

# Review

## Economic Cooperation and Development

VOL.6 NO.1 APRIL 2013



Organisation of Islamic Cooperation

Statistical Economic and Social Research  
and Training Centre for Islamic Countries  
(SESRIC)

# Economic Cooperation and Development Review

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*Prof. Savaş Alpay*  
*Director General, SESRIC*

The role of financial system and institutions in the world economy changed dramatically, particularly after 1970s, where financial institutions became larger and started to take on more risk – at great cost to society. Institutional change has outpaced regulatory adjustment; the financial system has gone naturally global while the regulatory system remained largely national. As a result, the financial industry is argued to have modestly contributed to the socio-economic development, while creating no spin-offs into the real economy, hardly any jobs and distorting severely the distribution of income and wealth. The deviation from the original role of the financial system and severe misallocation of financial resources, have brought about crises that cast doubts on its role towards sustainable development.

The fundamental flaws in the global financial system have perplexed everybody when they could no longer be kept secret after the 2008-2009 global financial crisis. The conventional financial system in the last decade in its entirety has turned into a quick profit engine and, as such, its fall has become also sudden, dragging down together everything else as a house of cards. Now that these flaws cannot be hidden anymore, the biggest challenge is how to fix them and generate a financial system that serves the real economy and fosters sustainable development through non-imaginary transactions.

Against this backdrop, I would like to inform the readers that our Centre will organize an international forum focusing on the critical issues related to the global financial system this year. The Forum, entitled “International Forum on Financial Systems”, will be held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 11-12 September 2013 under the theme “Sustainable Finance for Sustainable Development”. The event will be organized under the auspices of the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey and inaugurated by His Excellency Abdullah Gül, President of the Republic of Turkey.

The Forum will provide a distinct opportunity for critical and objective examination of the existing global financial system, particularly its structural flaws (inability) to prevent global and regional financial crises. World-renowned intellectuals and industry practitioners will exchange their views on the prospects for and challenges ahead of the

global financial system. The event will be tailored to engage diverse perspectives on its theme and to spark new conversation and thought-provoking discussions on issues related to the legitimacy of the existing system as credible and relevant. The Forum will also stimulate new financial and economic thinking, including the emerging Islamic economics and finance, based on the ethical and moral values of Islam.

Numerous statesmen and policy-makers, high-level representatives of international organizations, outstanding academics, researchers and practitioners from around the world are expected to be actively involved in the discussion over the future of the global financial system. The Forum is expected to contribute significantly to global discussions on the potential reforms in the global financial architecture to make it more resilient to crises and to address the global and national inequalities towards fostering sustainable development.



The present issue of *Economic Cooperation and Development Review* includes an article by Mrs. Irina Bokova, Director-General of the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). In her article titled “The Power of Culture for Development”, Mrs. Bokova presents her views on the role of culture in the process of development. Comparing with the past when culture was widely viewed as something associated with traditions and customs that were sometimes seen as obstacles to development, Mrs. Bokova argues that, with the process of globalization, the power of culture is increasingly recognized as a force for sustainability in development. In this context, Mrs. Bokova mentioned that cultural and creative industries are among the most rapidly growing sectors in the world, representing an estimated global value of US\$ 1.3 trillion. Today, these industries account for an estimated 3-4% of the world GDP. Cultural tourism represents some 40% of the world total tourism revenues, and plays an increasing role as a source of employment.

In addition, SESRIC also contributes with two recent reports, namely: (1) The State of Education in OIC Member Countries; and (2) The State of Gender in OIC Member Countries. The first report analyses and examines the trends in the major indicators in the field of educational and

scientific developments in the OIC member countries. It investigates these trends in a comparative manner with their counterparts in the group of developed countries, non-OIC developing countries as well as the world as a whole. In so doing, the report highlights a number of constraints and challenges confronting the member countries in their efforts to foster their educational and scientific development.

The second report on the state of gender aims to highlight differences between men and women and give an insight into the current state of OIC member countries as a group at global level by comparing them with the world and other country groups. Using the available gender disaggregated data, four important aspects of social and economic life, namely demographic facts, health, education and employment are discussed to understand the current status of men and women across the OIC region. Furthermore the data gaps are discussed in order to highlight the priority areas for gender-related data collection.

While wishing a pleasant and useful reading to all the readers, I would like to express my deep thanks and appreciation to all the contributors to this issue of the *Economic Cooperation and Development Review*.

Prof. Savaş Alpay  
Director General  
S E S R I C



## ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT REVIEW

April 2013

Volume 6 No. 1

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ISSN 1308-7819

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SESRIC hereby expresses its profound appreciation to the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock of the Republic of Turkey for providing printing facilities.

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*Director-General of UNESCO*



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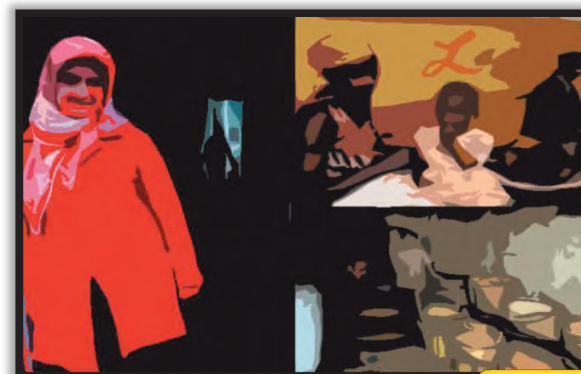
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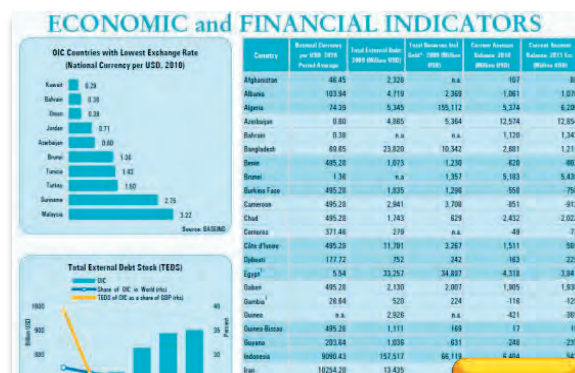


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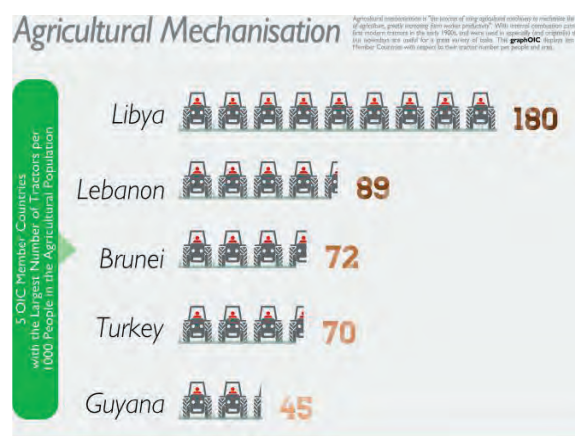
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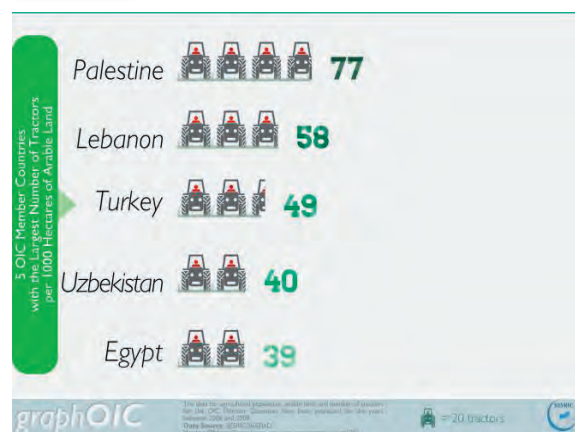


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**15-17 April 2013:** First Meeting of the Heads and Seniors of National Organizations for Civil Registration (NOCR) of OIC Member States, Tehran Iran

**23-26 April 2013:** Conference of Labour Ministers of the OIC Member States, Baku Azerbaijan

**14-15 May 2013:** 29<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of COMCEC, Ankara Turkey

**21-24 May 2013:** Study Visit on 'Agricultural Extension Methods' in Ankara, Republic of Turkey, Ankara – Turkey

**26-28 June 2013:** Workshop on 'Innovative Solutions to Poverty Reduction' organized by ISFD and SESRIC, Ankara – Turkey

**4-6 September 2013:** 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA), SESRIC Headquarters, Ankara – Turkey

**9-11 September 2013:** The Ninth International Conference on Islamic Economics and Finance (ICIEF), Istanbul–Turkey

**11-12 September 2013:** International Forum on Financial Systems (IFFS 2013), Istanbul– Turkey

**24-25 September 2013:** Workshop on “Increasing FDI Flows to OIC Member Countries, Ankara– Turkey

**21-23 October 2013:** 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the Islamic Conference of Health Ministers, Jakarta–Indonesia

**14-16 November 2013:** 7<sup>th</sup> OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development, Dakar–Senegal

**18-21 November 2013:** 29<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC, Istanbul–Turkey

**27-28 November 2013:** Annual Meeting of OIC Central Banks and Monetary Authorities, Jeddah–Saudi Arabia



# 2013



## THE POWER OF CULTURE FOR DEVELOPMENT

**Irina Bokova**

Director-General of UNESCO



Irina Bokova, born on 12 July 1952 in Sofia (Bulgaria) has been the Director-General of UNESCO since 15 November 2009. She is the first woman to have been elected head of the Organization.

Having graduated from Moscow State Institute of International Relations, and studied at the University of Maryland (Washington) and the John F. Kennedy School of Government (Harvard University), Irina Bokova joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria in 1977, where she was responsible for human rights issues. Appointed in charge of political and legal affairs at the Permanent Mission of

Bulgaria to the United Nations in New York, she was also a member of the Bulgarian Delegation at the United Nations conferences on the equality of women in Copenhagen (1980), Nairobi (1985) and Beijing (1995). As Member of Parliament (1990-1991 and 2001-2005), she participated in the drafting of Bulgaria's new Constitution, which contributed significantly to the country's accession to the European Union. She launched the first seminar of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on the European Convention on Human Rights.

Irina Bokova was Minister for Foreign Affairs and Coordinator of Bulgaria-European Union relations (1995-1997) and subsequently Ambassador of Bulgaria (2005-2009) to France, Monaco and UNESCO and Personal Representative of the President of the Republic of Bulgaria to the "Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie" (OIF). While serving as State Secretary on European Integration and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ms Bokova always promoted European integration. As an active member of many international expert networks and of civil society and, in particular, as Chairperson and founding member of the European Policy Forum, she has worked to overcome European divisions and to foster the values of dialogue, diversity, human dignity and human rights.

Irina Bokova has received doctor honoris causa from many prestigious universities across the world. In addition to her mother tongue, Irina Bokova speaks English, French, Spanish and Russian.

### The Rise of Culture

There was a time when culture was not uttered in the same sentence with development. Culture was associated with traditions and customs that were sometimes seen as obstacles to development, or it was linked with elitist art and narrowly defined in scope. Culture was of the past, whereas development was for the future. At best, culture stood on the sidelines of development policies. At worst, it was viewed as retrograde.

This is changing. The process of globalisation is transforming all societies and bringing culture urgently to the fore. Societies are increasingly diverse and interconnected. This opens vast new opportunities for exchange and mutual enrichment between persons of different and plural cultures. It is also raising new questions about exclusion, discrimination and prejudice, calling for new competencies of cultural literacy, through languages and education.

The deep crisis that has shaken every economy of the world since 2008 has accelerated the rise of culture. Governments everywhere are rethinking strategies for growth and seeking to identify new sources of dynamism. At this moment of change, the power of culture is increasingly recognized as a force for sustainability in development.

The facts speak for themselves. Cultural and creative industries are some of the most rapidly growing sectors in the world, representing an estimated global value of US\$ 1.3 trillion. Average growth rates represent 13.9 percent in Africa, 11.9 percent in South America, 17.6 percent in the Middle East, 9.7 percent in Asia, 6.9 percent in Oceania, and 4.3 percent in North and Central America – exceeding the rates of growth of the service industries and manufacturing. Cultural industries account today for an estimated 3-4 percent of the global gross domestic product. Cultural tourism represents some 40 percent of total world tourism revenues, in a sector that has grown continually over the last decade. Across the world, culture plays an increasing role as a source of employment and revenue.

At the same time, culture is a source of wealth in ways that do not have price tags. Culture can help promote social cohesion and youth

**“Culture can be a resource to address both the economic and human rights dimensions of poverty and to provide innovative and cross-cutting solutions to complex issues -- such as health and the environment, gender equality and promoting quality education for all.”**

engagement, and it is a wellspring for social resilience. This is the case for countries across the world, at all levels of development. These benefits may be hard to quantify, but their impact is immeasurable and they are essential for all societies today. This is also why UNESCO is so committed to safeguarding and

protecting cultural heritage, especially in situations of conflict. This heritage does not only provide revenue and employment for local communities – more fundamentally, it is a source of identity and a force for cohesion and reconciliation.

UNESCO’s position is clear. We are living in a new age of limits – in terms of the resources of the planet and material assets. In this context, we must make far more of the single most powerful and renewable energy there is – that of innovation. UNESCO is committed to releasing the full power of human ingenuity as a source of resilience at a time of change and as a wellspring for creativity and growth. Culture is essential here. It is a driver of development, led by the growth of the cultural sector, creative industries, tourism, and the arts and crafts. It is also an enabler of sustainable development – the context in which development policies can move forward, through local ownership, with greater efficiency and impact. The power of culture for development lies precisely in its sustainability at the local level.





In 2000, the world agreed on a set of Millennium Development Goals, “to ensure that globalization becomes a positive force for all the world’s people,” on the basis of the principles of human dignity, equality and equity.<sup>1</sup> Culture was not part of the eight goals, whose deadline stands in 2015. As the international community shapes a new global sustainability agenda to follow 2015, we must ensure that culture is not left on the sidelines. The power of culture must be recognized -- development must be about human potential and capacity, and there is nothing more human than culture. Culture is an enabler and a driver for sustainable development. It has also an inherent, unquantifiable, value as a source of strength and creativity essential for every individual and every society.

We need to broaden the debate about development and ensure that the future agenda includes culture’s transformative power. Culture can be a resource to address both the economic and human rights dimensions of poverty and to provide innovative and cross-cutting solutions to complex issues -- such as health and the

environment, gender equality and promoting quality education for all. It is also a source of identity and cohesion for societies at a time of bewildering change. No development can be sustainable without it.

UNESCO is acting at two levels to make its case. We are working at the global level to set a clear policy and normative framework, while acting also at country level, where the impact of culture really counts.

### Movement at the Global Level

The global awakening on the power of culture for development is a sign of new times. But it does not come out of the blue. This reflects UNESCO’s longstanding efforts to champion a new understanding of culture as a dynamic force for renewal and creativity.

The first milestone was laid in the 1982 *World Conference on Cultural Policies* held in Mexico that linked culture and development tightly together.<sup>2</sup> The World Conference widened the

<sup>1</sup> *United Nations Millennium Declaration*, adopted by the UN General Assembly.

<sup>2</sup> *UNESCO Mexico City Declaration on Cultural Policies*, World Conference on Cultural Policies, Mexico City, 26 July - 6 August 1982.



definition of culture to include “a whole complex of distinctive, spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features” – meaning “not only the arts and letters but also modes of life, the fundamental rights of the human being, value systems, traditions and beliefs.” UNESCO also made the most of its leadership of the *World Decade on Culture and Development* (1988-1998) to advocate for greater recognition of culture’s contribution to national and international development policies.

In 1996, the *UN World Commission on Culture and Development*, led by J. Perez de Cuellar, published a landmark report, *Our Creative Diversity*, which examined the importance of culture for development and called for rethinking development in its light.<sup>3</sup> The Report highlighted cultural diversity as a motor for creativity and innovation that is vital for social and economic development.

The 1998 *UNESCO Intergovernmental Conference on Cultural Policies for Development*, held in Stockholm, set a new milestone. Its *Action Plan on Cultural Policies for Development* stated that “sustainable development and the flourishing of cultures are interdependent.”<sup>4</sup> It reaffirmed the “harmony between cultural and development,” and declared that cultural diversity was an “essential factor of development” – development, it agreed, that must be “sensitive to culture itself.” One year later, UNESCO and the World Bank held an Intergovernmental Conference, “Culture Counts” in Florence, which highlighted the

**“Culture must not just be seen as an enabler and a driver of development. It carries also inherent value for individuals and societies, as a source of belonging and a wellspring for creativity.”**

importance of ‘cultural capital’ for sustainable development and economic growth.

Culture was not included in the Millennium Development Goals established after the 2000 *Millennium Declaration*, but its power has since been increasingly recognized. The 2005 *World Summit Outcome Document*, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, acknowledged explicitly the diversity of cultures as a contribution to the enrichment of humankind.<sup>5</sup> The *Outcome Document* of the 2010 Millennium Development Goal Summit went a step further, highlighting “the importance of culture for development and its contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.”<sup>6</sup>

Great strides were made by two United Nations General Assembly Resolutions on ‘Culture and Development,’ adopted in 2010 and 2011 (65/166 and 66/208). Individual countries were instrumental in securing agreement on these resolutions, especially Peru and Cuba. The



<sup>3</sup> See *Our Creative Diversity*. The World Commission on Culture and Development, available at: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0010/001055/105586e.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> *Action Plan on Cultural Policies for Development*, adopted in by the Intergovernmental Conference on Cultural Policies for Development.

<sup>5</sup> *World Summit Outcome Document*, adopted by the UN General Assembly (60/1).

<sup>6</sup> *Keeping the Promise -- United to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals*, Outcome Document of the 2010 MDG Summit.

General Assembly resolutions recognized that culture is an “essential component of human development” and “an important factor in the fight against poverty, providing for economic growth and ownership of the development processes.” On this basis, the resolutions called for mainstreaming culture into development policies at all levels.

Culture features in the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda. In June 2012, the UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 Development Agenda issued a report entitled *Realizing the Future We Want for All*.<sup>7</sup> The starting point was clear: “Business as usual cannot be an option and transformative change is needed. As the challenges are highly interdependent, a new, more holistic approach is needed to address them.” Culture has a clear role to play in the “transformative change needed for a rights-based, equitable and sustainable process of global development.” Paragraph 71 of the report declared:

*It is critical to promote equitable change that ensures people’s ability to choose their value systems in peace, thereby allowing for full participation and empowerment. Communities and individuals must be able to create and practice their own culture and enjoy that of others free from fear. This will require, inter alia, respect for cultural diversity, safeguarding cultural and natural heritage, fostering cultural institutions, strengthening cultural and creative industries, and promoting cultural tourism.*

These are strong steps forward. However, culture must not just be seen as an enabler and a

driver of development. It carries also inherent value for individuals and societies, as a source of belonging and a wellspring for creativity.

UNESCO’s advocacy at the global level builds on foundations that UNESCO has set with a comprehensive set of normative instruments in the area of culture.

“Our goal is to foster the emergence of dynamic cultural sectors, by facilitating the introduction of new cultural policies and cultural industries and strengthening existing ones. The idea is to support the power of creative industries to create employment and income opportunities, especially for women and marginalized groups, as well as to strengthen social inclusion.”

These instruments concern tangible heritage (1972 World Heritage Convention), intangible heritage (2003 Convention), as well as underwater cultural heritage (2001 Convention). The UNESCO normative framework includes also the struggle against the illicit international trafficking of cultural property and the protection of cultural

property in the event of armed conflict (1954 *Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict* and the 1970 *Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property*).

The 2005 *Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions* is especially important. Member States agreed that cultural diversity “increases the range of



<sup>7</sup> Available at: [http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/Post\\_2015\\_UNTTreport.pdf](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/Post_2015_UNTTreport.pdf)



choices and nurtures human capacities and values, and therefore is a mainspring for sustainable development for communities, peoples and nations.”<sup>8</sup> The Convention reaffirmed the “importance of the link between culture and development for all countries, particularly for developing countries,” and called for “actions undertaken nationally and internationally to secure recognition of the true value of this link.”

This normative framework represents a cultural governance system, based on human rights, engaging States in a continual process of dialogue and cooperation at the international level. The UNESCO conventions also help design and implement national cultural policies with strong social and economic impact. UNESCO is working to build national capacities (cultural institutions, professional networks and local communities) and to support policies and regulatory frameworks that create an enabling environment to safeguard and promote cultural resources.

UNESCO plays a leading role as the specialised UN agency for culture – but it is far from alone. Some 18 UN organizations also work in this area, including through joint programming at country level, where culture really counts.<sup>9</sup>

### Action at the Country Level

Nowhere is the link between culture and development more clear than at the country level. New cultural powerhouses are emerging in every region of the world. More and more countries are investing to develop vibrant culture sectors, and they are requesting the support of the United Nations to their efforts. At the global level, we are still making the case



for culture and development – at the national level, the argument has already been won.

We see this in the demands of countries for UN support. In 2006, culture was mentioned in less than 30 percent of UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs) – the core UN strategy to support a country’s development. By 2012, this had risen to 70 percent, with the majority of entries linked to culture for social and economic development.<sup>10</sup> In the Arab region, the figure stands at 89 percent of UNDAFs, with most entries focusing on culture for economic development. For a number of countries – Cambodia, Bangladesh and China, for instance – culture has been defined as a main outcome in the UNDAFs. This trend testifies to the rising demand by Governments and the integration of culture into UN efforts.

UNESCO’s leadership of the Culture and Development Joint Programmes of the *Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund* (MDG-F) helped accelerate this trend.

Financed by Spain between 2006-2008, and running until 2013, the MDG-F covered eight “thematic windows” -- including one on Culture and Development, led by UNESCO. This major country-level effort (representing US\$ 96

<sup>8</sup> For all references to UNESCO’s work, consult the UNESCO website: [www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org)

<sup>9</sup> These include UNDP, UNIDO, UNWTO, IFAD, WIPO, FAO, UNEP, UNCTAD, UNITAR, UNOPS, UNAIDS, UNHCR, UN-Habitat, UNFPA, UNV

<sup>10</sup> For a search tool on the culture entry points in UNDAFs, consult the UNESCO website:

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/culture-in-the-undafs/search-tool/>



million) encompassed 18 large-scale programmes, undertaken in the Arab States, Africa, Latin America, Asia and South-East Europe, with benefits reaching an estimated 10 million people. A clear goal guided this work – to demonstrate culture’s contribution to development at the national level and boost progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. To these ends, the Joint Programmes sought to harness the potential of culture for poverty reduction and to bolster social cohesion.

Four Joint Programmes were implemented in the Arab region – in Egypt, Mauritania, Morocco and Palestine – to a total budget of US\$ 20 million. Overall, these programmes reached 32,000 direct beneficiaries (of which 56 percent are women) and 388,000 indirect beneficiaries (of which 50 percent are women). The objectives were to support employment and income generation in the culture sector, especially for unemployed individuals and women. The overall goal has been to safeguard and promote both tangible and intangible cultural heritage by bolstering human and institutional capacities and strengthening cultural infrastructures to develop tourism and facilitate participation in cultural life.

To these ends, the Joint Programmes worked to improve market access for cultural goods through cultural fairs and festivals, and by building synergies with existing national initiatives in the crafts sector. This work sought to safeguard and promote cultural assets while

## Examples

### Supporting Cultural Tourism in Anatolia, Turkey

Working with UNICEF, UNDP and WTO, UNESCO coordinated activities to integrate cultural resources into tourism development policies in Turkey’s Kars province of Eastern Anatolia. This involved a management plan, elaborated with local stakeholders for the ancient site of Ani, as well as an automated digital data system to conserve, monitor and supervise cultural and natural sites in Kars. At the same time, local authorities were provided with training on establishing a framework for heritage legislation.

### Supporting Creative Industries in Egypt

In Egypt, at the Dahshur World Heritage Site, training helped to develop and strengthen eco-friendly creative industries with the participation of 200 local participants, including 140 women, to produce and sell handicrafts to local NGOs using palm tree branches and leaves. This boosted local jobs and incomes and fostered a new community of artisans and handicraft producers.

### Supporting Cultural Festivals in Mauritania

The Joint Programme identified the need to create dynamic cultural events to promote the safeguarding of intangible heritage and boost the cultural industry. There are now a dozen regional and national festivals held each year in Mauritania. These festivals attract large audiences, merchants and service providers, promoting domestic tourism and increase of income and contributing to social cohesion.

supporting creative activity. In Morocco, for instance, we helped to establish new local units for the production of couscous, dates and baskets. Across the region, the Joint Programmes worked to maximise the potential of cultural tourism for economic and social development. All of these efforts were guided by the idea that cultural tourism and the celebration of cultural diversity are important for fostering social cohesion and tolerance.

At the same time, UNESCO has worked to support cultural industries as motors for social and economic development. In the context of the 2005 *Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions*, UNESCO steers an International Fund for Cultural Diversity, whose purpose is to promote sustainable development and poverty reduction in developing and least developed countries that are parties to the Convention.

Our goal is to foster the emergence of dynamic cultural sectors, by facilitating the introduction of new cultural policies and cultural industries and strengthening existing ones. The idea is to support the power of creative industries to create employment and income opportunities, especially for women and marginalized groups,

as well as to strengthen social inclusion.

To date, the International Fund for Cultural Diversity has supported 61 projects from 40 developing countries totalling US\$3.9 million in funding. The projects cover a wide range of activities – from capacity-building and cultural mapping to policy analysis and development, including entrepreneurship support and the consolidation of cultural industries.

#### Example -- Supporting Cultural Industries in Benin

In Benin, the International Fund for Cultural Diversity is supporting the NGO *World Rhythm Productions* in developing a new business model for the music sector by negotiating new agreements with 100 music distribution points in Cotonou. These contracts will ensure that Beninese musicians can sell their work locally.

In all of these ways, UNESCO is supporting the emergence of dynamic cultural industries and markets at the national level, to generate new employment opportunities and revenues and contribute to social cohesion.

All of this work is underpinned by the idea that culture is a force for dialogue, within and





between societies. In 2011, I launched a new global initiative, *Culture: a Bridge to Development*, to make more of culture's role as a bridge to sustainable development and social cohesion. The focus falls on enhancing creativity, cultural industries and cultural heritage. We held a first major event in the city of Edirne, Turkey, in November 2012. Organized with the Governorate and Municipality of Edirne, the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bahçeşehir University, and the Balkanika Foundation, this brought together culture professionals, municipalities, intellectuals, universities, and the private sector from across the region. This initiative draws on the power of culture as a motor for deeper regional integration, by highlighting shared histories and traditions and by providing a source of renewed creativity and innovation.

The same spirit guides the preparations undertaken to nominate the Qhapaq Ñan, or Main Andean Road by Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, reflecting their recognition of a common cultural heritage of outstanding value. This illustrates the power of culture to strengthen links across borders and entire continents.

The 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention in 2012 was an opportunity for 189 countries to renew their commitment to the revolutionary idea at its heart, that there are places in the world of "outstanding universal value" that must be protected for all to share, today and in the future.

In UNESCO's vision, culture and heritage is both the way we understand the world and the means by which we shape it. It is a source of energy that is endlessly renewable, which provides income and jobs to local communities but also knowledge upon which to build a better future. This is especially important after natural disasters or situations of conflict.

In Indonesia, for instance, UNESCO reacted quickly in the wake of the 2010 eruptions of Mount Merapi – when volcanic ash blanketed the World Heritage site of Borobudur and its surroundings and posed a severe threat to the local communities and Indonesia's most visited tourist attraction. This major Buddhist temple complex, dating back to the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> centuries, had been painstakingly restored after centuries of neglect and destruction by natural forces thanks to a UNESCO-led international safeguarding campaign, launched in 1972. After



the eruptions, UNESCO worked with the Government, local authorities and the local community to clean the temple compound and to preserve its natural setting. This involved also capacity-building for revenue generation. These efforts are designed to harness the power of cultural heritage for social resilience and the revival of economic activity at the local level.

This is why UNESCO acts to protect cultural heritage in situations of conflict. This is the case most recently in Mali. Timbuktu's three major mosques, Djingareyber, Sankore and Sidi Yah, along with 16 mausoleums, were inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List in 1988. The Askia Tomb in the city of Gao followed in 2004. In July 2012, following the destruction of 11 of the mausoleums, and the doors of Sidi Yah, both sites were inscribed on UNESCO's List of World Heritage in Danger. UNESCO is working with the Government and local authorities to strengthen their capacity to safeguard and protect this heritage. We provided topographic maps and coordinates to the armed forces of Mali, France and Chad to help prevent shelling of these sites. We are working also with



the leaders of Mali's neighbouring countries, as well as with Interpol, the World Customs Organization and all those involved with the art market, urging them to be vigilant as to the illicit export and traffic of any cultural artefact out of the country.

After my visit to Mali on 2 February, 2013, UNESCO is preparing an Action Plan with the Government of Mali to rehabilitate cultural heritage damaged during the conflict with the active participation of local communities and to protect the region's ancient manuscripts. We will provide training activities to restore the conditions for the conservation and management of Mali's tangible and intangible. All of this is essential for restoring national unity in the country and for strengthening social cohesion – these are the foundations for long-term reconciliation and sustainable development.

Cultural heritage is also source of knowledge for sustainability. In Africa, for instance, many World Heritage sites are protected through traditional management systems that have ensured their existence over the centuries. These remarkable sources of knowledge carry important lessons on sustainably managing resources. We must protect this knowledge, capture it and share it widely.

### Next Steps

We must build on these achievements to set a new global agenda for sustainable development to follow 2015. This agenda must make the most





of the transformative power of culture and its importance for the sustainability of development.

In 2013, we have several key opportunities to make our case:

- An International Congress "Culture: Key to Sustainable Development" will be held in Hangzhou, China, from 15-17 May 2013. This is the first International Congress focusing on the linkages between culture and sustainable development organized by UNESCO since the 1998 Stockholm Conference. The Congress will provide the first global forum to discuss the role of culture in sustainable development in view of the post-2015 development framework.
- In June, the President of the 67<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly will convene a Thematic Debate on Culture and Development, with UNESCO's support. This will be an important opportunity to explore the linkages between culture and development at the UN in New York.
- The 2013 ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review focuses on "Science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture, for promoting sustainable development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals" — this will be a key moment to shape the contours of a post-2015 global agenda, with consideration for the role of culture.



- UNESCO and UNDP are jointly preparing the third edition of the *UN Creative Economy Report*, to be published in 2013. The Report explores the importance of the creative economy at the local level, focusing on the power of cities as motors for sustainable development, and it calls for more coherent UN system work to support policy at the global, regional and national levels.
- In the autumn of 2013, Indonesia, with UNESCO as a partner, will organize a first *World Culture in Development Forum*. This will be important opportunity, especially as President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of Indonesia co-chairs the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.
- The UN Secretary-General will submit a report on Culture and Development to the UN General Assembly, led by UNESCO, which will help set the context for a third UN General Assembly resolution on this theme.

This year is critical for shaping the contours of a new global sustainability agenda. The Report of the UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 Development Agenda highlighted four key areas for this — (i) peace and security, (ii) inclusive social development, (iii) inclusive economic development, and (iv) and environmental sustainability.

Culture matters at each level:

1. **Culture is key for peace and security.** As a source of identity and strength, culture is a vital resource for empowering communities to participate fully in social and cultural life. Respect for culture facilitates inclusive governance and dialogue at the national and international levels and can contribute to conflict prevention and mitigation. Experience across the world shows that it can be vital for reconciliation and recovery after conflicts or disasters. Culture is crucial for peace-building and laying the foundations for lasting peace.
2. **Culture is key for inclusive social development.** Culture is a force for inclusion that is important for communities and individuals aspiring for more effective governance and increased cultural choices. To be sustainable and equitable, development must be relevant to all, including local communities and indigenous peoples, through appropriate recognition of cultural rights, traditional knowledge systems, cultural heritage and the rich diversity of environmental and sustainability practices. In these ways, culture can provide sustainability to all development efforts.
3. **Culture is key for inclusive economic development.** The importance of culture – in all its forms (handicrafts, festivals or performing arts, cultural institutions such as

museums or heritage sites, both natural and cultural) – is growing in value across the world as a source of income generation and job creation. The impact is especially important at the community level, where it can help empower individuals, improve living conditions and foster community-based economic growth. Growth through culture carries economic benefits, while advancing social cohesion.

4. **Culture is key for environmental sustainability.** Protection of cultural and biological diversity and natural heritage is vital for sustainable development. Supporting traditional systems of environmental protection and resource management can contribute to increased sustainability of fragile ecosystems as well as the preservation of biodiversity. At a time of rapid environmental change, culture can help design better adaptive strategies.

The world is changing quickly and placing new demands before every society – the demand for solidarity against the pressures of fragmentation, the demand for innovation in an age of limits. Culture has answers to both. It is a source of cohesion and a motor for sustainability. More and more governments recognize this – we all must build on culture for a more sustainable future. At this time when we are rethinking development and setting a new agenda, culture must play its full part. □





# DID YOU KNOW?

- The Gini index or coefficient measures the extent to which the distribution of income or consumption expenditure among individuals or households within an economy deviates from a perfectly equal distribution.

- A Gini index of 0 represents perfect equality, while an index of 100 implies perfect inequality. Moreover, the degree of inequality is generally classified as:

“Low” if the index is between 20.0 and 29.9

“Medium” if the index is between 30.0 and 39.9

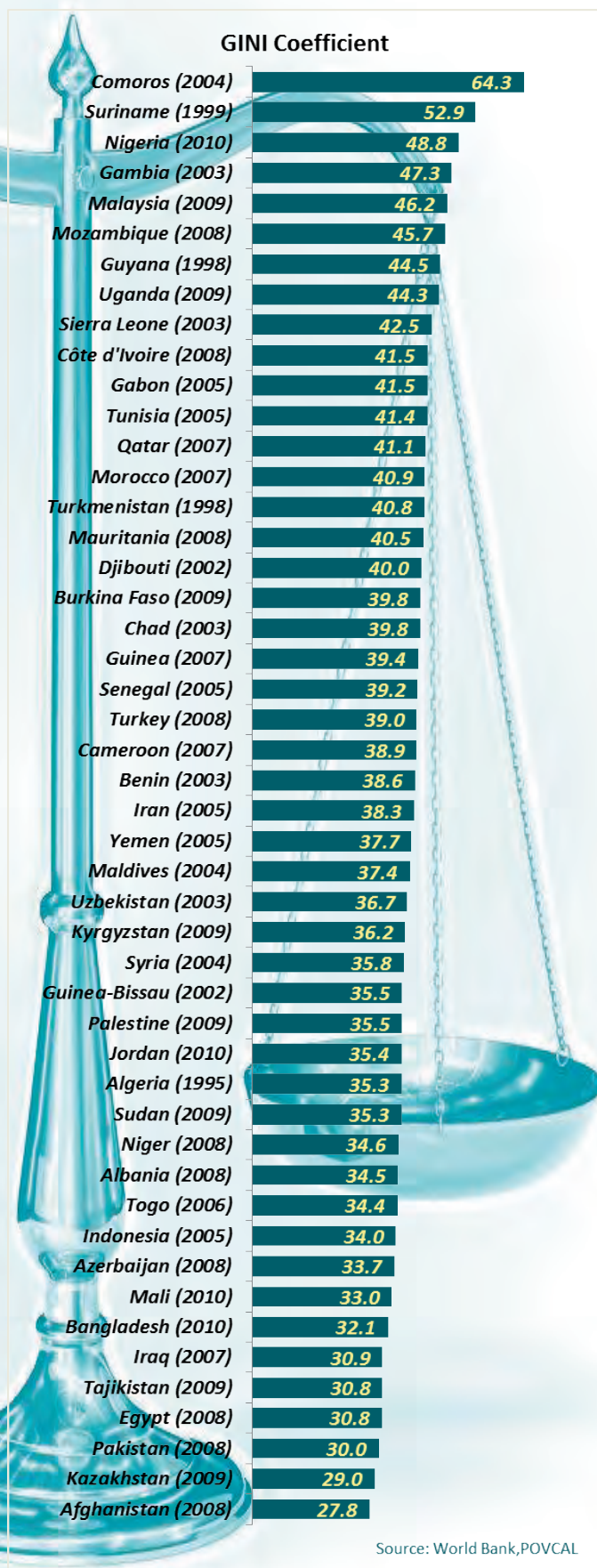
“High” if the index is between 40.0 and 49.9

“Very high” if the index is above 50.0

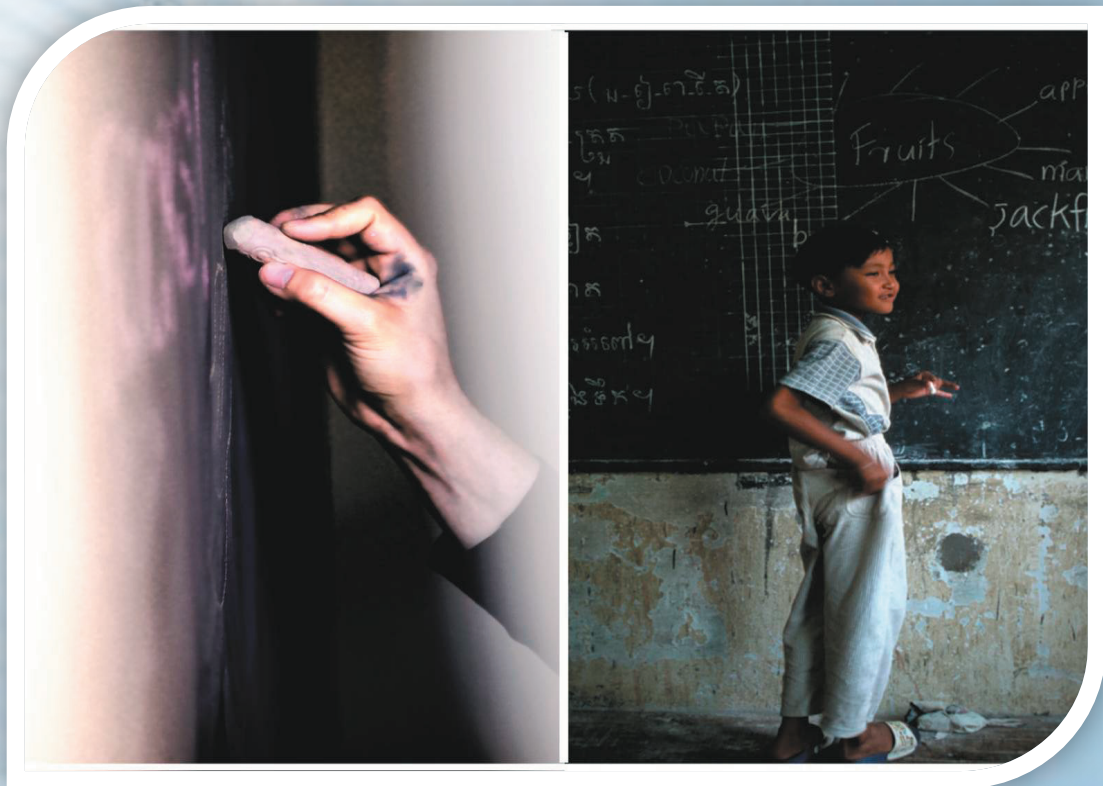
- Among the 48 OIC member countries with available data from differing years, Comoros and Suriname had the most severe income inequality reflected by Gini coefficients of 64.3 and 52.9, respectively.

