director General of SESRIC, addressed the Launching Ceremony of the Pilot Program to Introduce ICESCO Peace 360o Approach in Academia. He dedicated his address for highlighting the importance of promoting research on the OIC challenging issues of peace building and security, conflict resolution and mediation. He also highlighted the tireless efforts of the OIC, since its inception in 1969, to promote global peace, stability, harmony and security. In this context, Mr. DABUR pointed out that despite all the efforts of the OIC, achieving peace and security remains one of the most challenging tasks facing the OIC due to the undesirable state of conflicts in a great number of the Member Countries. He mentioned that the number of conflicts in OIC countries is showing an upward trend and currently the majority of conflicts in the world are taking place in OIC countries with devastating consequences on human life, society and the economy.

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Mr. DABUR concluded his address by expressing his confidence that ICESCO Peace 360o Approach in Academia will be an instrumental approach in ensuring that all voices of peace are heard and that synergies are built and concerted action is taken for a lasting peace in the Islamic World and beyond. To that end, he stated the SESRIC stands ready to provide any support that ICESCO may require for the success of its admirable initiative.

The pilot program to introduce ICESCO Peace 360o in Academia is part of ICESCO commitment through its policies, strategies and programs to promote and strengthen peacebuilding through a holistic and multisectoral approach and to strengthen educational programs on peace and security in its Member States with collaboration from the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences of the International University of Rabat.

STATISTICS AND INFORMATION DEPARTMENT



OIC STATISTICS (OICSTAT) DATABASE



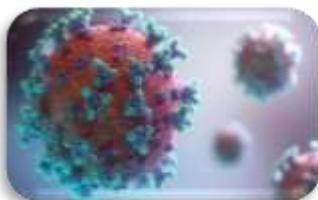
SESRIC continues updating its OIC Statistics Database (OICStat) which serves as the primary online statistical source for users all over the world who are interested in data and information about OIC countries.

In the period from January to June 2022, 240 new indicators were added in the OICStat Database which increased the number of total indicators hosted at OICStat to 1,615 under 27 categories dating back to 1970.

The OICStat Database can be accessed on <https://www.sesric.org/oicstat.php>

SESRIC COVID-19 PANDEMIC DATABASE FOR OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES

SESRIC continues hosting the COVID-19 Pandemic Database for OIC Member Countries which provides statistics, visualized data, and a map on the spread of



COVID-19 pandemic dating back to 25 January 2020. During the January-June 2022 period, a new indicator “% of Peak” has been added in the Dashboard on COVID-19 Situation in OIC Member Countries to compare the most recent data to the maximum value recorded since the outbreak of the pandemic. Additionally, “per million” data for each country has been added in the Dashboard as well. SESRIC COVID-19 Pandemic Database for OIC Member Countries is updated daily and accessible through: https://www.sesric.org/sesric_covid_19.php

ROSTER OF STATISTICS EXPERTS



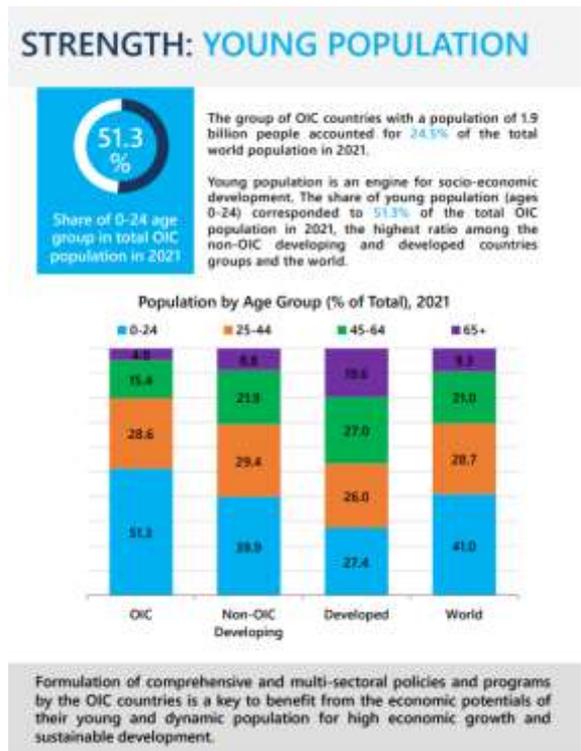
The Roster of Statistics Experts (ROSE) serves for hosting the profiles of professionals that work in the official statistics sector or in other sectors that carry out statistical services. ROSE currently contains the professional profiles of more than 850 statistics experts of the OIC Member Countries. Between January - June 2022, 14 new experts registered in the Roster. The ROSE is accessible through: <https://www.sesric.org/rose.php>

SESRIC OIC STATISTICAL OUTLOOK SERIES

Remittance Flows and Costs in OIC Countries

Remittance transfers to the home countries of migrant workers play significant roles in the development and growth of OIC member countries. The remittance inflows to the OIC countries group increased from 60.1 billion USD in 2005 to 161 billion USD in 2020. Similarly, total remittances paid by the OIC countries to abroad including other OIC countries have increased from 37.4 billion USD in 2005 to 97.4 billion USD in 2020. Overall, OIC countries accounted for nearly a quarter of global remittance inward and outward flows as of 2020.

SDG 10.c calls for a reduction in the remittance costs to 3% for the global average to be reached by 2030. Between 2011 and 2021, global average total cost of sending remittances substantially decreased from 9.3% to 6.3% of the amount remitted. The OIC countries group followed even a more favourable trend from 6.9% in 2011 to 4.9% of the amount remitted in 2021.

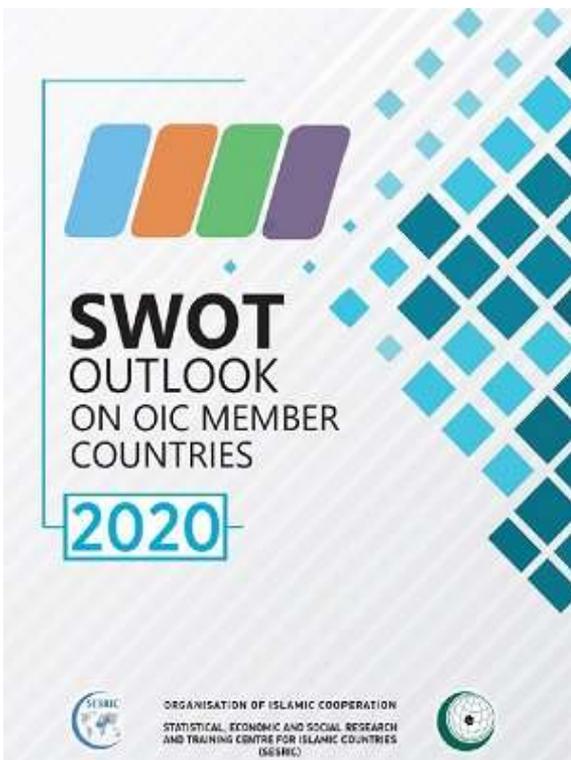


The said Outlook is accessible through:
<https://www.sesric.org/publications-oso.php>

SWOT OUTLOOK ON OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES 2020

SESRIC has released the 2020 edition of its Report titled “SWOT Outlook on OIC Member Countries” in January 2022. The Report provides, based on the most recent available data, specific selected socio-economic statistical indicators on the performance and potentials of the OIC member countries as a group in terms of their strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats.

Enriched with new indicators, the Report uses the SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis approach to present profiles of the group of OIC countries in terms of major strengths and weaknesses they have, and major opportunities and threats they face in various areas. The 2020 edition of the SWOT Outlook reflects the situation of the group of OIC countries in four main sections with easily understandable explanatory texts with on-focus charts.



The Report shows that major strengths of the group of OIC countries include high share of young population, possessing a significant portion of the world's crude oil and natural gas reserves, and the controlling of 6 out of the 8 primary maritime choke points in the world. The increasing trends in personal remittances, Islamic finance assets, intra-OIC trade, and diversification in export products are some of the major opportunities for the OIC countries that should be transformed into higher economic growth and development levels.

On the other hand, lower enrolment rates in education, higher child mortality rates, underutilisation of labour force, lower annual labour productivity growth rates, lack of sufficient funding for scientific development, and inadequate physical and digital infrastructure are main weaknesses that should be overcome. Increasing external debt, water scarcity and low access to improved water resources and sanitation facilities, rapid deforestation, food insecurity, unsustainable urbanisation, and manmade and natural disasters emerge as the main threats that are likely to impose serious challenges and thus, necessitate urgent countermeasures.

By presenting the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in a comparative manner with the averages of non-OIC developing and developed countries, and the world, the SWOT Outlook on OIC Member Countries serves as a reference material for better strategic planning and policy making at the OIC level. The SWOT Outlook on OIC Member Countries is accessible through: <https://www.sesric.org/publications-swot.php>

SESRIC STATISTICAL CAPACITY BUILDING (STATCAB) PROGRAMME



Between January and June 2022, the following 10 statistical activities were organised under the SESRIC Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme.