- The income inequality in 15 of the member countries were measured to be “high” while 29 of them were placed within “medium” inequality group.

- On the other hand, only Afghanistan and Kazakhstan were classified as “low” income inequality countries in terms of Gini index.



# THE STATE OF EDUCATION IN OIC COUNTRIES



## THE STATE OF EDUCATION IN OIC COUNTRIES

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### THE STATE OF EDUCATION IN OIC COUNTRIES

#### 1 Background

Human capital theory rests on the assumption that formal education is highly instrumental to improve the production capacity of a society. Better education improves the production process in several ways. Educated, or skilled, workers are able to perform complex tasks and thereby contribute to producing more technologically sophisticated products. Especially in developing countries, skilled workers increase the absorptive capacity of the country by acquiring and implementing the foreign knowledge and technology, which is of crucial importance in successful economic diversification and development. In this regard, the quality of education carries significant importance in building productive capacities. Skill levels of labour force are generally classified according to specific level of education they attained. As the share of labour force with secondary and tertiary education increases, the ability to adopt new skills and absorb new knowledge increases.

This section provides some preliminary information on the status of education under three main subsections. The first one deals with school age population at different levels of education. Then a brief analysis is made on average years of schooling to show the progress on the overall schooling in OIC countries. Finally, to draw a loose picture on the achievement of education, literacy rates for both adult and young population are depicted.

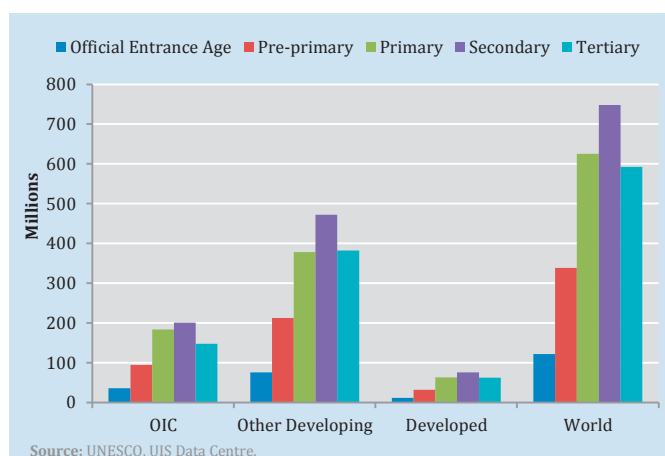
#### School Age Population

According to the definition of UNESCO, school age population is the population of the age group theoretically corresponding to a

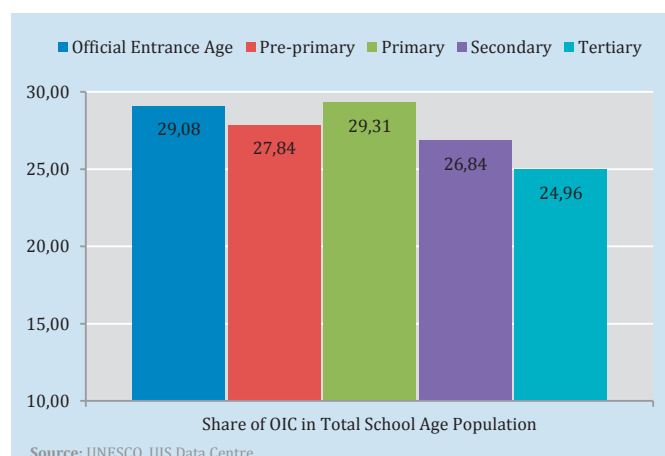
given level of education as indicated by theoretical entrance age and duration.

Figure 1 compares the total number of population at different levels of education for different country groups. The total number of population at different levels of education is closely related to the duration of the education at that level. Clearly, school age population at official entrance level and at pre-primary level are comparably lower than the population at

**Figure 1: School Age Population (2011)**



**Figure 2: Share of OIC Countries in Total Worldwide School Age Population (2011)**





other levels of education. In 2011, there were more than 35 million children at official entry age and around 94 million at pre-primary school age in OIC countries. While 183 million children were at the age of primary schooling, 201 million children were at the age of secondary schooling and additional 148 million were at the level of tertiary schooling.

These figures on school age population become more insightful when the share of OIC countries in world is calculated for each level of schooling (Figure 2). According to the *Annual Economic Report on the OIC Countries 2012* of SESRIC, the share of OIC in total world population in 2011 was 22.8%. Figure 2 clearly depicts that in all levels of education OIC countries account for higher share of schooling age population than their share in total world population. At entrance age level and primary school level, this share exceeds 29%. Even at tertiary level, OIC countries account almost 25% of total world population at tertiary education. This indicates that OIC countries have younger population compared to other regions, and as also identified in the *SWOT Outlook on the OIC Countries 2012* of SESRIC, this constitutes an important field of strength for the OIC countries.

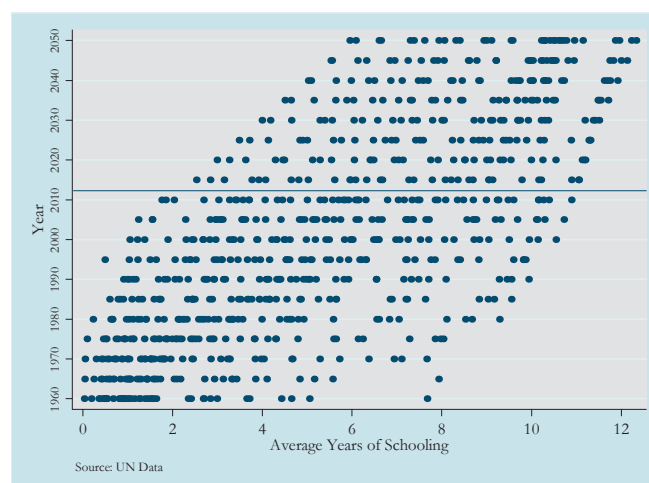
### Average Years of Schooling

In OIC member countries, average years of schooling have substantially increased over the last 40 years. In 1970, the number of countries with average years of schooling more than 6 years was only 4. This number increased to 26 in 2010. There are already quite a few countries with average years of schooling exceeding 10 years. In 1970, Albania and Turkmenistan were the only countries with average years of schooling exceeding 7 years. In 2010, 5 countries (Kazakhstan, Albania, Turkmenistan, Malaysia and Bahrain) provided education to their citizens on average more than 10 years. According to UN estimations, it is projected that the minimum average years of schooling will be 4

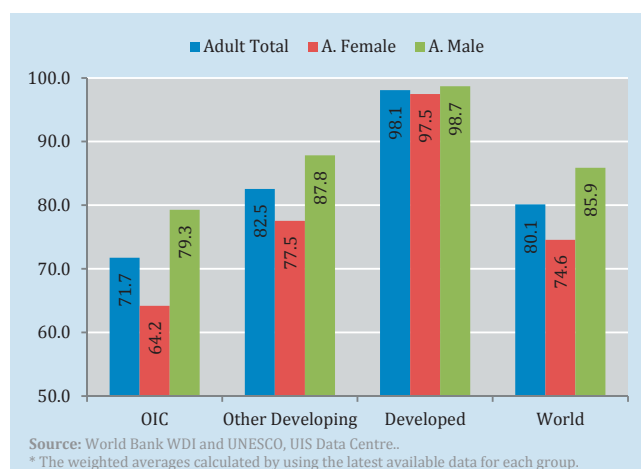
years in 2030 and it will reach to 6 years in 2050 in the OIC countries (Figure 3). Majority of the countries are expected to have average schooling rates over 8 years as of 2050.

Correspondingly, thanks to a combination of effective policies and sustained national investments in education, the share of population with no school attendance has steadily decreased in many member countries. There are, however, some countries with stubbornly high shares of non-schooling (Cohen and Soto, 2010). Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger could make only small progress in promoting the education. In Niger, the share of population with no-schooling remains as high as 84% in 2010. Though some progress has been made, the

**Figure 3: Average Years of Schooling (1960-2050)**



**Figure 4: Adult Literacy Rates in Comparison\***



majority of the populations in Cote d'Ivoire, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Sudan have still no access to education as of 2010. Indonesia and Jordan are the countries with best performance in improving the accession to education. They reduced the share of people with no school attendance by more than 90%. Guyana, on the other hand, persistently kept the share of non-schooling at very low levels.

## Literacy Rates

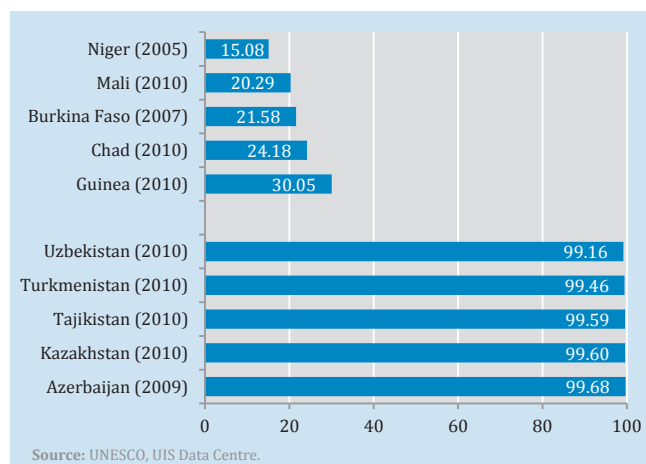
### Adult Literacy Rate

Adult literacy rate is one of the indicators of development that are included in the measurement of Human Assets Index (HAI) as well as Human Development Index (HDI). It is regarded, therefore, as an important indicator of social development. The literacy rates in the OIC countries are not impressive. In quite a few countries, literacy rates are still below 50%. With an average adult literacy rate of 71.7% in 2010, OIC countries as a group lagged well behind the world average of 80.1% and also the other developing countries' average of 82.5% (Figure 4). There is a larger disparity across genders in the group of OIC countries compared to other country groups. On average, out of 100 women, only 64.2 can read and write while 79.3 of male population are literate, indicating almost 15% discrepancy. While the average adult literacy rate among males in OIC countries is comparably better, it is still below the average of other developing countries, 87.8%, and the world, 85.9%. The discrepancy in literacy rates of female population between the OIC and the world averages exceeds 10 percentage points. These comparisons indicate the low levels of investments made in education in fostering economic and social development in the OIC member countries.

With respect to the best performing countries in adult literacy rates, central Asian countries occupy the top five positions. According to the latest data available, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan,

Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan achieved adult literacy rate over 99%. On the other end, Niger (15%), Mali (20%), Burkina Faso (22%), Chad (24%) and Guinea (30%) were the OIC member countries with lowest rates of adult literacy (Figure 5).

**Figure 5: Adult Literacy Rates in OIC Countries: Lowest and Highest Rates**



### Youth Literacy Rate

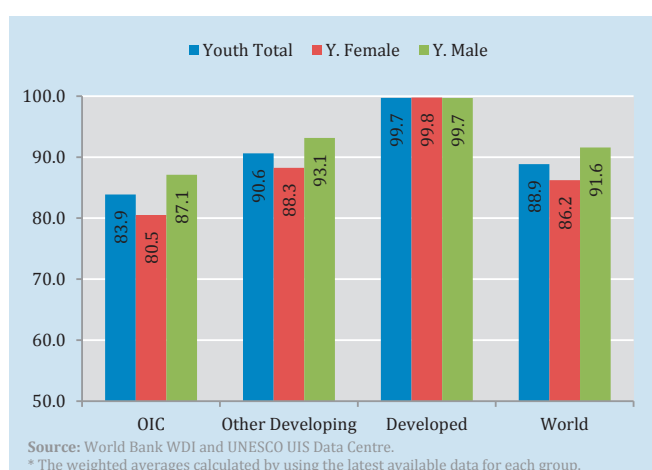
Despite being an important strength of the OIC countries, young population faces considerable challenges in the social and economic life in a significant number of member countries. Inadequate education and lack of required skills make it especially difficult for youth in finding jobs in the labour market. In addition to its impact on economic development and productive capacity, long-term unemployment among the young people may trigger some major social problems within the affected communities.

According to the latest data available, literacy rates among youth are comparably better than adult literacy rates in OIC countries (Figure 6). On average, 83.9% of youth are literate, which is, however, once again below the world average (88.9%) and average of other developing countries (90.6%). The discrepancy between male (87.1%) and female literacy rates (80.5%) among young population narrows down to

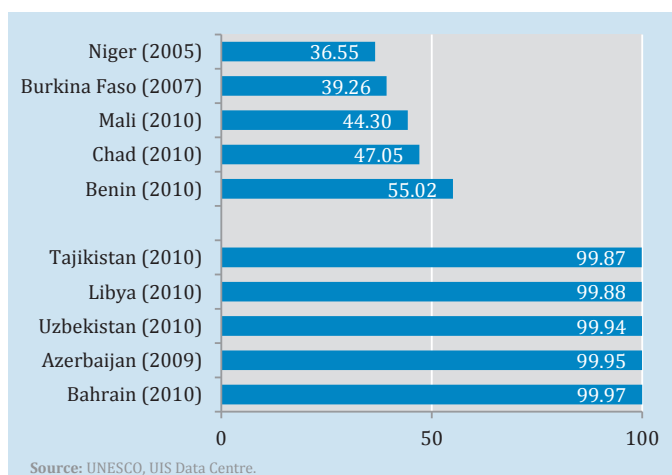
6.6%, compared to 15.1% difference in adult population.

The distribution of OIC countries with respect to their rates of literacy is more favourable for youth as compared to that of adult population in the member countries. In majority of the member countries, youth literacy rates are above 90%. On the other hand, only four member countries have youth literacy rates that are lower than 50%. Out of 53 OIC countries for which the data are available, 27 countries achieved youth literacy rates of 95% or above. Bahrain, with youth literacy rate of 99.97%, is the best performing OIC member country (Figure 7), followed by Azerbaijan (99.95%), Uzbekistan (99.94%), Libya (99.88%) and Tajikistan

**Figure 6: Youth Literacy Rates in Comparison\***



**Figure 7: Youth Literacy Rates in OIC Countries: Lowest and Highest Rates**



(99.87%). Niger, with a rate of 36.6%, is the country with lowest youth literacy within the OIC community. It is followed by Burkina Faso (39.3%), Mali (44.3%), Chad (47.1%) and Benin (55%).

## 2 Participation in Education

This section profiles the trends in enrolment at all levels of education, including technical and vocational programmes, as a key indicator of the scope of and access to educational services. As the size of the population and rates of enrolment in a population group change, so does enrolment. These changes in enrolment have implications for the demand for educational resources such as qualified teachers, physical facilities, and funding levels required to provide a high-quality education for the nation's students. Poverty also poses a serious challenge to children's access to high-quality learning opportunities and their potential to succeed in school. All in all, the differences in enrolment among OIC countries, as well as geographical and income clusters within the OIC group, can provide insight into the potential for intra-OIC cooperation in eliminating discrepancies in access and participation in education, issues that are of central concern.

This section identifies the current trends in participation in education, with particular emphasis on the relative performance of the OIC member countries in comparison to other developing as well as developed countries.

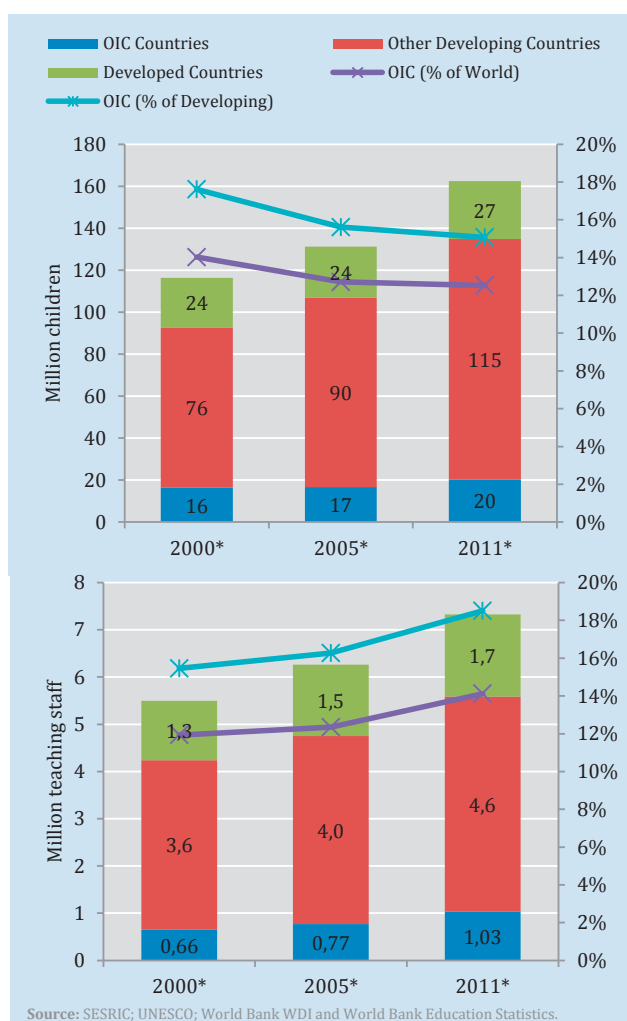
### Pre-primary Schools

Participation in pre-primary education programs can not only improve the subsequent primary school performance of children, but also serve as child care for working parents. Between 2000 and 2011, the number of children who attend pre-primary schools all over the world has risen from 116 million to 162 million



(Figure 8, top).<sup>1</sup> For OIC countries, the pace of growth in pre-primary school attendance has been relatively slower than the growth in the world. Though the number of pre-primary education enrolments has increased from 16 million to 20 million, the share of OIC countries in the world decreased from 14% to 12.5% over the same period. In other developing countries, the number of pre-primary school attendants has increased from 76 million in 2000 to 115 million in 2011 – which corresponded to a surge by half. Again, the relatively faster increase in the

**Figure 8: Total Enrolment and Teaching Staff in Pre-primary Schools**



<sup>1</sup> The analysis spans the time period 2000-2011 where the selected years for analysis reflect the situation in that specific year or the most recent year in the past 5-year history for which the data is available.

participants of pre-primary schools in other developing countries has, in turn, brought about a decrease in the share of OIC countries in developing countries from 17.6% to 15.1% over the period under study.

As far as the volume of teaching staff at pre-primary schools is considered, it is apparent from Figure 8 (bottom) that the OIC countries have experienced a more rapid expansion in the volume of their pre-primary school teaching staff – as compared to other developing countries and the world. The number of teaching staff at the pre-primary schools of OIC countries has increased from 0.7 million to 1 million between 2000 and 2011. This relatively better performance has helped the member countries increase their share in both developing countries and world as a whole.

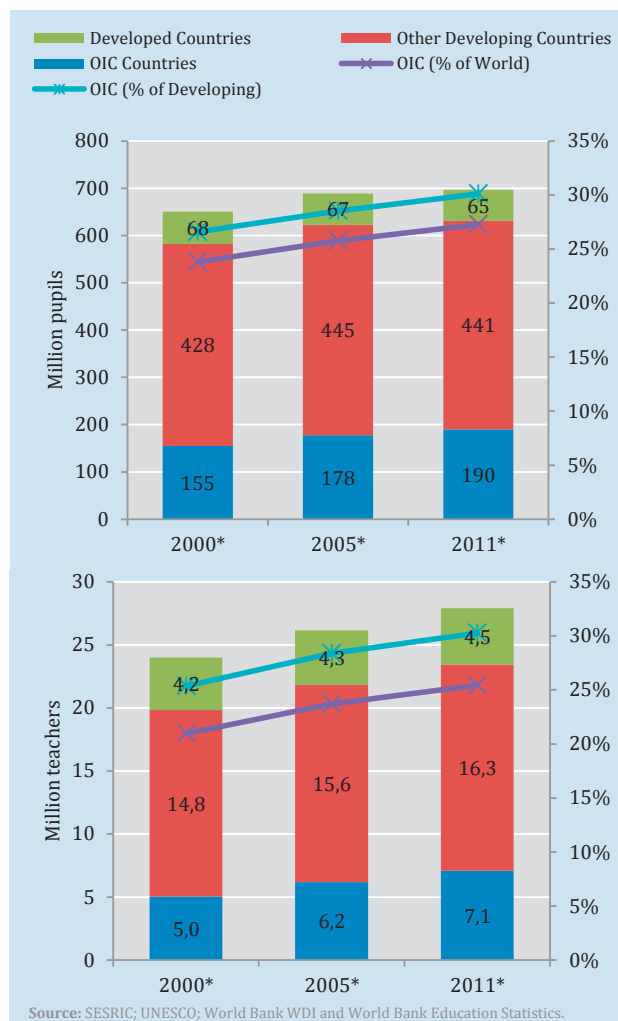
### Primary Schools

Primary or elementary education involves programmes normally designed on a unit or project basis to give pupils a sound basic education in reading, writing and mathematics along with an elementary understanding of other subjects such as history, geography, natural science, social science, art and music. In this connection, Figure 9 reflects the trends in primary school participation and volume of primary school teaching staff in OIC member countries as compared to other country groups as well as the world.

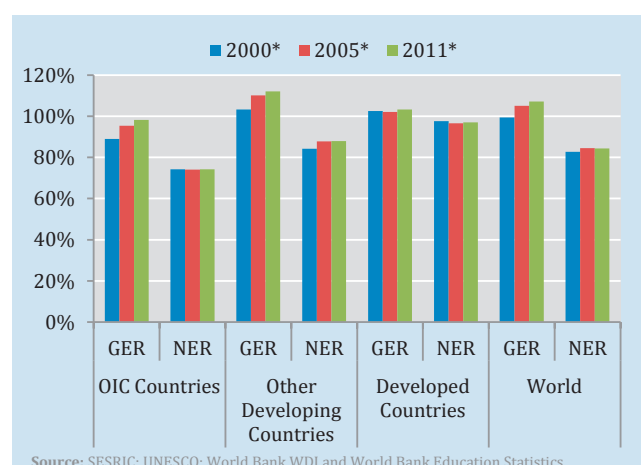
As apparent from the figure, the shares of the OIC countries as a group in the total numbers of both primary school enrolments and teaching staff have been on the rise. As of 2011, the volume of primary school pupils in OIC member countries reached 190 million, representing shares of 27% and 30% in total world and developing country primary school enrolments, respectively. In year 2000, these two shares were at the levels of 24% and 27%. On the other hand, the shares of OIC countries in total primary school teachers in the world and

developing countries have also increased over the period under study and, with 7.1 million primary school teachers in 2011, OIC countries

**Figure 9: Total Enrolment and Teachers in Primary Schools**



**Figure 10: Primary School Enrolment Rates**



accounted for 25% and 30% of the total primary school teachers in the world and developing countries, respectively.

At the individual country level, in 2011, Indonesia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Egypt collectively accounted for almost half of the total volume of primary school students in the OIC countries, with total number of students of 30.3, 20.7, 18.8, 17.0 and 10.0 million, respectively. As for primary school teachers, Indonesia alone constituted 27% of the total OIC primary school teacher population by employing 1.9 million teachers as of 2011. Indonesia was followed by Nigeria, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Egypt with individual shares of 8.1%, 6.5%, 5.6% and 5.4%, respectively.

Average gross rates for primary school enrolment (GERs), as depicted in Figure 10, have increased all over the world, except for the developed countries, during the period 2000-2011.<sup>2</sup> This upward trend was particularly strong for the OIC countries as the average GER in the member countries has improved from 89% in 2000 to as high as 98% in 2011. The average GER in other developing countries, on the other hand, have crossed above the 100% mark and reached 112% in the same year.

Notwithstanding the positive developments in GERs, NERs have displayed a rather stable trend all over the world during the period under consideration. The average NER in the world has increased slightly by 1% since 2000 to reach 84% in 2011. The average NER in OIC countries, on the other hand, has been flat around 74% during this period. This indicates that almost one-fourth of the children in OIC countries who are at their primary school age have not registered in primary schools – as compared to only 2-3% in developed countries. Other developing countries have seen relatively

<sup>2</sup> The average figures in the remainder of this section are calculated by weighting the GERs (or NERs) for a specific level of education by the size of population falling into the official age interval recognized for that education level.

more significant improvements in their NERs as the average NER in these countries has increased from 84% to 88% over the same period.

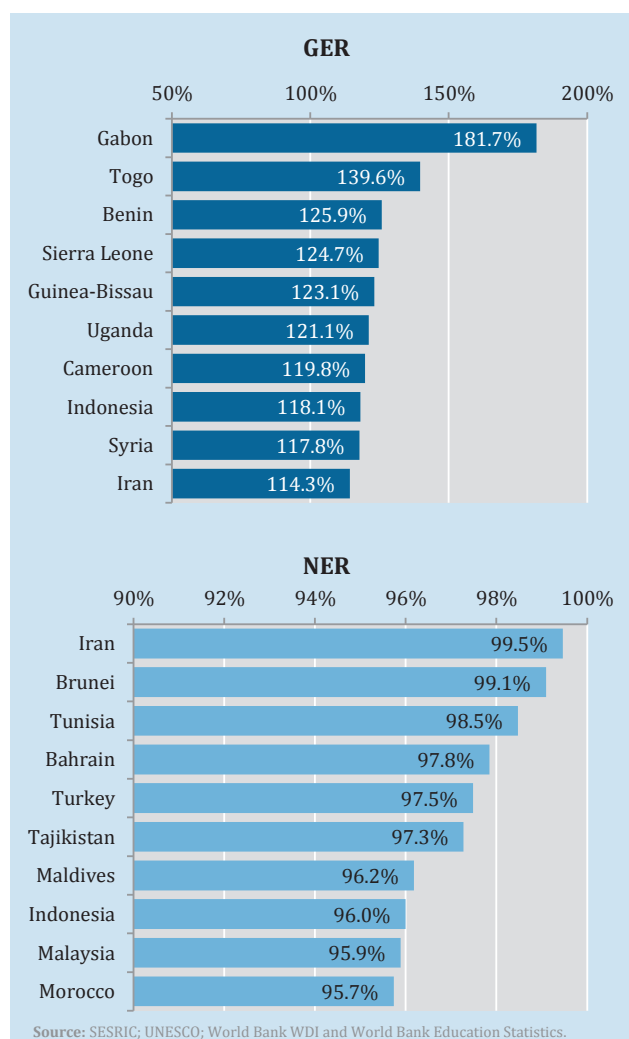
In terms of the difference between primary school GER and NER, the developed countries have apparently had the narrowest gap, around 5-6%, indicating a low incidence of under- or over-aged enrolments as well as grade repetitions. On the other hand, this gap, and therefore the number of incidences of such enrolments, is largest in developing countries, with OIC member countries being no exception. Calculations on the most recent data show that, in OIC as well as other developing countries, the number of children who are associated with under- or over-aged enrolments as well as grade repetitions amounts to around 24% of the children of primary school age.

At the individual country level, in 2011, OIC member countries such as Gabon, Togo, Benin, Sierra Leone, Guinea-Bissau and Uganda have registered the highest primary school GERs (Figure 11, top). Notably, in Gabon, the number of pupils enrolled in primary schools corresponds to 182% of the children who are at their primary school age.<sup>3</sup> As far as the NER is considered, Iran, Brunei, Tunisia, Bahrain, Turkey and Tajikistan are among the highest scorers and their primary school NERs are even above the average level of developed countries in 2011, which is 97% (Figure 11, bottom). At the other extreme, in OIC member countries such as Nigeria, Djibouti, Sudan and Afghanistan, more than 40% of the primary school age children are not enrolled in the primary schools.

### Secondary Schools

Formally, secondary education refers to the programmes at International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) Levels 2 and 3. Lower secondary education (ISCED Level 2)

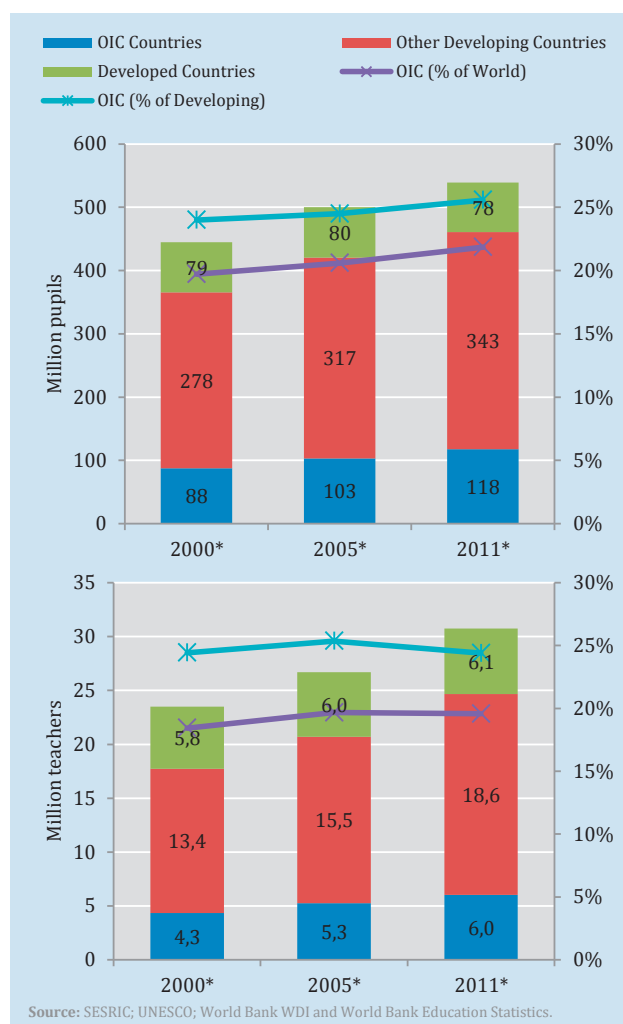
**Figure 11:** Top 10 OIC Countries in terms of Primary School Enrolment Rate (2011 or latest year)



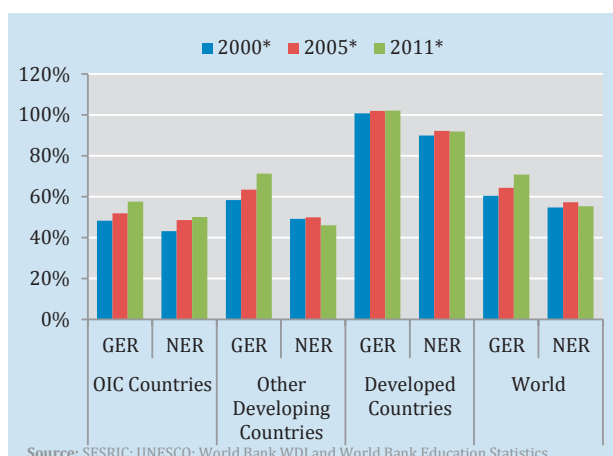
is generally designed to continue the basic programmes of the primary level but the teaching is typically more subject-centric – which, in turn, requires more specialized teachers for each subject area. The end of this level often coincides with the end of compulsory education. In upper secondary education (ISCED Level 3), the final stage of secondary education in most countries, courses are often classified into various subject areas and offered by typically more qualified teachers – as compared to ISCED Level 2 – in terms of their level of subject specification.

<sup>3</sup> The NER in Gabon was recorded at 92% in 1997 – which reflects the latest available figure.



**Figure 12: Total Enrolment and Teachers in Secondary Schools**

According to Figure 12, the total number of students enrolled in the secondary schools in OIC countries has increased from 88 million to 118 million between 2000 and 2011. The total number of teachers qualified for secondary schools (bottom) has also followed a similar trend and increased from 4.3 million to 6.0 million over the same period. The figure also reveals that the total number of secondary school pupils in OIC countries has increased at a relatively faster pace when compared to other developing countries and world as a whole. As of year 2011, the OIC member countries accounted for 22% and 26% of the total secondary school students in the world and developing countries, respectively. As far as the

**Figure 13: Secondary School Enrolment Rates**

total number of secondary school teachers is considered, particularly between 2005 and 2011, the OIC member countries have kept a relatively slower pace, and, though slightly, their shares in both developing countries and world have declined.

Like GERs for primary schools, GERs for secondary schools have also exhibited an upward trend all over the world – again excluding developed countries where the average secondary school GER has relatively been stable (Figure 13). In OIC countries, the average secondary school GER has increased from 48% in 2000 to 58% in 2011. In other group of countries, however, this improvement was relatively more significant. In 2011, other developing countries recorded an average secondary school GER of 71%, as compared to 58% in 2000. Parallel to the developments in developing countries, which now account for almost 85% of the world population,<sup>4</sup> the average secondary school GER in the world has followed a similar trajectory and reached 71% in 2011.

Despite having a lower average secondary school GER as compared to other developing countries, OIC countries have recently overtaken the latter in their average secondary school NER, which

<sup>4</sup> This figure is based on World Bank data.

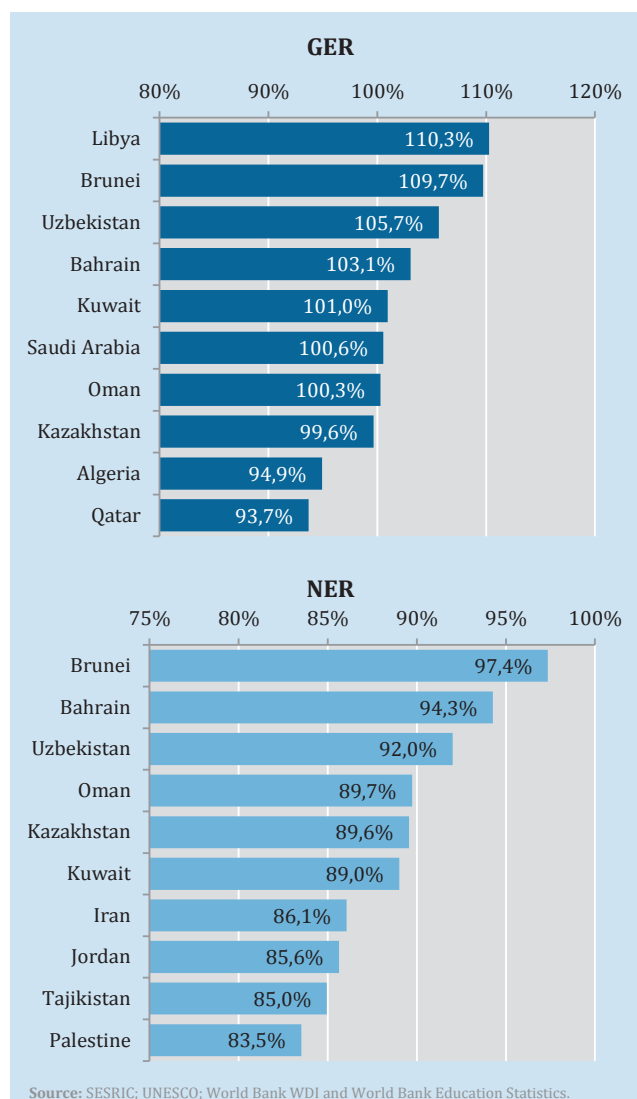
has increased from 43% to 50% between 2000 and 2011. Yet, considerable effort is still to be exerted by the member countries to reach a level at which the secondary education system can be considered as fairly inclusive. The developed countries, in that sense, present a good example, where 92% of the secondary school age population was registered with secondary schools in 2011. Finally, the differential between secondary school GER and NER were again highest in developing countries, including the OIC member countries, bringing to the forefront the problems with the outreach and quality of the secondary school education which manifest themselves through over-aged enrolments and high repetition rates.

At the individual country level, in 2011, OIC member countries such as Libya, Brunei, Uzbekistan, Bahrain and Kuwait recorded some of the highest secondary school GERs; whereas member countries such as Brunei, Bahrain, Uzbekistan, Oman and Kazakhstan were among the highest scorers of secondary school NER (Figure 14). In Brunei, Bahrain and Uzbekistan, for instance, over 90% of the secondary school age children are registered within the secondary education pool and the NERs of these countries are even higher than the average of developed countries. On the flip side, however, there are member countries such as Burkina Faso, Mozambique, Mauritania and Niger where more than 80% of the target age group are away from the secondary schools.

### Tertiary Schools

Tertiary or post-secondary education includes programmes with an educational content which is more advanced than those offered at ISCED Levels 3 and 4. The first stage of the tertiary education, ISCED Level 5, covers Sub-levels 5A and 5B. The former is comprised of theoretical programmes that are intended to provide

**Figure 14:** Top 10 OIC Countries in terms of Secondary School Enrolment Rate (2011 or latest year)

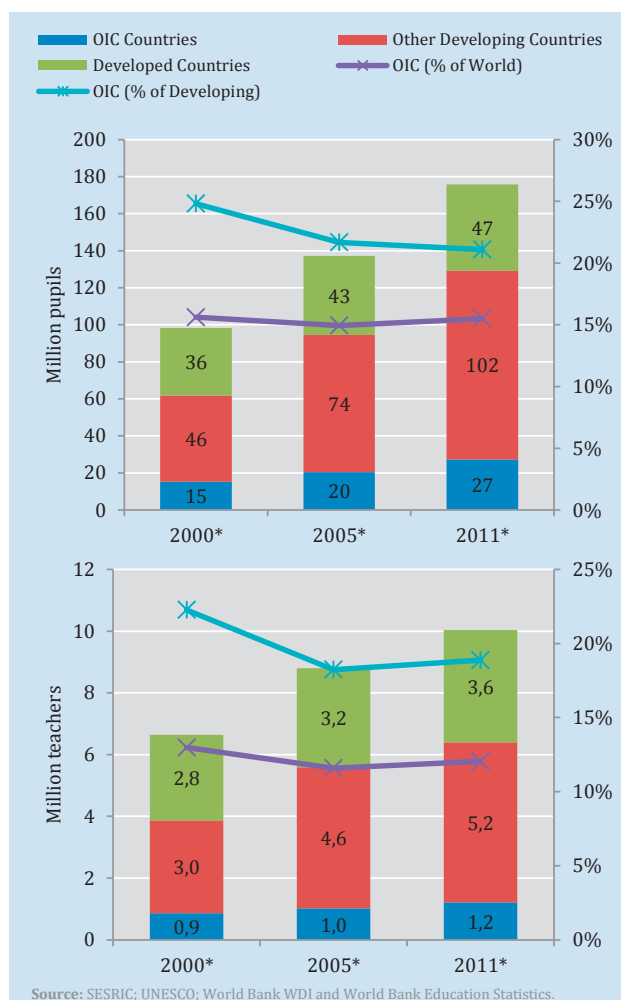


sufficient qualifications for entering more advanced research programmes and professions with higher skill requirements. In the latter, offered programmes are generally more practical, technical and, sometimes, more occupation-centric. The second stage of the tertiary education, ISCED Level 6, comprises programmes that are geared towards obtaining advanced research qualifications.

Figure 15 shows the total numbers of enrollees and teaching staff in tertiary schools. The total number of tertiary school students in the OIC countries has increased almost two-fold, from 15 million to 27 million, between 2000 and 2011.

As more tertiary school graduates means more qualified, highly skilled workforce, this is a particularly promising development for the OIC

**Figure 15: Total Enrolment and Teaching Staff in Tertiary Schools**

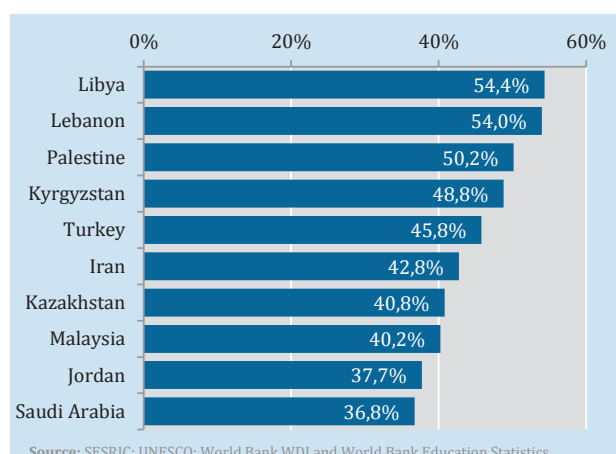


**Figure 16: Tertiary School Enrolment Rates (GER only)**



community. As far as the number of teaching staff employed in tertiary schools of OIC countries is considered, similarly, the number has increased steadily over the past decade – reaching from 0.9 million in 2000 to 1.2 million in 2011. However, when this performance benchmarked against other developing countries and world as a whole, the situation is apparently not so optimistic: the shares of OIC member countries in both total students and teaching staff of tertiary schools in developing countries have generally been in decline. The tertiary school students in the member countries represented 21% of those in developing countries in 2011, whereas this share was 25% in 2000. Similarly, the share of the member countries in total tertiary school teaching staff in developing countries also declined from 22% to 19% over the same period. Their shares in total students and teaching staff of tertiary schools in the world, on the other hand, remained relatively stagnant and exhibited almost no change for tertiary school students – remaining at 16% – and a slight decline from 13% to 12% for teaching staff. So, although the total numbers of students and teaching staff within the tertiary education system have increased, overall, OIC member countries could not catch up with the growth rates of both developing countries and the world over the period 2000-2011.

**Figure 17: Top 10 OIC Countries in terms of Tertiary School Enrolment Rate (GER only, 2011 or latest year)**





For tertiary education, NER is not pertinent because of the difficulties in determining an appropriate age group due to the wide variations in the duration of programmes at this level of education (UNESCO, 2009). In terms of tertiary school GER, OIC countries, with an average enrolment rate of 19% as of 2011, lagged behind other developing countries by 6% and at levels corresponding to almost one-fourth of the developed countries average of 75% (Figure 16). In the same year, the world average GER was 29%.

According to the most recently available data as of 2011, 13 OIC member countries scored tertiary school GER levels that are higher than the world average, the first 10 of which are shown in Figure 17. Just to name some of them, Libya, Lebanon, Palestine, Kyrgyzstan and Turkey all recorded GERs above 45%. Yet, in some member countries, namely, Djibouti, Mauritania, Uganda, Gambia, Burkina Faso, Afghanistan, Guinea-Bissau, Chad and Niger, the tertiary school GERs are even lower than 5%.

### 3 Progression and Completion in Education

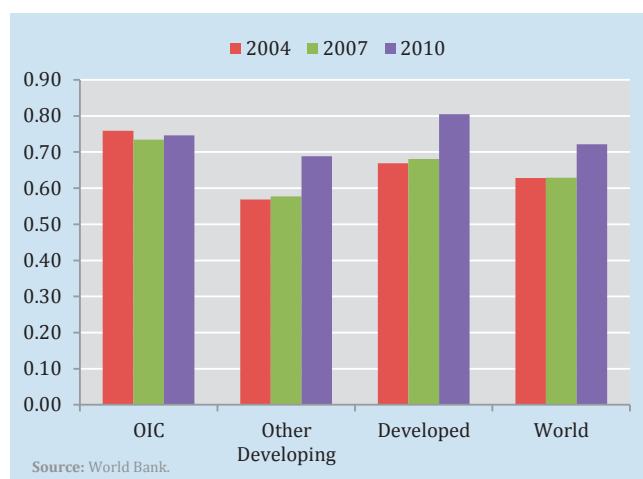
#### Completion Ratios

Completion rate indicates the total number of students completing (or graduating from) the final year of primary or secondary education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the population of the official graduation age.

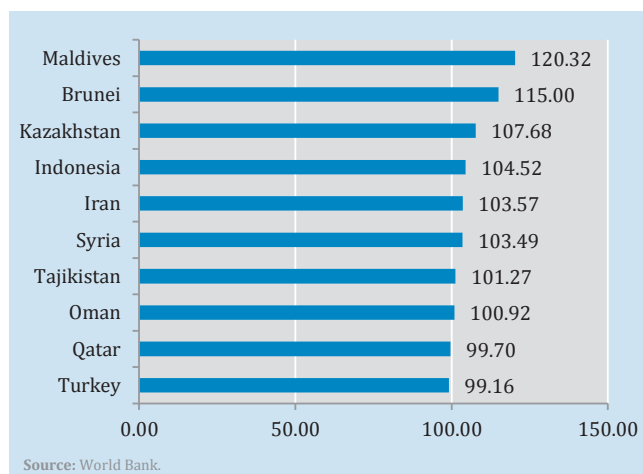
Figure 18 displays the completion rates for different country groups from 2004 to 2010.<sup>5</sup> Global completion rates went up significantly during the period under consideration. Innovative technology, no doubt, played an important role which not only led to higher graduation rates but also resulted in a decrease in retention. Consequently, global completion rate

<sup>5</sup> Throughout this section and also in subsection 4.1, the data for time period  $t$  represents the average of  $t-1$ ,  $t$ , and  $t+1$ .

**Figure 18: Completion Ratios in Primary School**



**Figure 19: Top 10 OIC Member Countries in terms of Completion Rates, 2010**



increased to 72% in 2010 from 63% in 2004. The progression of other developing countries and developed countries were similar. On average, during the period under consideration, other developing countries and developed countries witnessed an increase of 12 and 14 percentage points, respectively. Notably, both of the country groups remained above the world average of 9 percentage points increase during the same period. The OIC countries, however, could not keep equal pace with that upward trend, and the completion rate slightly decelerated to 75% in 2010 down from 76% in 2004.

The completion rate is also known as gross intake rate to the last grade of primary. The

ratio can exceed 100% due to over-aged and under-aged children who enter primary school late/early and/or repeat grades. In 2010, only 20 OIC countries, among those for which the data are available, achieved higher completion rate than the world average of 72%. At the individual country level, Maldives took the lead with a completion rate of 120.32% in 2010, followed by Brunei (115%), Kazakhstan (107.68%), Indonesia (104.52%) and Iran (103.57%) (Figure 19).

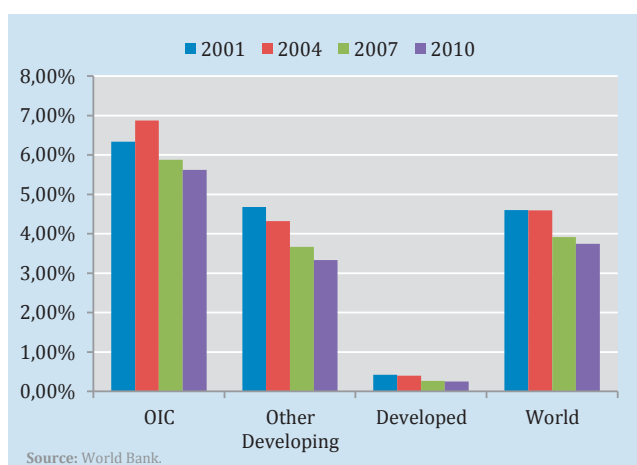
### Repetition Rates

Repetition rate is the proportion of students from a cohort enrolled in a given grade at a given school-year who studies in the same grade in the following school-year. It simply measures

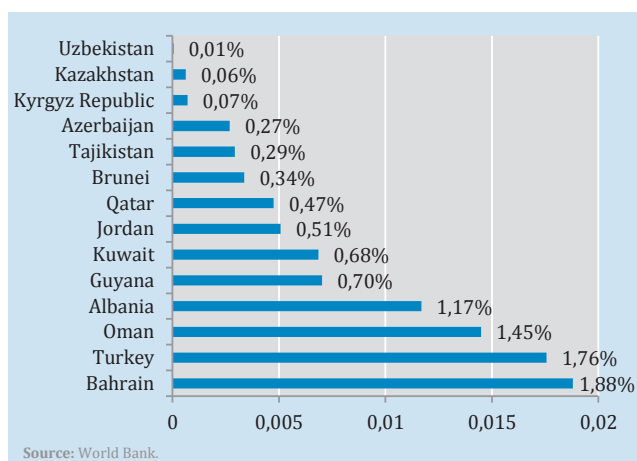
the phenomenon of students repeating a grade, and its effect on the internal efficiency of educational systems. In addition, it is one of the key indicators for analyzing and projecting student flows from one grade to a higher grade within an educational cycle.

Figure 20 shows the repetition rates in primary school for different country groups between 2001 and 2010. The global repetition rate in primary school decelerated to 3.75% in 2010 down from 4.60% in 2001. Other developing countries and developed countries provided a common picture as well. The primary school repetition rate decreased from 4.68% in 2001 to 3.33% in 2010 for other developing countries. Similarly, the repetition rate of developed

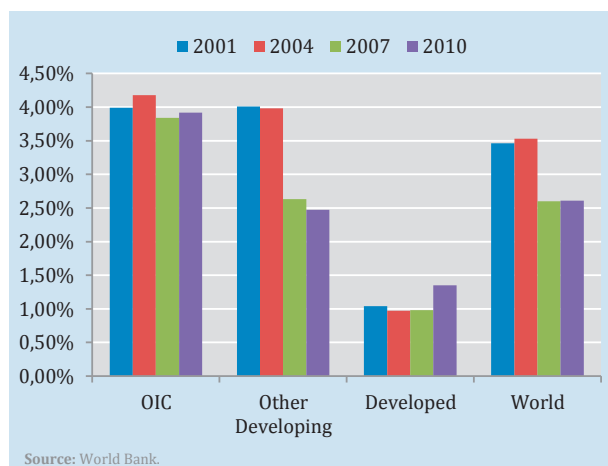
**Figure 20: Repetition Rates in Primary School**



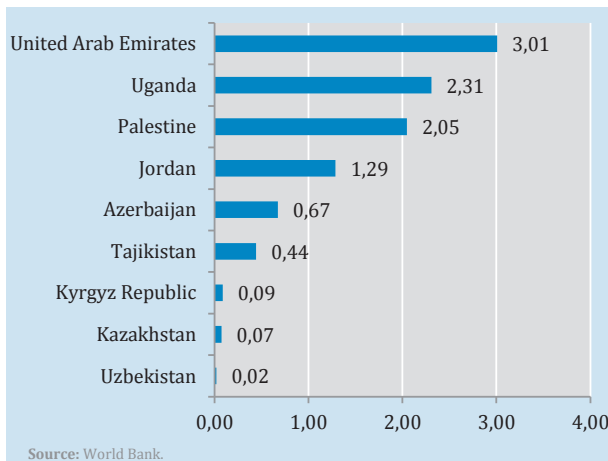
**Figure 21: Top OIC Countries with the Lowest Repetition Rates in Primary School**



**Figure 22: Repetition Rates in Secondary School**



**Figure 23: Top OIC Countries with the Lowest Repetition Rates in Secondary School**



countries decelerated to 0.25% in 2010 down from 0.43% in 2001. This decreasing trend throughout the last decade is simply because of the improving education system as a result of higher quality of teaching staff and increasing number of distance learning alternatives. After a peak in 2004, the primary school repetition rate in OIC countries exhibited also a downward trend, decreasing from 6.87% in 2004 to 5.62% in 2010, even though it was still far above the world average and the averages of both other developing and developed countries during the period under consideration.

At the individual country level, 21 OIC member countries achieved lower repetition rates in primary schools than the world average of 3.75% in 2010. Among them Uzbekistan stood first by possessing 0.01% repetition rate in primary schools, followed by Kazakhstan (0.6%), Kyrgyz Republic (0.07%), Azerbaijan (0.27%), Tajikistan (0.29%), Brunei (0.34%), Qatar (0.47%), Jordan (0.51%), Kuwait (0.68%) and Guyana (0.7%) (Figure 21). Figure 22 displays the repetition rates in secondary school for different country groups between 2001 and 2010. Overall, the global repetition rate in secondary school decelerated to 2.61 per cent in 2010 down from 3.46 per cent in 2001. The other developing countries provided a common picture as well where the secondary school repetition rate decreased from 4.01 per cent in 2001 to 2.47 per cent in 2010. Despite an upward trend in 2004, the repetition rate for OIC countries exhibited a slightly decreasing trend during the period under consideration. It was 3.92 per cent in 2010 compared to 3.99 per cent in 2001. The only exception to this trend was developed countries where the repetition rate increased to 1.35 per cent in 2010 from 1.04 per cent in 2001 despite a downward spike in 2004.

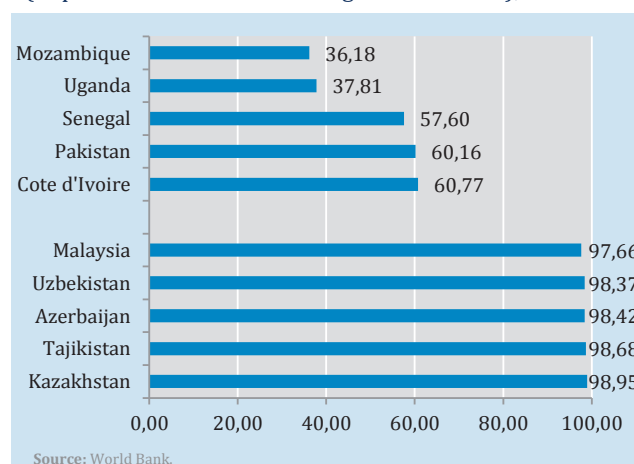
At the individual country level, 6 OIC member countries achieved lower repetition rates in primary schools than the world average of 1.57% and the developed countries' average of 1.35% in

2010 (Figure 23). In this context, Uzbekistan stood first by possessing 0.02% repetition rate in secondary schools, followed by Kazakhstan (0.07%), Kyrgyz Republic (0.09%), Tajikistan (0.44%), Azerbaijan (0.67%), Jordan (1.29%), Palestine (2.05%), Uganda (2.31%), and United Arab Emirates (3.01%).

### Survival Rate

Survival rate is an indicator which shows the share of children enrolled in the first grade of primary school who eventually reach the last grade of primary. Since the availability of the

**Figure 24:** Survival Rate to Last Grade of Primary School (Top 5 and Worst 5 Performing OIC Countries), 2008



data is limited, the top 5 and worst 5 performing OIC countries in 2008 will be represented in Figure 24.

OIC member countries exhibited large variations over a wide scale. On the one hand, countries like Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan and Malaysia possess survival rates that are greater than 97%. On the other hand, there are countries like Mozambique and Uganda where about only one-third of the students could reach the last grade of the primary school.

### Transition Rate

Transition rate is the number of new entrants to the first grade of secondary education in a given



year, expressed as a percentage of the number of students enrolled in the final grade of primary education in the previous year. As was in the case of survival rate, the top 5 and worst 5 performing OIC countries will be represented due to the limited data availability.

Figure 25 displays the transition rates for the selected OIC countries in 2008. As shown, Kazakhstan recorded the highest transition rate, 99.8% in 2008, followed by Malaysia (99.59%), Kyrgyz Republic (99.56%), Uzbekistan (99.48%) and Kuwait (99.41%). It is clear from the figure that, the OIC member countries exhibited significant variations over a wide scale. As was the case in survival rates, there is a significant difference between the top 5 and the worst 5 performing countries. In this context, the worst performing country is Mauritania with an average transition rate of 34.46% in 2008 followed by Cameroon (43.4%), Guinea (45.76%), Cote d'Ivoire (46.10%) and Suriname (46.95%).

#### 4 Educational Resources and Teaching Conditions

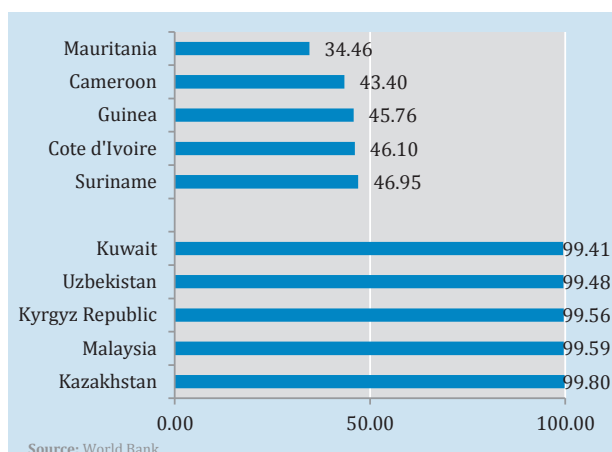
##### Student – Teacher Ratios

Student-teacher ratios give the number of students enrolled in a school per the number of

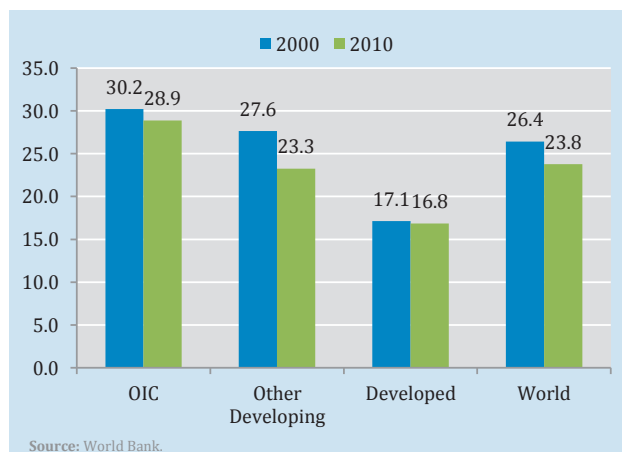
teachers working at that institution. While low student – teacher ratio is indicative of quality education, high student-teacher ratio often gives evidence about proportionately underfunded schools or school systems, or need for legislative change or more funding for education. Additionally, too many students in a class results in a diverse group of students with varying degrees of learning ability and information uptake. Consequently, the class will spend time for less academic students to assimilate the information, when that time could be better spent progressing through the curriculum. It is also argued that the lower student-teacher ratios are better at teaching students complex subjects such as mathematics, chemistry and physics than those with a higher ratio of students to teachers.

Though it is showed that students attending schools with a lower student-teacher ratio and a better educated teaching staff find jobs more easily and earn higher wages after graduation, some governments could claim that high student teacher ration have no significant negative outcomes. On the other hand, there are countries enacting legislations mandating a maximum student-teacher ratio for specific grade levels to improve quality of education.

**Figure 25:** Transition Rate from Primary to Secondary School (Top 5 and Worst 5 Performing OIC Countries), 2008



**Figure 26:** Student – Teacher Ratios at Primary Schools



## Primary Schools

As the population of teachers grew faster than total enrolment (32.4% vs. 26.6%), average student-teacher ratio in OIC countries declined from 30.2 in 2000 to 28.9 students in 2010 (Figure 26). This was nearly twice the average number of students per teacher in developed countries (16.8) and only slightly higher than that of developing countries (23.3) and the world (23.8) in the same year.

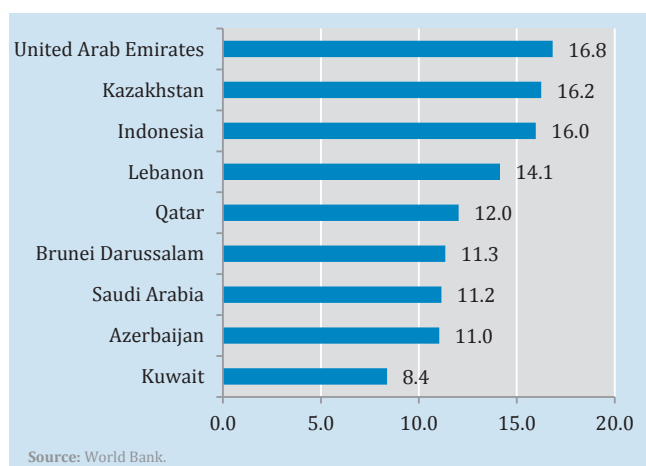
Among the country groups examined, the most significant improvement took place in other developing countries where the average student-teacher ratio recorded at 23.3 students in 2010 compared to 27.6 in 2000. At the other end of the spectrum, the number of students per teacher slightly decelerated to 16.8 in the developed countries in 2010 down from 17.1 in 2000.

At the individual country level, Indonesia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Egypt accounted for 53.1% of the total primary students of OIC in 2010 with 30.3, 20.6, 18.7, 16.9 and 10 million students, respectively. In terms of teachers, Indonesia alone constituted 30% of the OIC total by employing 1.89 million primary school teachers. Indonesia was followed by Nigeria and Pakistan with shares of 9.1% and 7.3%, respectively. In terms of student-teacher ratio, 9 OIC member countries had less than or equal to the average of developed countries, 16.8 students per teacher (Figure 27). Among these OIC countries, Kuwait took the lead with the lowest student teacher ratio of 8.4 in 2010, followed by Azerbaijan (11.0), Saudi Arabia (11.2), Brunei Darussalam (11.3) and Qatar (12.0).

## Secondary Schools

Since the growth in the teacher population was greater than that of students enrolled in secondary schools (23.7% vs. 18.9%), the average number of secondary school students per teacher

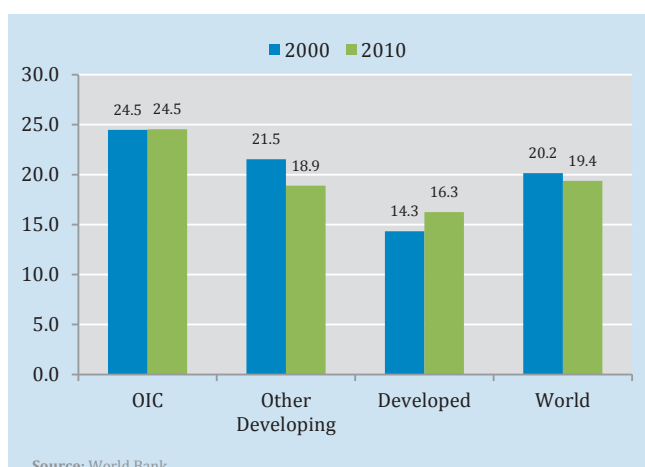
**Figure 27: OIC Member Countries with the Lowest Student – Teacher Ratios in Primary Schools**



in the world decelerated to 19.4 in 2010 down from 20.2 in 2000 (Figure 28). Other developing countries have witnessed the same trend where an average of 18.9 students was taught by a single teacher in 2010 compared to 21.5 students in 2000. The OIC countries remained stagnant. On average, the student teacher ratio was 24.5 during the period under consideration. The group of developed countries was the only exception. A teacher in developed countries had been teaching on average only 16.3 pupils in 2010, whereas it was as low as 14.3 students in 2000.

As shown in Figure 29, 11 OIC member countries had less than 13.5 students per teacher in 2010, the average of developed countries. Among these OIC countries, the ratio was even

**Figure 28: Student – Teacher Ratios at Secondary Schools**



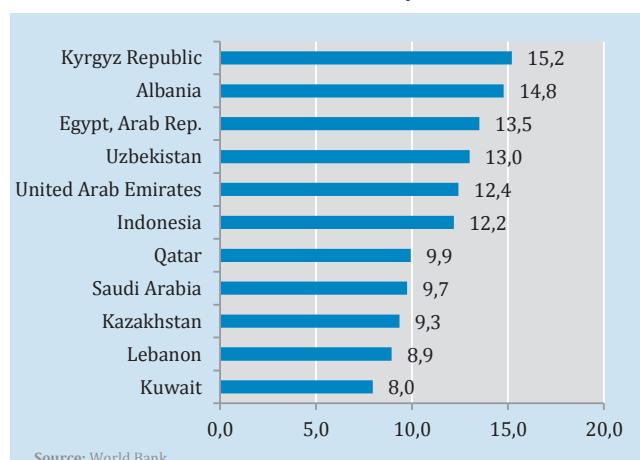
below 10 in Kuwait, Lebanon, Kazakhstan, Saudi Arabia and Qatar. At the other end of the spectrum, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Chad Nigeria and Mozambique were the countries having more than 30 secondary school students in a classroom.

### Tertiary Schools

As lower student-teacher ratios are generally considered to indicate the quality of education system, it is striking to observe an increasing trend for student-instructor ratios at tertiary level schools globally, though the average number of students per teacher had displayed a decreasing trend for primary and secondary schools, as depicted in Figures 26 and 28. The rise in these ratios means that the number of instructors entering the education sector is not sufficient to match the growth rate of tertiary level student number so as to enhance the quality of education by decreasing the average number of students per instructor.

Among the groups, the widest gap between growth rates of students and teachers population (85.4% for students vs. 41.9% for instructors) was recorded in the other developing countries. Consequently, the highest rise in student-instructor ratio was observed for these countries. On average, an instructor began to teach 21.7 students in 2010 while it was 16.6 in 2000, as

**Figure 29:** OIC Member Countries with the Lowest Student – Teacher Ratios in Secondary Schools



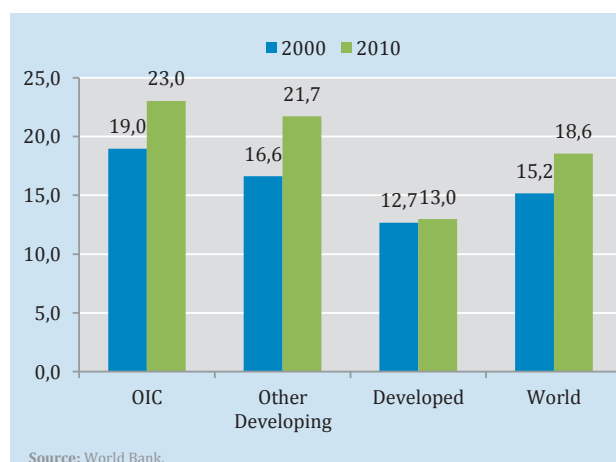
given in Figure 30. Similarly, the performance of the OIC member countries was not satisfactory during the period under consideration. A teacher in the OIC member countries, on average, had been teaching 23 students in 2010, whereas it was as low as 19 in 2000. Correspondingly, in 2010, the average classroom in the world had nearly 3 more students per instructor compared to year 2000.

### Quality of Education

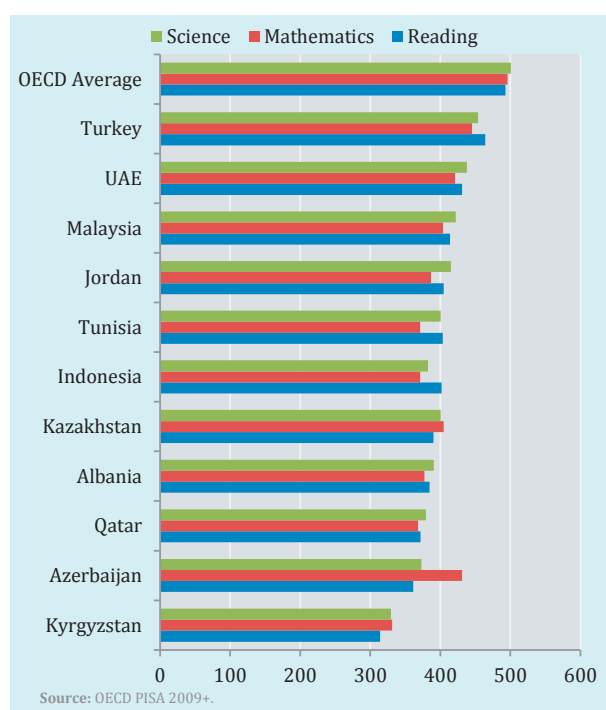
The analyses in the previous sections indicate that although many countries have made impressive progress over the past decades, disparities remain between countries. Nevertheless, the progress made in access to education cannot be sustained without a parallel improvement in the quality of the education.

Measuring and comparing the quality of education across the world is not an easy task. A programme pursued by OECD, known as the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), is one of the major attempts conducted to measure the quality of education. Though the number of OIC countries included in the programme is limited, it provides an opportunity to compare the quality of education in these OIC countries with other developed and developing countries. PISA is an internationally standardised assessment that was jointly

**Figure 30:** Student – Instructor Ratios at Tertiary Schools





**Figure 31: PISA Scores for OIC Countries**

developed by participating economies and administered to 15-year-olds in schools.

Figure 31 shows the mean performance of students on mathematics, reading and science for all 11 OIC countries taking part in the PISA study of OECD. The average score of OECD countries is approximately 500 points and the standard deviation is 100 points. About two-thirds of students across OECD countries score between 400 and 600 points. The OIC member countries, except Turkey and United Arab Emirates (UAE), have average performance hardly exceeding or well below the 400 points. This is true in all three classifications of education. Turkey provides the highest quality education but it is still below the OECD average. Turkey and UAE have better performance compared to major developing countries, including Brazil, Mexico and Thailand (Table 1).

It is, however, worrying that among the 74 countries or economies surveyed in the study, 8 of the 15 worst performers on the overall reading scale are OIC member countries. Turkey

as the best performing OIC member country occupies only 41<sup>st</sup> position. Several studies illustrate the seriousness of the learning challenge. More than 30% of Malian youths aged 15–19 years who completed six years of schooling could not read a simple sentence. In Pakistan, tests of grade 3 children found that only half could answer very basic multiplication questions (World Bank, 2011). According to the Africa Learning Barometer of the Brookings Institute, which is the first region-wide survey of learning and education covering 28 sub-Saharan African countries, 61 million children of primary school age – 1 out of every 2 kids – will reach their adolescent years unable to read, write, or perform basic numeracy tasks.

**Table 1: Comparing countries' and economies' performance in terms of PISA scores**

	Reading	Mathematics	Science
<b>OECD Average</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>496</b>	<b>501</b>
Korea	539	546	538
Singapore	526	562	542
Canada	524	527	529
Japan	520	529	539
Switzerland	501	534	517
United States	500	487	502
Germany	497	513	520
France	496	497	498
United Kingdom	494	492	514
Spain	481	483	488
<b>Turkey</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>454</b>
Russian Federation	459	468	478
<b>UAE</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>438</b>
Mexico	425	419	416
Thailand	421	419	425
<b>Malaysia</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>422</b>
Brazil	412	386	405
<b>Jordan</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>415</b>
<b>Tunisia</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>401</b>
<b>Indonesia</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>383</b>
Argentina	398	388	401
<b>Kazakhstan</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>400</b>
<b>Albania</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>391</b>
<b>Qatar</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>379</b>
Peru	370	365	369
<b>Azerbaijan</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>373</b>
<b>Kyrgyzstan</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>330</b>

Statistically significantly above the OECD average

Not statistically significantly different from the OECD average

Statistically significantly below the OECD average

Source: OECD PISA 2009+ database.

As noted earlier, it is recognized that there is a positive relationship between the quality of education and productivity. It is crucial that for higher productivity and better economic performance, the quality of education must be improved.

According to the available data and information, it is therefore fair to argue that the successful improvements in accession to education in many member countries obviously could not be accompanied with similar improvements in the quality of education, which plays significantly greater role in increasing the absorptive capacity. When measuring the quality of education in terms of its outcomes, the quantity of patent applications may be considered as a proxy for the degree of innovative capability in a country. As a product of research and development activities, patents strengthen the link between education and science and technology.

According to statistics from the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the total number of patent applications around the world in 2010 is estimated to have been 1.98 million, and only about 1.7% of them were filed in OIC member countries –for which data are available. USA, Japan, China, and Republic of Korea accounted for about 73.5% of the total patent applications in the world.

In this perspective, it is evident that investments in human capital are not sufficient to translate the capacities into more innovative structure to generate higher patent applications, casting doubt on the quality of education in OIC countries. Gains in access should turn attentions to the challenge of improving the quality of education and accelerating learning. OIC member countries should focus on improving the infrastructure and thus the potential outcomes related to the provision of education services in order to engender a faster catch-up process.

## 5 Government Expenditures on Education

The outcome of the research placing utmost importance to education for economic growth and equality as well as the need for public intervention in education has implications for not only the provision but also the financing of education by the states. In this respect, this section analyses the levels of government expenditures on education in the group of OIC countries in comparison with their counterparts in other groups in the period 2000-2010.

### Share of Government Expenditures on Education in GDP

One way to analyse the size of public expenditures on education is to compare these expenditures with the gross domestic product (GDP) of an economy, which, in one way, represents the total expenditures in that economy. Thus, it can be calculated how much of the GDP is dedicated to education sector by the government. The measure used to calculate this ratio is “government expenditures on education as percentage of GDP”. This indicator also reflects the importance given by the government to investment in human resources.

As shown in Figure 32, governments around the world spent, on average, 4.6% of GDP on education in 2000 while this figure slightly increased by 0.4 percentage point in a decade to reach 5.0% in 2010. Developed countries had been spending more than developing countries. Public spending on education in developed countries accounted for 4.7% of the GDP in 2000 and this ratio increased further to 5.1% by 2010. However, governments in developing countries could spend only 3.7% of their GDP on the education sector in 2000 and this ratio increased by 0.8 percentage points in a decade to reach 4.5% in 2010.