- Training Course on 'Culture Statistics' on 7-9 February 2022
- Training Course on 'Labour Cost Statistics' on 15-16 February 2022
- Training Course on 'Government Finance, Fiscal and Public Sector Statistics' on 7-8 March 2022
- Training Course on 'SDG 13 (Climate Action) Indicators' on 14-16 March 2022
- Training Course on 'Survey Methods and Sampling' on 23-26 May 2022
- Training Course on 'SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) Indicators' on 25-26 May 2022
- Training Course on 'Tourism Statistics' on 6-8 June 2022

- Training Course on 'SDG 5 (Gender Equality) Indicators' on 7-8 June 2022
- Training Course on 'Big Data Applications on Price Intelligence' on 14-16 June 2022
- Training Course on 'SDG 4 (Quality Education) Indicators' on 22-23 June 2022

Facilitated by SESRIC, these activities have been provided by 6 OIC member countries and benefitted by 39 member countries.

More details about the SESRIC StatCaB Programme and the abovementioned activities can be accessed on:

<https://www.oicstatcom.org/statcab.php>

The following are impressions from the StatCaB activities organised by SESRIC in the period January – June 2022.



Training Course on 'Culture Statistics', 7-9 February 2022



Training Course on 'Labour Cost Statistics', 15-16 February 2022



Training Course on 'Government Finance, Fiscal and Public Sector Statistics', 7-8 March 2022



Training Course on 'SDG 13 (Climate Action) Indicators', 14-16 March 2022



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Training Course on 'Big Data Applications on Price Intelligence', 14-16 June 2022



Training Course on 'SDG 4 (Quality Education) Indicators', 22-23 June 2022

SESRIC STATISTICAL EXPERIENCE SHARING WEBINAR SERIES

Between January and June 2022, SESRIC organised the following 2 webinars within the framework of its Statistical Experience Sharing Webinar Series initiated in 2020 (<https://www.oicstatcom.org/webinar-series.php>):

- Webinar on 'Use of Business Registers for Business Demography and Entrepreneurship Statistics' on 28 March 2022
- Webinar on 'Experiences of OIC Countries in Producing Disaster Related Statistics' on 16 June 2022

The following are impressions from the webinars organised by SESRIC in the January – June 2022 period.



Webinar on 'Use of Business Registers for Business Demography and Entrepreneurship Statistics', 28 March 2022



Webinar on ‘Experiences of OIC Countries in Producing Disaster Related Statistics’, 16 June 2022

STATISTICAL WORKSHOPS

Workshop on ‘Modernising Statistical Legislation’



Workshop on ‘Modernising Statistical Legislation’, 1-2 June 2022

SESRIC, in its capacity as the Secretariat of OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom), organised the Workshop on ‘Modernising Statistical Legislation’ in collaboration with the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) on 1-2 June 2022 through a video conferencing platform with the participation of 94 experts from the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of 36 OIC countries and relevant international organisations.

Competent experts from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), and Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) also participated and made comprehensive presentations under the relevant technical sessions of the Workshop.

Organised within the framework of the Programme of Action 2021-2025 of the OIC-StatCom Strategic Vision for 2030, the Workshop had the objective to provide a platform to share experience and best practices among the OIC countries in the modernisation of legal and institutional frameworks of official statistics.

The Workshop covered the following topics:

- Key Elements of Statistical Legislation and Generic Law on Official Statistics (UNSD, UNECE, UNESCWA)
- Country Challenges and Experiences in Modernising Legal Frameworks for Official Statistics (Egypt, Jordan, Pakistan, Tunisia, Türkiye, Uzbekistan)
- Country Challenges and Experiences in Enforcing Modern Legal Frameworks for Official Statistics (Albania, Cameroon, Kyrgyz Republic, Maldives)
- Emerging Issues Related to Statistical Legislation in the New Data Ecosystem (UNECE, UNESCWA, UNESCAP, UNECA, PARIS21)
- Modernising Statistical Legislation – Way Forward

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.sesric.org/event-detail.php?id=2631>

FOLLOW-UP MEETING OF THE 10TH SESSION OF THE OIC STATISTICAL COMMISSION



Follow-up Meeting of the 10th Session of the OIC Statistical Commission, 17 February 2022

In its capacity as the Secretariat of the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom), SESRIC organised, through a video-conferencing platform, the Follow-up Meeting of the 10th Session of the OIC-StatCom on 17 February 2022 as a side event of the 53rd Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission. In addition to the representatives of the OIC General Secretariat and Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), 40 participants from the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of 26 OIC member countries attended the meeting.

The meeting started with opening remarks of H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR, Director General of SESRIC, and H.E. Mr. Adnen LASSOUED, Director General, National Institute of Statistics (INS) of Tunisia and Chair of the 10th Session of OIC-StatCom, which was delivered by Mr. Hajjej Mohsen, Deputy Director in charge of Statistical Coordination and International Cooperation of the INS of Tunisia. In its capacity as the Secretariat of the OIC-StatCom, SESRIC made a presentation on the follow-up of the implementation of the Resolutions adopted at the 10th Session of the OIC-StatCom, which was held virtually in October 2021 and the preparations for the upcoming 11th Session.

The participants discussed and agreed on the following issues:

- The composition of the Bureau Members of the upcoming 11th Session of the OIC-StatCom, which reflects the geographical distribution of the three official groups of the OIC; namely, the Arab, the African and the Asian groups as follows: Chair: Pakistan (OIC Asia Group); Vice-Chair: Cameroon (OIC Africa Group); Vice-Chair: Qatar (OIC Arab Group); Vice-Chair: Palestine (permanent); and Rapporteur: SESRIC (permanent).
- The main technical agenda items of the upcoming 11th Session of OIC-StatCom as follows:
 - Transforming Population and Housing Censuses to Mitigate Effects of COVID-19 Pandemic
 - Monitoring and Reporting Manufacturing and Industrial Statistics Related SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) Indicators
 - Monitoring and Reporting Research and Scientific Development Statistics Related SDG 9 Indicators
- The date and the venue of the upcoming 11th Session of the OIC-StatCom as follows: Physical meeting at SESRIC Headquarters, Ankara - Türkiye, on 18-19 October 2022.

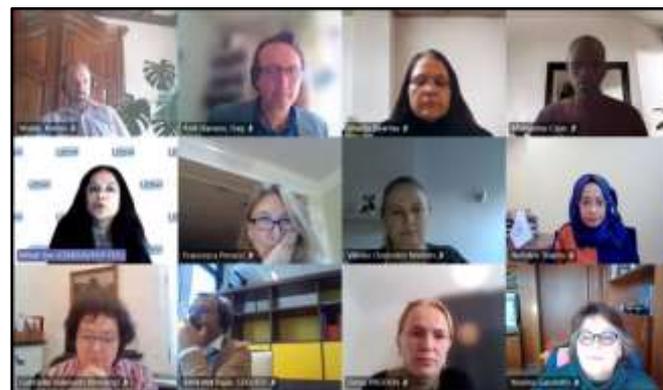
For more information, please visit:

<https://www.sesric.org/event-detail.php?id=2579>

COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS

5th Annual Meeting of the Global Network of Institutes for Statistical Training (GIST)

SESRIC participated in 5th Annual Meeting of the Global Network of Institutes for Statistical Training (GIST) held on 8 February 2022. In this meeting, GIST achievements in 2021, GIST contributions, constraints and proposed plans for 2022 were discussed.



GIST 5th Annual Meeting, 8 February 2022

Following the annual meeting, SESRIC contributed to enriching the UN SDG Learn Platform (<https://www.unsdglearn.org/>) by proposing the inclusion of SESRIC Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Reference Materials Repository information under the Microlearning section of the UN SDG Learn Platform.

GIST is a network of international and regional training institutions, working together build sustainable statistical capacities through efficient, effective, and harmonized delivery of training. SESRIC is one of the founding members of GIST established in April 2018.

39th Session of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA)



39th Session of the CCSA, 25 February 2022

SESRIC participated in the 39th Session of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA) held on 25 February 2022. During the session, activities related to Survey on the 'Effect of COVID-19 on CCSA Members', activities of the Technical Advisory Group on COVID-19 Mortality Assessment, and CCSA's Implementation of Open Data were reported.

CCSA is a global body of 45 international and supranational organisations, whose mandates include the provision of international official statistics in the context of the Principles Governing International Statistical Activities, and which have a permanent embedded statistical service in their organisations and regular contacts with countries. SESRIC became a member of the CCSA in 2006.

53rd Session of the UN Statistical Commission

The delegation of SESRIC headed by HE Mr. Nebil Dabur, Director General, and composed of Mr. Fadi Farasin, Assistant Director General; and Dr. Atilla Karaman, Director of Statistics and Information Department, participated in the 53rd Session of UN Statistical Commission organised in a virtual-only format by the UN Statistics Division (UNSD) on 28 February - 4 March 2022.



53rd Session of the UN Statistical Commission,
28 February - 4 March 2022

The 53rd Session discussed, among others, data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; data stewardship; regional statistical development; population and housing censuses; big data; open data; climate change statistics; informal economy statistics; and integration of statistical and geospatial information.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.sesric.org/event-detail.php?id=2609>

Technical Consultation on ‘2021 Smoking and Tobacco Consumption Survey Conducted by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)’

SESRIC organised a Technical Consultation on “2021 Smoking and Tobacco Consumption Survey conducted by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)” on 31 March 2021. The Technical Consultation was organised for the benefit of PCBS in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), CDC Foundation, World Health Organization (WHO), and Ministry of Health of Palestine within the framework of ‘Tobacco Questions for Surveys (TQS) Integration Project’ through a video conferencing platform.