The situation in OIC countries was not optimistic though government spending on education accounted for 3.8% of their GDP in

2000, which was higher than the average of the developing countries at that time, remained stable at 3.8% in 2010 as well. It is obvious that the public spending on education sector with respect to the size of the economy was, on average, lower in OIC countries than in both developed and developing countries (Figure 32).

At the individual country level, government spending on education accounted for 8.7% of the GDP in Maldives, which was the highest rate among the OIC countries with data available for the latest year between 2008 and 2010. Together with Maldives, Comoros (7.6%), Tunisia (6.3%), Kyrgyzstan (6.2%), Malaysia (5.8%), Senegal (5.6%), Saudi Arabia (5.6%), Morocco (5.4%), Yemen (5.2%) and Gambia (5.0%) comprised the top 10 OIC countries by government expenditures on education as percentage of GDP (Figure 33). It is noteworthy that all these countries except Malaysia and Saudi Arabia are low-income or lower-middle-income countries according to their GNI per capita.

### Share of Government Expenditures on Education in Total Government Expenditures

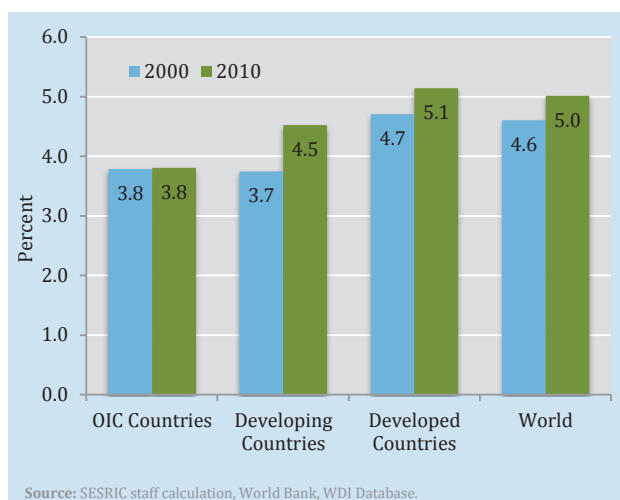
The share of a government's spending on education in its total expenditures is another

major indicator that measures the relative importance of the education sector on part of the government. The higher the share of education expenditures in total government expenditures, the higher is the government's support for the education sector.

The share of government expenditures on education in total government expenditures was higher in OIC member countries than in both developed and developing countries in the period under consideration (Figure 34). This implies that the governments in OIC member countries, on average, have spent on the education sector proportionally more than the governments in both developed and developing countries have done. In OIC member countries, governments' spending on the education sector accounted for 20.1% of their total expenditures in 2000. This ratio was 11.1% in developed countries and 16.1% in developing countries, with the world average being 12.2%. By 2010, the ratio decreased to 17.2% in OIC member countries and 15.6% in developing countries while it increased to 12.1% in developed countries, leading to an increase in the world average to 12.8%

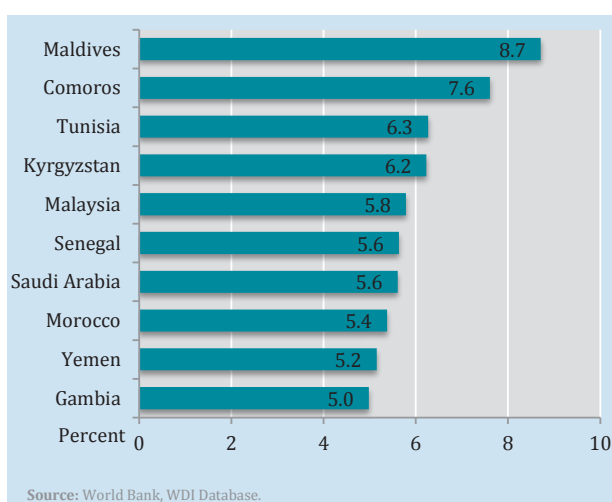
Among the OIC member countries with available data, Morocco has the highest ratio of

**Figure 32:** Government Expenditures on Education as Percentage of GDP\*



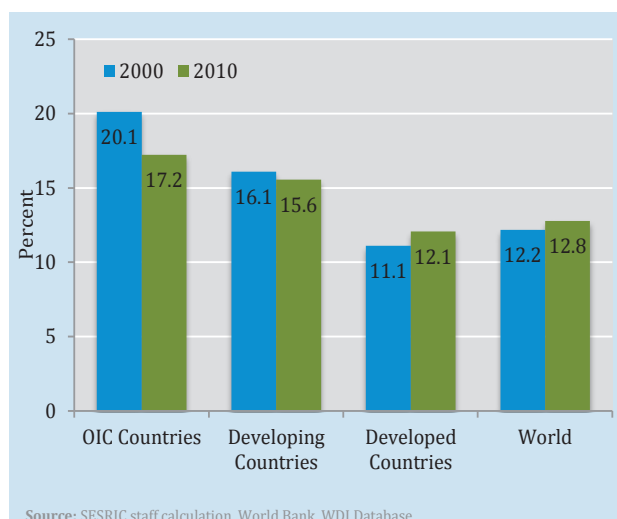
\* Data for 2000 is the latest year available between 1999 and 2000 and data for 2010 is the latest year available between 2008 and 2010.

**Figure 33:** Top 10 OIC Countries by Government Expenditures on Education as Percentage of GDP\*



\* Data for the latest year available between 2008 and 2010.

**Figure 34: Government Expenditures on Education as Percentage of Total Government Expenditures\***



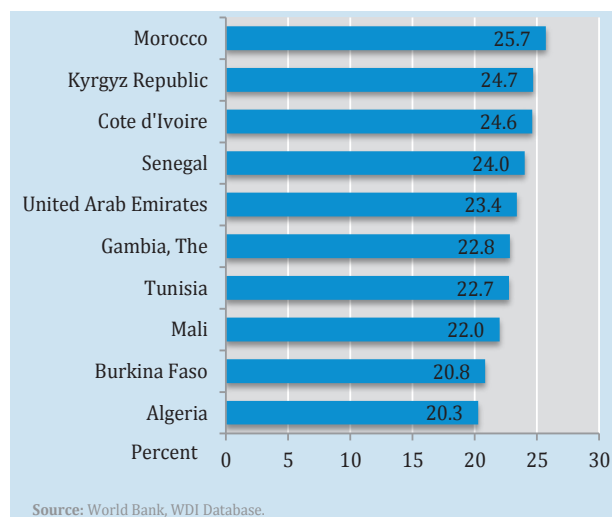
\* Data for 2000 is the latest year available between 1999 and 2000 and data for 2010 is the latest year available between 2008 and 2010.

government expenditures on education as percentage of total government expenditures (25.7%). It was followed by Kyrgyzstan (24.7%) and Cote d'Ivoire (24.6%), all dedicating about one fourth of the total government expenditures to the education sector. Together with these countries, Senegal (24.0%), United Arab Emirates (23.4%), Gambia, The (22.8%), Tunisia (22.7%), Mali (22.0%) and Burkina Faso (20.8%) were also among the top 10 countries (Figure 35).

### Government Expenditures on Education per Pupil

In addition to the abovementioned macro-level indicators that compares government expenditures on education with GDP or total government expenditures, governments' financial contribution to education sector can also be explained at micro-level by measuring how much is spent by the government per student. Unlike the former ones, this approach focuses directly on the level of government spending on education regardless of the size of the economy or the total expenditures of the government.

**Figure 35: Top 10 OIC Countries by Government Expenditures on Education as Percentage of Total Government Expenditures\***



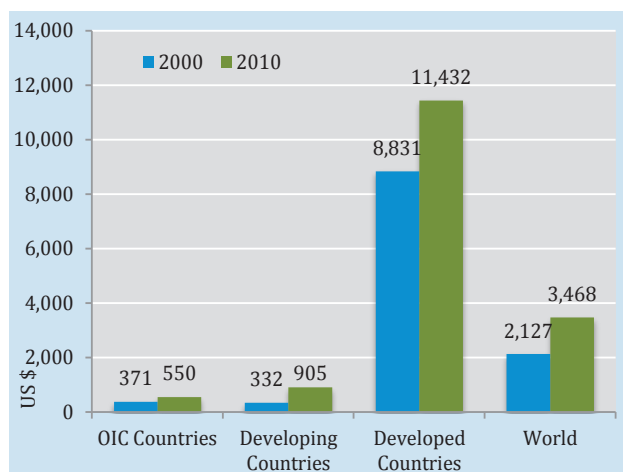
\* Data for the latest year available between 2008 and 2010.

Government expenditures on education per pupil increased all over the world between 2000 and 2010 (Figure 36). In this period, the world average increased from \$2,127 to \$3,468, corresponding to an annual average growth rate of 5.0%. The average for developed countries, with an annual average increase of 2.6%, increased from \$8,831 to \$11,432. The average for developing countries increased from \$332 to \$905, corresponding to an annual average growth rate of 10.6%. Consequently, as of 2010, governments' spending per pupil in developed countries was 12.6 times that in the developing countries. As for OIC countries, the average spending per pupil increased from \$371 to \$550, registering an annual average growth rate of 4.0%.

Among the OIC countries with available data, Qatar has the highest government expenditure on education per pupil (\$16,210), followed by United Arab Emirates (\$4,050), and Saudi Arabia (\$3,678). Together with these countries, Bahrain (\$3,105), Brunei (\$2,565), Malaysia (\$1,706), Algeria (\$1,664), Turkey (1,614), Morocco (\$1,239) and Tunisia (\$1,088) are also among the top 10 countries (Figure 37).



**Figure 36: Government Expenditures on Education per Pupil\***

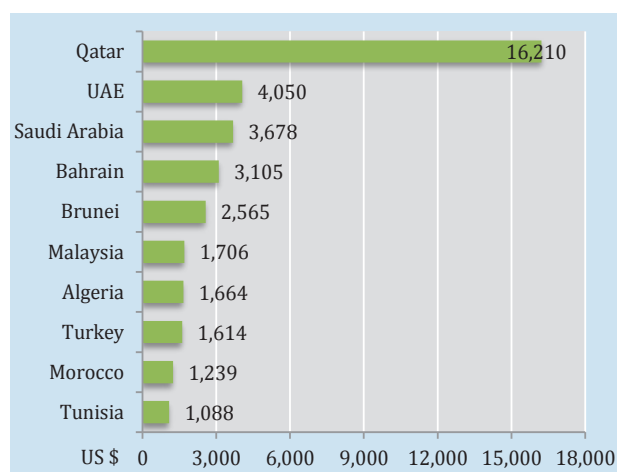


Source: SESRIC staff calculation, World Bank, WDI Database.

\* Data for 2000 is the latest year available between 1999 and 2000 and data for 2010 is the latest year available between 2008 and 2010.

Analysing the government expenditures on education per pupil in nominal terms may be misleading when comparing countries of widely different levels of income. The differences in purchasing power parities among countries are also problematic to such an analysis. To eliminate such problems to some extent and ensure more comparable data among countries,

**Figure 37: Top 10 OIC Countries by Government Expenditures on Education per Pupil (US \$)\***



Source: World Bank, WDI Database and OECD.

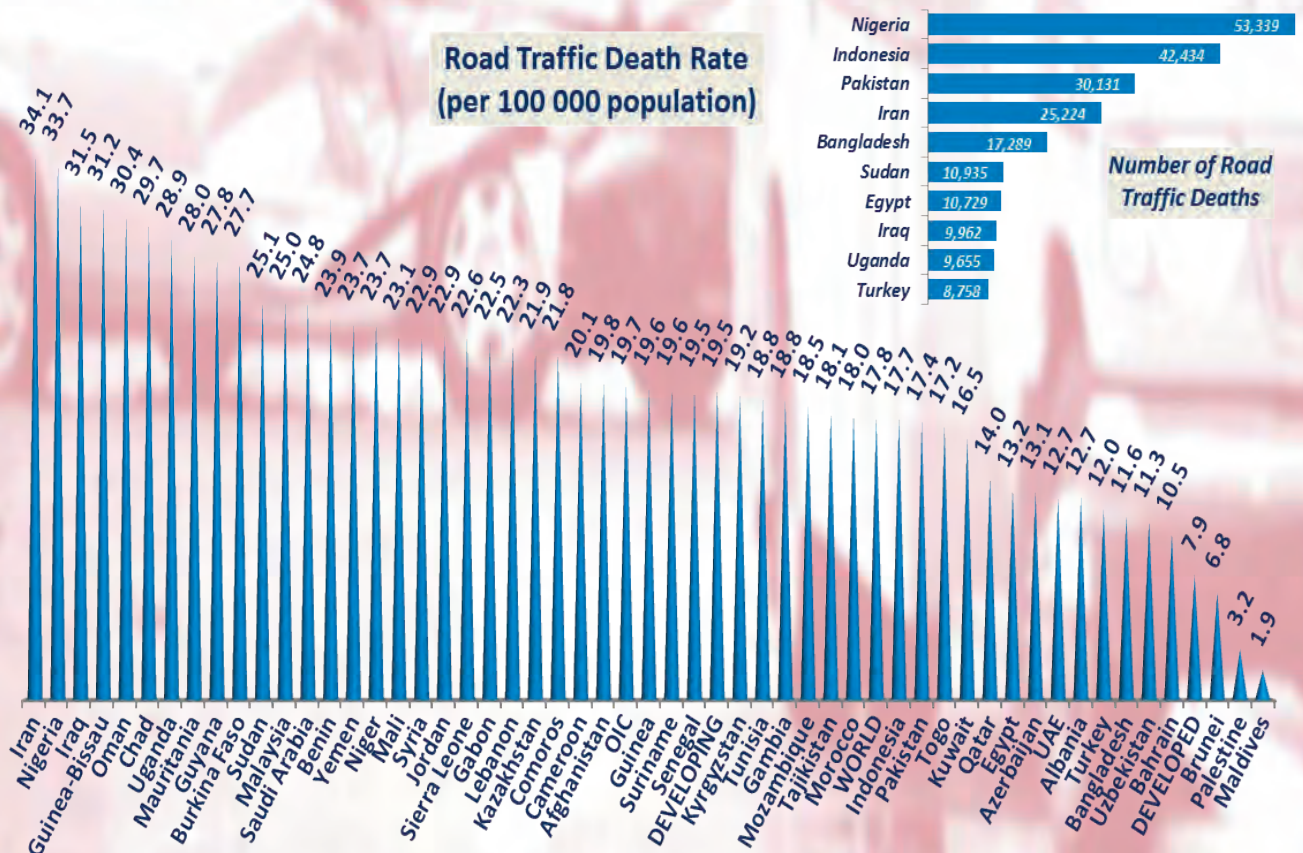
\* Data for the latest year available between 2008 and 2010.

the nominal value of government expenditures on education per pupil is expressed as a percentage of GDP per capita, whereby it becomes more reasonable to make comparison between countries as governments' spending are measured with respect to the income level of countries. □



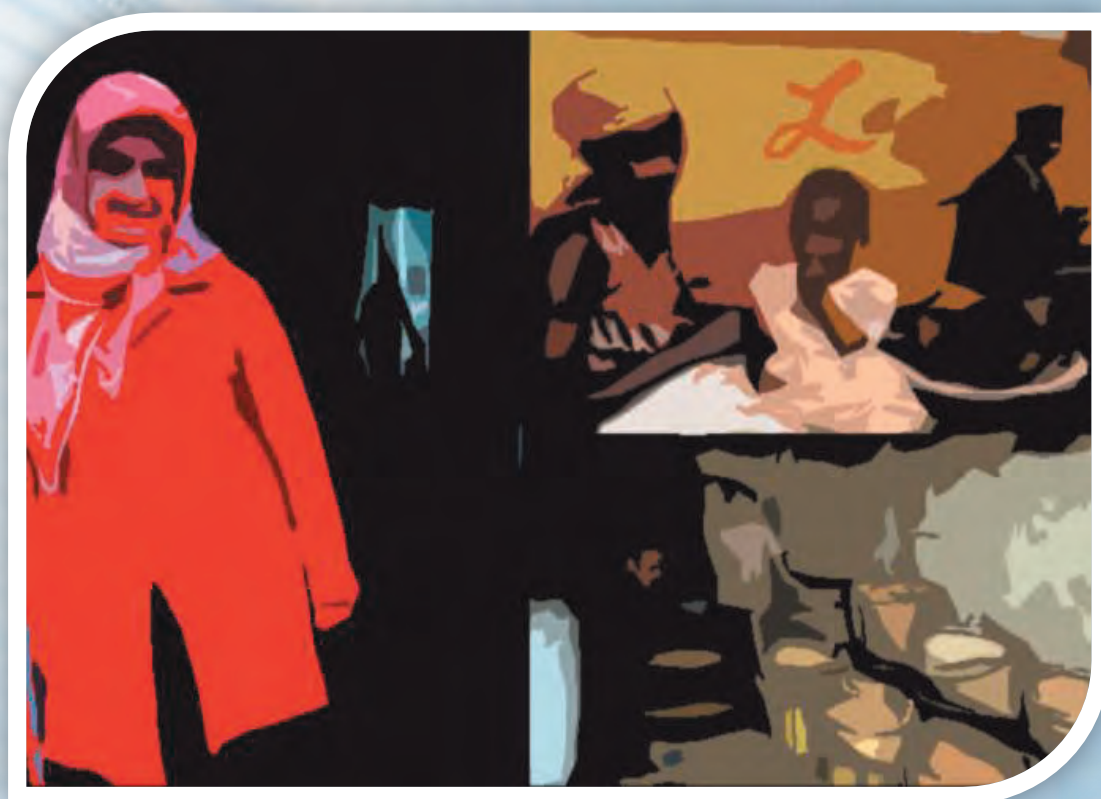
# DID YOU KNOW?

- According to World Health Organization, road traffic collisions caused an estimated 1.23 million deaths worldwide in 2010, which corresponds to a road traffic related fatality rate of 17.8 per 100,000 population in 2010.
- Meanwhile, the average death rate was 19.7 in OIC member countries with 307,103 people passed away as a result of traffic injuries. This means that the road traffic death rate in OIC member countries was nearly 2.5 times of the average of developed countries, 7.9 per 100,000 population.
- In terms of individual member countries, Iran had the highest road traffic fatality rate, 34.1. It was followed by Nigeria, Iraq, Guinea-Bissau and Oman where more than 30 people out of 100,000 lost their lives due to lack of road safety.
- The rates of 16 member countries were below the world average of 17.8. Among them, Maldives (1.9), Palestine (3.2) and Brunei (6.8) recorded lower rates even that of the developed countries' average.
- As seen in the right upper corner figure below, the aggregate number of road traffic deaths in Nigeria (53,339), Indonesia (42,434), Pakistan (30,131) and Iran (25,224) constituted nearly half of the OIC total in 2010.
- Bangladesh, Sudan and Egypt were the other member countries that lost more than ten thousand lives in traffic injuries.





# THE STATE OF GENDER IN OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES



## THE STATE OF GENDER IN OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES

SESRIC\*

### INTRODUCTION

Today gender equality and women's empowerment in all fields of social and economic life is gaining importance from the perspectives of both policy development and human rights. Following international commitments and guidelines most of the development policies have already been based on the principle of incorporating the priorities and needs of both women and men in order to offer equal opportunity for access to all the benefits and services provided to the society. The United Nations Beijing Declaration's 12 Critical Areas of Concern provided an international framework for action on the advancement and empowerment of women; however there are still some problems regarding integration of gender related aspects into all operational levels of policy implementations across the world (UN World Women Report, 2010).

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) *"gender refers to the socially constructed roles, behaviour, activities and attributes that a particular society considers appropriate for men and women"*.

Consequently gender relations are the ways in which a culture or society defines rights, responsibilities, and the identities of men and women in relation to one another. Unfortunately, in this type of the word "gender" is often misunderstood as only referring to women. However, gender issues

encompass the relationships between men and women, their roles, access to and control over resources, the division of labour, etc. Furthermore, gender relations impact on household security, the well-being of the family, fertility planning, production and many other aspects of life (Bravo-Baumann, 2000).

Gender related issues have also been incorporated into the political concerns of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). The OIC Ten-Year Programme of Action draws attention to the enhancement of the involvement of women in economic, cultural, social and political fields of social life and encourages Member States to sign and ratify the international agreements on the rights of child and elimination of all forms of discrimination against women.

Against this background this special report aims to highlight differences between men and women and, give an insight into the current state of OIC member countries as a group at global level, by comparing them with the world and other country groups. Depending on the gender disaggregated data availability, four important aspects of social and economic life including demographic facts, health, education and employment are discussed to understand the current status of men and women across the OIC. Furthermore the data gaps were discussed in order to highlight the priority areas needed to be improved in terms of data availability.

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## DEMOGRAPHIC FACTS

### 1.1. Structure of Population

The structure and changes of a population has a direct effect on the economic and social conditions of a country or region. The major drivers of these structural changes are; population growth, fertility and mortality rate and international migration that have to be carefully investigated. In 2010, the total population of OIC member countries was estimated at approximately 1,563 billion people, corresponding to 22.7% of the total world population. Table 1 presents the structure of population in terms of gender in OIC and non-OIC developing countries as well as in the group of developed

countries and the world as a whole. According to the table since 1950, the population of the world has increased almost three fold whereas the total population of the OIC member countries has seen a fourfold increase. On the other hand, the population of the developed country groups doubled during the same period. Globally, excluding the developed countries, the number of men was somewhat higher than the number of women, but this cannot be valid for all age groups. In OIC countries there were 102 males for every 100 females which is the same ratio as in the total world population. The trend in population growth is very similar for both males and females, with slight favor for men.

**Table 1: Population by sex (Million people)**

						Population increase (Number of times)
	1950 ....	1980	1990	2000	2010	1950 - 2010
<b>OIC</b>	385	811	1 047	1 295	1 563	4,06
<i>Male</i>	195	412	528	653	789	4,05
<i>Female</i>	190	402	518	641	773	4,07
<i>Men per 100 women(1)</i>	103	102	102	102	102	..
<b>Non-OIC Developing</b>	1 541	2 820	3 384	3 895	4 337	2,81
<i>Male</i>	775	1 429	1 717	1 976	2 199	2,84
<i>Female</i>	767	1 391	1 668	1 919	2 139	2,79
<i>Men per 100 women</i>	101	103	103	103	103	..
<b>Developed</b>	606	822	875	933	996	1,64
<i>Male</i>	296	401	428	457	489	1,65
<i>Female</i>	311	421	447	476	506	1,63
<i>Men per 100 women</i>	95	95	96	96	97	..
<b>World</b>	2 532	4 453	5 306	6 123	6 896	2,72
<i>Male</i>	1 265	2 240	2 673	3 087	3 478	2,75
<i>Female</i>	1 267	2 213	2 634	3 036	3 418	2,70
<i>Men per 100 women</i>	100	101	101	102	102	..
<b>OIC as % of World</b>	<b>15,19</b>	<b>18,22</b>	<b>19,72</b>	<b>21,14</b>	<b>22,66</b>	..

Figures calculated from individual country data available in the World Population Prospects, The 2010 Revision online database

(1) This is a demographic term also known as Sex Ratio of a Population and measures the proportion of males to females in a given population

The OIC member countries as a group have the highest population growth rates. This necessitates a careful analysis of the

interconnections among different subsets of the population in order to understand the dynamics of population trend at the OIC

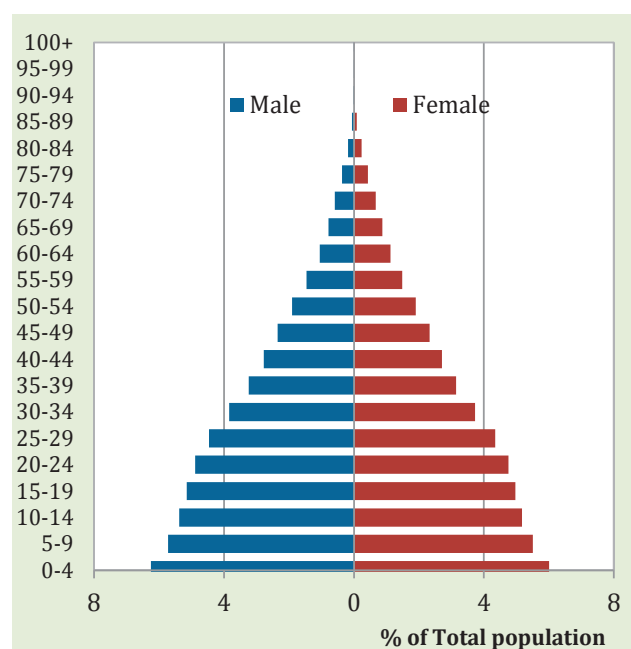
group level. Consequently, the associated policy implications could be derived after careful analysis of the existing situation such as to take necessary measures for providing opportunities in education and the labor force for young people as well as women in all spheres of the society.

The population pyramid of the world and OIC member countries for 2010 are given in Figures 1 and 2 respectively to provide the basis of the discussion on the essential differences in the structure of the population of the OIC countries comparing with the world. The population pyramid is the most widely used graphical method to depict the structure of population as well as interpret its reproductive capacity by illustrating the percentage of each gender in total population, at different age groups.

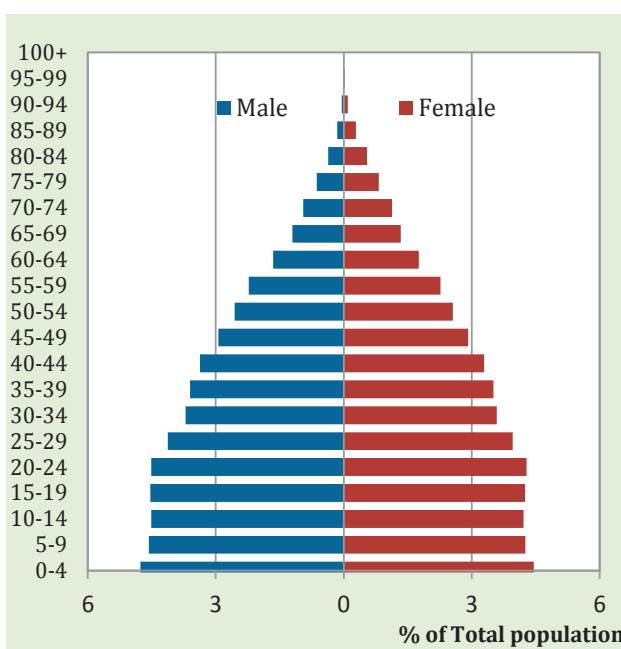
The population pyramid of the OIC member countries is wider at the bottom and narrow

at the top which means higher percentages of the population in the younger age groups and, relatively small percentages of elderly people. In OIC member countries 54.25 percent of male and 53.3 percent of female population were less than 25 years of age in 2010. However, the male and female percentages of the population were 12.7 percent and 13.8 percent respectively for the group of 50 years age and above corresponding to almost one fourth of the share of the 0-24 age group. A higher percentage of population (about 12 percent) was in the 0-4 age group and was steadily decreasing in the successive age groups. The female population exceeded the male population after age of 55, and from that age on there were increasing numbers of women relative to men in each consecutive age groups. As a conclusion the age pyramid is skewed slightly towards male in the younger age groups and it is considerably skewed towards female in the older age groups.

**Figure 1:** Population pyramid of the OIC MC's, 2010



**Figure 2:** Population pyramid of the World, 2010



OIC figures calculated from individual country data available in the World Population Prospects, The 2010 Revision online database

In comparison, the World population pyramid in 2010 shows roughly equal

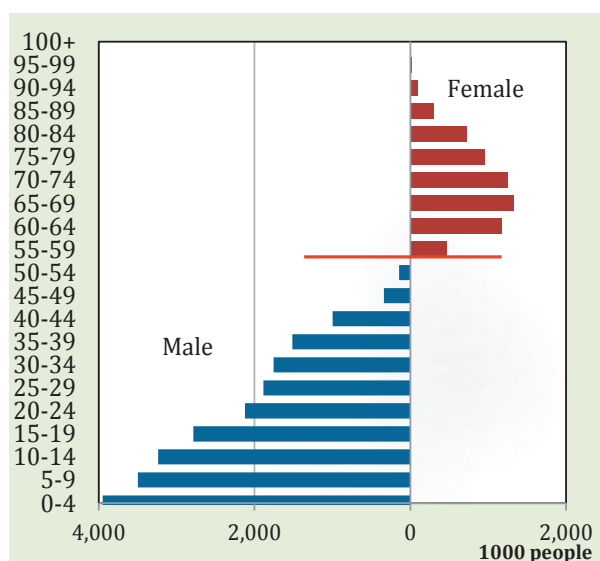
numbers of people in all age categories below age of 45 and tapering towards the older age

categories. The percentages of male and female population were 45.4 percent and 43.3 percent respectively in the group of age less than 25 years, 19.4 percent and 21.8 percent respectively for the age group of above 50 years. Unlike the OIC, there was higher proportion of females in the population in the 20-25 age groups and a larger number of males in the 15-19 age groups (Figure 2).

It is a demographically well-known fact that there is a “gender spiral” a term used to describe the surplus of men and women in age groups. It shows that the surplus of men is concentrated in the younger age groups with diminishing ratio and there are more

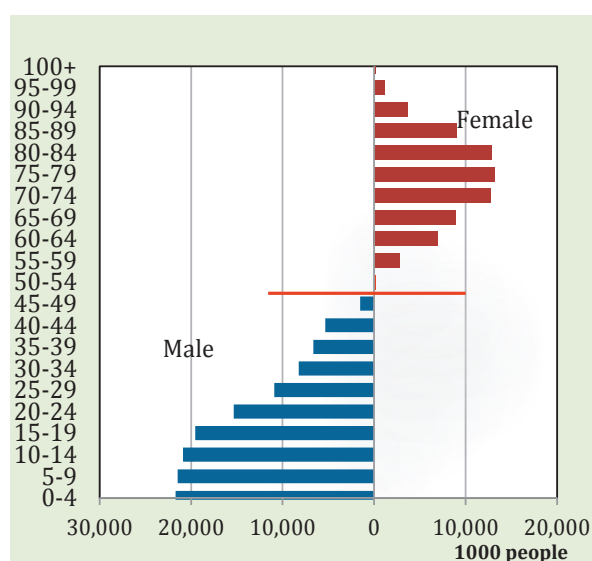
women in the older age groups (World Women Report, 2010). The surplus of women and men by age groups in OIC member countries and world are illustrated in Figures 3 and 4, respectively. It is clear that the global female average life expectancy is higher than the OIC average. Moreover, the turning point for the female population in the world to exceed the male population is from age 50, which is less than that in the case of the OIC member countries. Actually, these regional aggregates do not reflect the current circumstances of the individual member countries and, these figures may show great deviation especially for those countries receiving immigrants.

**Figure 3:** Surplus of women and men by age, OIC, 2010



The OIC figures calculated from individual country data available in the World Population Prospects, The 2010 Revision online database

**Figure 4:** Surplus of women and men by age, World, 2010



## 1.2. Fertility and Life Expectancy at Birth

The fertility rate and life expectancy at birth are two important demographic indicators that can explain changes in the trends and structure of the population. The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) refers to the average number of children per women and is a more direct measurement for the replacement level of a population. The replacement level is the number of children needed per women for a

population to replace itself. It is generally taken as 2.1 children per women and says that populations below the replacement level ultimately be faced with the danger of extinction. The TFR has been declining gradually across the world and it dropped from 5 children to around 2.5 in the period 1950-2010 (World Women Report, 2010). Table 2 presents the TFR and changes with respect to country groups within the latest ten year period to show the latest trends.

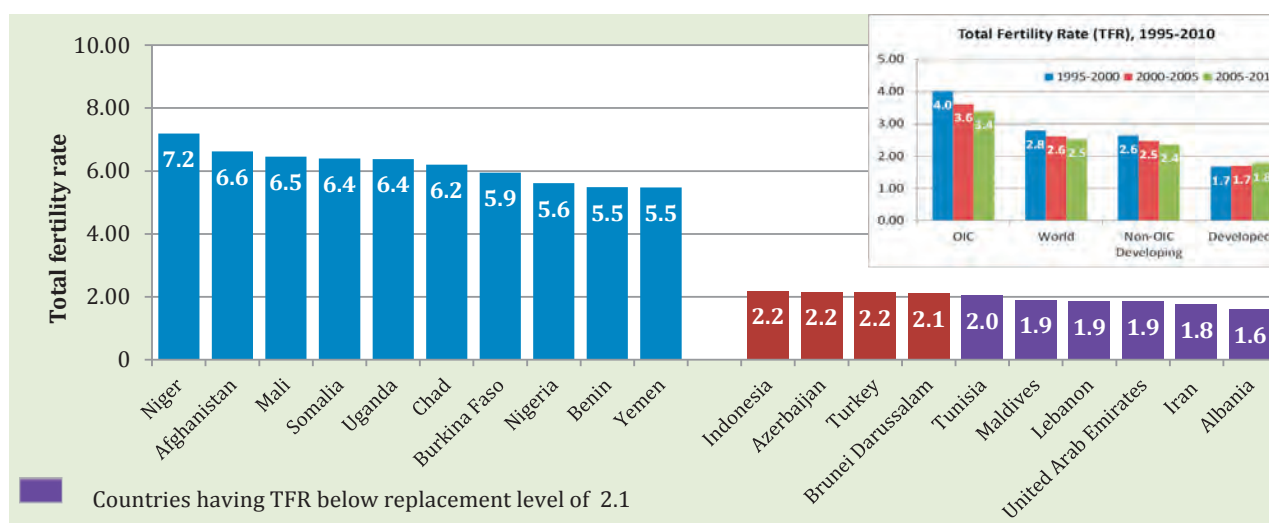
**Table 2:** Total fertility rate (children per women)

	1995-2000	2005-2010	% changes from 2000's to 2010's
OIC	4.00	3.38	-18.34
Non-OIC Developing	2.64	2.35	-12.34
Developed	1.66	1.78	6.74
World	2.79	2.52	-10.71

Figures calculated from individual country data available in the World Population Prospects, The 2010 Revision online database

Although the OIC country group had the highest fertility rate (3.38 children/women) among other country groups during the years 2005-2010, the overall downward trend of the OIC member country group was remarkable. Unlike to the rest of the world the developed country group had an upward trend and their fertility rate increased from 1.66 to 1.78 in the same period. On the

other hand the TRF of individual countries varied dramatically across the regions of OIC. Figure 5 shows the 10 OIC member countries with the highest and lowest TRFs. According to the UN World Population Prospects, The 2010 Revision data the TFRs of Albania, Iran, United Arab Emirates, Lebanon, Maldives and Tunisia were under the replacement level of 2.1.

**Figure 5:** Top 10 countries with highest and lowest TFRs, 2005-2010

Source: World Population Prospects, The 2010 Revision online database

As briefly discussed in the above section women live longer than men particularly after the age of 50 years, thus the number of women is becoming higher than men all around the world after a certain age. Gender disaggregated life expectancy figures are also

verifying this demographic fact and show the number of years by which women outlive men. The life expectancy at birth represents the average number of years a newborn child can expect to live given the current levels of mortality in a country. Since it is derived



from the age-specific mortality rates thus it is an indicator that can also provide a picture of the overall health status of populations. For the period 1950 – 2010, average life expectancy at birth in OIC countries increased from 40 years to 63 years for men and from 42 years to 66 years for women. Although the average life expectancy of OIC member countries has increased by approximately 57 % since 1950, it was still

below the world and other country group averages. Table 5 displays the averages of life expectancy at birth by sex and gender gap since 1950. It is clear that there are significant differences in the expected lifespan of men and women among different groups of countries, in particular the group of developed countries has higher values both in expected lifespan and female-male lifespan differences.

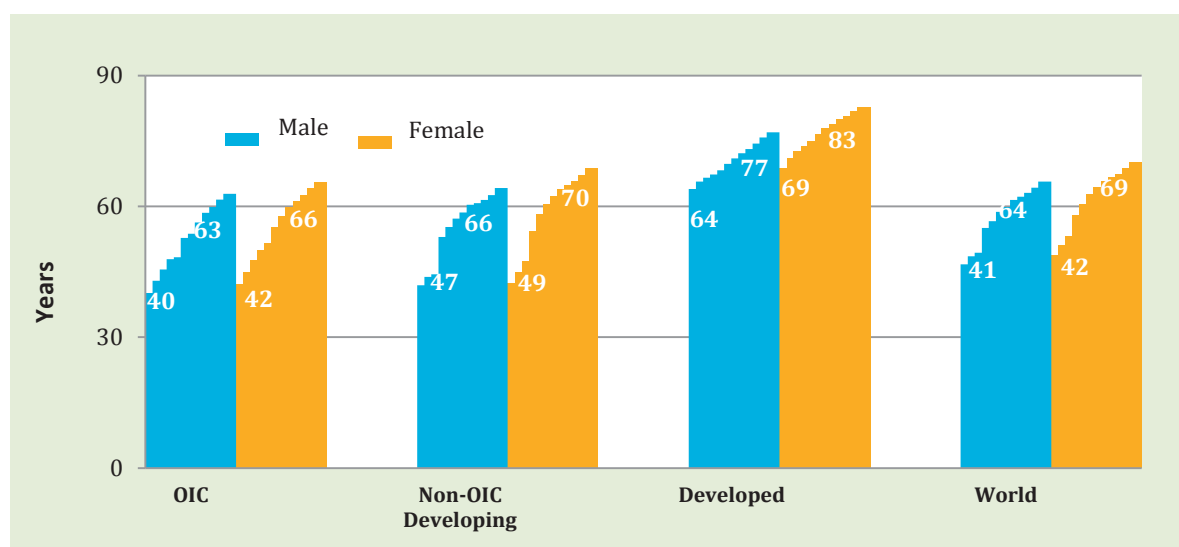
**Table 3:** Life expectancy at birth by sex and female-male gender gap (years)

		1950 ...	1985-1990	1995-2000	2005-2010	Increase from 1950-2010
OIC	Male	40	56	60	63	23
	Female	42	60	63	66	24
	<i>Gender gap</i>	2	4	3	3	1
Non - OIC Developing	Male	42	60	61	63	22
	Female	42	64	66	67	27
	<i>Gender gap</i>	0	4	5	4	4
Developed	Male	64	72	74	77	13
	Female	69	79	81	83	14
	<i>Gender gap</i>	5	7	6	6	1
World	Male	47	61	63	66	19
	Female	49	66	67	70	21
	<i>Gender gap</i>	2	5	4	3	1

Figures calculated from individual country data available in the World Population Prospects, The 2010 Revision online database

According to the 2010 estimations the difference in average life expectancy between women and men for OIC member countries was the lowest among the other country groups and varied by 2-3 years over the period. Figure 6 illustrates the life expectancy at birth figures for the years 1950 and 2010 to depict the gap between women and men as well as changes from 1950 to 2010. This figure also supports the argument that “It is a biological fact that women have

advantageous to live longer than men but societal, cultural and economic factors can affect the natural advantage females have over males. Studies show that “*the gender gap in mortality is smaller in developing countries because in many of these countries, women have much lower social status than men and are exposed to risks associated with childbirth, factors that can make equal life expectancies*” (Yin Sandra, 2007).

**Figure 6:** Life expectancy at birth by sex 1950 vs. 2010

Figures calculated from individual country data available in the World Population Prospects, The 2010 Revision online database

### 1.3 Marriage and Childbearing

Families are accepted as the basic unit of a society, and marriage is the first step in the formation of a family which is the essential part of a healthy and well-functioning of the society. So changes in the number of marriages and divorces or their ratios to the total population are important elements in the assessment of the current status of the family structure and how is it changing over time. The idea and function of 'family' varies across the world and is in a state of constant evolution. Available statistics on population by age, sex and marital status show that, the age entering into marriage for men and women differs and is strongly linked to their tradition and culture. Yet the average age at marriage for women has always been lower than the average for men but in some regions this difference is considerable.

Table 4 displays the basic indicators related to marriage and childbearing including the crude marriage and divorce rates, legal age for marriage, singulate mean age for marriage (SMAM) and mean age at childbearing by country groups after 2000. These figures show that OIC member countries as a group had significantly lower divorce and higher marriage rates compared to the rest of the world. The average crude divorce rate of the OIC country group was almost the half of the world and one-third of the developed country group averages. On the other hand the OIC countries had the lowest legal age for marriage for women as well as lowest singulate mean age at marriage (SMAM) for both men and women. Contrary to the SMAM, the average female mean age at childbearing for OIC member countries was 28.7 years which is higher than the world and non-OIC developing countries and less than the average of developed countries.

**Table 4:** Basic indicators for marriage, divorce and childbearing, 2000's

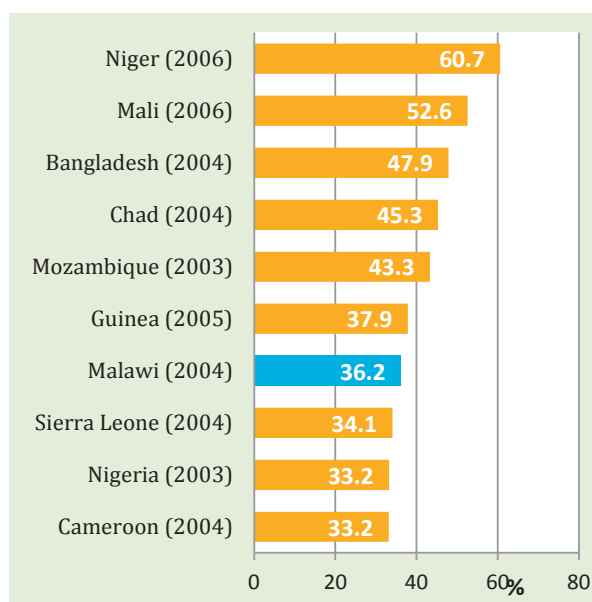
	Crude marriage rate <sup>3 (1)</sup>	Crude divorce rate <sup>4(1)</sup>	Legal age for marriage <sup>(2)</sup>		Singulate Mean Age for Marriage (SMAM) <sup>(1)(1)</sup>		Female mean age at childbearing <sup>2 (3)</sup> (2005-2010)
			Men	Women	Men	Women	
OIC	8.67	0.73	15	13	27	23	28.7
Non-OIC							
Developing	6.16	1.43	15	15	28	25	26.3
Developed	5.80	2.63	17	16	29	25	29.2
World	6.56	1.55	...	....	28	25	27.2

1) Figures calculated from individual country data available at the World Marriage Data 2008 online database

2)Source: UNSD, Indicators on men and women

3) Figures calculated from individual country data available at the World Population Prospects, The 2010 Revision online database

While the age of marriage is generally on the rise, especially in the groups of developed and high income group countries early marriage or marriage below the age of 18 is still widely practiced all around the world. Although most countries have laws that regulate marriage, both in terms of the minimum age and consent, but such laws usually do not apply to traditional marriages. The UNICEF *Early Marriages Child Spouses, 2001* report states that many girls and a smaller number of boys enter marriage without being able to exercise their right to choose their marriage partner. This is more often the case with younger and uneducated girls since assuming a wife's responsibilities usually leaves no room for schooling and almost certainly removes the girl from the educational process (UNICEF, 2001). This also results in early childbearing, which is identified as having higher health risk for both mother and child.

**Figure 7:** 10 countries in the world having higher % of ever married women in age group 15-19, 2000-2006

Source: World Marriage Data, 2008

<sup>1</sup> The singulate mean age at marriage (SMAM) is the average length of single life expressed in years among those who marry before age 50. It is calculated from the proportions of single people by age.

<sup>2</sup> The female mean age at childbearing is the mean age of mothers at the birth of their children if women were subject throughout their lives to the age-specific fertility rates observed in a given year.

<sup>3</sup> The crude marriage rate is the annual number of marriages per 1,000 populations. According to the Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System, Revision 2, marriage is defined as "the act, ceremony or process by which the legal relationship of husband and wife is constituted. The legality of the union may be established by civil, religious or other means as recognized by the laws of each country."

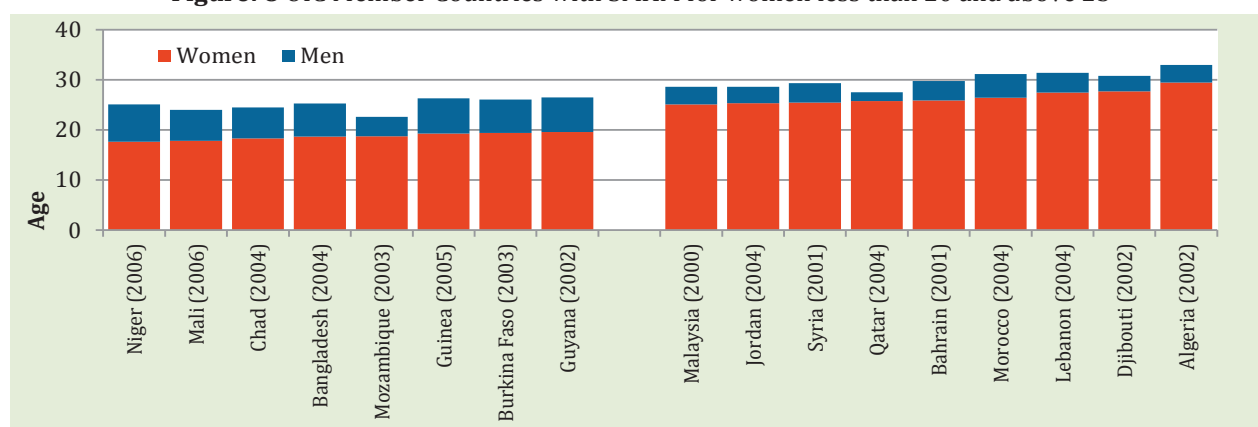
<sup>4</sup> The crude divorce rate is the annual number of divorces per 1,000 populations. According to the Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System, Revision 2, divorce is "a final legal dissolution of a marriage, that is, that separation of husband and wife which confers on the parties the right to remarry under civil, religious and/or other provisions, according to the laws of each country"

The practice of marrying young girls is still common in many countries around the world. Figure 7 shows the top 10 countries in the world having higher percentage of ever married women in the 15-19 age groups in the period 2000-2008. As shown in Figure 7 according to the available country data Niger had the highest share of ever married females in the 15-19 age group in the world which constituted two thirds of the total of married women in the country. Following Niger, in Mali almost half of the married women were also in that age group as well. Except for Malawi the other countries with a high percentage of ever married women in the 15-19 age group were the OIC member countries.

Figure 8 presents the figures on the singulate mean age at marriage (SMAM) for the OIC

member countries which have lower than 20 and above 25 years of age for women. According to the data presented in the graph the average age of marriage for women in OIC member countries is between 17.6 and 29.5 years old. Algeria had the highest at 29.5 and Niger had the lowest at 17.6 years old. The majority of the countries having a lower average age of marriage were the African countries on the other hand those having higher average age of marriage were the upper-middle or high income group countries. The difference in the SMAM between men and women is remarkable in those countries having lower SMAM for women, in contrast to these countries, this difference is relatively small not more than 3 years in the countries having higher SMAM for women.

**Figure: 8** OIC Member Countries with SMAM for women less than 20 and above 25



Source: World Marriage Data, 2008

On the other hand, as shown in Figure 9, the average mean age at childbearing of the OIC member country group was higher than the world averages in the period 2005-2010. The

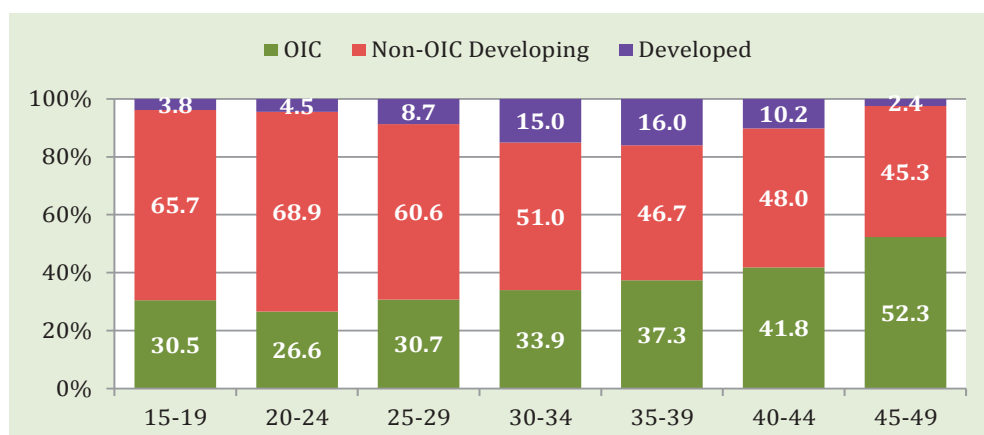
share of OIC country group's births after 25 years of age slowly increased in the total births for the respective age group while other country group averages decreased.

## HEALTH

The health status and problems of women are not the same as those of men. This can be explained by the biological and physical differences between the two as well as by the differences in gender norms of societies e.g. inequities between men and women in accessing health care services. In this section

the available statistical indicators on the reproductive health and health of children are presented to give a general idea about the overall health status of OIC women as well as capacity of the health infrastructure in the OIC member countries in comparison with the rest of the world.



**Figure 9:** Distribution of births by five-year age group of mother, 2005-2010

Figures calculated from individual country data available at the World Population Prospects, The 2010 Revision online database

The three goals of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which are directly related to health issues are; Goal 4 – reduce child mortality, Goal 5 – improve maternal health and Goal 6 – combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. Table 5 presents the basic indicators related to the assessment of the progress in the reduction of child and maternal mortality which is the focus of this section. The life expectancy indicator is excluded here since; it has already been discussed in the Demographic Facts section of this report. The average mortality ratios of the OIC country group related to children and maternity were the highest among other country groups. Overall the average maternal mortality ratios of the OIC member country group were the highest, approximately more than one-half of the world average and twice the average of non-OIC developing country averages in 2010. Despite the significant reduction over the last ten years, higher mortality ratios are still serious challenge for the OIC and non-OIC developing countries.

**Table 5:** Basic indicators on reproductive and child health

	Maternal mortality ratio (per 100 000 live births) <sup>5(1)</sup>		Infant mortality (per 1000 live births) <sup>6(2)</sup>		Under-five mortality (per 1000 live births) <sup>7(2)</sup>	
	2000	2010	1995-2000	2005-2010	1995-2000	2000-2010
<b>OIC</b>	462	328	68.0	52.9	99.8	76.2
<b>Non-OIC Developing</b>	291	181	63.9	51.9	93.1	75.0
<b>Developed</b>	11	13	5.8	4.7	7.1	5.6
<b>World</b>	320	210	56.3	45.6	82.0	65.7

Figures calculated from individual country data available in the World Health Organisation and World Population Prospects, The 2010 Revision online databases

<sup>5</sup> The maternal mortality ratio (MMR) is the annual number of female deaths from any cause related to or aggravated by pregnancy or its management (excluding accidental or incidental causes) during pregnancy and childbirth or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, irrespective of the duration and site of the pregnancy, per 100,000 live births, for a specified year.

<sup>6</sup> The infant mortality is probability of dying between birth and exact age 1. It is expressed as deaths per 1,000 births.

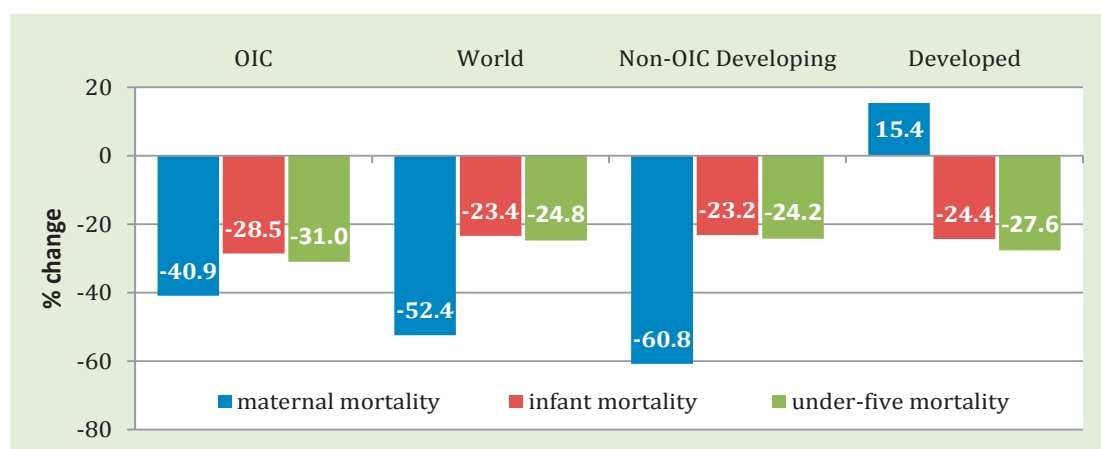
<sup>7</sup> The under-five mortality is probability of dying between birth and exact age 5. It is expressed as deaths per 1,000 births.

Despite the considerable progress that has been achieved worldwide in terms of decreases in child and maternal mortality, this issue is still constitute a challenge and of serious concern in certain regions in the world. Figure 10 depicts the percent changes in these ratios from 2000 to 2010. When these changes compared, it can be concluded that there were significant improvements in the under-five and infant mortalities in OIC member countries and maternal mortality in non-OIC developing countries since 2000. The decline in the average maternal mortality ratio in OIC countries was estimated at 40.9 percent which is far below the decline in the case of the world and other groups. The only positive trend was observed in the case of average maternal mortality ratio of the developed countries during the same period

One of the major problems in the developing countries is the death and disability of

women through their reproductive years as a result of the complications arising during pregnancy and childbirth. The maternal mortality ratio reflects the capacity of the health system to provide effective health care in preventing and addressing the complications occurring during pregnancy and childbirth by monitoring deaths related to pregnancy and childbirth. Each year, more than half a million women die from causes related to pregnancy and childbirth. In this context, Goal 5 of the MDGs calls for the improvement of maternal health by reducing the maternal mortality ratio by three quarters (UNICEF 2008). It has already been discussed above that the OIC country group had the highest maternal mortality ratio and, the lowest decrease among the other country groups, therefore it is important to examine the individual country group averages to understand the regional dimension of this situation.

**Figure 10:** Change in maternal, infant and under-five mortalities during 2000-2010.



Figures calculated from individual country data available in the World Health Organisation and World Population Prospects, The 2010 Revision online databases

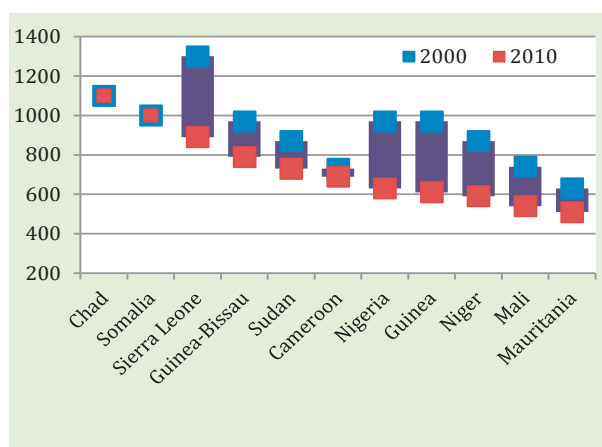
For the years 2000 and 2010 Figure 11 shows the eleven OIC member countries which had the maternal mortality ratio above 500 deaths per 100 000 births, and Figure 12 shows the ten OIC member countries with the lowest maternal mortality ratios. As far as the countries with the highest maternal mortality

ratios are concerned, Chad and Somalia had the highest ratio with 1100 and 1000 respectively in 2010 without any change since 2000. In addition Cameroon and Mauritania also showed no improvement since 2000. Sierra Leone was the third country with the highest value but had a

significant decrease since 2000. All the countries having maternal mortality ratio above 500 deaths of mothers per 100 000 births were African member countries.

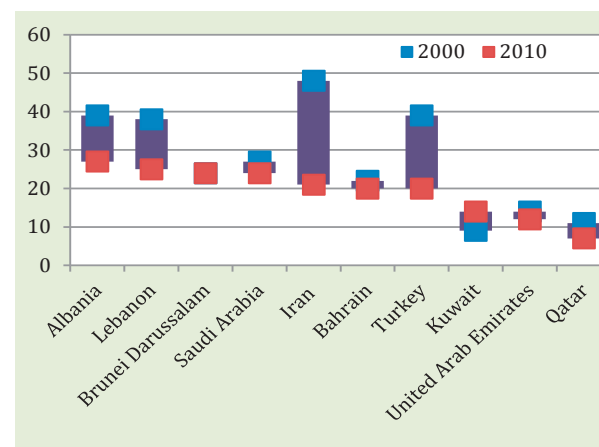
All the ten countries with the lowest maternal mortality ratios in 2010 recorded less than 30 deaths per 100 000 births. Yet, these countries, namely Albania, Lebanon, Brunei Darussalam, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Bahrain, Turkey, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates and Qatar among them Iran, Turkey, Lebanon and Albania, recorded a substantial reduction in their ratios since 2000. The last three countries with the lowest ratio, namely Kuwait, United Arab Emirates and Qatar, had averages below the average of the Developed countries. Except for Kuwait, which had a slight increase since 2000, all the other countries had downward trend.

**Figure 11:** OIC Member Countries having maternal mortality ratio above 500 in 2010



Source: World Health Organisation, World Health Statistics

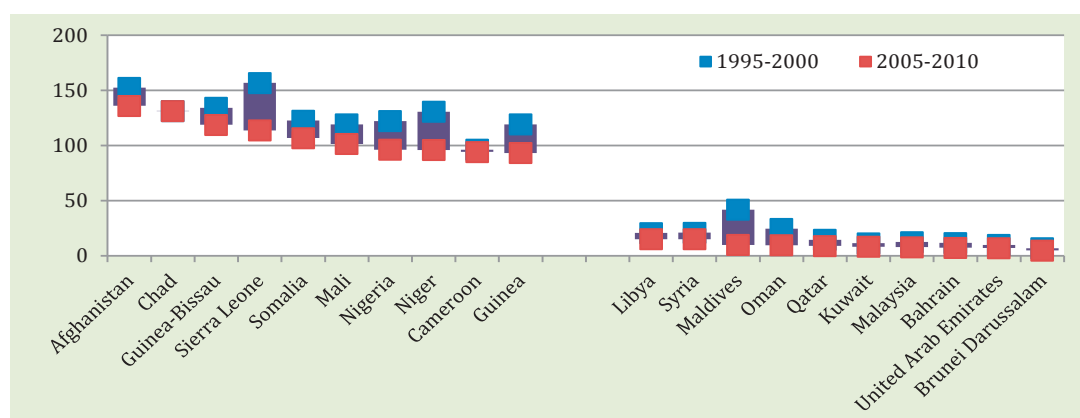
**Figure 12:** Ten OIC Member Countries with the lowest maternal mortality ratio in 2010



Source: World Health Organisation, World Health Statistics

Figure 13 displays the ten OIC member countries with the highest and lowest infant mortalities. Again those at the top of the list, except for Afghanistan, were African member countries. Seven of the lowest ten countries were Arab member countries including five Gulf States and the remaining three of them were East Asian Countries. A significant decline since 2000 was observed in the infant mortality rates in Sierra Leone, Maldives, Guinea and Niger. On the other hand, there was no recorded improvement for reducing the infant mortality rate in Chad and Cameroon which were on the top of the countries with the highest infant mortality figures.

**Figure 13:** Ten OIC member countries with the highest and lowest infant mortality in 2010

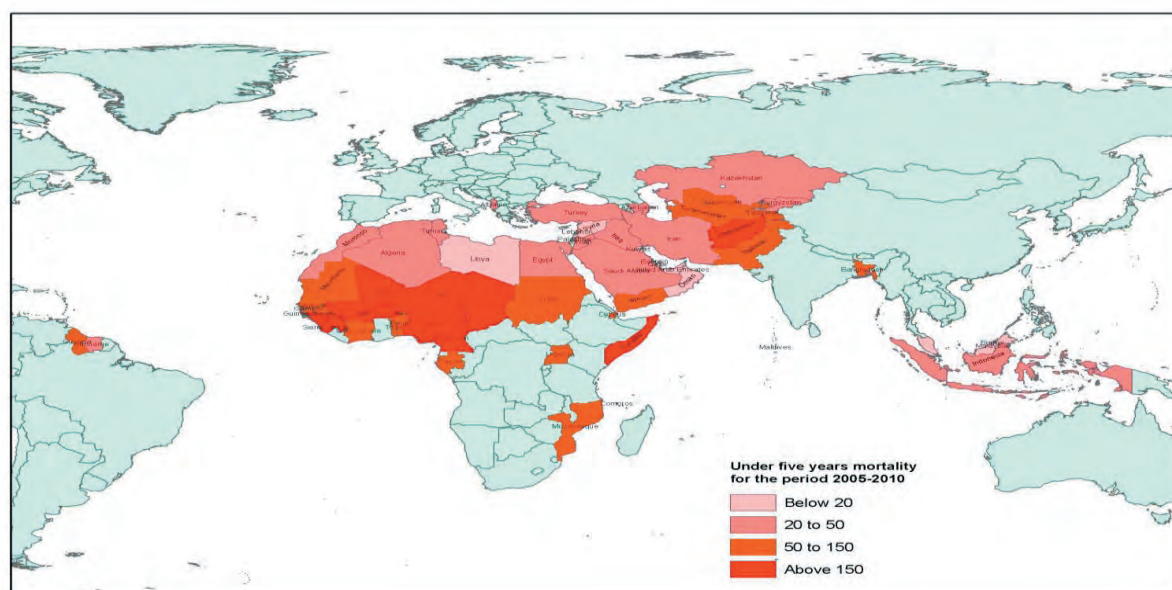


Source: World Population Prospects, The 2010 Revision

Despite the considerable reduction in child mortality ratio over the last three decades, more than 9.6 million children worldwide still die every year before they reach 5 years old (UN 2009). As shown in the map (Figure 14), this level continues to be high in the less developed regions of the OIC, especially in

the African member countries. The gap between the regions of OIC is still high. In 2005–2010 most of the OIC member countries having under-five mortality above 150 deaths per 1,000 live births were in the Sub-Saharan Africa region.

**Figure 14:** Under-five mortality in OIC member countries, 2005-2010



Source: World Population Prospects, The 2010 Revision

## EDUCATION

Educational attainment refers to the highest level of education an individual has completed; Aggregated at societal level, statistics on educational attainment can give an indication of the stock of human capital – the knowledge and the skills available in a population. A higher level of educational attainment indicates the availability of relatively qualified labour force. So, gender differences in educational attainment are one of the determinants of gender-based differences in labour market participation and outcomes. An increase in the proportion of highly educated women will likely lead to greater opportunities for more diverse and higher paying employment for women (Lopez-Carlos and Zahidi, 2005). The Beijing Platform for Action have been highlighted

that education is one of the most important means of empowering women for reducing all kind of inequalities experienced by them. Furthermore, eliminating gender disparities in education is emphasized as the essential point for the achievement of the MDGs targets.

Despite the global efforts to improve the educational attainment of individuals and eliminating gender differences as set forth in the MDG targets, a notable progress has not been achieved since 2000 and there still exist a significant number of illiterate people globally. According to the latest available UNESCO data for 2005- 2010 (see Table 6), the estimated total of illiterate adults was 759 million of which 60 percent are women. The



number of adult illiterates in OIC member countries constituted 29.8 percent of the world total (approximately 266 million people); corresponding to approximately 17

percent of the total OIC population. Yet, the figures covering the period 2000 and 2010 show a declining trend in the total number of illiterate youth.

**Table 6: Number of illiterate people by country groups (Thousand)**

	Adult (above age 15)				Youth (between age 15-24)			
	Total		% of women		Total		% of women	
	2000-2005	2005-2010	2000-2005	2005-2010	2000-2005	2005-2010	2000-2005	2005-2010
<b>OIC</b>	264 743	266 078	59.74	60.07	53 248	48 319	65.68	59.52
<b>Non-OIC</b>								
<b>Developing</b>	500 285	489 280	64.86	64.38	72 387	70 146	68.54	61.63
<b>Developed</b>	4275	3920	44.23	40.89	57	39	50.88	41.03
<b>World</b>	769 304	759 278	62.99	62.75	125 693	118 504	67.32	60.75

Figures calculated from individual country data available in the UNESCO, UIS online database

Basic indicators on educational attainment for the years from 2000 to 2010 are presented in Table 7 to give an idea of the general level of educational attainment as well as participation in different levels of education by country groups. It can be clearly seen that the OIC country group averages on literacy rates are lagged behind the rest of the world averages. On the other hand significant improvement was recorded in the youth literacy rates in favour of females. According to 2010 data, the average female and male adult literacy rates for the OIC countries were estimated as 65.9 and 80.6 percent respectively. Consequently, youth literacy rates for females and males were 80.5 percent and 87.1 percent respectively which indicates that even though the situation has improved for young people the gender literacy gap for adults is still considerably high. In other words, on contrary to the wider gender disparities amongst adults, the trend is for the male - female literacy gap to become narrower among the youths across the OIC.

The global trends show that the former dominance of men in tertiary education has been reversed and the gender disparity has

shifted in favour of women. As seen in Table 7 unlike other country groups, gender disparity in tertiary education enrolment in the Developed country group was in favour of females and the gap between females and males became much wider in 2010. In relation to tertiary education when the available 2010 data for the forty-four OIC member countries is examined (Figure 16) it can be seen that there were fifteen OIC member countries, which had gender disparities in participation in tertiary education in favour of females. Among them Algeria had the highest disparity with 190 021 more females than males which accounted around 16.6 percent of the total number of students enrolled. On the other hand, twenty-nine of the OIC member countries had gender disparity in favour of males of which Bangladesh had the highest disparity with 412 151 more males than females which accounted 26 percent of the total number of students enrolled.

Apart from Bahrain, Turkey and Iran the remaining seven of the top ten countries with the highest tertiary GER were also among the fifteen countries having gender disparity in enrolment in favour of females.

**Table 7:** Basic indicators on educational attainment 2000 vs. 2010

		Literacy Rates <sup>8</sup>				Gross Enrolment Ratios (%) <sup>9</sup>					
		Youth		Adult		Primary		Secondary		Tertiary	
		2000	2010	2000	2010	2000	2010	2000	2010	2000	2010
OIC	Male	81.91	87.15	74.16	80.63	94.06	102.99	45.34	59.37	14.90	20.60
	Female	75.18	80.50	58.39	65.95	84.62	93.86	39.51	56.11	9.30	18.02
	<i>Gender gap</i>	<i>6.72</i>	<i>6.64</i>	<i>15.77</i>	<i>14.68</i>	<i>9.44</i>	<i>9.13</i>	<i>5.82</i>	<i>3.26</i>	<i>5.60</i>	<i>2.58</i>
Developed	Male	na	99.59	na	99.23	102.98	103.70	100.25	102.90	51.92	64.72
	Female	na	99.63	na	98.93	102.13	102.96	101.42	102.57	58.95	79.61
	<i>Gender gap</i>	<i>na</i>	<i>-0.04</i>	<i>na</i>	<i>0.30</i>	<i>0.85</i>	<i>0.74</i>	<i>-1.17</i>	<i>0.33</i>	<i>-7.03</i>	<i>-14.89</i>
World	Male	90.42	92.63	86.95	88.63	103.05	107.24	62.58	71.44	20.21	32.26
	Female	83.92	87.12	76.99	79.72	95.32	104.55	57.41	96.23	14.54	27.77
	<i>Gender gap</i>	<i>6.49</i>	<i>5.51</i>	<i>9.96</i>	<i>8.91</i>	<i>7.73</i>	<i>2.72</i>	<i>5.17</i>	<i>2.21</i>	<i>5.67</i>	<i>4.49</i>

Figures calculated from individual country data available in the UNESCO, UIS online database

The average gender-disaggregated gross enrolment ratio (GER) figures indicate that males and females were not represented in equal numbers at secondary and tertiary education levels, except in the developed country group (Table 7). From these figures it can be inferred that the general level of educational attainment and female participation is strongly associated with socio-economic conditions of a country. In terms of participation in secondary and tertiary education, the averages of the OIC countries lagged behind the average of the world and far more behind the average of the developed countries. The global gender gap

considerably improved in primary education dropping from 7.73 in 2000 to 2.72 by 2010. However, this was not the case for the OIC countries where the gender gap was still about 9 percent points in 2010, but they showed significant improvement in terms of female participation both in secondary and tertiary education. From 2000 to 2010 the gender gap dropped from 5.82 to 3.6 percent points in secondary education and 5.60 percent to 2.58 percent points in tertiary education. Although the gender gap of the OIC countries as a group was better than the world, there is still room for improvement of participation in secondary and tertiary education to attain a similar level to the world averages.

At the individual country level GER figures show remarkable differences among the OIC member countries. Particularly, most of the OIC Sub-Saharan African countries were at the bottom of the list with a significant difference between the participation in each level of education. Again there is a regional

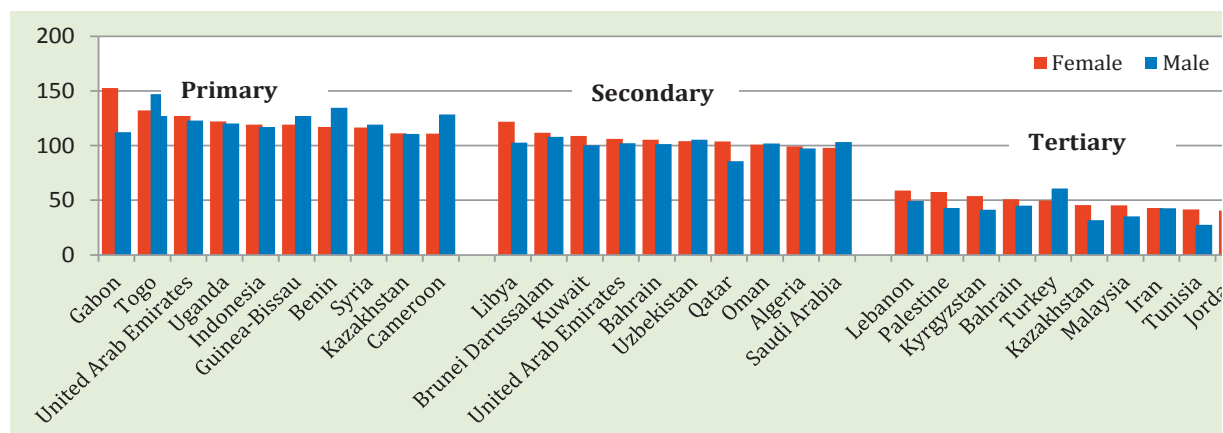
<sup>8</sup> *Literacy rate* is total number of literate persons in a given age group, expressed as a percentage of the total population in that age group. The adult literacy rate measures literacy among persons aged 15 years and above, and the youth literacy rate measures literacy among persons aged 15 to 24 years.

<sup>9</sup> *Gross Enrolment Ratio* is the number of pupils or students enrolled in a given level of education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the official school-age population corresponding to the same level of education. For the tertiary level, the population used is the 5-year age group starting from the official secondary school graduation age.

diversification among the countries having the highest female GER as shown in Figure 15. It can also be seen that the GER figures were declining across all three education

levels. Furthermore, except in Turkey and Iran, the gender gap in tertiary education shifted in favour of females.

**Figure 15:** Top 10 OIC Countries in terms of female GER by education levels, 2010

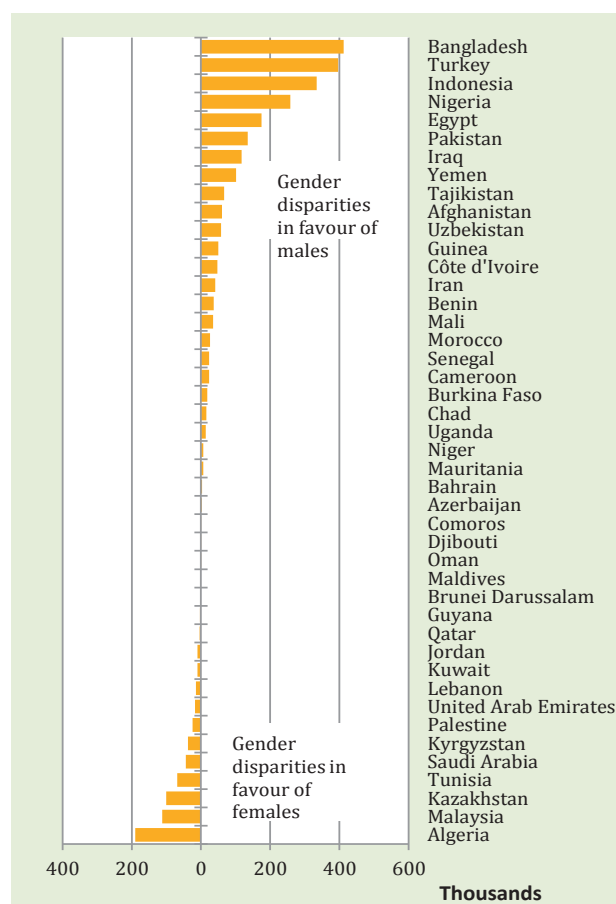


Source: UNESCO, UIS online database

The global trends show that the former dominance of men in tertiary education has been reversed and the gender disparity has shifted in favour of women. As seen in Table 7 unlike other country groups, gender disparity in tertiary education enrolment in the Developed country group was in favour of females and the gap between females and males became much wider in 2010. In relation to tertiary education when the available 2010 data for the forty-four OIC member countries is examined (Figure 16) it can be seen that there were fifteen OIC member countries, which had gender disparities in participation in tertiary education in favour of females. Among them Algeria had the highest disparity with 190 021 more females than males which accounted around 16.6 percent of the total number of students enrolled. On the other hand, thirty of the OIC member countries had gender disparity in favour of males of which Bangladesh had the highest disparity with 412 151 more males than females which accounted 26 percent of the total number of students enrolled.

Apart from Bahrain, Turkey and Iran the remaining seven of the top ten countries with the highest tertiary GER were also among the fifteen countries having gender disparity in enrolment in favour of females.