The Technical Consultation covered the following topics:

- Overview of the 2021 Smoking and Tobacco Consumption Survey conducted by PCBS
- Discussions on Survey Tables/Indicators
- Discussions on the Fact Sheet
- Data Dissemination Strategy
- Plans for Data Release/Dissemination



Technical Consultation on ‘2021 Smoking and Tobacco Consumption Survey Conducted by the PCBS’,
31 March 2022

Following the Technical Consultation Session, the PCBS published the preliminary results of the ‘Smoking and Consumption Survey 2021’ on World Tobacco Day on 31 May 2022.

According to the results of the Survey, smoking and consumption of tobacco among individuals aged 18+ increased to 31% in 2021 from 23% in 2010. The prevalence of smoking among males aged 18+ in Palestine was about 54% compared to 8% among females.

Smoking and consumption of tobacco is more prevalent in West Bank as compared to Gaza Strip. 40% of the population of West Bank is smoking and consuming tobacco while 17% of the population in Gaza Strip is smoking and consuming tobacco.

74% of the total current smokers aged 18+ only smoke cigarettes, making them as the most popular means of smoking tobacco. Besides cigarettes, water pipes are also used commonly for smoking tobacco in Palestine. On the other hand, only 3% of all individuals aged 18+ use e-cigarettes.

About 5% of the individuals aged 18+ were able to completely quit smoking. The average age for quitting smoking is estimated as 36 years in Palestine while 21% of current smokers tried to quit smoking in the last 12 months.

For more details, please visit:

https://www.pcbs.gov.ps/portals/_pcbs/PressRelease/Press_En_SmokingSurv2022E.pdf

For more information on the TQS and TQS-Youth Integration Project, please visit:

<http://www.oicstatcom.org/tqs.php>

Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD)



15th Meeting of the International TOSSD Task Force, 14 and 17 February 2022



16th Meeting of the International TOSSD Task Force, 5-7 April 2022

SESRIC attended the 15th and 16th Meetings of the International Task Force on Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD) which were organized online by the Development Cooperation Directorate (DCD) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) on 14 and 17 February 2022, and 5-7 April 2022 respectively.

During the 15th meeting in February 2022, members agreed to a gradual transition of the Task Force (TF) towards a clarified and more formalised governance structure by early 2023. Members also agreed that - following the discussion at the UN on the scope of the SDG indicator 17.3.1 – the activities that do not fall in the scope of this indicator would be identified with a specific keyword.

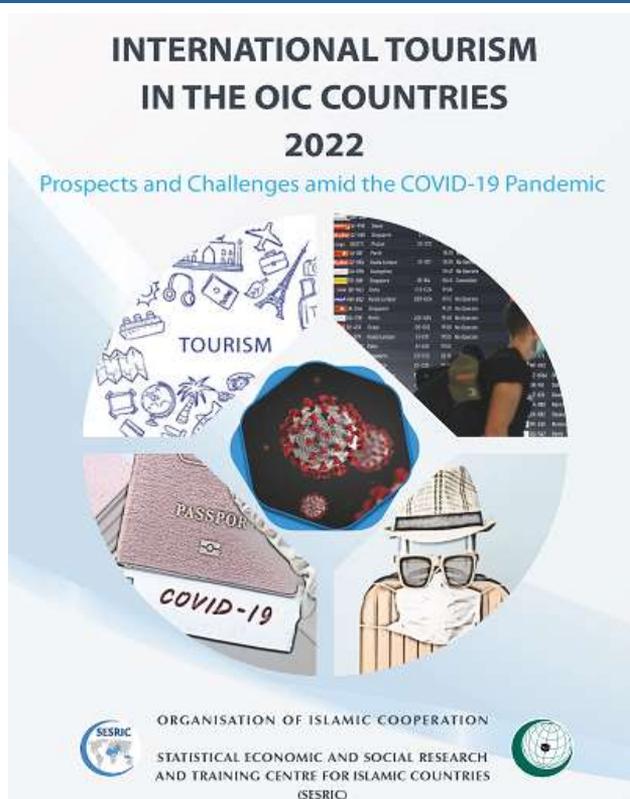
Other topics reviewed included South-South co-operation and further development of the TOSSD recipients' list.

The 16th meeting was held also virtually in April 2022 and discussed several topics. The TOSSD Task Force Secretariat presented a draft proposal of the future governance structure and elaborated further on the revised version of TOSSD Reporting Instructions, emerging issues related to 2021 data collection, anonymization of TOSSD data in specific crises, and further guidance on sustainability among others.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH DEPARTMENT



INTERNATIONAL TOURISM IN THE OIC COUNTRIES 2022



SESRIC launched and presented its flagship report on “**International Tourism in the OIC Countries 2022: Prospects and Challenges amid the COVID-19 Pandemic**” during the 11th Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM) which was held on 27-29 June 2022 in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan. The report provides a comprehensive analysis of the state of international tourism in the OIC countries, evaluates the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the tourism and travel sector and proposes a number of policy recommendations for the post-pandemic recovery and development of the tourism sector in OIC countries.

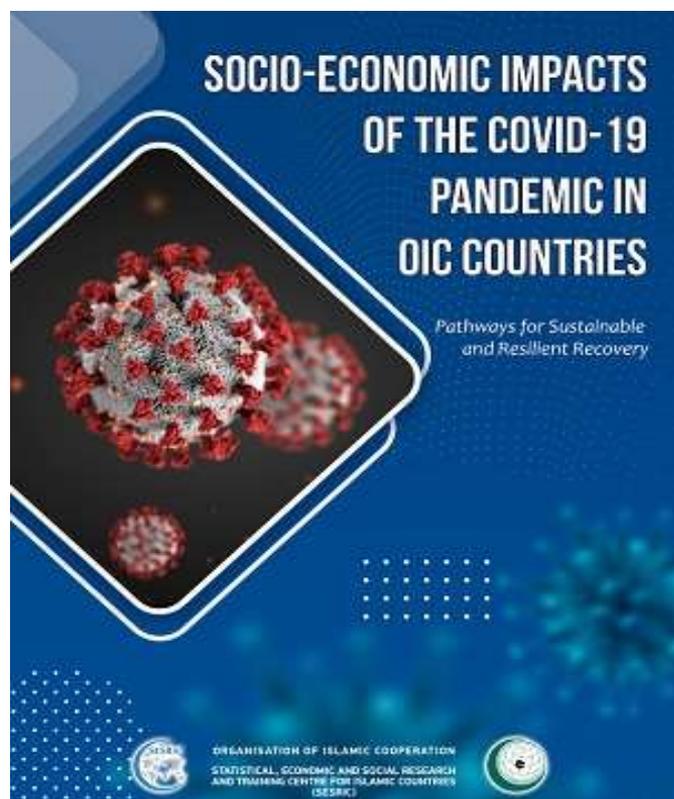
The major findings of the report reveal that the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the tourism sector in OIC countries severely due to the containment measures and wide range of travel restrictions imposed by countries all around the world. In 2020, OIC countries hosted only 70.4 million international tourists instead of a baseline projection of 277.8 million. This sharp decline in tourist arrivals resulted into an estimated loss of USD 155.5 billion in tourism receipts. In 2021, based on the provisional data of the UNWTO, the average tourist arrivals in the OIC group contracted by 78.7% and the receipts went down by 62.9% compared to 2019.

As a result of the pandemic, the average contribution of tourism to employment in the OIC countries declined from 7.5% in 2019 to 6.2% in 2020, corresponding to an estimated loss of 8.6 million jobs. The estimated loss in GDP generated by the travel and tourism sector was measured at USD 293 billion in 2020 in the OIC countries. In terms of intra-OIC tourism receipts, an estimated USD 56.6 billion was lost due to a potential drop of 89 million in intra-OIC tourist arrivals in 2020. Likewise, the pandemic resulted in a 70.1% contraction in the size of the Islamic tourism market in 2020 in the OIC group.

The report also highlights that OIC countries have implemented a wide range of supportive measures and policies to mitigate the negative impacts of the pandemic ranging from setting up internal crisis management mechanisms to offering monetary and fiscal stimulus packages. Yet, the recovery from the pandemic is expected to take several years and additional supportive measures are needed in many OIC countries to achieve a resilient and sustainable recovery.

In this context, the report proposes a set of policy recommendations for the consideration of policymakers like investing in vaccination, developing new tourism products, and enhancing and strengthening intra-OIC cooperation to overcome emerging challenges and spearheading the post-pandemic recovery in the tourism sector.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN OIC COUNTRIES: PATHWAYS FOR SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT RECOVERY



The report on “Socio-economic Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic in OIC Member Countries: Pathways for Sustainable and Resilient Recovery” is the updated edition of SESRIC earlier report titled “Socio-economic Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic in OIC Member Countries: Prospects and Challenges”, which was published in May 2020.

The report provides a comprehensive analysis of the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in OIC member countries and highlights a diverse set of policy reactions and good practices in response to the pandemic under 18 socio-economic categories. The report also suggests a number of policy recommendations under these categories with a view to supporting sustainable and resilient recovery in OIC member countries.