**Figure 16:** Gender disparities in tertiary enrolment in OIC countries, 2010



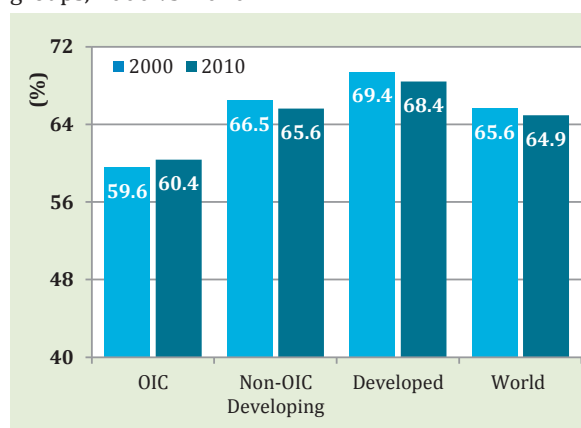
Source: UNESCO, UIS online database

## EMPLOYMENT

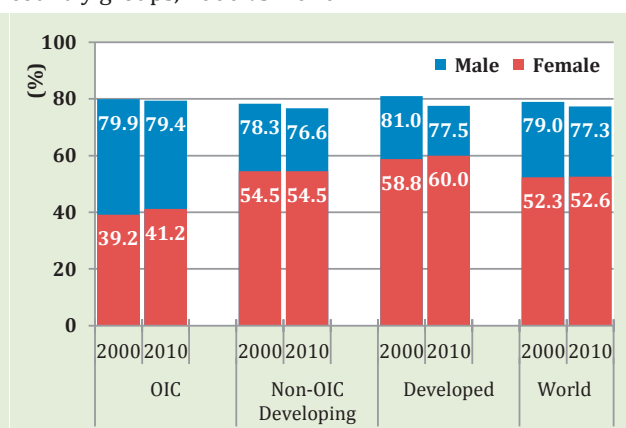
In order to take control of their lives people need to achieve a certain level of financial independence. Due to the social and traditional norms, the types of work that women and men do are different and women are often disadvantaged in accessing employment opportunities. The Beijing Declaration affirms nations' commitment "to the inalienable rights of women and girls and their empowerment and equal participation in all spheres of life, including in the economic domain" (UN, 1995). The Beijing Platform action identifies women's role in

the economy as a critical area of concern, and calls attention to the need "to promote and facilitate women's equal access to employment and resources as well as the harmonization of work and family responsibilities for women and men. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) also target achievement of full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people, as part of MDG1 Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger"(UN World Women Report, 2010).

**Figure 17:** Labour force participation rate by country groups, 2000 vs. 2010



**Figure 18:** Labour force participation rate by sex and country groups, 2000 vs. 2010



Figures calculated from individual country data available in the FAO FaoStat and UN World Population Prospects, The 2010 Revision online databases

This section highlights the current circumstances of gender differences in employment through analyzing the trend in the economically active population and labour force participation rates. The labour force participation rate<sup>10</sup> is an important

indicators used to assess the labour market behavior of different categories of the population while formulating employment policies. In 2010 the labour force participation rate of the OIC member countries as a group was estimated as 60.4 percent, the lowest figure among other country groups (Figure 17). Although, globally, the labour force participation rates showed a declining trend the OIC member country group displayed a 0.8 percent point increase during the 2000- 2010 period. On the other hand Figure 18 shows the male-female distinction of the labour force participation rates. It is clear that there was a slight

<sup>10</sup>The labour force participation rate measures the portion of the working-age population that engages actively in the labour market, either by working (employed workers) or looking for work (unemployed workers). It is an indicator of the size of the available labour supply as well as, by breaking it down by gender and age groups, the profile of the economically active population. The rate is given by the following formula:

[ Labour force participation rate = Labour force ÷ working-age population × 100 ]



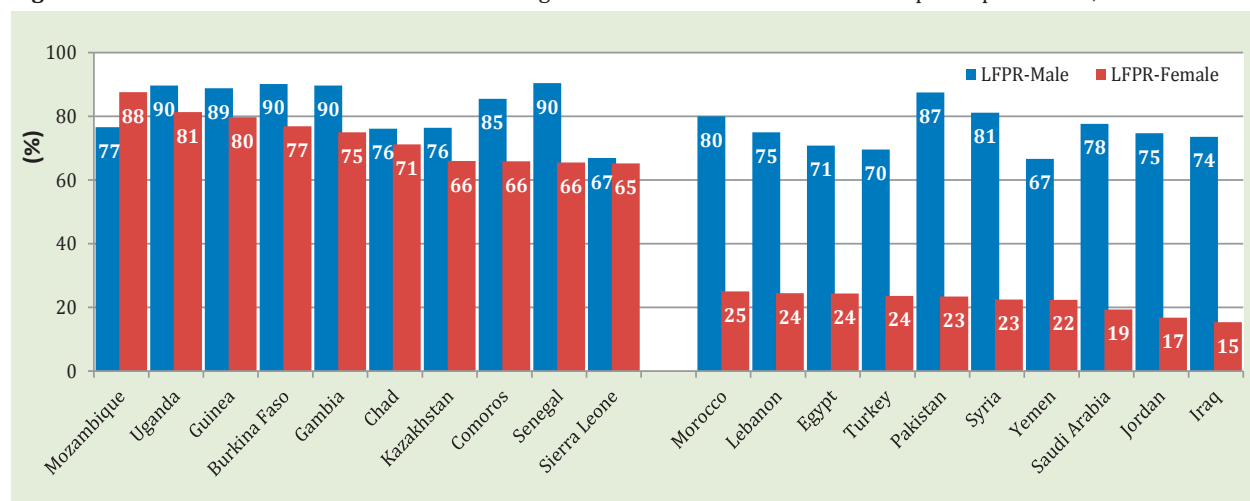
improvement in favour of females and declining trend for males since 2000. Despite the fact that OIC member countries had the highest increase with 2 percent points in favour of females between 2000 -2010, their female labour force participation rate was still the lowest among the country groups with 41.2 percent in 2010. Furthermore the OIC member countries as a group had the highest gender gap in terms of labour force participation rate which was estimated as 38.2 percent points in 2010. Despite the worldwide efforts to eliminate gender differences in accessing employment opportunities, the global female labour force participation rate was still around 50 percent, with the developed country group having the highest rate of 60 percent and the OIC country group had the lowest rate of 41.2 percent in 2010.

Figure 19 shows the OIC member countries with the highest and lowest labour force participation rates for women. The figure also reveals the great difference between the OIC member countries in terms of male-female labour force participation. Among the

OIC member countries Mozambique had the highest figure with 88 percent, and at the same time it was the only country that had the gender gap in favour of females. In addition Mauritania, Uganda, Burkina Faso and Guinea also had female labour force participation rates higher than 80 percent. The 10 countries with the highest figures also had the lower gender gap of these Sierra Leone and Guinea had a gender gap less than 5 percent points.

In terms of the lowest female participation in the labour force as shown in Figure 19 Iraq had the lowest figure with 15 percent closely followed by Jordan and Saudi Arabia with less than 20 percent female labour force participation rates. Furthermore, those countries that had the lowest female participation rates also had a higher gender gap in disadvantageous of females. Among them Pakistan had the highest gap with 64 percent points, followed by six countries which had a gender gap higher than 50 percent points including Syria, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Jordan, Morocco and Lebanon.

**Figure 19:** The 10 OIC member countries with the highest and lowest female labour force participation rate, 2010



Figures calculated from individual country data available in the FAO FaoStat and UN World Population Prospects, The 2010 Revision online databases

Table 8 presents the economically active population (also referred to as labour force) in

male and female distinction by country groups for the years 2000 and 2010 respectively.

According to the available data the global labour force was around 3.3 billion in 2010 of which 39.9 percent were female. From Table 8, it can be seen that total economically active population in the OIC member countries increased significantly in parallel to the increase in their population, but the 34.5 percent increase in the female economically active population was remarkable and reached 211 million people in 2010. With this increase

the share of females in total economically active population was estimated as 33.9 percent for the OIC member countries. Yet, it was still the lowest share among country groups. Furthermore, according to the 2010 data the share of the OIC country group in the world total economically active population was 18.9 percent but this share dropped to 15.9 percent for the female economically active population (Figure 20 and 21).

**Table 8:** Economically active population by sex, (Million people)

	Economically active population <sup>11</sup>						Economically active population in agriculture <sup>12</sup>					
	Male			Female			Male			Female		
	2000	2010	Change (%)	2000	2010	Change (%)	2000	2010	Change (%)	2000	2010	Change (%)
<b>OIC</b>	322.4	411.1	27.52	156.9	211.0	34.49	126.4	133.0	5.20	86.7	101.6	17.22
<b>Non - OIC</b>	1	1 268.0	14.72	763.7	896.8	17.44	578.4	608.9	5.28	427.1	451.1	5.61
<b>Developing</b>	105.4											
<b>Developed</b>	256.8	271.2	5.60	119.1	220.9	10.96	11.1	7.81	-29.29	6.5	4.7	-28.04
<b>World</b>	1	1 950.3	15.78	1	1		715.9	749.8	4.73	520.3	557.4	7.13
	684.6			119.7	328.8	18.68						
<b>OIC as % of the world</b>	19,04	21,08	..	14.01	15.88	..	17,66	17,74	..	16,66	18,23	..

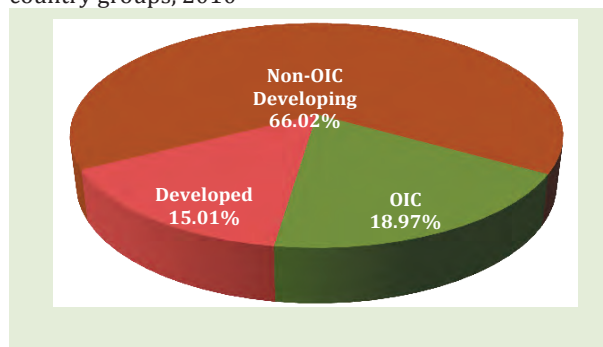
Figures calculated from individual country data available in the FAO, FaoStat Online database

When the sectoral breakdown of the employment is considered, agriculture appears to be the most important economic sector in developing and OIC countries. Agriculture is important especially for developing countries in providing

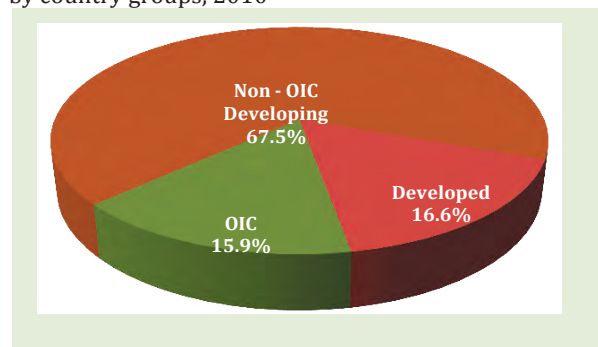
<sup>11</sup> *Economically active population* refers to the number of all employed and unemployed persons above age 15 (including those seeking work for the first time). It covers employers; self-employed workers; salaried employees; wage earners; unpaid workers assisting in a family, farm or business operation; members of producers' cooperatives; and members of the armed forces. The economically active population is also called the labour force.

<sup>12</sup> *Economically active population in agriculture (agricultural labour force)* is that part of the economically active population engaged in or seeking work in agriculture, hunting, fishing or forestry.

employment opportunities to a large portion of the labour force, particularly, to females in rural areas. According to FAO data during the last decade the proportion of the economically active population in agriculture has decreased globally. Contrary to the OIC and non-OIC developing country groups, the developed country group recorded a significant decline in terms of employment in the agricultural sector (Table 8). For the OIC member country group, during the same period the females engaged in agricultural activities increased by 17.2 percent and reached to an average 43.3 percent of the total agricultural labour force in 2010.

**Figure 20:** Economically active population (EAP) by country groups, 2010

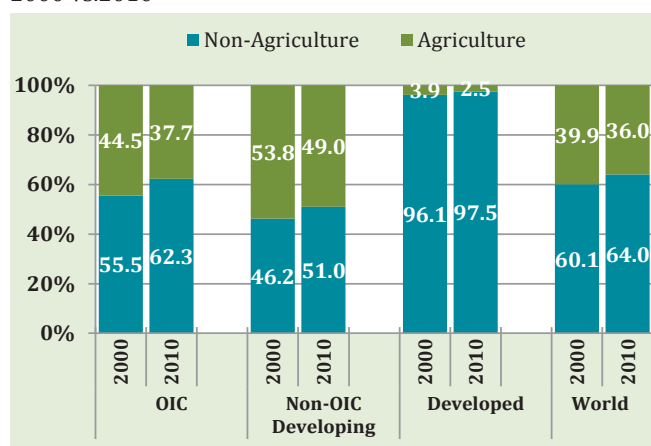
Figures calculated from individual country data available in the FAO, FaoStat online database

**Figure 21:** Female economically active population (EAP) by country groups, 2010

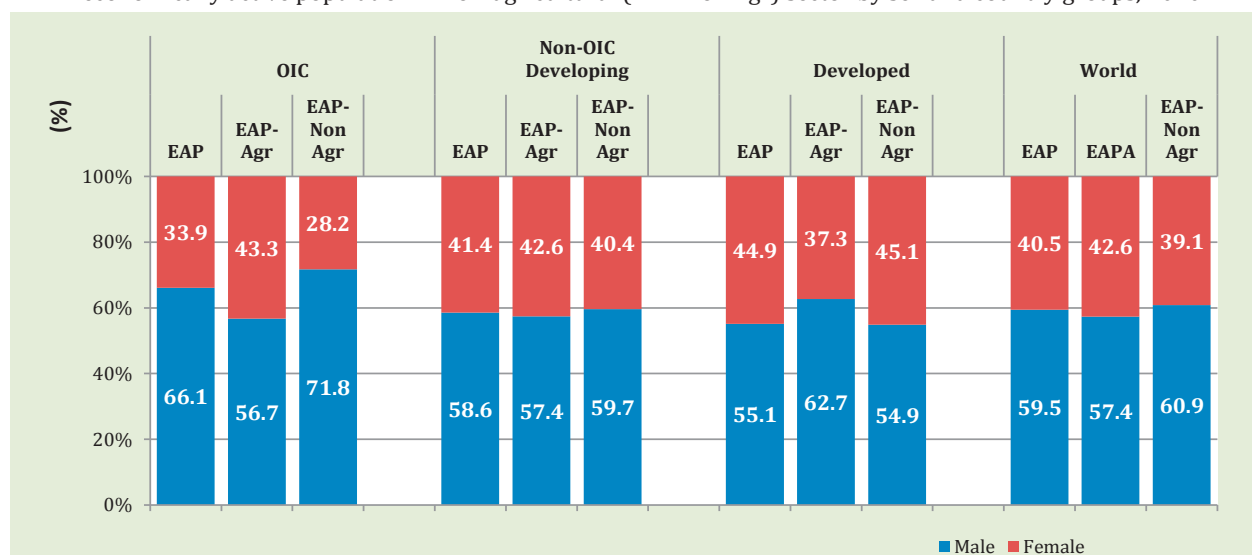
Figures calculated from individual country data available in the FAO, FaoStat online database

Globally the share of agricultural employment is declining and the labour force has shifted to the non-agricultural sectors such as industry and services. In this regard, the shift in the OIC country group was the highest with the share of agriculture in total economically active population dropped from 44.5 to 37.7 percent between 2000 and 2010 (Figure 22).

In connection with this trend Figure 23 illustrates the male-female distribution of the economically active population by sectors and again the OIC member countries as a group had the lowest share of female in non-agricultural sector as it was in total economically active population. The share of

**Figure 22:** Economically active population (EAP) by sectors, 2000 vs.2010

Figures calculated from individual country data available in the FAO, FaoStat online database

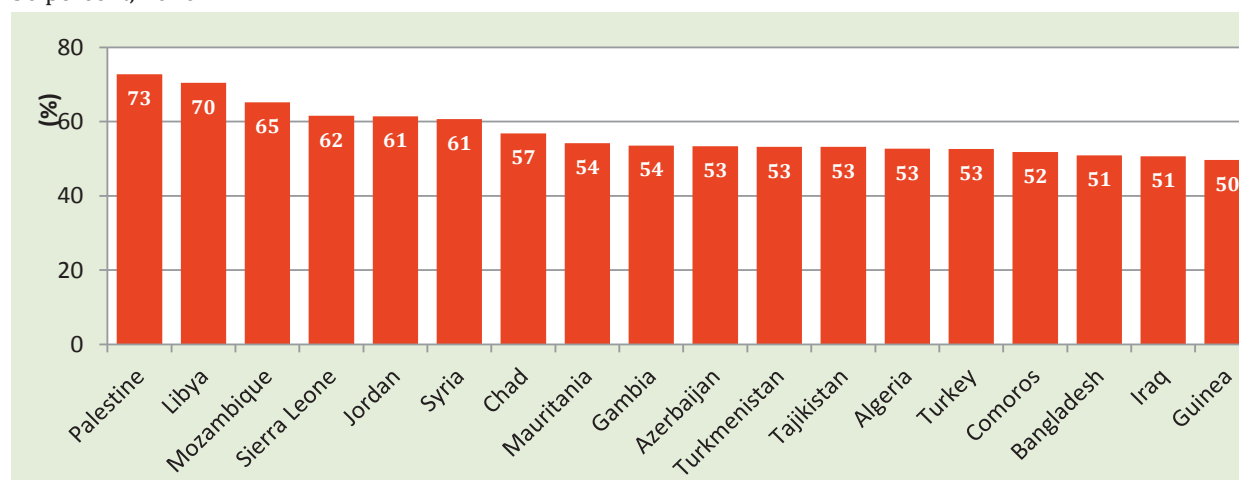
**Figure 23:** Economically active population (EAP), economically active population in agriculture (EAP-Agr) and economically active population in non-agricultural (EAP-Non Agr) sector by sex and country groups, 2010

Figures calculated from individual country data available in the FAO, FaoStat online database

Males and females were estimated as 71.2 and 28.2 percent, respectively. In terms of the share of female employment by sector in the OIC member country group had the lowest figure in the non-agricultural sector and the highest figure in agriculture compared to the rest of the world. In 2012 at the global level one third of women were employed in agriculture, nearly half in the services and a one sixth in industry and in most of the developing countries women moved out of agriculture into services sector particularly education and health (ILO 2012).

In 2010, as shown in Figure 23, there were seventeen OIC member countries with a share of above 50 percent of the female economically active population working in agriculture. Palestine had the highest share of females in the labour force at 73 percent followed by Libya (70 percent) and Mozambique (65 percent). Four of the countries with the lowest female labour force participation rates; (See Figure 19) Turkey, Syria, Jordan and Iraq were also in the list of the countries with the higher share of females in agricultural employment.

**Figure 23:** OIC member countries with the share of female economically active population in agriculture above 50 percent, 2010



Figures calculated from individual country data available in the FAO, FaoStat online database

According to the ILO report “*Global Employment Trends for Women 2012*”, women have many disadvantages in the labour market including limited choices for employment across sectors (sectoral segregation) and quality of employment in comparison to men. In addition to the social and demographic factors such as family commitments all these disadvantages experienced by women have resulted in the higher unemployment rates for women. Additionally, current projections indicate that women’s paid employment opportunities are likely to remain limited; with female unemployment rates are projected to remain elevated in the short-

term. Globally, the gender gap in unemployment had increased from 0.5 to 0.7 percent points by 2011 and, according to the ILO projections there will not be a significant improvement in favour of females regarding the unemployment gender gap within the short-period as well (ILO, 2012).

Notwithstanding the difficulty of measuring the unemployment rate<sup>13</sup> especially in the developing world, recently available unemployment rate data of the twenty eight of the OIC member countries were assessed

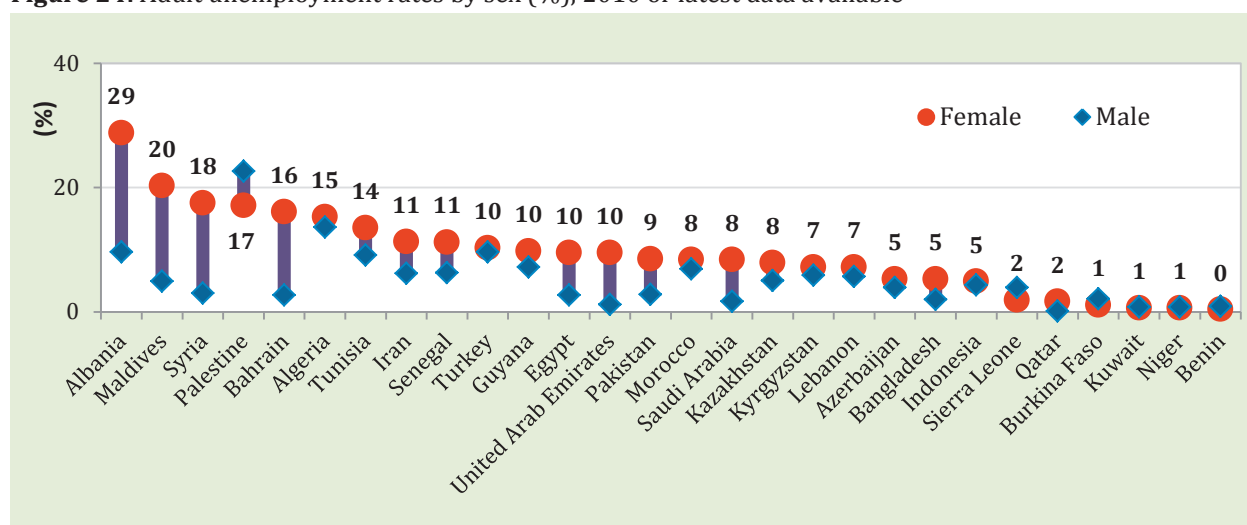
<sup>13</sup> Unemployment rate refers to the share of the labor force that is without work but available for and seeking employment.



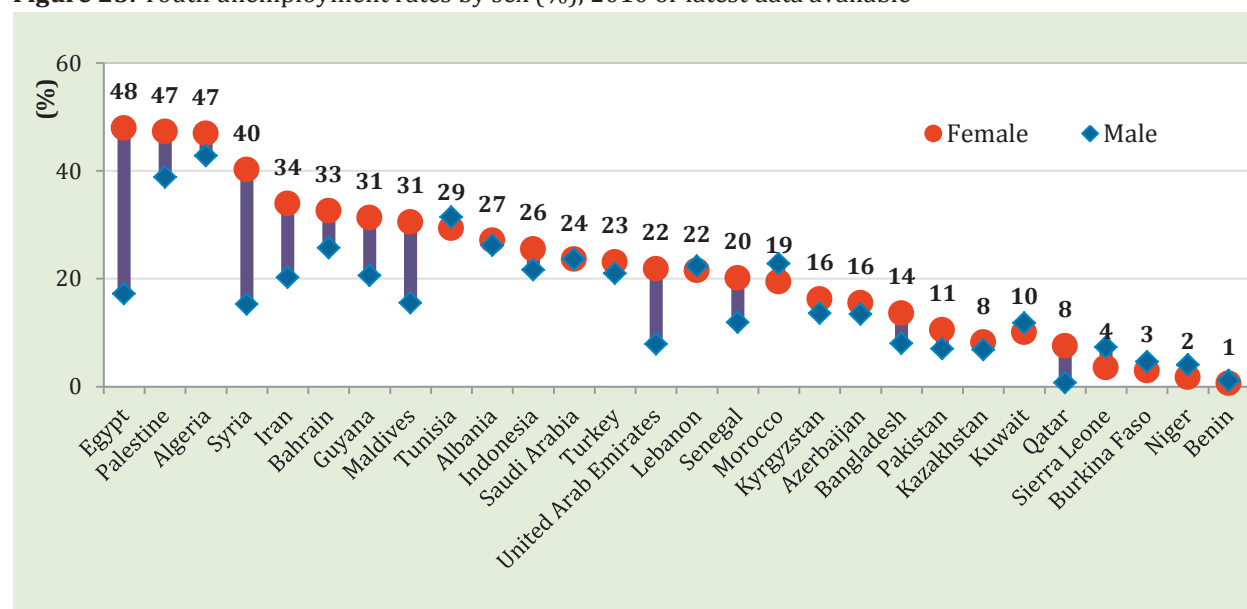
(see Figure 24 and 25) to obtain an understanding of women's access to the labour market opportunities across the OIC. These figures show that the female youth unemployment figures were significantly higher than in the adult category. Moreover, in some countries the gender gap was significantly higher in favour of men and Palestine was the only country that had a 5 percent point gender gap in favour of male adults. In addition to Palestine, there were

also gender gap in unemployment in favour of women adults in Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso, Benin, Niger and Kuwait. Although the global gender gap in unemployment was estimated at around 0,7 percent points, this figure ranged from 19 to 0,6 percent points among adults and 30 to 0.9 percent points among youths in the twenty eight OIC member countries, which are considerably higher than the global averages.

**Figure 24:** Adult unemployment rates by sex (%), 2010 or latest data available



**Figure 25:** Youth unemployment rates by sex (%), 2010 or latest data available



Source: International Labour Organisation, LABORSTA online database

## CONCLUSION

The major findings on the state of gender differences across the OIC member countries can be summarized as follows:

The OIC member countries as a group have the highest population growth rates compared to other country groups. This growth needs to be carefully analyzed with respect to the different subsets of the population. As a result of this high population growth rate, the OIC country group has the highest percentage of young population aged between 15-24 years.

Although the OIC country group has the highest average fertility rate, the decline in the fertility rate over the years is higher than the rest of the world and, there are some member countries below the replacement level of 2.1 children per woman.

On the other hand the OIC country group has the lowest legal age for marriage and average age entering into marriage for women in the world.

While life expectancy is rising with a widening the gap in expected lifespan of men and women all over the world, the OIC averages for men and women as well as female-male lifespan differences are still below the rest of the world's averages, which implies that OIC women have much lower social status than the rest of the world and exposed to more health risks which shorten their expected lifespan.

Despite the efforts so far made to improve reproductive and child health, maternal mortality, infant mortality and under-five mortality rates, these are significantly higher in the OIC country group than the rest of the world, which also indicates

lack of health infrastructure capacity across the OIC member countries.

One third of the world total adult illiterates are in the OIC member countries and higher gender gap exists among the illiterate adults, but the gender gap among youth illiterates is becoming narrower over the years.

Participation in secondary and tertiary education are improving with a narrowing gender gap across the OIC, but average GER figures lag behind the world and far more behind the developed country group averages.

The OIC member countries group has the lowest female labour force participation rate with a slightly increasing trend but while the global labour force participation rate remained steady during the last decade hence this was not the case for the OIC country group.

In terms of the share of female employment in different sector, the OIC country group has the highest share in agriculture and lowest share in non-agricultural sectors compared to the rest of the world.

There are significant regional differences and all the issues stated above cannot accurately reflect the detailed current circumstances of the individual member countries, therefore there is an urgent need to undertake country and regional level assessments in order to understand the regional dimension of the gender differences and provide background information for future policy development.

The currently available gender-disaggregated data is not sufficient to carry

out an in-depth socio-economic analysis to understand the actual dimension of the gender differences in the OIC group, thus, the availability of and access to gender-disaggregated data need to be improved for OIC member countries.

Based on the preliminary findings of this report it can be concluded that the empowerment of women in order to ensure gender equality is an area of serious concern for the OIC member countries and this necessitates the development of an action plan defining the policy priorities and the means of implementation by taking into account the social and cultural realities of these countries. Furthermore, as a follow-up of the achievements realised regular reporting focusing on the most problematic areas of concern regarding women and child health, education and employment with a wider gender perspective has to be established. In this context, improvement of relevant statistics and indicators as well as establishment of necessary infrastructure for data collection can be handled as priority issue by considering unavailability of basic data to be a basis for regular reporting.

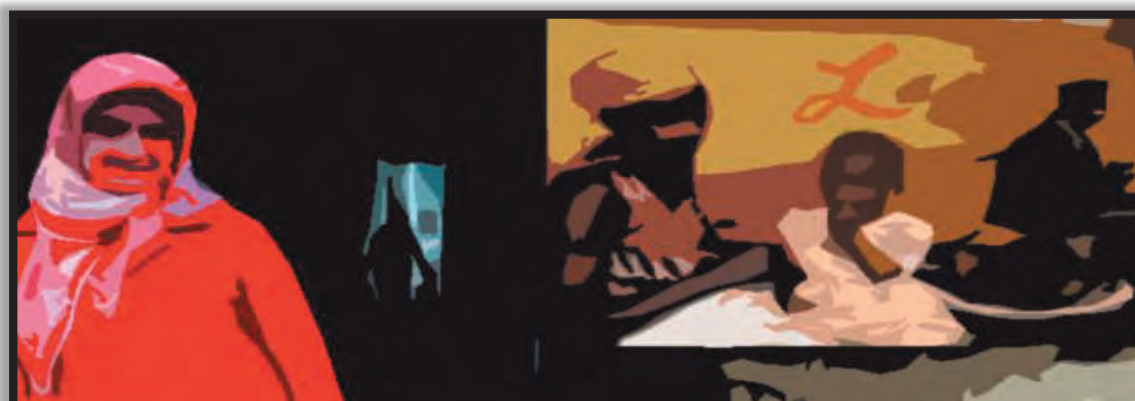
The commitments made in the Beijing Declaration adopted in 1995 by the Fourth World Conference on Women on achieving gender equality and the empowering of women in all walks of life can also be accepted as a milestone to generate and disseminate gender-disaggregated data and information for planning and evaluation. Resulting from the efforts relevant

international organisations and many countries have developed their own strategies to improve the production and dissemination of statistics which reflect the realities of women and men through gender-disaggregated data collection. Yet, due to the complexity of the situation only using gender-disaggregated data collection is not sufficient to understand gender disparities in a multi-cultural environment. Therefore, more detailed ad-hoc research such as investigating violence against women and time use are recommended to go beyond the traditional aspects of relation between women and men in a society (UNSC, 2013).

In fact, gender statistics field is a new area still under discussion. By considering the current circumstances of gender differences across the OIC member countries, development of strategies to improve the production and dissemination of statistics reflecting the realities of the lives of women and men can be considered as one of the priority issues within the context of statistical capacity development. Besides, it is generally accepted that gender issues are complex, multi-dimensional and politically controversial subjects, which necessitates the adoption of a wider perspective to the related concepts and definitions. Hence, execution of data collection at OIC level, may contribute to further methodological developments and the establishment of common operational definitions regarding gender statistics with reflecting cultural and traditional sensitivities of the OIC member countries.

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# INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON FINANCIAL SYSTEMS

## Sustainable Finance for Sustainable Development

11-12 September 2013, WOW Convention Center, Istanbul, Turkey



The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), in cooperation with the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Group, Participation Bank Association of Turkey (TKBB) and Borsa İstanbul, is organising the **International Forum on Financial Systems: Sustainable Finance for Sustainable Development**. The Forum will be held under the auspices of the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey.

The 2-day Forum will provide a distinct opportunity for critical and objective examination of the existing global financial system, particularly the structural problems undermining its ability to prevent crises of regional as well as global scale. Diverse views will be exchanged among world-renowned intellectuals including Nobel laureates and eminent economists, statesmen, presidents of international organisations as well as industry practitioners on the future of the global financial system. The Forum is also expected to stimulate new financial and economic thinking.

[www.sesric.org](http://www.sesric.org)

# IFFS 2013

OIC



NEWS



## THE THIRD SESSION OF OIC-STATCOM

10-12 APRIL 2013 ANKARA-TURKEY

The Third Session of the Statistical Commission of Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC-StatCom) was co-organised by the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) on 10-12 April 2013 in Ankara, Turkey.

The delegates of the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) from 26 OIC Member Countries including Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Egypt, Guinea, Indonesia, Kuwait, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Niger, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Tajikistan, Togo, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Uganda, and Yemen attended the Third Session of OIC-StatCom. The representatives of 9 international / supranational organisations including the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC), OIC General Secretariat, Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS), United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), International

Labour Organization (ILO), Statistical Office of the European Union (EUROSTAT), Economic and Social Council for Western Asia (UNESCWA), and Prognoz Corporation also took part in the Commission.

The Third Session of OIC-StatCom commenced on 10 April 2013 with the welcome addresses of Mr. Mohanna al Mohanna (Chair of the OIC-StatCom and Director General of the Central Department of Statistics and Information of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia), Mr. Mehmet Metin Eker (Director General of the COMCEC Coordination Office), and Mr. Jakhongir Khasanov (Professional Officer at the Economic Affairs Department of the OIC General Secretariat). Dr. Abdullateef Bello (Director of the Economic Research and Policy Department at the IDB) and Prof. Savaş Alpay (Director General of SESRIC) delivered the welcome speeches as co-organizers of OIC-StatCom. The opening session continued with the opening remarks of NSOs of Uganda, Qatar and Turkey representing African, Arab and Asian region, respectively.





During the session “OIC-StatCom Technical Committee of Experts (TCE): Implemented Activities and the Way Forward”, SESRIC and the lead countries of the TCE delivered presentations regarding the progress reports of OIC-StatCom TCEs, which have been established based on the resolutions of the Second Session of OIC-StatCom.

The first day of the Third Session of OIC-StatCom ended with the session on “Towards a More Comprehensive System of Labour Statistics” where the representatives of ILO informed the delegates about the 19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) that will be held on 2-11 October 2013 in Geneva, Switzerland. Egypt, Malaysia and Turkey also gave an overview on the structure of labour statistics and the impact of global recession on the labor market in their respective countries.

The second day of the Third Session of OIC-StatCom, 11 April 2013, started with the session on “Open Data Initiative: Challenges and Opportunities for NSOs of OIC Member

Countries”. Prognoz Corporation took the floor first and gave detailed information about the Open Data for Africa Platform, an initiative launched by the African Development Bank to significantly improve data management and dissemination in Africa. The presentations of Indonesia, Palestine, Senegal, Turkey focused on the open data initiatives launched, challenges faced and ways to overcome them in their countries. After the presentations, the participants discussed about how to deploy open data platforms, the processes to follow, and the resource requirements in terms of manpower and infrastructure for such initiatives.

In the last thematic session on “From MDGs to SDGs: Involvement of NSOs in Measuring Progress in the Post-2015 Period”, UNSD gave a brief summary on the MDG reporting and monitoring processes, Rio+20 outcomes, and the role that the NSOs can play in SDGs while the presentation of the Eurostat reflected the perspective of European Union on the post-2015 development goals and the role of Eurostat in developing new indicators for these goals. As country-cases, Cameroon, Niger, Oman and Turkey highlighted the national statistical activities concerning the monitoring and reporting of MDGs, experiences gained from tracking MDGs, and their involvement in the processes concerning SDGs.

In the Closing Session, the delegates discussed and adopted the Resolutions of the Third Session of OIC-StatCom.





## THE 12<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE ISLAMIC SUMMIT CONFERENCE

6-7 FEBRUARY 2013, CAIRO, ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

The 12th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference was held in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt on 6-7 February 2013. Heads of States and Governments of 17 member countries attended the Summit. The other member countries were represented at the level of the Prime Ministers and/or Ministers of Foreign Affairs. The Summit aims at jointly reviewing the international situation in the political, economic and social fields and analysing the impact on the Muslim Ummah under the overall theme "The Muslim World: New Challenges & Expanding Opportunities". The Heads of Delegations of the member countries discussed and deliberated on a number of political and socio-economic issues of importance to the Muslim World. The Summit was preceded by a preparatory meeting of the Senior Officials on 2-3 February, and by a preparatory meeting of the Foreign Ministers on 4-5 February.

In the political field, the Palestinian question and Israeli settlements was on top of the political issues, followed by the situation in Syria, Mali and other conflict member countries. Also the issues of combating terrorism, defamation of Divine religions, facing Islamophobia and Muslim Communities and Minorities were among other political issues. On the other hand,



a number of economic, social and cultural issues were also reviewed and discussed aimed at alleviation of poverty and accelerating development in OIC member countries and addressing challenges facing the Muslim Ummah and preserving its interests. These issues include among others, economic

cooperation under the agenda of the COMCEC, science and technology, higher education, health, environment and climate change.

The summit adopted "Cairo Final Communiqué" together with a set of Resolutions on various political, socio-economic and cultural issues. The 13th Session of the Islamic Summit is decided to be convened in the Republic of Turkey in 2016. The Summit also decided to appoint the candidate of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, H.E. Mr. Iyad Ameen Madani as Secretary General of the OIC for 5 years with effect from 1 January 2014. All the documents of the Summit are available at the Summit official website: [www.oicegypt.org](http://www.oicegypt.org).

The Director General, Prof. Savas Alpay represented SESRIC at the Summit and conducted an interview with the Turkish TV Channel "TRT Haber". The interview is available at: <http://www.sesric.org>



## 6<sup>th</sup> ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

20-21 NOVEMBER 2012, KHARTOUM, SUDAN

The Sixth Islamic Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research took place during 20-21 November 2012 in Khartoum, Republic of the Sudan. The two-day Conference brought together the ministers of higher education and scientific research of the OIC Member States to discuss various important issues pertaining to higher education and scientific research in the member countries and the report of ISESCO Director General on ISESCO's Efforts in the Field of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Technology between the Fifth and Sixth Sessions of the Conference.

The Conference also examined the draft proposal on the establishment of “Pan-Islamic Research and Education Network (PIREN)” and a report of the FUIW Secretary General on the Implementation of the FUIW Activities between the Fifth and Sixth Sessions of the Conference. It also studied a report on “Key Performance Indicators for Universities in Islamic Countries” and the progress report on the remarkable scientific project “Atlas of Islamic World Innovation”.

The heads of delegation of the OIC Member States made addresses and presented reports on

their countries' national programmes in higher education, scientific research and technology. A roundtable was also held on the sidelines of the Conference which will focus on “The Role of Higher Education in the Development of Science and Technology for a Prosperous Future”.

During the conference, SESRIC presented its new report on Education and Scientific Development in OIC Member Countries 2012/2013 and briefed the participants on the recent developments in education and science in the member countries. SESRIC also briefed the participants on the recent developments in the project of Atlas of Islamic World Innovation.

At the closing session, the conference adopted the Khartoum Declaration on the Role of Higher Education in Development of Science and Technology for Prosperous Future.

The Islamic Conference of Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research held its first session in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in October 2000; its second session in Tripoli, Libya, in September 2003; its third session in Kuwait, State of Kuwait, in November 2006; its fourth session in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan,



in October 2008; and its fifth session in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in October 2010.

During the conference, SESRIC also signed a memorandum of cooperation with Disaster Management and Refugees Studies Institute (DIMARSI) at International University of Africa in order to develop cooperation and partnership

between the two parties in the areas of common interest, to facilitate the attainment of the goals of both institutions with view to enhancing research, information exchange, capacity building and participation in academic activities and events and facilitate post-graduate studies and training on humanitarian issues and disaster risk reduction activities.

## TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION OF THE ORGANISATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE (COMCEC)

**8-11 OCTOBER 2012, ISTANBUL, REPUBLIC OF TURKEY**

The 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) of the OIC convened in Istanbul on 8-11 October 2012 with the participation of delegates from 47 OIC member countries. Bosnia-Herzegovina, Central Republic of Africa, Russian Federation, Kingdom of Thailand and Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus participated in the Session as observers. The OIC General Secretariat, subsidiary, specialized and affiliated organs of the OIC and a number of international and regional organizations also attended the Session. The SESRIC was represented thereat by Prof. Savaş Alpay, Director General; Mr. Nabil Dabour, Director of Economic and Social Research Department; Dr. Kenan Bağcı and Dr. Umut Ünal, Researchers.

The Meeting of the Senior Officials of the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC was held on 8-9 October under the Chairmanship of Deputy Undersecretary of the Ministry of Development of the Republic of Turkey. During the Meeting, the delegations of the Member States and the OIC institutions considered and deliberated on a number of agenda items related to various issues of enhancing economic and commercial cooperation among the Member States. The



issues include: Review of the implementation of the OIC Ten-Year Program of Action and the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation among the OIC Member States; World economic developments with special reference to the OIC member countries; Recent developments in intra-OIC trade, the Trade Preferential System among the OIC Member States (TPS-OIC), Priority Sectors (agriculture, tourism and transportation) and exchange of views on the theme “Enhancing Competitiveness of SMEs in the Member States”; Financial cooperation among the OIC member countries: cooperation among Stock Exchanges, Central Banks and Capital Markets’ Regulatory Bodies of the OIC member countries; Poverty alleviation: Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD), Special Program for Development of Africa (SPDA), OIC-Cotton and OIC-VET programs; Enhancing relations with the private sector.

In addition to the presentation on the Annual Economic Report on the OIC Countries 2012, the Centre also briefed the Committee on the following agenda items: (1) Cooperation among the Central Banks of the OIC member countries; (2) Vocational Education and Training



Programme for OIC Member Countries (OIC-VET); and (3) Results of the Questionnaire Circulated by the SESRIC to the Member Countries on the Proposed Themes for the COMCEC Exchange of Views Sessions.

In their deliberations on all these issues, the Senior Officials discussed and considered the recommendations and policy implications of many technical and background reports prepared and presented by various relevant OIC institutions as well as those of some related international and regional organizations. They also prepared the Draft Resolutions on these issues for consideration by the Ministerial Meeting, which was held on 10 October 2012.

The Ministerial Meeting of the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC was held on 10 October 2012. The Opening Ceremony of the Meeting was held under the chairmanship of H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey. Following the Inaugural Statement made by H.E. Erdoğan, OIC General Secretariat, the Heads of Delegations of the State of Kuwait, the Republic of Gabon and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on behalf of the Arab, African, and Asian regional groups, respectively and President of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) delivered statements at

the Opening Session. The Opening Session continued with launching ceremonies of the S&P OIC/COMCEC Index and the COMCEC Strategy for Building an Interdependent Islamic World.

The Ministerial Working Session was held afternoon under the Chairmanship of H.E. Dr. Cevdet Yilmaz, Minister of Development of the Republic of Turkey. Following the adoption of the Agenda, the Country Gateway Office Agreement was signed between the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Development Bank. Following this signature, the Session was briefed on the outcome of the Senior Officials Meeting, where the Ministers exchanged their views on the theme “Enhancing the Competitiveness of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises in the Member States”. Mr. Sergio Arzeni, Director of the Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs and Local Development of the OECD, and Mr. James Zhan, Director of the Investment and Enterprises Division of UNCTAD, made presentations as keynote speakers. Following these presentations, the Ministers discussed various aspects of the subject and elaborated on ways and means of developing the competitiveness of SMEs as well as COMCEC cooperation in this area.





The Closing Session of the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the COMCEC was held on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2012 under the Chairmanship of H.E. Dr. Cevdet Yilmaz, Minister of Development of the Republic of Turkey. Rapporteur of the Senior Officials Meeting summarized the proceedings of the Senior Officials Meeting and highlighted some salient points in the Resolutions. The Session adopted Resolution OIC/COMCEC/28-12/RES, which includes among other issues the welcoming of the initiative of the Certification and Accreditation Programme for the Professionals of Official Statistics, developed by

the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom), and the requesting of the IDB and SESRIC to contribute technically and financially to the effective implementation of this important programme for the benefit of the National Statistical Institutions of the Member Countries. The Resolutions also welcomed the initiative of SESRIC for organizing capacity building programmes in the area of agriculture and food security in collaboration with the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock of the Republic of Turkey.

## **EAGM ON THE DRAFT OIC STRATEGIC HEALTH PROGRAMME OF ACTION (2013-2022)**

**18-19 FEBRUARY 2013, SESRIC HEADQUARTERS, ANKARA, REPUBLIC OF TURKEY**



SESRIC organized an Experts Advisory Group Meeting (EAGM) on 18-19 February 2013 at its Headquarters in Ankara to review the draft OIC-SHPA 2013-2022 document. SESRIC prepared this document in accordance with the decision of the 2nd Islamic Conference of Health Ministers (Tehran, March 2009) and upon a request by the OIC Steering Committee on Health. The EAGM was attended by the delegates from 15 OIC member countries and eight OIC and international institutions.

In the opening session, Dr. Razley Mohd Nurdin, Director General of Department of Science and Technology in OIC General Secretariat, Dr. El Bashier Sallam, Manager of Health Division in IDB Group, and Prof. Savas Alpay, Director General of SESRIC delivered their opening remarks. All the speakers highlighted the vital role of health sector in the development of OIC countries. They underlined the progress made by member countries with

respect to some major health indicators in comparison with global and regional averages. They also highlighted the importance of OIC-wide cooperation in the area of health and crucial role of OIC-SHPA in this regard. After the opening remarks, the meeting elected its Bureau and adopted the agenda and work programme.

During the first working session, Mr. Mazhar Hussain, Senior Researcher at SESRIC made a presentation on the draft OIC-SHPA. In his presentation, Mr. Hussain briefed the participants about the mandate, objectives and structure of the draft OIC-SHPA document. He focused particularly on the six thematic areas of cooperation which have been identified for the joint action of the OIC member countries, relevant institutions and international organization in the domain of health. The presentation followed by a general debate on the draft OIC-SHPA document which continued up

to the third working session. During the discussion, the participants expressed their views about the contents of the OIC-SHPA and made valuable contributions to improve the draft document. After deliberating on the programmes of action under each thematic area of cooperation one by one the participants unanimously agreed upon the final version of the draft OIC-SHPA document. The final draft of the OIC-SHPA will be tabled to the Sixth Meeting of the OIC Steering Committee on Health for endorsement. Subsequently, the draft OIC-SHPA will be submitted to the Fourth session of the Islamic Conference of Health Ministers in October 2013 in Indonesia for its adoption.

In the fourth working session, Dr. Razley Mohd Nurdin, Director General of Department of Science and Technology in OIC General Secretariat, made a presentation on the Action

Plan for the implementation of OIC-SHPA document. In his presentation, Dr. Razley briefed the participants on a draft phase-wise implementation plan and asked the member countries to volunteer to lead the respective six thematic areas. Later on, the six leading countries were decided as follow: Thematic Area 1: Health System Strengthening – Kazakhstan; Thematic Area 2: Disease Prevention and Control – Turkey; Thematic Area 3: Maternal, New-born and Child Health and Nutrition – Indonesia; Thematic Area 4: Medicines, Vaccines and Medical Technologies – Malaysia; Thematic Area 5: Emergency Health Response and Interventions – Sudan; and Thematic Area 6: Information, Research, Education and Advocacy – Egypt. These thematic working groups will prepare a draft of implementation plan of the OIC-SHPA which will cover selected programmes of action to be implemented under each thematic area.

### **IDB APPROVES \$451 MILLION FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**

Jeddah, Sunday, 06 Rabi Al-Thani 1434/17 February 2013 (IINA) – A meeting of the Board of Executive Directors of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Group has approved \$ 450.8 million towards financing new development projects in member countries as well as in Muslim communities in non-member countries.

The meeting, chaired by IDB President Dr. Ahmad Mohamed Ali, has approved the allocations. These included \$ 125 million for construction of a section of Tirana-Korca Road Corridor in Albania, \$ 120 million for SADARA Petrochemical project in Saudi Arabia and \$ 100 million for SANIMAS community based sanitation project in 46 cities in



Indonesia. Other major allocations are \$ 36 million for efficient outdoor lighting for Tashkent City Project, Uzbekistan, \$ 20 million for construction of Sukuta-Jambangelly Road Project, Gambia and \$ 19.7 million for enhancing the learning environment at the Islamic University and the Millennium Villages Project (MVP) Phase II in Uganda as well as a \$ 1 million as technical assistance grant for the activities of the African Legal Support Facility. The Board also approved \$ 2 million as grant for emergency relief to the displaced people in Syria and Syrian refugees in Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq to contribute to the provision of education and health services. Another \$ 1.7 million was approved as special assistance grant

under IDB Waqf Fund for educational, vocational and health projects in Muslim communities in the Democratic Republic of Congo, India, UK, and the US. The meeting took note of an amount of \$ 25 million approved by the IDB President for Education and Training for Employment Project, Egypt. The meeting discussed the Bank's draft annual report for the year 2012, the draft financial statements of the Bank and its specialized funds for the same year, as well other documents for the forthcoming annual meeting of the Board of Governors of the IDB Group scheduled to be held on 21-22 May, 2013 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.





COUNTRY



NEWS



## GABON HAS HYDROELECTRIC POTENTIAL OF 6,000 MW



In its 2013 brief on the Gabonese energy sector the USA's Energy Information Administration (EIA) stated that Gabon has the potential to harness 6,000 MW of hydroelectricity. Several hydropower plants have been proposed, but progress has been slow, with the exception of the 160MW Poubara hydroelectric dam that is expected to come online in 2013. However, tapping into this potential could leave the country vulnerable to unfavourable weather patterns, as low rainfall has triggered power blackouts in the past.

Gabon's urban areas consume a majority of the power generated, while electricity access in rural areas remains low. As of 2009, Gabon's

countrywide electrification rate was 36.7%, and 900,000 people were without electricity, according to the latest figures from the International Energy Agency.

Gabon recently launched a plan to expand its hydroelectricity sector by constructing six power plants and extending transmission lines to satisfy rising demand from industrial consumers, according to IHS Global Insight. The first project anticipated to come online in early 2013 is the 160MW Poubara hydroelectric dam on the Ogooué River, which is being built by China's Sinohydro. The hydro plant is expected to supply power to regional manganese mining sites and for exports to Congo (Brazzaville). Other hydroelectricity projects that are planned, but development is moving at a slower pace, include the 36MW FE2 project on the Okano River, the 56MW Impératrice project on the Ngounie River, and the 410MW Booué project on the Ooué River. The country also plans to bring online the 70MW gas-fired Alenakiri power plant in Libreville sometime in 2013, which is being constructed by the Israeli company Telemenia.

Source: ESI-Africa

## GE TO INVEST US\$1 BILLION IN NIGERIA

General Electric says it plans to invest US\$1 billion in Nigeria, something which will help triple the country's power capacity over the next decade. Of this, US\$250 million will be invested immediately, with the rest of the money spent on local sourcing of goods and services.



GE Chairman Jeff Immelt says that the projects will create more than 2,000 jobs in Nigeria, nearly all of them going to Nigerians. The investment includes further funding for the service workshops in Port Harcourt and Onne

in Rivers State. The investment will also support the company's power generation, oil and gas production and exploration activities.

The company has an agreement with Geometric Power for the construction of a 450 MW power plant in Aba, the commercial city of Abia State for US\$500 million. In addition, a 140 MW plant, which is being built in Aba is scheduled for completion in March 2013.

Source: ESI-Africa



## SENEGAL PLANS TO BECOME WEST AFRICAN HUB FOR ISLAMIC FINANCE

Senegal is trying to position itself as a center for Islamic finance in West Africa, where about 52% of the population is Muslim, as the government pursues changes that will enable the first sales of sukuk.

Senegal still needs to adjust its policies to be able to sell debt that complies with Islam's ban on interest after postponing a plan last year to sell such bonds, said Mouhamadou Lamine Mbacke, managing director of the African Institute of Islamic Finance, a Dakar-based company that advises governments and financial institutions and is working with the authorities on the rule changes. About 95% of the nation's population of 12.7 million is Muslim.

In the eight-nation West African currency union, Senegal stands out for relative stability after electing a new president last year and the need to finance everything from energy to infrastructure and agriculture, according to Mbacke. Senegal, with a \$14 billion economy, is



making a push with the global market for Islam-compliant financing set to double to \$3 trillion by 2015, according to Standard & Poor's. Selling sukuk would help lure investment to the country from areas such as the Gulf region, said Mbacke.

Senegal, the second-biggest economy in the West African currency union after Ivory Coast, is set to see growth accelerate to 4.3% in 2013 from 3.7 percent in 2012, according to the International Monetary Fund.

Source: Bloomberg

## SUDAN AND SOUTH SUDAN SIGN AGREEMENT TO RESUME OIL EXPORTS



Sudan and South Sudan signed an agreement on 12 March 2013 that could lead to the resumption of oil production in two weeks. The agreement stated that "Resumption of production shall take place as soon as technically feasible".

South Sudan became independent of Sudan in 2011, taking with it nearly three quarters of the oil wealth. The pipelines, refinery and port to export the oil, however, are in Sudan.

South Sudan halted oil production in January 2012 due to transportation fees. Both countries have suffered from the loss of oil revenues, with South Sudan depending on oil for 98% of its revenue. South Sudan's Petroleum and Mining Minister, Stephen Dhieu Dau, told that it would take roughly three weeks to resume production.

The agreement, signed in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, under the supervision of the African

Union, sets a timetable and the mechanisms to enact a cooperation agreement signed by both countries last September. In addition to oil production, other matters addressed in the cooperation agreement are to be immediately carried out in the next two to three weeks,

including security arrangements, the demarcation of borders, the status of people living across borders, trade, economics and pensions.

Source: New York Times

## SUDAN, EGYPT, LIBYA REACH MINING COOPERATION DEAL

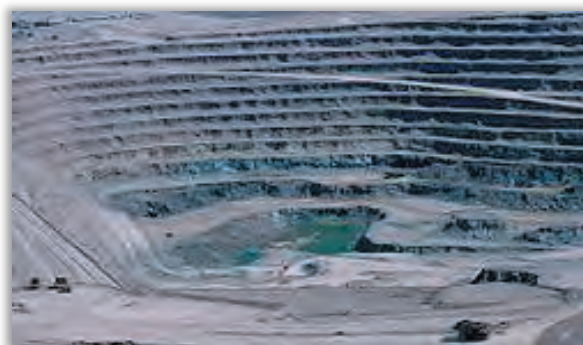
Sudan, Egypt and Libya on March 14 agreed on enhancing the cooperation in the mineral resources sector to serve the economic interests of the three countries.

A meeting among the three countries in the mining sector started in Khartoum with the participation of the Sudanese Minerals Minister Kamal Abdullatif, the Egyptian Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Osama Kamal and the Libyan Minister of Industry Suleiman Ali Al-Fitory.

The meeting discussed establishment of a joint mining fund to finance the projects in the Arab countries through the Arab League and to study the better exploitation of the mineral resources.

Osama Kamal, the Egyptian minister, for his part, disclosed that Egypt has set up three axis to upgrade the mining sector through clear policies and attract investment in the sector.

Suleiman Ali Al-Fitory, Libya's industry minister, meanwhile reiterated his country's keenness to achieve the cooperation between



Sudan, Egypt and Libya in the field of mineral wealth, stressing the importance of uniting the visions, setting a timeframe and following up what has been agreed upon by the three countries.

He further called for conducting detailed studies for the mineral resources and how to better exploit them, affirming the importance of exchanging information, setting up a mineral and investment map, forming joint teams to analyze the data, revising the laws concerned with the mineral resources and intensifying the joint meetings at the executive level.

Source: Xinhua

## EU STARTS PUSH FOR NEW TRADE PACTS WITH NORTH AFRICA



The European Union began talks with Morocco on a free-trade deal on March 1, the EU's first in a planned series aimed at deepening trade ties with North African nations two years after a wave of Arab uprisings. "Just announced the launch of negotiations for a free-trade agreement with Morocco," European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso said on his



Twitter feed from Rabat.

The negotiations are the first part of a European strategy to draw North African neighbours closer to the 27-country EU. The European Council, which represents the member states, approved the idea of deep and comprehensive free-trade agreements with Morocco, Jordan, Egypt and Tunisia in 2011.

Trade between the EU and Morocco amounted to roughly 24 billion euros of goods in 2011, and the EU is keen to open up trade in the services sector. Morocco is the largest recipient of European neighbourhood aid, money given to the EU's immediate periphery, with 580.5 million euros (\$760 million) earmarked for 2011-2013, according to the European Commission.

"Smooth negotiations of the free-trade agreement are crucial because they serve as an example for other countries in the southern Mediterranean," said Marielle De Sarnez, a French member of the European Parliament. "This agreement will also allow in the long term greater regional integration for the Maghreb countries."

Morocco's exports to the EU are mainly clothing, agricultural products and machinery. The EU sold roughly 15 billion euros of goods to the North African country in 2011, with exports growing at roughly 5 per cent a year from 2007-2011.

Source: Reuters.

## ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT TO BENEFIT 800,000 PEOPLE IN UGANDA



The Board of Directors of the African Development Bank Group (AfDB) approved on 13 March 2013, a loan in the amount of US \$144.89 million in support of the Uganda road sector including the US \$34.40 million contribution of the Ugandan Government.

The project will help improve road access to socio-economic infrastructure as well as the

quality of road transport services to the western regions of the country.

The project is expected to reduce transportation costs, improve access to social and economic infrastructure and increase mobility, thus contributing to upgrading the standards of living of the populations through better transport services and increased access to social services, such as daycares and markets. Over 800,000 people are expected to benefit from the project which aims to create about 12,000 jobs, of which 80 per cent will be reserved for local communities.

The project includes civil engineering works, the study and strengthening of the road sub-sector, as well as the compensation and relocation of people affected by the project in conformity with the relocation plans.

Source: African Development Bank



## MOROCCO IS THE FIRST CUSTOMER AND THE FOURTH LARGEST ARAB SUPPLIER OF ALGERIA

Despite closed borders between Morocco and Algeria, trade relations between the two countries remain at the correct level. Morocco is, in fact, the first customer and fourth Arab supplier to Algeria.

In 2012, in fact, Algeria exported \$ 1.97 billion to the Kingdom. Morocco is closely followed by Tunisia with \$ 1 billion, Egypt (\$876.5 million), Iraq (\$783.2 million) and Mauritania (\$61.1 million), according to figures of the National Customs published on 19 February, via the official Algerian APS agency.

The main products exported by Algeria are food (dates, sugar, sunflower oil, vegetables), energy and lubricants, rolled products, tires, carboys, bottles, flasks and similar articles.

Regarding imports, Morocco is the fourth largest Arab supplier of Algeria (\$281.8 million),



preceded by Saudi Arabia (\$467.2 million), Tunisia (\$407.8 million), and Egypt (\$380.6 million)

The main products imported by Algeria in these countries are drugs, light oils, copper wire, iron bars and electrical conductors.

Source: The Maghreb Daily.

## EGYPT GOVERNMENT APPROVES LAW ALLOWING ISLAMIC BOND ISSUES



The Egyptian government approved a draft law on February 27 that will allow the state to issue Islamic bonds, or sukuk, a move that could help narrow a gaping budget deficit and boost foreign currency reserves that have fallen to critically low levels.

Finance Minister Al-Mursi Al-Sayed Hegazy said Egypt could raise around \$10 billion a year from

the sukuk market - much more than some analysts expect - but added that it would take at least three months to push through the necessary regulations.

The law will also allow private borrowers to issue sukuk. Egypt has never before issued bonds that adhere to Islamic principles, under which the payment of interest is impermissible.

Foreign reserves have fallen to \$13.6 billion - less than the \$15 billion needed to cover three months worth of imports - and the deficit is forecast to hit 12.3 percent of GDP by the end of June unless economic reforms are implemented.

Hegazy, an expert on Islamic finance appointed earlier this year, said in January that the Islamic

Development Bank could be ready to buy around \$6 billion of sukuk. He did not make clear whether the \$10 billion annual figure referred to state issues alone, or included

amounts he expected to be raised by private borrowers.

Source: Reuters.

## DONATION FROM WB TO DEVELOP ECOTOURISM, PRESERVE DESERT BIODIVERSITY IN TUNISIA

A \$ 4.72-million grant agreement was signed on March 6, 2013, by Mr. Riadh BETTAIEB Minister of Investment and International Cooperation and Mrs. Eileen MURRAY Resident Representative of the World Bank in Tunis.

This new donation will help promote the sustainable development of ecotourism in certain disadvantaged areas, and preserve the biodiversity and sustainability of desert wastelands in three national parks in the south, including the parks of Dghoumès (Governorate Tozeur) Jbil (Governorate of Kebili) and the national Park Bouhedma (Governorate of Sidi Bouzid).

The project will support activities that create jobs and generate income related to ecotourism



development for communities, including farmers' associations, women's organizations, youth organizations and environmental NGOs, and through their participation in the preparation and implementation of management plans for parks and through training programs to enhance skills development.

Source: African Manager

## TASHKENT RECEIVES \$36M ISDB LOAN FOR BETTER OUTDOOR LIGHTING



The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) has issued Uzbekistan a \$36 million loan to improve outdoor lighting in the Uzbek capital. The loan will make the Uzbek capital city's outdoor lights more energy-efficient and reduce carbon emissions, as well as increasing the number of lights on the roadways. Road capacity will also

be improved as a result of the funding. The Efficient Outdoor Lighting for Tashkent City Project is a joint project established by the Tashkent city administration and Toshshaharnur, the city's light authority.

Uzbekistan has been a member of the Islamic Development Bank since 2003 and has received \$464 million for 15 projects in such areas as healthcare, education, development of road infrastructure, support of small businesses. Currently, the sides are implementing a programme for 2011-2013, which stipulates implementation of 11 projects worth US\$655.5 million.

Source: Universal Newswires & UzDaily

## WORLD BANK APPROVES \$400 MILLION FOR SUPPORTING EDUCATION IN SINDH PAKISTAN

The World Bank approved a package of assistance worth \$400 million to support the Second Sindh Education Sector Reform Program (SERP II). The program will support the Sindh government's efforts to increase school participation and measure student achievement by improving sector governance and accountability and strengthening administrative systems.

School participation in Sindh has shown a very slow improvement over the past few years and with huge disparities across districts, especially for girls in rural areas. An important factor behind the low education outcomes in the province is poor management and minimal monitoring and accountability of the government school system. The situation has been compounded by three years of continuous flood damage to school infrastructure and disruption in service delivery in many districts across Sindh.

The SERP II will provide financial, technical, and advisory support through a results-based



specific investment credit with the majority of disbursements contingent on the satisfactory achievement of pre-specified program implementation progress and performance targets in ten initiatives that aim to address gaps in and/or current poor practices in education sector management and governance.

The credit is financed from the International Development Association (IDA), and will be on standard IDA blend terms, with a maturity of 25 years, including a grace period of 5 years.

Source: World Bank

## ADB PROVIDING \$700 MILLION TO HELP END CRIPPLING POWER SHORTAGES IN BANGLADESH



The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is providing a \$700 million loan to dramatically boost Bangladesh's power supply system, which

will reduce outages and shortages that are crippling the economy and causing severe hardship across the country.

450,000 households will receive new power connections through the multitranchise facility's financing of an expansion and upgrade of generation, transmission and distribution facilities. Carbon emissions will also be reduced by almost 2.5 million tons per year.

The program will boost the efficiency of several generating facilities to increase capacity by up to 700 megawatts. The program will also fund



hundreds of kilometers of new transmission and distribution lines and improve supply equipment.

The first \$185-million tranche loan will be used to convert a gas-fired power plant in Khulna, the third largest city in the country, into a more efficient, cleaner-burning combined cycle plant. Power system and financial management training will be given to staff in sector institutions, and a pilot project with around 200 solar energy-driven irrigation pumps will be

established, benefitting around 4,000 poor farming families.

The overall program, costing \$1.6 billion, includes cofinancing from the Agence Française de Développement, the European Investment Bank (EIB), and the Islamic Development Bank, as well as a government contribution of \$222 million. The program features an extensive capacity building program financed in part by the EU.

Source: Asian Development Bank

## HEALTH OUTCOMES OF AFGHANS SET TO IMPROVE

The World Bank approved a \$100 million grant from the International Development Association (IDA) to help the government of Afghanistan expand the scope, quality, and coverage of basic health and essential hospital services in Afghanistan. The Afghanistan System Enhancement for Health Action in Transition (SEHAT) Project will cover both rural and urban areas in 22 of the country's 34 provinces. It will also strengthen the national health system and build the capacity of the Ministry of Public Health to effectively perform its stewardship functions at the central and provincial levels.

SEHAT follows two earlier projects financed by the World Bank. With this new financing, the World Bank has provided a total of \$335 million since 2003, including support from the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF). This funding would be further supplemented by a proposed ARTF funded grant of \$270 million including European Union and government contribution of \$30 million. Over the decade, the number of health facilities in 11 target provinces nearly tripled from 148 to 432. Around 20,000 community health workers — half of them women — were trained and deployed throughout the country, increasing access to family planning and boosting childhood vaccinations. The number of facilities with trained female health workers rose from



25% before the project to 74%. At the same time, the number of functioning health facilities increased from 496 to more than 2,000. These interventions have produced significant improvement in the coverage of reproductive and child health services, as well as a significant drop in maternal and child mortality.

SEHAT will expand to 22 provinces and continue to support these services, as well as strengthening the capacity of the ministry through modernizing systems, streamlining organizational structures, building a cadre of skilled and motivated staff and making hospitals more autonomous.

Despite recent progress, the country faces significant challenges in the sector. Afghanistan's infant and under-5 mortality rates are still higher than the average for low-income countries, and child malnutrition rates are among the highest in



the world. About 55% of children under 5 suffer from chronic malnutrition, and women and children suffer from high levels of vitamin and mineral deficiencies.

In 2018, through SEHAT, Afghanistan aims to achieve the following outcomes:

- 35% of births attended by skilled health personnel

- 60% of children aged between 12 and 23 months will be vaccinated against five vaccine-preventable diseases
- 40% of pregnant women will have antenatal care coverage
- 50% of pregnant and lactating women would have received counseling on infant and young child feeding
- 15 national hospitals will have full budgetary autonomy

Source: The World Bank

## YEMENI-OMANI JOINT COMMITTEE CONCLUDES ITS 2TH SESSION IN MUSCAT



The Yemeni-Omani Joint Ministerial Committee concluded Thursday its 12th session, which was held in Muscat over two days and co-chaired by Transport Ministers in the two countries.

Minister of Transport Waed Bathaib said that two memoranda of understanding were signed during the session in the fields of documents and archives and the liberalization of the atmosphere between the two countries, as well as the signing of the minutes of the third and the 12th meetings of the Yemeni-Omani Joint Ministerial Committee.

He pointed out that it was also agreed on cooperation and taking advantage of the expertise and rare manuscripts between the two sides, affirming the depth of bilateral relations

between the two brotherly countries.

For his part, Minister of Transport and Communications in the Sultanate of Oman, Ahmed al-Futaisi, praised the fruitful cooperation between the two sides and the serious discussion in areas that were touched during the meetings of the Committee and the reached agreements.

Al-Futaisi explained that the activation of airlines between the Sultanate and Yemen, as well as between the seaports, aims to open channels of communication between the two countries, which will facilitate the transport of goods and people.

He added that a number of topics were discussed in the meeting, including the standards and criteria and applying the approved specifications in the Sultanate, as well as the cooperation in the fields of customs, education and other fields.

The 12th session of Yemeni-Omani Joint Ministerial Committee was kicked off on Tuesday in the Omani capital Muscat, under the chairmanship of Transport Ministers in the two countries.

Source: SABA

## MAURITANIA EXPANDS RURAL WATER PROJECTS

Mauritania is among the Sahel countries which is most affected by drought, desertification and climate change. In this respect the water, agriculture and livestock sectors have already been identified as the priority concerns in formulating their development strategy by the government.

Mauritania and the African Development Bank recently signed a new US\$ 8.5 million grant agreement in water sector on February 2013 to supply water for small-scale irrigation and drinking water in the south-eastern and central regions of the country. With this project it is expected that 34% of Mauritania's total rural population will be directly get benefited for drinking water supply and sanitation facilities. Furthermore, within this agreement more than a quarter-million head of cattle will access water



through the small scale projects to be realized for the livestock sector.

Source: Allafrika

## TURKISH AIRLINES PLACES ITS BIGGEST ORDER EVER WITH AIRBUS



Turkish Airlines finalized an order for 82 mid-range jets from European airplane manufacturer Airbus, in a deal with a listed value of 9.3 billion dollars. According to a press release on Airbus website, Turkish Airlines signed a contract for up to 117 A320 Family aircraft (25 A321ceo, 4 A320neo, 53 A321neo and options for 35 additional A321neo aircraft). This order is the

largest ever placed by a Turkish carrier. The engine selection will be made at a later date.

“We are delighted with this new order from Turkish Airlines, which takes us above 2,000 NEO orders in a little over two years after launch” said John Leahy, Airbus Chief Operating Officer, Customers. “This order confirms that the NEO is the most cost effective and profitable solution for airlines with ambitious growth plans. The 15 per cent fuel saving and the widest cabin in its class give Turkish Airlines a big competitive advantage.” Turkish Airlines already operates 75 A320 Family aircraft. The new order will help Turkish Airlines expand their short to medium-haul routes from their Istanbul hub, while the aircrafts commonality with their existing Airbus fleet will generate additional cost-savings.

Source: Trawel-impact-newswire

## WORLD BANK SAYS PALESTINIAN ECONOMY IS LOSING COMPETITIVENESS

A new World Bank report on the Palestinian economy published in March 2013 said Israeli measures in the occupied territories damage Palestinian competitiveness. The Economic Monitoring

Report said that “while the donor community’s efforts are directed towards short-term relief for Palestinian fiscal stress, it is important to recognize that the prolonged system of closures and restrictions is causing lasting damage to the competitiveness of the Palestinian economy”. The Bank’s analysis of the prospects for an economically viable Palestinian State in the near future remains largely unchanged: Palestinian institutions have the required capacity to exercise state functions, but Israeli-imposed economic restrictions continue to constrain sustainable economic growth. This situation is unlikely to change as long as political progress remains absent.

This latest report, however, offers new analysis by exploring the long-term damage to the competitiveness of the Palestinian economy wrought by the worsening fiscal situation and the absence of political progress. The economy is in danger of losing its capacity to compete in the global market, according to the report. It shows that the structure of the economy has deteriorated since the late 90’s as the value-added of the tradable sectors has declined, illustrated by



the productivity of the agriculture sector having roughly halved and the manufacturing sector having largely stagnated. The share of exports in the Palestinian economy has

also been in steady decline since 1994, dropping to 7 percent in 2011, one of the lowest in the world. Moreover, Palestinian exports are concentrated in low value-added goods and services, the majority of which is exported to Israel.

Of equal importance to the long-term viability of the economy, the quality of infrastructure in key sectors like water and transport is deteriorating and damaging economic productivity. This negative impact is most severe in Gaza where significant resources are required to bring the level of infrastructure performance to a desirable level. The labor force, too, could lose long-term employability, say the report’s authors. With low labor force participation and high rates and duration of unemployment, many Palestinians of working age do not have the opportunity to develop on-the-job skills. Increased employment in the public sector has provided some short-term relief, but this is unsustainable and does little to prepare employees for future private sector jobs.

Source: WAFA

## CROWN PRINCE SALMAN LAUNCHES MADINAH CULTURE CAPITAL FESTIVITIES

The Rabat-based Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), an affiliate of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), has chosen Madinah as the Islamic Culture Capital for the Arab region for 2013.

Crown Prince Salman bin Abdul Aziz, Deputy Premier and Minister of Defence, launched the yearlong celebrations to mark Madinah as the capital of Islamic culture. After opening Maaraz Al-Eiman exhibition, he toured the exhibition

and was briefed on its exhibits through a replica of the city at the beginning of the Saudi era. He also watched a photo exhibition on the history of the historic city up to date.

Speaking on the occasion, Crown Prince Salman highlighted the significance of Madinah. Crown Prince Salman also spoke about the utmost care and concern given by the Saudi government to serve the two holy mosques and extend the best possible services for the Haj and Umrah pilgrims as well as visitors to the holy mosques. Over 130 noted Islamic cultural personalities, including scholars from all around the world, were in attendance along with Prince Faisal Bin Salman,



governor of Madinah region in the opening ceremony.

Source: IINA

## QATAR-OMAN JOINT TOURIST VISA FOR 33 COUNTRIES

According to an announcement of the Ministry of Interior of Qatar, tourists from several countries can soon visit Qatar and Oman on a single visa.



Both countries recently signed an agreement to issue a common tourist visa for citizens of 33 countries on arrival at Doha International Airport. The visa holder can travel from Qatar to Oman without taking a separate visa, provided that he does not go to a third country during the visit. The visa is valid for one month and can be extended for another. The beneficiary is permitted to travel freely between Qatar and Oman during the validity period of the visa provided that he shall not leave for a third country during the period. In that case he has to apply for a new visa again.



The common tourist visa will be issued to citizens of Andorra, Austria, Britain, Canada, Finland, Germany, Hong Kong, Ireland, Japan, Luxembourg, Monaco,

New Zealand, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, Vatican, Australia, Belgium, Brunei, Denmark, France, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Lichtenstein, Malaysia, Netherlands, Norway, San Marino, South Korea, Sweden and United States. The visa applicant should be a citizen of the 33 countries mentioned in the agreement and his passport needs to be valid for not less than 6 months. The visa will not be issued for a temporary passport holder. The applicant should have a return air ticket.

Source: The Peninsula

## UAE FIRM SECURES \$1.28 BILLION FOR RAIL PROJECT

Etihad Rail, the state-backed firm building a \$ 11 billion railway network in the UAE, said that it secured \$ 1.28bn of bank financing to build the first phase of the project. Gulf States are

spending hundreds of billions of dollars on infrastructure projects, ranging from power, transport and housing. The first phase of the UAE rail network will extend 264 kilometres in





the west of the country from Shah and Habshan near Abu Dhabi to Ruwais and transport shipments of granulated sulphur for export for the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company. Upon completion, the UAE's national railway network will span about 1,200km and form part of the planned Gulf-wide railway network. "The securing of this loan represents the beginning of

a new era for the UAE in trade and travel through a transportation network that will connect all seven emirates with our GCC partners," Etihad Rail chairman Nasser Al Sowaidi, said in the statement.

National Bank of Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank, HSBC Holdings and Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi UFJ arranged the five-year financing, Etihad Rail said. Construction of the first phase, one of three planned stages, is already underway after the awarding of a \$ 900 million civil and track works contract was awarded in October 2011. Etihad Rail received its first shipment of wagons in December last year and expects to receive the first shipment of locomotives this quarter.

Source: Gulf Daily News

## MALAYSIA GETS VOTE OF CONFIDENCE FROM INVESTORS

Malaysia continues to receive a vote of confidence from investors, both domestically and abroad, to establish business presence as well as expanding operations.