Depending mainly on the pre-pandemic social and economic conditions as well as technical and financial capacities of countries, the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on different economies and societies vary greatly across the world. In general, the pandemic has caused widespread mortality and hospitalization, stalled economic growth, reversed much of the global progress in reducing poverty and adversely affected the health and education prospects. The poor and vulnerable groups, including women, young people, migrant workers and informal sector workers, have been hit the hardest by the measures taken to curb the spread of the virus.

The unprecedented toll of the pandemic on people’s health and prosperity simply reflect the scale of unpreparedness of the world to such systemic shocks. Governments in OIC member countries and elsewhere have to respond to the challenges posed by the pandemic on multiple fronts while trying to keep a fine balance between restrictions imposed to curb the spread of the disease and avoid any further damage to socio-economic activities. Nevertheless, effective management of the pandemic is overwhelming the national responses, especially in the context of widespread disruptions in international trade, tourism and investment.

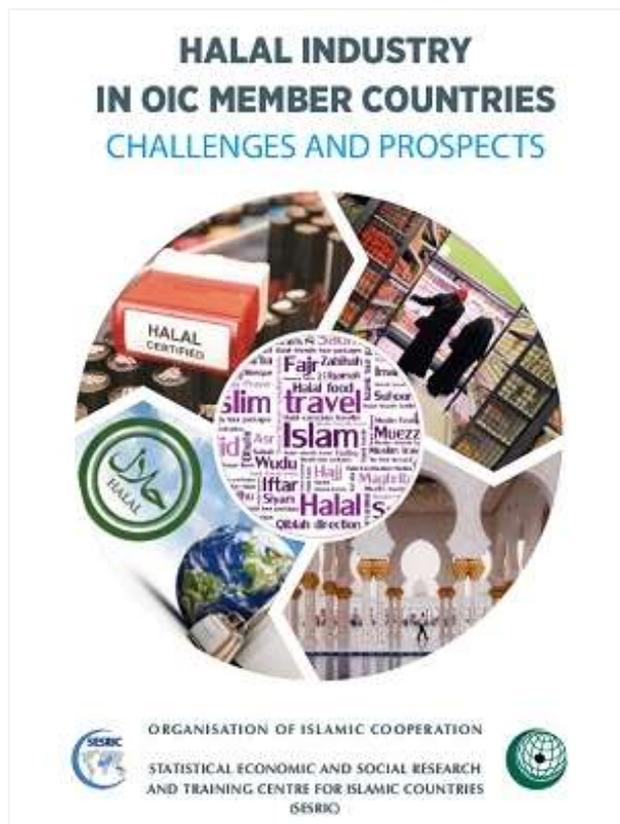
Despite the breakthroughs in vaccine development, the rapid transformation of the pandemic into a multidimensional global crisis is definitely a strong reminder for policymakers and the global community to prioritize the measures towards reducing vulnerabilities and strengthening their resilience to future shocks. Temporary support measures implemented by governments over the last two years start to expire, as the resources available for short-term interventions tend to deplete. It is now imperative to focus on long-term structural reforms to build back better and be better prepared for the next shocks. In this vein, the report suggests a number of policy recommendations reflecting on a longer-term perspective to prepare OIC countries for the future crisis, reinforce their capacity to withstand or absorb shocks, mitigate the potential impacts and respond to them more effectively.

HALAL INDUSTRY IN OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES: CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS

The report on “Halal Industry in OIC Member Countries: Challenges and Prospects” presents a comprehensive analysis of the state of the Halal industry in OIC member countries as well as identifies major challenges and prospects in order to draw the attention of policymakers.

The report provides a detailed analysis of four major sub-sectors of the Halal industry including food, tourism, finance, and lifestyle markets. It further highlights selected measures and policies adopted by the OIC member countries and relevant OIC institutions towards providing a more enabling environment for the development of the Halal industry and concludes with a number of policy recommendations presented at both the national and OIC cooperation levels.

Increased global awareness on issues like ‘sustainability’, ‘ethical consumption’, ‘green growth’ and ‘digitisation’ helped the Halal industry to flourish in recent years both in OIC countries and around the globe. Consequently, the global market value of the Halal industry climbed up from USD 3.2 trillion in 2014 to USD 4.9 trillion in 2019.

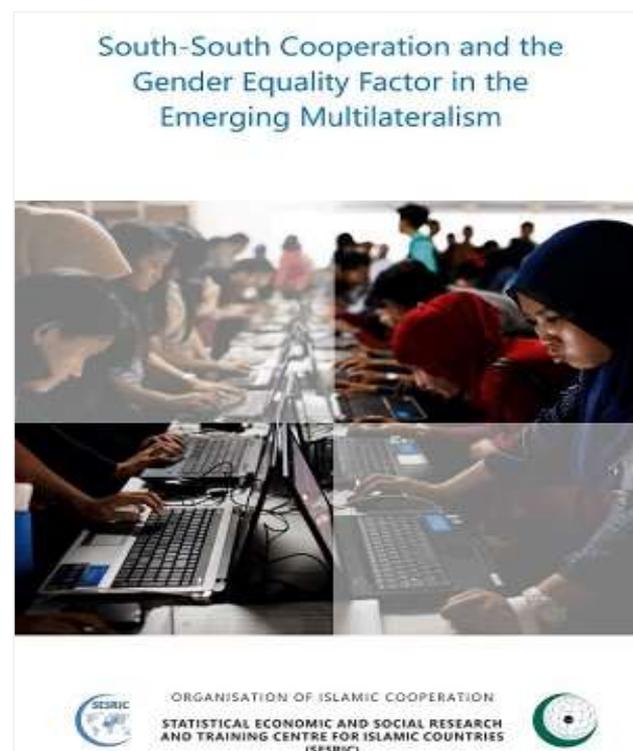


Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the industry witnessed a decline in its market size like many other economic sectors and it was estimated at USD 4.7 trillion in 2020. With an expected positive momentum in the post-pandemic period, it is estimated that the market size will reach USD 6.0 trillion mark in 2024. In the OIC group, the estimated market size of the Halal industry was measured at USD 3.7 trillion in 2020 and projected to reach USD 4.7 trillion in 2024. OIC countries particularly located in the Gulf Cooperation Council region and South East Asia represented relatively higher shares given their income levels, existing strong Halal ecosystem, and high consumer awareness of Halal.

Globally, the Islamic finance sector represented the highest share in the Halal industry with a share of 60.8% in 2020. It was followed by the Halal food sector (24.6%), Islamic lifestyle sector (13.4%), and Islamic tourism (1.2%) in the same year. A similar picture also exists in the OIC group regarding the relative shares of the Halal sectors that Islamic finance sector got a lion's share in the industry considering the substantial amount of Islamic financial assets and emerging instruments like green-Sukuk.

Many OIC member countries have already acknowledged the importance of the Halal industry not only due to its economic importance but also its potential catalyst role for socio-economic development. Yet, OIC member countries need to address a set of challenges ranging from Halal standardization to Halal certification in order to fully reap the benefits from the rapid growth momentum of the industry especially in the post-pandemic period. In particular, a number of emerging trends like digitalization and innovations in the Halal industry could help restore the confidence of stakeholders and foster growth in the industry beyond the pandemic.

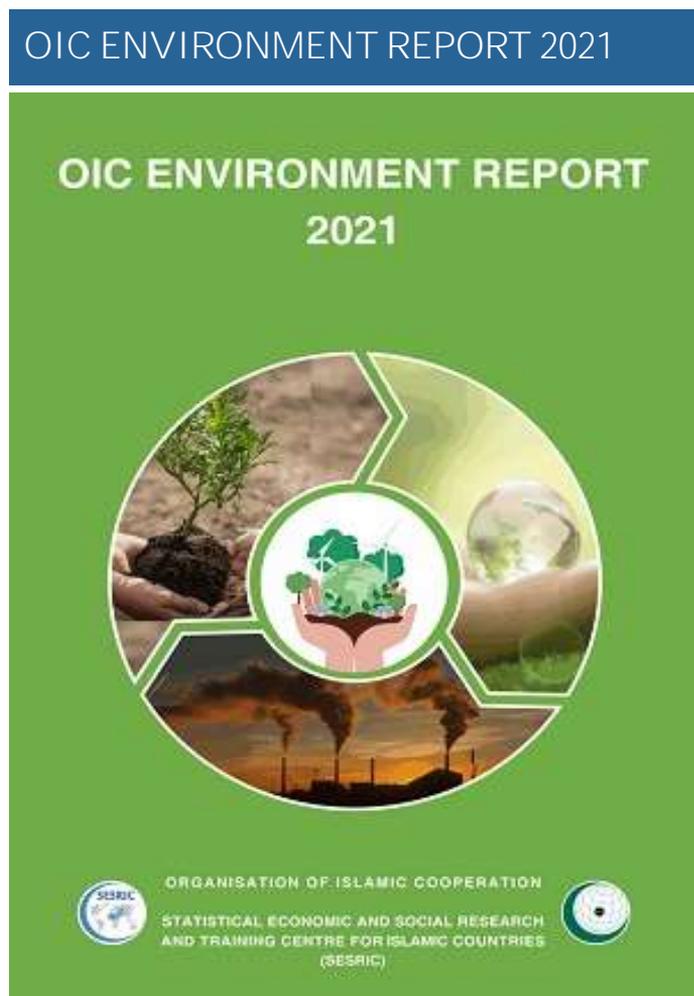
SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION AND THE GENDER EQUALITY FACTOR IN THE EMERGING MULTILATERALISM



SESRIC, in cooperation with the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), published a thematic paper on “South-South Cooperation and the Gender Equality Factor in the Emerging Multilateralism”. The paper highlights the potential of South-South cooperation (SSC) in catalysing efforts towards the recognition of women's role in sustainable development and the achievement of gender equality in the Global South.

The paper is structured around five sections. The first section defines South-South Cooperation (SSC) using examples from the Global South. The second section sheds light on the historical evolution of SSC and its role in the search for agency in the Global South. The third section of the paper looks at how SSC, particularly multilateral approaches to SSC, can improve gender outcomes when it comes to gender-based budgeting; gender rights; education; climate change; food systems in the global South; migration; intellectual property rights, indigenous knowledge, and development; data, evidence-based analysis and planning; and the private sector. The fourth section deconstructs the role of gender in development cooperation, particularly in reference to political economy, democratization, and humanism in the Global South. And lastly, the paper ends with a conclusion section.

By drawing upon the experiences of women-led initiatives in various spheres of society, this paper encourages development partners and stakeholders in harnessing SSC to improve institutional expertise, guide policy development, and program implementation processes at local, national, regional, and international levels.



The “OIC Environment Report 2021” provides a comprehensive analysis of current state and challenges of the environment sector in OIC member countries by using a wide range of the most recent available statistics. This edition of the report also evaluates OIC member countries' progress toward meeting environment-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Paris Agreement commitments.

According to the main findings of the report, environmental capital is a key component of wealth in OIC member countries, accounting for more than a third of total wealth. Furthermore, natural resource earnings account for 13.8% of their GDP. Even though OIC member countries rely heavily on natural resources, they still fall behind other developing and developed countries when it comes to environmental performance and sustainability.

The report also highlights that recent socio-economic progress in OIC countries has been accompanied by environmental degradation. For example, the rate of deforestation in OIC member countries increased from 0.27% per year in 2000–2010 to 0.44% in 2010–2020, despite a decline in global deforestation rates during the same period. Simultaneously, air pollution continued to be a severe threat to the health and well-being of societies in many OIC member countries, resulting in 1.6 million premature deaths in 2019. The OIC member countries are also at high risk of depleting their water resources, with 29 countries facing water stress and 18 of them at critical stress levels.

Although OIC member countries' average per capita greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are lower than the global average, the rate of increase is faster. Between 1990 and 2017, OIC GHG emissions grew by 77%, reaching 9 Gt-CO₂ equivalent, while global GHG emissions increased by 43%. Moreover, according to the most recent estimates, more than half of the OIC member countries are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change due to limited mitigation and adaptation capacity. As a result, action is required to minimize the worst consequences of climate change, build resilience, and, ultimately, mitigate future environmental threats. OIC member countries need to reaffirm their commitment to the Global Climate Negotiation Table and include strong environmental policies in their overall development strategies in order to achieve net-zero emissions in the near future.

The report also suggests some policy recommendations to help OIC member countries achieve more sustainable environmental resource management amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The policy recommendations particularly address the need for greener development in order to “build back better” from this crisis while working together to make sure that their growth is sustainable, inclusive, and resilient.

SESRIC PARTICIPATED IN THE THEMATIC DEBATE OF THE 19TH REGULAR SESSION OF IPHRC

The OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC) organized a Thematic Debate on “**The Role of National Human Rights Institutions in the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the OIC Countries**” on 24 May 2022 as part of its 19th Regular Session, which was held during 22-26 May 2022 at the OIC General Secretariat in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The day-long Debate was attended by the Members of IPHRC, representatives of Observer States including their National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), SESRIC and UN Human Rights Office. The main objectives of the Debate were to discuss the progress in establishing NHRIs in OIC Member Countries, their level of compliance with the ‘**Paris Principles**’, share best practices and exchange ideas on how to enhance the intra-OIC cooperation to strengthen and empower NHRIs in OIC Member Countries to promote and protect human rights.

Mr. Mazhar Hussain, Director of Economic and Social Research Department represented the Centre thereat and made a presentation on “**Status of National Human Rights Institutions in OIC Member Countries**”. In his presentation, Mr. Hussain informed the participants about the evolution of NHRIs in OIC Member Countries by highlighting their effort to harmonize universal human rights standards and norms with Islamic values.



While mentioning the fact that 36 of the 120 NHRIs in the world are in OIC Member Countries, Mr. Hussain also underlined that only 20 of these NHRIs are in full compliance with the ‘Paris Principles’ and have been accorded with “A” status by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI). To be effective and credible in their work to promote and protect human rights, therefore, NHRIs in OIC countries must collaborate with both national and international partners to build and enhance their capacities to comply with internationally agreed standards as stipulated in the ‘Paris Principles’, Mr. Hussain concluded.

During the Thematic Debate, participants also heard detailed presentations from “A” status NHRIs of Qatar, Indonesia and Morocco along with the representative of the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The recommendations and interventions made by the participants during this Debate are going to be included in the outcome document of the 19th Regular Session of IPHRC.

SESRIC PARTICIPATED IN THE 5TH MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OIC STI AGENDA 2026



SESRIC participated in the 5th Meeting of the Steering Committee for the OIC STI Agenda 2026, which was organised by the OIC Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) and held at its Headquarters in Islamabad, Pakistan in a physical format on 24-25 March 2022. H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR,

Director General of SESRIC; Mr. Fadi FARASIN, Assistant Director General; Dr. Atilla KARAMAN, Director of Statistics and Information Department; and Mr. Mazhar HUSSAIN, Director of Economic and Social Research Department represented the Centre thereat.

The member institutions of the Committee reviewed and discussed joint initiatives, programmes and activities to be implemented in the domain of science, technology and innovation. They also discussed the possibility of developing mechanisms of joint efforts with the aim of supporting and contributing to the efforts of the member countries towards achieving the recommendations and goals identified in the OIC STI Agenda 2026 as well as the resolutions of the 2nd OIC Summit on Science and Technology. They also elaborated on and evaluated some initiative and proposals, including the assessment of progress made by member states in implementing the OIC STI Agenda 2026, and the proposed 5-year PoA for the advancement of science and technology in African member states.

H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR, Director General of SESRIC, briefed the participants on the current situation of the OIC Member Countries towards the implementation of

the OIC STI Agenda 2026 based on the SESRIC study updated in March 2022. In his brief, he stated that since the OIC STI Agenda 2026 has an aspirational structure with few quantitative recommendations and targets, the statistical evaluation of SESRIC used the most relevant statistical indicators with most recent available data that can be mapped to assess the progress made by the member countries towards the achievement of the stipulated recommendations and goals in the OIC STI Agenda 2026. H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR further noted that the achievement of OIC STI Agenda 2026 is expected to become more challenging with the current COVID-19 pandemic. He stated that the SESRIC study should be considered as a call for action to encourage and enhance the joint efforts to ensure the achievement of OIC STI 2026 Agenda. Following his brief, a detailed presentation on the progress of the OIC member countries concerning the 12 priorities of the OIC STI Agenda 2026 was made by SESRIC.

SESRIC-ITFC-UNECA JOINT SPECIAL SESSION ON ‘IMPACT OF AFCFTA ON SELECTED OIC MEMBER STATES IN AFRICA’



SESRIC in collaboration with the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC) and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) co-organized a Special Session on “**Impact of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) on selected Member States of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Africa**” during the 25th Annual Conference on Global Economic Analysis , which took place virtually during 8-10 June 2022 under the theme of ‘**Accelerating Economic Transformation, Diversification and Job Creation**’.

With 27 African countries that are members of the OIC, the AfCFTA is considered as a powerful vehicle for enhancing trade flows, growth and sustainable development of their member countries. Greater economic integration as well as increased trade flows

among African OIC countries could help bridging the gaps between OIC members, increase intra-OIC trade and offer new opportunities for the creation of value chains.

The Special Session co-organized by SESRIC-ITFC-UNECA provided an opportunity to examine and discuss the impacts of the AfCFTA on selected African OIC countries by featuring four technical presentations, two of which were delivered by SESRIC on the outcomes of the research projects initiated in partnership with ITFC. Research collaboration between SESRIC and ITFC aims to analyze the expected implications of the AfCFTA on African OIC countries with a view to supporting the decision making process during the implementation of the AfCFTA.

TRAINING & TECHNICAL COOPERATION DEPARTMENT



SESRIC CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMMES

The Centre organises capacity building training activities under 19 different sector-specific capacity building programmes. Various modalities are being utilised while implementing these activities in line with the needs and capacities of the OIC Member Countries. SESRIC spares no effort towards assisting the member countries in developing their human and institutional capacities in different sectors following south-south cooperation mechanisms. This is achieved through collaborating with competent national institutions from the member countries with the main aim of sharing their expertise, know-how and competencies with their counterparts in other OIC Member Countries.

Considering the online **platforms'** convenience and efficiency, especially in reaching a wider audience, the Centre continues to utilise online solutions as a useful modality in implementing its various activities. Numerous training courses, workshops, and webinars were implemented in the first half of 2022 and have brought together more than 1000 trainees under the umbrella of SESRIC Capacity Building Programmes.

Here are some of the selected implemented activities during the period under consideration:

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME (SD-CaB)

Her Excellency Ms. Derya YANIK, Minister of Family and Social Services of the Republic of Türkiye, Addressed the Opening of the Training Workshop on “**Health** and Social Care Policies towards Supporting Independent Living for People with **Disabilities**” Organised by SESRIC



Within the framework of its Social Development Capacity Building Programme (SD-CaB), SESRIC, in collaboration with the Directorate General of Services for Persons with Disabilities and the Elderly under the Ministry of Family and Social Services of the Republic of Türkiye, organised a Training Workshop on “**Health** and Social Care Policies towards Supporting Independent Living for People with **Disabilities**” on 08-10 February 2022 through an online video conferencing platform.

The training workshop was provided by competent experts from the Ministry of Family and Social Services of the Republic of Türkiye, the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Türkiye as well as the Social Security Institution (SGK) of the Republic of Türkiye for the benefit of 118 participants from the Ministries and relevant national institutions in charge of services for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) and social assistance in 18 OIC Member Countries.

The training workshop aimed at providing insights on the community-based care services in addition to the social assistance practices for PWDs applied by the relevant national institutions in Türkiye. The training workshop also included country experience sharing session, where representatives from the relevant national institutions of Azerbaijan, Malaysia, Morocco and Uganda highlighted the best practices and initiatives of their respective countries in this domain. In addition, representatives from the Arab Organization of Persons with Disabilities (AOPD) and the ASEAN Disability Forum (ADF) shared valuable regional efforts and raised awareness of the common challenges faced by the OIC Member Countries in this field.

Training Workshop on **“Protecting and Advancing Children’s Rights Including the Ones with Disabilities”**



Within the framework of the SESRIC’s Social Development Capacity Building Programme (SD-CaB) and in line with the relevant resolutions of the First Ministerial Conference on Social Development in the OIC Member States, SESRIC, in collaboration with the General Directorate of Child Services of the Ministry of Family and Social Services of the Republic of Türkiye, organised a Training Workshop on **“Protecting and Advancing Children’s Rights Including the Ones with Disabilities”** on 22-24 February 2022 through an online video conferencing platform.

The training workshop was provided by competent experts from the General Directorate of Child Services of the Ministry of Family and Social Services of the Republic of Türkiye for the benefit of 71 experts and executives from the Ministries and relevant national institutions in charge of child services in 21 OIC Member Countries.

The training workshop also included country experience sharing session, where representatives from the relevant national institutions of Guinea, Indonesia, Morocco and Pakistan highlighted the best practices and initiatives of their respective countries in this domain. In addition, a representative from the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) made a comprehensive presentation of UNICEF’s efforts on the protection and welfare of children.

The training workshop aimed to strengthen the technical capacities of the participants on policies and strategies for protecting and advancing the rights of children, including those with special needs, as well as sharing knowledge, experience and best practices among the relevant national institutions of the OIC Member Countries to develop and implement appropriate national strategies to promote and preserve the rights of children.

DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME (DRM-CAB)

SESRIC Organised a Training Course on “Disaster Risk Identification and Risk Assessment” for the benefit of OIC African French-Speaking Member Countries



SESRIC, in collaboration with the Tunisian Agency for Technical Cooperation (ATCT), organised a Training Course on **“Disaster Risk Identification and Risk Assessment”** on 28-30 March 2022 for the benefit of the OIC African French-Speaking Member Countries. A competent expert from the Ministry of Equipment, Housing and Territorial Development of the Republic of Tunisia conducted the training course for the benefit of 105 experts from relevant Ministries and national institutions in charge of disaster risk management in 13 OIC African French-speaking Member Countries, namely Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Comoros, Cote d’Ivoire, Djibouti, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Senegal, and Togo. In addition, experts from Lebanon also attended and benefitted from the training.

The training course aimed at enhancing the technical human capacities of participants in disaster risk assessment and management by providing the necessary tools to effectively plan, facilitate, and coordinate disaster risk assessment activities in their respective countries. It also contributed to sharing knowledge, experience and best practices among the relevant national institutions of the OIC African French-speaking Member Countries to identify and mitigate disaster risk.

TOURISM CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME (TOURISM-CAB)

His Excellency Mr. Alpha SOUMAH, Minister of Culture, Tourism and Handicraft of the Republic of Guinea, Addressed the Opening of the Training Webinar on “**Managing and Marketing Protected Areas**” Jointly Organised by SESRIC and ICDT



Within the framework of the Regional Project on “**Sustainable** Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Park and Protected Areas in West Africa,” SESRIC and the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Handicraft of the Republic of Guinea, organised a Training Webinar on “**Managing and Marketing Protected Areas**” on 21-22 February 2022 through an online video conferencing platform. The training webinar was provided by competent experts and academicians from Bangladesh, Malaysia, Türkiye, and SESRIC for the benefit of 30 participants from the Ministries and relevant national institutions in charge of tourism in 10 OIC Member Countries, namely Benin, Burkina Faso, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Sierra Leone.

The training webinar aimed at strengthening the technical human capacities of participants on managing and marketing protected areas which will contribute to achieving the **project’s** objectives that include, among others, reinforcing the capacities of the managers and local staff as well as Tourism Authorities in the area of management and marketing protected areas and building their resilience to face the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Training Course on “**Tourism and Hospitality Services**”



SESRIC, in collaboration with the Gambia OIC-Secretariat, organised a Training Course on “**Tourism and Hospitality Services**” on 14-16 March 2022 through an online video conferencing platform. This training course is the second activity out of three identified and agreed upon by SESRIC and the Gambia OIC-Secretariat in line with the “**Projects for the Socio-Economic Empowerment of Women and Youth**” in The Gambia. The training course was provided by a competent expert from the General Directorate of Vocational and Technical Education under the Ministry of National Education of the Republic of Türkiye for the benefit of 35 participants from public and private tourism authorities as well as TVET institutions in the Gambia.

This training course aimed to develop and enhance the technical capacities of the participants in the field of tourism and hospitality services in accordance with the latest global standards, practices and trends. Over the course of three days, the training course gave insights into various topics, including hotel departments, front office, housekeeping, and food & beverage departments, processes in guest relations, types of hotel rooms, and office works.

Training Webinar on “**Prospects of Sustainable Tourism in OIC Member Countries**”

SESRIC, in collaboration with the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), organised a Training Webinar on “**Prospects of Sustainable Tourism in OIC Member Countries**” on 01 - 02 June 2022 through an online video conferencing platform. The training webinar was provided by competent experts and academicians from Bangladesh, Malaysia, and SESRIC for the benefit of 72 participants from the Ministries and relevant national institutions in charge of tourism in 23 OIC Member Countries.



The training webinar aimed at strengthening the technical human capacities of participants and raising awareness of tourism experts and executives from different national tourism authorities of the OIC Member Countries as well as fostering experience sharing in this important area. It also provided insights into sustainable tourism marketing, policies and strategies and other relevant aspects of this important concept.

CENTRAL CAPACITY BANKS BUILDING PROGRAMME (CB-CAB)

Training Course on “**Monetary** Operations: Tools and Techniques for Policy Implementation”



Within the framework of SESRIC’s Central Banks Capacity Building Programme (CB-CaB) and in line with the relevant resolutions of the 37th Ministerial Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC), SESRIC, in collaboration with the Central Bank of the Republic of Türkiye, organised a Training Course on “**Monetary Operations: Tools and Techniques for Policy Implementation**” on 15-17 March 2022 through an online video conferencing platform.

The training course was provided by a competent expert from the Central Bank of the Republic of Türkiye for the benefit of 119 experts and executives from the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of 26 OIC Member Countries with a view to strengthening their technical capacities on different aspects of the monetary operations, including monetary policy framework, liquidity management, collateral management, open market operations and standing facilities, among other technical subjects.

STOCK EXCHANGES CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME (SE-CAB)

Training Course on “**Capital** Market Operations”



Within the framework of its Stock Exchanges Capacity Building Programme (SE-CaB) and in line with the relevant resolution of the 37th Ministerial Session of the COMCEC, SESRIC, in collaboration with Borsa Istanbul, the Secretariat of the OIC Exchanges Forum, organised a Training Course on “**Capital Market Operations**” on 11-12 May 2022 through an online video conferencing platform.

The training course was provided by competent experts from the relevant departments and subsidiaries of Borsa Istanbul for the benefit of 98 participants from the Stock Exchanges and relevant Ministries of 20 OIC Member States and participants from 4 OIC and International Institutions namely; AAOIFI, IIFM, IsDB Group, and S&P Global.

The main objective of the training course was to strengthen the **participants’** technical capacities on different aspects of capital market operations, including equity market operations, debt securities market operations, audit and surveillance, listing, and post-trade operations, among other technical subjects.

ENVIRONMENT CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME (ENVIRONMENT-CAB)

Training Course on “**Fostering** Renewable Energy Solutions in the OIC Member Countries”

SESRIC, in collaboration with the Tunisian Agency for Technical Cooperation (ATCT) and the Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA), organised a Training Course on “**Fostering Renewable Energy Solutions in the OIC Member Countries**” on 23-26 May 2022 through an online video conferencing platform. The training course was provided by a competent expert from the Tunis International Center for Environmental Technologies (CITET) for the benefit of 62 experts and executives from Ministries of Environment, Ministries of Energy and other relevant national institutions of 21 OIC Member Countries.



The main objective of the training course was to strengthen the technical capacities of participants in renewable energy solutions and their environmental impacts and to emerge technologies and trends in the field, as well as policies to support sustainable energy solutions in order to contribute to the implementation of relevant regional and international frameworks on climate change.

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME (OSH-CAB)

Workshop on “Addressing Challenges of Occupational Health in the Future of Work”



SESRIC, in collaboration with the General Directorate of Labour Inspection and Occupational Safety and Health at the Ministry of Manpower of the Republic of Indonesia and the ASEAN Occupational Safety and Health Network (ASEAN-OSHNET), organised a Workshop on “Addressing Challenges of Occupational Health in the Future of Work” on 17-18 May 2022 through an online video conferencing platform. This workshop was conducted within the framework of SESRIC’s Occupational Safety and Health Capacity Building Programme (OSH-CaB) and in line with the OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET) Work Plan 2021-2022.

The workshop gathered 75 participants from 21 OIC Member Countries as well as 51 participants from 10 ASEAN Member Countries, Timor-Leste and Korea. Competent experts from the International Labour Organization (ILO), International Association of Labour Inspection (IALI), the World Health Organization (WHO), International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH), The ASEAN Secretariat and the University of Indonesia also participated and delivered comprehensive presentations under the relevant technical sessions of the workshop.

The main objective of the workshop was to discuss and highlight the importance of advancing OSH systems in the OIC and ASEAN Member Countries to make them more resilient towards possible future shocks and distributions. The workshop also aimed to encourage the exchange of knowledge and experiences amongst the OSH professionals to guide future efforts in addressing the challenges of OSH in the future of work.

Training Course on “OSH Structures and Labour Inspection”



Within the framework of the SESRIC’s Occupational Safety and Health Capacity Building Programme (OSH-CaB) and in line with the OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET) Work Plan 2021-2022, the Centre, in collaboration with the Tunisian Agency for Technical Cooperation (ATCT), organised a Training Course on “OSH Structures and Labour Inspection” on 07-09 June 2022 through an online video conferencing platform.

The training course was delivered by competent experts from the Tunisian Occupational Health and Safety Institute (TOSHI) under the Ministry of Social Affairs of the Republic of Tunisia for the benefit of 82 experts and executives from the national OSH authorities and relevant national institutions of 14 OIC African French-speaking Member Countries, namely Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Comoros, Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea, Djibouti, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Senegal and Togo.

The training course aimed at providing insights into the OSH structures and the application of legal provisions on working conditions to establish adequate protection for the workers in their workplace. The training provided a better understanding of organising and carrying out occupational safety and health controls in the companies and the responsibilities of the employers and workers in this regard. The course also focused on relevant technical subjects, including but not limited to labour laws, labour inspection conventions, and the rights and duties of the labour inspection control officer.

TOBACCO FREE OIC CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME (TF-CaB)

Training Course on “**Developing** Impactful Awareness Raising Campaigns towards Reducing Tobacco **Consumption**”



Within the framework of SESRIC’s Tobacco Free OIC Capacity Building Programme (TF-CaB), the Centre organised a Training Course on “**Developing** Impactful Awareness Raising Campaigns towards Reducing Tobacco **Consumption**” on 30-31 May 2022 through an online video conferencing platform.

Competent experts from the Department of Tobacco and Alcohol at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Türkiye and the Turkish Green Crescent Society (YEŞİLAY) provided the training course for the benefit of 47 experts from the relevant Ministries and national institutions in charge of tobacco control in 18 OIC Member Countries.

The training course aimed at strengthening the technical capacities of the participants in developing awareness-raising campaigns in terms of strategies, approaches and means to arouse strong negative emotions towards smoking, as well as highlighting the severe effects of its consumption.

WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME (WATER-CAB)

Training Course on “**Waste** Water Management and **Recycling**”

SESRIC, in collaboration with the Tunisian Agency for Technical Cooperation (ATCT), organised a Training Course on “**Waste** Water Management and **Recycling**” on 13-16 June 2022 through an online video conferencing platform. The training course was provided by competent experts from Tunis International Center for Environmental Technologies (CITET) and the National Sanitation Agency of the Republic of Tunisia, for the benefit of 102 experts and executives from the relevant national authorities of 22 OIC Member Countries.



The main objective of the training course was to strengthen the technical capacities of participants in wastewater management and to provide them with the knowledge and information required to enable their relevant national institutions to process wastewater in a safe and environmentally sustainable manner as well as treat it for utilisation by recycling and reuse.

PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT SERVICES CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME (PES-CAB)

Training Course on “**Measuring** the Impacts of Labour Market Information on Employment **Services**”



Within the framework of SESRIC’s Public Employment Services Capacity Building Programme (PES-CaB) and in line with the OIC Public Employment Services Network (OIC-PESNET) Work Plan 2021-2022, SESRIC, in collaboration with the Social Security Organization (SOCISO) of Malaysia, organized a Training Course on “**Measuring** the Impacts of Labour Market Information on Employment **Services**” on 21-23 June 2022 through an online video conferencing platform..

The training course was provided by competent experts from the Social Security Organization (SOCISO) of Malaysia for the benefit of 74 experts from the national public employment services (PES) agencies/ authorities of 20 OIC Member Countries. The training course aimed to discuss measuring the impacts of labour market information on employment services. The course content included topics such as collecting and harmonising data, analytical capacity and tools, institutional arrangements, and networks to measure the impact of labour market information on the delivery of employment services.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION

SESRIC plays a significant role in enhancing technical cooperation and collaboration among the OIC Member Countries by facilitating technical assistance, exchanging of knowledge and best practices, skills development, and networking. The Centre also emphasises the importance of “**region and country-specific development projects**” that are tailored according to the characteristics and needs of each region. Therefore, SESRIC partners with national, regional and international institutions to implement projects and activities under its technical cooperation initiatives developed with a view to addressing the needs of the OIC Member Countries.

REVERSE LINKAGE

REVERSE LINKAGE FOR BANGLADESH: COTTON VARIETIES DEVELOPMENT

Training Course on “**Biotechnological Tools and Techniques for Cotton - Sample Collection Activities**”



Within the framework of the Reverse Linkage Project between Bangladesh and Türkiye on “**Enhancing Capacity in Cotton Varieties Development**”, SESRIC, in collaboration with the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), and Nazilli Cotton Research Institute (CRI) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Türkiye, organised a Training Course on “**Biotechnological Tools and Techniques for Cotton - Sample Collection Activities**” on 17-28 January 2022 in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The training course was provided by competent trainers from the Nazilli Cotton Research Institute (CRI) of Türkiye for the benefit of 50 cotton experts from the Cotton Development Board (CDB) under the Ministry of Agriculture of Bangladesh. The training course covered both theoretical and practical aspects of the topic and included technical visits to **Bangladesh’s** relevant agriculture research institutions; namely, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institution (BARI), Sreepur Agriculture Research Center, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute in Kushtia and Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute in Rangpur.

The main objective of the training course was to contribute to the efforts of the Cotton Development Board (CDB) of Bangladesh to increase local cotton production, particularly in less productive agricultural land. The course focused on the relevant technical subjects such as; generations of molecular markers used in breeding, tissue culture methods used in breeding, speed breeding in cotton and embryo rescue techniques and their applications.

REVERSE LINKAGE FOR PAKISTAN: EARTHQUAKE SEISMOLOGICAL RESEARCH

Training Courses under the Reverse Linkage Project between Pakistan and Türkiye on “**Earthquake Seismological Research**”



Within the framework of the Reverse Linkage Project between Pakistan and Türkiye on “**Earthquake Seismological Research**”, SESRIC, in collaboration with the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA), TÜBİTAK Marmara Research Center (MRC) of Türkiye, and Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), organised three training courses in parallel, namely; Training Course on “**Global Positioning System (GPS): Data Collection and Processing**”, Training Course on “**Seismology: Earthquake Data Processing and Analysis**”, and Training Course on “**Site Classification: Data Collection and Processing**”. The implementation of the first phase of the training courses took place at TÜBİTAK Marmara Research Center’s headquarters in Gebze, Kocaeli - Türkiye, on 15 March - 01 April 2022.

The training courses were provided by competent trainers from the MRC of Türkiye for the benefit of 12 trainees from PMD. The training courses covered both theoretical and practical aspects of the topics, including hands-on data processing exercises and field visits.

The overall objective of the training courses is to contribute to the efforts of the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) towards enhancing **Pakistan’s** capacity in detecting and monitoring earthquakes and assessing their risks.

SESRIC PROJECTS FUNDED BY THE COMCEC

Three SESRIC Projects are on the Final List of the 9th Call for Project Proposals of COMCEC Project Funding



Within the framework of the 9th Call for Project Proposals of COMCEC Project Funding, the COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO) has completed the evaluation process and announced the Final List of successful projects that will receive COMCEC Project Funding. Three projects prepared and submitted by SESRIC under three different cooperation areas of COMCEC Strategy were found eligible to be funded in the 2022 implementation period, namely:

- Improving the Regulatory Framework for PPPs in Transport Sector in the OIC Member Countries
- Fostering Information Technology (IT) Solutions to Improve the Effectiveness of Public Employment Services (PES) in the OIC Member Countries
- Strengthening Financial Literacy and Promoting Islamic Finance in the OIC Member Countries

These projects were designed in collaboration with relevant national institutions in the member countries with a view to strengthening the human resources and institutional capacities in the cooperation areas of transport and communication, poverty alleviation and finance in the OIC Member Countries.

NETWORKS

SESRIC brings together the national institutions from the OIC Member Countries working in a wide range of socio-economic domains to establish closer cooperation for sharing and exchanging knowledge, experience and conducting joint initiatives, projects and programmes through the Centre's networking cooperation modality. Every year, the Centre analyses the needs for such networks and holds networking meetings in close cooperation with the National Focal Points of the relevant institutions. SESRIC currently hosts two main Networks; the OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET) and the OIC Public Employment Services (OIC-PESNET).

OIC OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH NETWORK (OIC-OSHNET)

Training Course on “**Labour** Inspection on SMEs and Informal **Sector**”

Within the framework of the OIC-OSHNET Work Plan 2021-2022, the Department of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) of the Ministry of Human Resources of Malaysia organised a Training Course on “**Labour** Inspection on SMEs and Informal **Sector**” on 08-10 March 2022 through an online video conferencing platform.



The training course was delivered by competent experts from the DOSH of the Ministry of Human Resources of Malaysia for the benefit of 32 participants from the national occupational safety and health (OSH) authorities of 19 OIC Member Countries. The training course aimed to strengthen the technical capacities of labour and OSH inspectors in the OIC Member Countries on how to implement OSH management systems for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and to discuss the challenges and the prospects of OSH in SMEs along with the other emerging OSH related issues, such as OSH practices under new normal and IR 4.0.

Workshop on “Global Trends on Maintaining OSH Culture”



Within the framework of the OIC-OSHNET and in line with the OIC-OSHNET Work Plan 2021-2022, the Directorate General of Occupational Safety and Health (DGOSH) of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of the Republic of Türkiye, in its capacity as the Secretariat of the Network, organised a Workshop on “Global Trends on Maintaining OSH Culture” on 30-31 March 2022 through an online video conferencing platform. SESRIC, in its capacity as the OIC Technical Coordinator of the OIC-OSHNET, provided facilitation and necessary technical support for the organisation of the workshop.

The workshop was provided by competent experts from the Directorate General of Occupational Safety and Health (DGOSH) of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of the Republic of Türkiye for the benefit of 65 participants from the National OSH Authorities of 21 OIC Member Countries.

The main objective of the workshop was to facilitate knowledge exchange on the topic and to discuss the global shifts in OSH systems and safety culture in recent years. The workshop also included country experience sharing sessions to raise further awareness on the global trends on maintaining OSH culture and the challenges faced in this area.

Training course on “Occupational Zoonoses”

Within the framework of the OIC-OSHNET and in line with the OIC-OSHNET Work Plan 2021-2022, the Directorate General of Occupational Safety and Health (DGOSH) of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of the Republic of Türkiye, in its capacity as the Secretariat of the Network, organised a Training Course on “Occupational Zoonoses” on 21-22 June 2022 through an online video conferencing platform. SESRIC, in its capacity as the OIC Technical Coordinator of OIC-OSHNET, provided facilitation and necessary technical support for the organisation of the training.

The training course was provided by competent experts from the Directorate General of Occupational Safety and Health (DGOSH) of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of the Republic of Türkiye for the benefit of 73 participants from the National OSH Authorities of 22 OIC Member Countries.



The training course aimed to provide a general overview of the occurrence and transmission of zoonotic diseases, with a particular emphasis on zoonotic diseases in the workplace and explain why they present a health and safety concern for specific occupations. In addition, the training presented the common occupational zoonoses and the biological agents responsible for causing disease, methods of transmission, incidence, and potential health effects. It also discussed the occupations and work-based activities that present an increased risk of zoonotic infections as well as key preventative measures that could be undertaken to reduce these risks.

OIC PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT SERVICES NETWORK (OIC-PESNET)

Training Course on “Labour Market Research Methodologies”



Within the framework of the OIC-PESNET and in line with the OIC-PESNET Work Plan 2021-2022, the Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR), in its capacity as the Chair of the OIC-PESNET, organised a Training Course on “Labour Market Research Methodologies” on 28-29 March 2022 through an online video conferencing platform. SESRIC, in its capacity as the Secretariat of the OIC-PESNET, provided facilitation and necessary technical support for the organization of the training.

The training course was provided by competent experts from the Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR) for the benefit of 127 participants from the national public employment services (PES) agencies/ authorities of 27 OIC Member Countries.

The main objectives of the training course were to provide insights into Labour Market Research (LMR) and explain different phases of LMR carried out by national public employment services (PES) authorities. It also familiarized participants with the emerging labour market issues and challenges for research in an interdisciplinary framework and enhanced their knowledge of various methods used in LMR. The training course mainly focused on relevant technical subjects, including but not limited to research methods on the labour market, research on unemployed profile inventory, and research on expectations of job seekers from the labour market.

Training Course on “**Management of Migrant Labour Force**”



Within the framework of the OIC-PESNET and in line with the OIC-PESNET Work Plan 2021-2022, the Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR), in its capacity as the Chair of the OIC-PESNET, organised a Training Course on “**Management of Migrant Labour Force**” on 24-26 May 2022 through an online video conferencing platform. SESRIC, in its capacity as the Secretariat of the OIC-PESNET, provided facilitation and necessary technical support for the organization of the training.

The training course was provided by competent experts from the Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR) and the Directorate General of International Labour Force under the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of the Republic of Türkiye for the benefit of 69 participants from the national public employment services (PES) agencies/ authorities of 22 OIC Member Countries.

The main objective of the training course was to provide insights into the management of migrant labour force and strengthen the technical capacities of participants on different aspects of international labour force management. The course also gave an overview of successful programmes, projects, and training activities conducted by the Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR) for the benefit of migrants to develop their skills and promote their participation in the labour market.

PORTALS

SESRIC develops and maintains various web portals in line with the decisions taken at the relevant OIC Fora to strengthen communication, cooperation, and knowledge sharing among the relevant stakeholders in the OIC Member Countries. The portals act as the main information sharing platforms in the relevant fields, facilitate coordination of activities and serve as a library for all publications and reports related to these areas. Currently, SESRIC hosts OIC-OSHNET Portal, OIC Portal on Water Resources, OIC-Health Portal and Tobacco-Free OIC Portal; all of which can be accessed through the SESRIC website: <https://www.sesric.org/>

OIC-VET PROGRAMME

The Vocational Education and Training Programme for the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC-VET) is a programme developed by SESRIC to support and supplement the OIC Member Countries’ efforts to overcome the current challenges and limitations faced in the area of technical and vocational education and training (TVET). The programme aims to enhance the quality of TVET systems in the OIC Member Countries and, thus, contribute to the development and competitiveness of their economies. The OIC-VET Programme’s activities are implemented through different modalities such as training of trainers (ToT) courses, training workshops, training courses and webinars. Here are some implemented activities during the period under consideration:

Training Workshop on “**Enhancing Collaboration between TVET Institutions and Industry towards Effective Curriculum Development**”



Within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme and in line with the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025, SESRIC organized a Training Workshop on “**Enhancing Collaboration between TVET Institutions and Industry towards Effective Curriculum Development**” on 21-23 February 2022 through an online video conferencing platform.

Competent experts from the Technical and Vocational Education Training Division of the Ministry of Education Malaysia provided the training workshop for the benefit of 106 experts and executives from the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Authorities and relevant national institutions of 25 OIC Member Countries.

The main objective of the training workshop was to share knowledge, experiences and best practices in

establishing efficient collaboration between TVET institutions and industry with the view of developing an effective curriculum. The training workshop also provided insights into the mechanisms and procedures to develop a well-designed vocational curriculum/programme in line with labour market demands.

Training Course on “**Promoting** Good Governance of TVET for Efficient System **Management**”



Within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme and in line with the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025, SESRIC, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technology of the Republic of Indonesia, organised the Training Course on “**Promoting** Good Governance of TVET for Efficient System **Management**” on 10-12 May 2022 through an online video conferencing platform.

The training course was provided by competent experts from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technology of the Republic of Indonesia for the benefit of 110 experts and executives from the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Authorities and relevant national institutions of 22 OIC Member Countries.

The main objective of the training course was to provide insights into developing good governance practices as well as tools for policy development for effective and efficient system management in TVET. The training also aimed to share knowledge and experiences for achieving good governance and management in TVET by highlighting the most recent policy trends, challenges, constraints, good practices, and opportunities for improvement.

JOURNAL OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Journal of Economic Cooperation and Development (ISSN 1308-7800), previously titled the Journal of Economic Cooperation among Islamic Countries (ISSN 0252 - 953X), is a journal of applied research in development economics. The Journal welcomes original papers dealing with important economic and social issues of immediate concern to the developing countries. It will give special attention to those papers which deal with the potentials for and possibilities of promoting and expanding economic and technical cooperation among the developing countries. The Journal appears in English, in March, June, September and December. The Journal is indexed/abstracted in SCOPUS, JEL/Econlit, i-Journals, i-Focus and i-Future.

Volume 43 (2022) Number 1

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Volume 43 (2022) Number 2

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