International Trade and Industry Minister, Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed, said existing investors in Malaysia continued to expand their operations, while at the same time attract new investors.

He said growing market in Malaysia and fast-expanding Asean market had encouraged existing investors to expand operations here and sell products not only in Malaysia but also to the regional market.

Mustapa said Malaysia continued to receive good interest from new investors, especially the Japanese, following the long and strong economic relationship between Malaysia and Japan.



"In terms of realised investments in Malaysia in the manufacturing sector, Japan remains No.1 with investments exceeding US\$20 billion," he told reporters at the official opening of Boon Siew Honda's new motorcycle production plant.

Mustapa said the Malaysian government was committed to ensure continued good growth and attracting more investments to generate job opportunities for the people especially young generation.

"Our policies now is to encourage companies to move up value chain, increase automation, introduce latest and modern technology so Malaysia can become a high-income country by 2020," he said.

He said most of the companies would venture to countries with large population like Indonesia, India and Vietnam to start production rather exporting as it was more cost-efficient.

Source: The Malaysian Insider

## VOLKSWAGEN TO START INVESTING IN INDONESIA EARLY NEXT YEAR



German-based carmaker Volkswagen will begin investing in Indonesia as part of its expansion plans, Industry Minister M.S. Hidayat announced in March this year.

The government has given Volkswagen permission to invest in Indonesia, Hidayat said, adding that the company agreed to the requirements the state asked them to fulfill, including joining a domestic partnership and using national components.

He told reporters that the auto manufacturer will start realizing their plan in early 2014.

"I told them that as long as they follow the regulations, I will give them the green light," he said.

The scheme was set into motion after President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono met with Volkswagen executives during his visit to Berlin early this year.

The company expressed their interest in investing in Indonesia in 2012, saying that it wanted to open a \$140 million manufacturing plant with a production capacity of 50,000 units per year.

The main reason for the investment, according to Hidayat, is Indonesia's growing middle class. The country's middle class currently claims 50 million members with a per capita income of \$4,000.

The industry minister stated that the move would be financially beneficial for the country. He noted that Volkswagen had exceeded its production capacity in Japan, so it wants to expand further in Asia.

Hidayat said Volkswagen will partner up with Indomobil Sukses International, the country's second-largest auto distributor after Astra International.

Source: Jakarta Globe

## TOURISM TRIPS IN SAUDI ARABIA MAY REACH 83M BY 2020

Saudi Arabia has developed a general policy for the promotion of national tourism and the betterment of top traveling sites. Data of Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA) indicate that tourism GDP has increased by 1.0 percent to SR 59 billion in 2011, even though the sector's share decreased during the year relative to GDP.

According to the latest annual report from SAMA, the tourism sector created job opportunities for a large number of job seekers last year. The General Commission for Tourism and Antiquities (GCTA) estimated that the number of job opportunities created by tourism industry during 2011 stood at more than 600,000.

With respect to inbound tourism trips to Saudi Arabia, expenditure on accommodation came first with around SR 16.9 billion (or 37.2 percent of the total) in 2011, compared to SR 9.5 billion in 2010. GCTA also expects the total number of tourism trips in the Kingdom to reach 83 million by 2020, of which 62.4 million will be domestic and 20.6 million inbound trips, mainly from the GCC and neighboring Arab countries. The commission expects tourism expenditure in Saudi Arabia to grow to SR 227.3 billion by 2020.



Source: Arab News

### **AZERBAIJAN DEVELOPING STANDARDS FOR PROCESSING INDUSTRY**



German consulting company GOPA Consultants has developed projects on 27 samples of professional standards for enterprises engaged in the processing industry of Azerbaijan, the Labor and Social Protection Ministry said. The preparation of professional standards is being carried out under a joint project with the World Bank on the development of social protection launched in 2010.

The ministry said it is planned to develop 200 professional, 100 teaching and 200 appraisal standards in the workplace. The main goal is to increase the competitiveness of Azerbaijani enterprises in world markets, including for ensuring human resource development.

Professional standards will be developed in line with international standards in five sectors of the economy: construction, agriculture, tourism, industry and alternative energy. The standards will be updated every three years pursuant to the changes of international professional standards.

The goals of the projects are to develop professional standards and prepare certified specialists meeting international standards and then export these specialists to foreign labor markets. It is also planned to establish an independent certification body which will issue certificates to qualified local specialists.

Source: Azernews

### **GULF'S LARGEST HERITAGE PROJECT UNDERWAY IN SHARJAH**

Aiming to retain the feel of the 1950s in Sharjah's traditional areas, the largest heritage project in the UAE and Gulf region, the 'Heart of Sharjah' is currently in progress aiming to create the first development of its kind.

The five-phase, 15-year historical restoration project which aims to restore and revamp the traditional heritage areas of Sharjah, is scheduled for completion in 2025, Gulf News reported. The project plans to feature diverse commercial, cultural and residential projects. It also aims to



create tourist and trade destinations, including a boutique hotel, restaurants, retail shops, art galleries, traditional and contemporary markets, archaeological sites, museums, play areas, and commercial offices which will be placed in renovated old or ancient houses.

The heritage project is being undertaken by the Sharjah Investment and Development Authority (Shurooq) in cooperation with the Sharjah Department of Public Works and a number of government bodies and departments in the Emirate. "Executing a project of this scope would be impossible if not for the cooperation of stakeholders across the full spectrum of conservation, heritage, and development," said Shurooq CEO Marwan Bin Jassim Al Sarkal, who highlighted the Sharjah Department of Culture's continuous efforts throughout the project.



Starting its renovations in 2010, the project's first out of five phases is near completion. As part of phase 1, the foundation works of the Al Hisn Fort, Al Midfa Houses, and Al Tawaweesh House have been checked and evaluated for plans to add an upper floor to the buildings. The design and layout of the buildings is currently under study.

Source: Gulf News

## IRAN, COMOROS STRESS EXPANSION OF BILATERAL TIES



Caretaker of Iran's Ministry of Labor and Comorian Ministry of Employment, Labor, Vocational Training and Women's Entrepreneurship signed an agreement to expand the bilateral ties between the two friendly states.

Referring to the existing amicable ties between Iran and Latin American and African countries, Iranian Minister said that Tehran is ready to boost all-out cooperation and share experiences with Comoros.

The Comorian minister, for his part, hoped the agreement would lead to promotion of bilateral relations in all areas.

Earlier in February 2013, Iranian and Comorian officials in a meeting on the sidelines of the 12th summit of the OIC in Cairo announced their readiness to further increase mutual cooperation between the two countries.

The Issue was raised in a meeting between President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and Comorian prime minister.

During the meeting, President Ahmadinejad called for expansion of all-out relations with Comoros.

He termed as friendly and brotherly the ties between the two nations and said Iran and Comoros enjoyed good capacities to promote cooperation to the interests of their nations.

The Comorian prime minister, for his part, underlined the need for promotion of bilateral cooperation between the two nations.

Source: Farsnews



## GUINEA: SAUDI FUND OFFERS US\$24 MILLION TO GUINEA

The Saudi Development Fund has pledged US\$24 million for the construction of four schools in Guinea. Announced by Mr. Youssef Al-Bassam, Director-General of the Saudi Development Fund during discussions with Guinean President Alpha Condé.

The Saudi fund chairman also informed that Kingdom's willingness to cancel some of Guinea's debt and reschedule others. He also announced the release of US\$8 million to drill boreholes in the West African country. A delegation of Saudi businessmen is expected in May 2013 in Guinea with a view to looking into



investment opportunities in the private sector.

Source: Afriquejet

## WIND TURBINE PLANTS TO BE BUILT IN KAZAKHSTAN



Wind turbines manufacturing plants will be constructed in Kazakhstan this year, Managing Director of the National Atomic Company Kazatomprom Valeriy Shevelev said. "We have conducted all the necessary tests and decided to

launch the construction of plants manufacturing wind turbines, one of which will be located in Astana near the solar panels plant Astana Solar," Shevelev said.

According to Shevelev, there will be small 'oases' in steppes with water, renewable energy sources and all infrastructure necessary for the creation of "revival zones of traditional cattle breeding" that previously existed in Kazakhstan. The mass production of wind turbines will lead to cheapening of their cost and make them more available for the population. Wind turbines will also be used in transhumance.

Source: Azernews

## TAJIKISTAN BUILDING 14 SMALL HYDROPOWER PLANTS

The construction of 14 new small hydropower plants is presently underway in the remote regions of Tajikistan. "Within the state program on the construction of small HPPs in hard-to-reach and remote regions of Tajikistan, currently 14 small HPPs are being constructed. Therefore, the number of small HPPs in the country will reach 296 units till the end of this year," the



Tajik Ministry of Energy and Industry said. According to the ministry, the 282 small HPPs available in the Central Asian state have total capacity of 25,200 kWt. A total of 17 new small HPPs with total capacity of over 1,800 kWt started operating in 2012. Earlier it was reported that by 2015 it is planned to build 70 more small HPPs in Tajikistan. Furthermore, production of

1 kWt of power per hour in small HPPs is twice as expensive compared with large ones like Rogun HPP, secretary of Tajik national headquarters of the international commission for large dams, Hamid Alifov, believes.

Source: Azernews

## PAKISTAN CABINET APPROVED NEW INVESTMENT POLICY 2013



The Federal Cabinet, which met under the chair of Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf on 13 March 2013, approved the Investment Policy

2013 and Foreign Direct Investment Strategy 2013-17. The focus of Investment Policy, 2013 is to reduce the cost and processes of doing business to enhance

Pakistan's competitiveness. It proposes liberalization of economy with emphasis on investors' facilitation, investment protection, removing regulatory impediments, public-private partnership and coordination amongst stakeholders.

Source: Travel-impact-newswire

## GCC TOURIST VISA PLAN 'IN FINAL STAGE'

The procedures for issuing a unified GCC (Gulf Co-operation Council) tourist visa to expatriates are being finalised and an announcement is expected to be made soon. Quoting the acting director of Tourism and Museums in the GCC Secretariat in Riyadh, Sad al-Nassab, there were no hurdles to be crossed in implementing this proposal since the GCC countries had a high stake in tourism. The amount allocated by them in total is to the tune of \$380bn. However there has to be a link between the six GCC countries for implementing this scheme. The details were discussed by the technical affairs committee and the committee on tourism during their meetings



held recently. It was agreed to expedite the creation of E-link procedures for issuance of the visa.

As a destination for tourism, the GCC countries offer a variety of choices in terms places of interest, scenic spots, deserts, cool seas, high mountains and salubrious resorts besides political stability and security. Apart from tourists from abroad, expatriates living in any of the GCC countries will also be eligible to the unified visa, he said. The GCC leaders have in their recent deliberations affirmed the need to forge mutual co-operation in a concerted manner.

Source: Gulf News

## PALESTINE CALLS FOR GLOBAL ACTION TO SAVE ECONOMY

The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) called for an immediate international action to stop Israeli restrictions on Palestinian economy. This call came after the World Bank issued a report warning that the continued deterioration of the Palestinian economy “will have lasting and costly implications for economic competitiveness and social cohesion”. The Israeli restrictions include the frequent withholding of tax revenues, keeping military checkpoints in the West Bank, restricting the some Palestinian economic activities and preventing large-scale exports, said Palestinian Minister of Economy Jawwad Naji.



Since the Palestinians upgraded their UN status to a non-member observer in November, Israel has withheld or delayed the transfer of Palestinian tax revenues to the PNA. “This has put more obstacles before the local economy and struck the PNA’s ability to meet its obligations to the private sector,” said Minister Naji. He slammed Israel for not respecting Paris agreement, the 1994 protocol

that regulates economic relations between the two sides. The protocol has been set to expire after five years, but it is still in effect and still limits the Palestinian capacity to establish massive production and agricultural projects, he added.

Source: NNN-FNA

## EMIRATES AIRLINE LAUNCHES \$ 1BN SUKUK

Emirates airline, Dubai’s flagship carrier, launched a \$ 1 billion amortising Islamic bond on 12 March 2013 at the tighter end of pricing guidance, suggesting healthy demand for the deal. The 10-year sukuk, maturing 2023, carries a weighted average life of five years and launched at a spread of 300 basis points over five year midswaps, arranging banks said. The deal launched at the tighter end of profit rate guidance released earlier and lead managers had said in an update that order books were oversubscribed, including strong anchor orders from regional investors. Demand could have been spurred by the guidance which investors considered to be generous. The issue was already trading up in grey, or unofficial, trading, market sources said. Emirates tapped global debt markets in January for a \$ 750 million



amortising bond, which received a muted response due to weak market sentiment at the time. Citigroup, Standard Chartered, Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank, Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank, Dubai Islamic Bank and ENBD Capital are mandated lead managers for the sukuk.

Source: Gulf Daily News



## MALAYSIA, SINGAPORE AGREE TO HIGH-SPEED RAIL LINK



Malaysia and Singapore said they have agreed to build a high-speed rail link between the wealthy city-state and Kuala Lumpur, part of growing economic ties between the Southeast Asian neighbours.

"This is a strategic development that will dramatically improve the connectivity between Malaysia and Singapore. It will usher in a new era of strong growth, prosperity and opportunities for both countries," the two governments said in a joint statement.

New customs, immigration and quarantine facilities at Puteri Harbour in the Malaysia's Iskandar economic zone will likely be set up this year, said the statement issued after a meeting between Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and his Malaysian counterpart Najib Razak.

The target to complete the rail link is 2020, Lee said. The two prime ministers have tasked a joint ministerial committee to look into the details of the rail link, the statement said.

The two leaders will also officiate joint venture projects involving state investors Temasek Holdings and Khazanah Nasional Bhd in Singapore and Iskandar, just across a narrow strip of water from the city-state.

Temasek and Khazanah agreed in 2011 jointly to develop "wellness" projects in Iskandar that they believe will be worth around 3 billion ringgit when completed.

Source: Reuters

## RIYADH TO UNDERGO SR 278 BN FACE-LIFT

The Riyadh Development Authority (RDA) approved a comprehensive plan to overhaul the capital city, keeping wide, open areas in the city centre and building a ring road around them. "The project will bring about a facelift of downtown Riyadh and make it an outstanding historic, administrative, economic and cultural centre in the Kingdom," said Ibrahim Al-Sultan, a member of the RDA and head of its centre for projects and planning.

Al-Sultan said the plan also includes development of housing projects in the city centre and pedestrian pathways that would enhance the look of the city and make it more comfortable for citizens and residents. "The



central region will have three main railway lines and several bus routes," he said. It will also



house the main railway station, which will be part of the city's public transport system. "We'll create a new cultural, heritage and tourism route, beginning from the King Abdul Aziz

Historical Centre to the Government Palace (Qasr Al-Hukm)," the official said.

Source: Arab News

## IRAN, EGYPT TO SIGN LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING ON TOURISM



Iran's Head of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organisation, Mohammad Sharif Malekzadeh said that Iran and Egypt will sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to promote tourism cooperation. In a meeting with the head of Egypt's Interest Section in Tehran, Khaled Amareh, he welcomed Egyptian

Tourism Minister Hisham Zazou's imminent visit to Tehran. Describing Iran and Egypt as two great nations, he said that mutual understanding will help promote cooperation in all fields. Iran and Egypt boast of ancient history and Zazou's Tehran visit will usher in a new era for bilateral ties, Malekzadeh said. Amareh, for his part, appreciated Iran's cooperation to promote ties in the field of tourism. Egypt favours inking a tourism agreement with Iran, he said, noting that the country is ready to make its experience in the field available to Iran.

Source: NNN-IRNA

## KUWAIT FOREIGN MINISTER WELCOMES 'HISTORIC FLIGHT' BY IRAQI AIRWAYS

Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Hamad Al-Sabah hailed on 28 February 2013 the "historic" flight of an Iraqi Airways plane that landed at Kuwait International Airport. This is the first such flight by the Iraqi Airways after 22-year hiatus; it represents a significant milestone in the bilateral ties between the two countries. Sheikh Sabah made the remarks at a joint press conference with visiting Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari and Transport Minister Hadi Al-Amri. "The historic flight culminates strenuous efforts made by the two neighbourly countries to strengthen the bilateral relations," he pointed out.

After reaching a final agreement with the Iraqi side last November to settle the prolonged dispute between Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC) and Iraqi Airways, the Kuwaiti government adopted a decree giving the green



light to the deal. The decree was later approved by the National Assembly, thus completing the constitutional procedures, he reminded. Sheikh Sabah added that he discussed with the Iraqi ministerial delegation a range of issues and the results of the talks will give a strong impetus to the bilateral ties. The two countries are set to reap the fruits of the joint efforts made over the last year thanks to the top-level exchange of visits.

Source: Gulf Daily News

## THREE NEW NO-INTEREST ISLAMIC BONDS TO BE LAUNCHED IN TURKEY



The Turkish Capital Market Board (SPK) has prepared three new Islamic-compliant, non-interest financial instruments to supplement existing sukuk. The board is set to adapt the necessary regulations regarding the three non-interest financial instruments that are used in international markets, Vahdettin Ertaş, the incoming chairman of the SPK, announced. A sukuk is an Islamic bond that complies with

shariah and its investment principles, which prohibit the charging or paying of interest. Turkey is a new player in the sukuk market.

Turkey has been trading only sukuk certificates indexed on rent certificates as a kind of Islamic banking vehicle since last August. After raising a substantial amount in lira-denominated sovereign sukuk issuances, the Undersecretariat of the Treasury began issuing dollar-denominated sukuk in September. The second issuance came as a success after the government diversified its sources of financing by tapping into the global Islamic bond market. Participation banks in the country, which claim interest rate-free banking operations, welcomed the government's sukuk move. The volume of the global sukuk market is estimated at around \$100 billion.

Source: Hürriyet Daily News

## JEDDAH ISLAMIC PORT MAKING ITS MARK AS A GLOBAL SHIPPING HUB

The Jeddah Islamic Port ranks among the top 100 global ports annually. In fact, the establishment of an integrated project will ensure the presence of a security system that fills any gaps or security breaches at a financial cost of SR 15.98 million. Capt. Saher bin Musa Altahlawi, general manager of the Jeddah Islamic Port, confirmed that the port entered the competition more than a decade ago and became classified as a regional and global hub port, as well as assuming a high ranking position among the most important 100 international ports annually.

Altahlawi revealed that the port currently has the energy and operational capacity to meet growing demand for its services over the next five years and can meet the requirements to handle more than 7 million containers and more



than 130 million tons of various goods. He also pointed out that the capacity and actual operational levels reached 70 percent of all containers and 58 percent worth of the tons of various goods at the end of last year.

Source: Arab News

## MALAYSIA STUDYING REGIONAL RUBBER CONTRACT TO CHALLENGE TOKYO



Malaysia is studying a rubber futures contract to compete with Tokyo as a benchmark, the head of the country's derivatives exchange said.

Bursa Malaysia Derivatives Bhd., part-owned by CME Group Inc. and a unit of Bursa Malaysia Bhd. (BURSA), is talking to producers and traders in Southeast Asia to assess the feasibility, Chief Executive Officer Chong Kim Seng said in an interview.

"Among the producing areas, there is currently no good benchmark yet," Chong said at the Palm and Lauric Oils Conference and Exhibition in Kuala Lumpur in March. "Over 75 percent of rubber comes out of Southeast Asia. This is something that seems to be lacking."

Malaysia wants to broaden its range of financial products after establishing itself as the largest center for palm oil trading and Islamic finance. The Tokyo Commodity Exchange is home to the most popular benchmark for rubber futures. Contracts are also traded in Shanghai and Singapore.

A Malaysian rubber contract would probably also trade on the CME's Globex electronic platform, said Chong. The bourse is looking at a futures contract for refined, bleached and deodorized palm olein, he said, without providing a timeframe.

Source: Bloomberg

## TURKEY, SAUDI ARABIA TO BOOST TRADE

Turkish Economy Minister Zafer Caglayan signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the members of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) on 2 March 2013 during a recent visit to Saudi Arabia, in a move to build more economic bridges in the Islamic world by boosting trade and investment among the parties. Caglayan called for Turkish contractors to take a share from Saudi Arabian infrastructure investments in order to reach \$ 1 trillion in 20 years. The MoU signed by Caglayan and the head of the IDB, Ahmed Muhammed Ali El Medeni, includes the detection of fields of cooperation between the countries to encourage bilateral trade and investments. The trade finance instruments and compliant insurance products will be developed to introduce new



trade opportunities between financial institutions of IDB members and Turkey.

In a bid to enhance the bilateral relationship further, Caglayan also gathered with Saudi businessmen, making the opening remarks at the Turkey-Saudi Arabia Business Forum. In his speech, the Turkish minister said Turkish businesspeople should seek opportunities in infrastructure projects in Saudi Arabia, where



investments reaching \$1 trillion for the next 20 years are planned. In his remarks, he praised the work of Turkish contractors in projects around

the world and said they would bring and use their expertise in Saudi Arabian projects as well.

Source: Saudi Gazette

## MOROCCO, KUWAIT SIGN US\$250 MLN FINANCE DEAL



Morocco and Kuwait have signed a framework agreement worth USD 250 million annually for five years from 2012 to 2016. The agreement, which will be run by Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED), is primarily intended to bankroll development projects in Morocco. The deal was signed in February 2013 by KFAED Director-General Abdulwahab Al-Bader and Moroccan Minister of Economy and Finance Nizar Baraka in the presence of several Moroccan ministers and Kuwaiti Ambassador in Rabat Shamlan Al-Rumi.

Commenting on the agreement, the KFAED chief told KUNA that the agreement is part of Kuwaiti's contribution to a Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) plan to the tune of USD 5 billion for supporting economic, social and human development projects in this North African country. He said Kuwait's financial aid to Morocco will be mainly used in funding basic investments such as infrastructure, motorways, ports, farming, irrigation and housing. Hailing Kuwaiti-Moroccan cooperation, Al-Bader boasted that his fund had bankrolled over 37 development projects in Morocco in the vicinity of KD 388 million in line with a bilateral cooperation development agreement.

Source: NNN-KUNA

## FIRST ORGANIC AGRICULTURE LAB SET UP IN ALBANIA

The Turkish International Cooperation Agency (TIKA) has built an organic agriculture laboratory which follows international standards to make analysis and tests in Albania.

TIKA supports the organic agriculture methods in Albania to improve agricultural activities. Under a project TIKA has opened the first ever organic agricultural laboratory in Albania. The lab gives an opportunity to conduct scientific research with its latest high technology devices.

The President of Agricultural University Tirana, Fatos Harizaj, expressed her pleasure and gratitude for the lab. Ardian Maci, Dean of Agriculture and Environment Faculty, said they would work more efficiently thanks to the lab. He also stated they were hopeful for the future

of organic agriculture in Albania.



One-fourth of Albania is composed of arable lands and 60% of the employed population works in the agricultural sector.

Source: New Europe



## SAUDI HOSPITALITY SECTOR SEEN TO REACH \$18.1 BILLION BY 2016



A rise in the number of pilgrims visiting the Kingdom for Hajj and Umrah, are boosting domestic tourism growth, with Saudi residents making 22.5 million overnight trips per annum. Tourism receipts for Hajj and Umrah currently account for around 3 percent of GDP and, according to tourism officials, the country gained a reported \$ 16.5 billion from tourism in 2012, representing a 10 percent increase on the previous year. The largest hospitality market in the GCC, Saudi Arabia also accounts for the bulk of international tourist arrivals, at 46 percent, Alpen Capital said in its GCC Hospitality Industry

Report in October 2012, representing a 50 percent year-on-year increase against 2011 figures

Tourist arrivals are expected to grow annually at 4.0 percent between 2012 and 2022, driven by strong growth across all sectors, with occupancies set to jump from 67.5 percent in 2011 to 74.2 percent by 2016 and a \$ 30 increases in ADR to \$ 258.4. In tandem demand for hotel rooms means that aggressive development and expansion plans for a number of major international hotel groups is also on the short-term agenda. InterContinental Hotels Group has said that Saudi Arabia is one of the markets representing the most opportunity for its Middle East business to grow in 2013, with two new properties set to open in Riyadh this year, and a total of eight hotels by 2018. Hotel room supply in the Kingdom is expected to increase at a CAGR of 1.5 percent between 2011 and 2016, increasing from 243,117 rooms in 2011 to 262,049 in 2016, with 69 properties currently in the planning or construction phase.

Source: Saudi Gazette

## TURKMENISTAN BUILDS MORE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS

Turkmenistan already has two international airports but intends to build two more by 2016 in hopes of attracting more passengers and cargo. However, analysts debate whether these plans will actually boost tourism and business. The new facilities will supplement Turkmenbashi International Airport, which was built in 2010 and can handle 800 passengers an hour, and the existing Ashgabat International Airport, which was built in 1994 and can handle 1,600 passengers an hour.

The future Ashgabat airport, with a planned throughput capacity of 1,600 passengers an hour, would be the biggest airport in Central Asia and will cost an expected US \$2.2 billion (6.3 billion TMT). The Turkmenabat airport is projected to cost about a third of that and will be designed to handle 500 passengers an hour. Polimeks, a



Turkish contractor, will build the Ashgabat airport, while Altkom Road Construction, a Ukrainian firm, has contracted to build the Turkmenabat facility. Both new airports are expected to begin operating in 2016. "At that time, the total throughput capacity of Turkmenistan's three newest international airports will be 2,900

passengers an hour,” Amansary Garadzhaev, a spokesman for Turkmenistan Airlines, told Central Asia Online. “There is nothing like it

anywhere else in the region.”

Source: Central Asia Online

## ISLAMIC BONDS (SUKUKS) INITIATIVE LAUNCHED IN DUBAI



Sheikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, rang the opening bell on an initiative to transform Dubai into a global centre for Islamic bonds (sukuks). The initiative, called Transforming Dubai into a Global Centre for

Islamic Bonds, is the first executive plan following Sheikh Mohammad's January 9 declaration to develop Dubai into a centre for Islamic finance. Launched on the floor of the Dubai Financial Market, the new initiative will create a centre for issuing, listing and trading sukuk. Part of the initiative's aim is to encourage organizations to issue sukuk instead of bonds. When Sheikh Mohammad originally announced the plan to develop Dubai into a centre for Islamic finance in January, it was to include Islamic finance instruments, Islamic insurance, Islamic contract arbitration, Islamic food industry and trade standards (Halal food), as well as Islamic quality-management standards.

Source: NNN-IRNA

## QATAR AIRWAYS TO MOVE TO NEW DOHA AIRPORT BY YEAR-END



Qatar Airways Group will move to Hamad International Airport in Doha toward the year-end. The \$15.5b Hamad International Airport, also known as New Doha International Airport, to be managed and operated by Qatar Airways will receive first passengers on April 1, when the facility will be opened to a dozen airlines that don't require lounge utilization. Initially, Hamad International Airport will have a handling capacity of some 28 million passengers a year, increasing to 50 million in its final phase of development beyond 2015.

The current airport (Doha International Airport) will remain open to passenger services until Qatar Airways moves its entire operations to the new facility by the year-end, CEO of Qatar Airways, Al-Baker told the newspaper. He said: “These are exciting times for Qatar Airways and Qatar. The opening of Hamad International Airport, our new home, will be a formidable milestone in the country's relatively short history in the aviation industry. Al-Baker told the paper: “The new airport is an architectural masterpiece that promises to be a great new travel experience, meeting the exciting expansion plans for Qatar Airways, which currently operates some 121 aircraft to 125 destinations worldwide. Within three years, we will surpass 170 aircraft flying to more than 170 destinations.

Source: Gulf News

# THE NINTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ISLAMIC ECONOMICS AND FINANCE

**“Growth, Equity and Stability: An Islamic Perspective”**

**09-11 September 2013, WOW Convention Center, Istanbul, Turkey**



كلية الدراسات الإسلامية في قطر  
QATAR FACULTY OF ISLAMIC STUDIES



The Ninth ICIEF will be organized jointly by the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Group through its Islamic Research and Training Institute (IRTI), the International Association for Islamic Economics (IAIE), and the Qatar Foundation's Hamad Bin Khalifa University through its Qatar Faculty of Islamic Studies (QFIS), with the support of other stakeholders.

## Focus Areas of the Conference

- Sustainable and Inclusive Development, Growth, and Equity from Islamic Perspective
- Islamic Business Ethics and Morality
- Recent Financial, Economic and Political Developments: Re-thinking the Fundamentals
- Access to Financial Services and Inclusive Financial Sector Development
- Policy Reforms for Institutional Development and Governance
- Regulatory and Legislative Landscape for Islamic Financial Markets and Institutions
- Development and Stability of Islamic Financial Services Industry
- Socially Responsible Investments
- Islamic Economics and Finance as a Scientific Discipline
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- Knowledge Economy and Entrepreneurship Development Nexus thinking.

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# N I N T H I C I E F

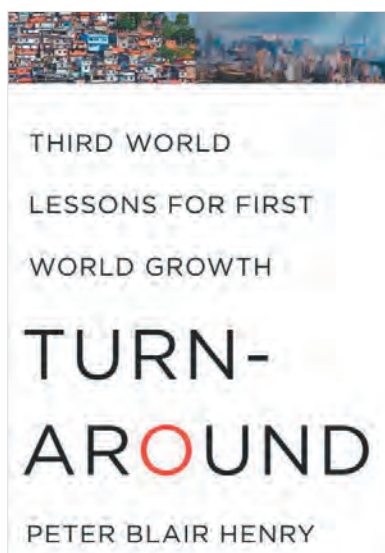


## BOOK REVIEWS – RECENT TITLES

### Turn-Around: Third World Lessons for First World Growth

Peter Blair Henry, 240 pages, Basic Books, 2013

Thirty years ago, China seemed hopelessly mired in poverty, Mexico triggered the Third World Debt Crisis, and Brazil suffered under hyperinflation. Since then, these and other developing countries have turned themselves around, while First World nations, battered by crises, depend more than ever on sustained growth in emerging markets. In *Turn-Around*, economist Peter Blair Henry argues that the secret to emerging countries' success (and developed countries') is discipline—sustained commitment to a pragmatic growth strategy. With the global economy teetering on the brink, the stakes are higher than ever. And because stakes are so high for all nations, we need less polarization and more focus on facts to answer the fundamental question: which policy reforms, implemented under what circumstances, actually increase



economic efficiency? Pushing past the tired debates, Henry shows that the stock market's forecasts of policy impact provide an important complement to traditional measures.

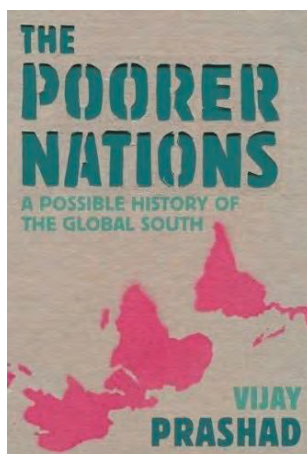
Through examples ranging from the drastic income disparity between Barbados and his native Jamaica to the “catch up” economics of China and the taming of inflation in Latin America, Henry shows that in much of the emerging world the

policy pendulum now swings toward prudence and self-control. With similar discipline and a dash of humility, he concludes, the First World may yet recover and create long-term prosperity for all its citizens. Bold, rational, and forward-looking, *Turn-Around* offers vital lessons for developed and developing nations in search of stability and growth.

### The Poorer Nations: A Possible History of the Global South

Vijay Prashad, 300 pages, Verso, First Edition, 2013

With *The Poorer Nations*, Prashad takes up the story where he left off. Since the '70s, the countries of the Global South have struggled to build political movements. Prashad analyses the failures of neoliberalism, as well as the rise of the BRICS countries, the World Social Forum, issue-based movements like *Via Campesina*, the Latin American revolutionary revival—in short, efforts to create alternatives to the neoliberal project



advanced militarily by the US and its allies and economically by the IMF, the World Bank, the WTO, and other instruments of the powerful.

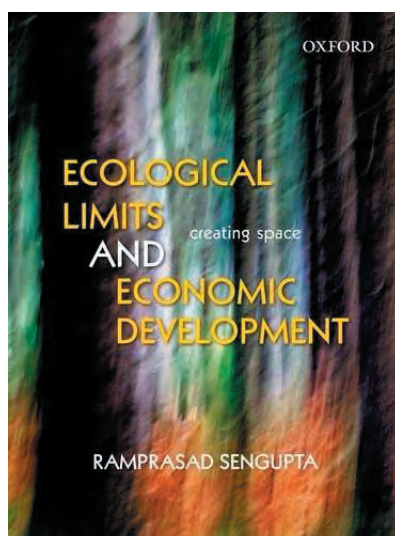
Just as *The Darker Nations* asserted that the Third World was a project, not a place, *The Poorer Nations* sees the Global South as a term that properly refers not to geographical space but to a concatenation of protests against neoliberalism.



## Ecological Limits and Economic Development

Ramprasad Sengupta, 424 pages, Oxford University Press, 2013

This book presents a comprehensive coverage of the role of ecological constraints in limiting the availability of natural resources for economic development. It discusses in detail the notion of sustainable development, the concept of ecological footprints, and population theory. It also analyses how the development of technology, policies, and institutions can relax these constraints in the context of major resources. The analytical discussion is carried out at the conceptual, theoretical and applied level.



Addressing challenges arising from ecological limits, the book engages with the dynamics of and policies for conservation of an entire range of major resources—land and soil, water, forests, biodiversity, energy, non-energy, material, and waste absorption. It identifies the role of knowledge, values, human capital, and institutions in overcoming nature's constraints. This book has a good potential to be used as a supplementary reader in universities offering courses on environment and economics.

## Land and Resource Scarcity Capitalism, Struggle and Well-being in a World without Fossil Fuels

Andreas Exner, Peter Fleissner, Lukas Kranzl, Werner Zittel, 320 pages, Routledge, 2013

This book brings together geological, biological, radical economic, technological, historical and social perspectives on peak oil and other scarce resources. The contributors to this volume argue that these scarcities will put an end to the capitalist system as we know it and alternatives must be created. The book combines natural science with emancipatory thinking, focusing on bottom up alternatives and social struggles to change the world by taking action. The volume introduces original contributions to the debates on peak oil, land grabbing and social alternatives, thus creating a synthesis to gain an overview of the multiple crises of our times.



The book sets out to analyse how crises of energy, climate, metals, minerals and the soil relate to the global land grab which has accelerated greatly since 2008, as well as to examine the crisis of profit production and political legitimacy. Based on a theoretical understanding of the multiple crises and the effects of peak oil and other scarcities on capital accumulation, the contributors explore the social innovations that provide an alternative. Using the most up to date research on resource crises, this integrative and critical analysis brings together the issues with a radical perspective on possibilities for future change as well as a strong social economic and ethical dimension.

## Something Bigger Than Ourselves Finding a Way in International Development

Sarah Parkinson, 304 pages, Kumarian Press, 2013

Development workers face different levels of influence on their work. Social and political influences work at the broadest level, shaping governmental and multilateral policies about what international development should do and why and how it should be funded. Institutional and inter-institutional policy, culture and practice give rise to the immediate working environment, varying from agency to agency. Aid workers themselves bring a set of understandings about aid, development and the nature of



their own roles. *Something Bigger than Ourselves* answers questions about professional identity in the ethically challenging field of international development. Filled with illustrative examples from a wide range of contexts, the book addresses head-on the concerns of many working in or considering careers in international development about whether their actions will be beneficial, ineffectual or even harmful.

## No Miracle What Asia Can Teach All Countries About Growth

Mitchell Wigdor, 222 pages, Ashgate Pub Co, 2013

*No Miracle* examines the role of institutions in bridging the 'digital divide' between rich and poor nations and what that means for the country's integration into a global economy. Shifting the debate from whether institutions are important to economic development to which institutions are important and how to build them, Mitchell Wigdor expertly addresses fundamental shortcomings in the existing development literature by identifying specific institutions that mediate the relationship between Information and Communications

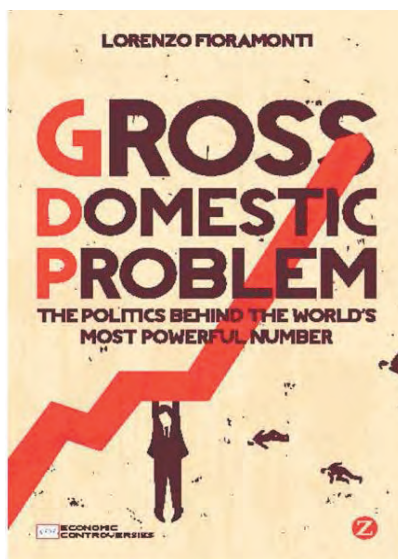


specific policies governments pursue. Technology (ICT) and economic growth. In doing so he challenges those concerned with development to shift their gaze from whether institutions are important to economic development to which institutions might be the focus of government efforts and how to build them. Detailed case studies of the economic development strategies of Singapore and Malaysia from 1960 demonstrate that institution-building and economic development may be as much about process as the

## Gross Domestic Problem The Politics Behind the World's Most Powerful Number

Lorenzo Fioramonti, 224 pages, Zed Books, 2013

Gross domestic product is arguably the best-known statistic in the contemporary world, and certainly amongst the most powerful. It drives government policy and sets priorities in a variety of vital social fields - from schooling to healthcare. Yet for perhaps the first time since it was invented in the 1930s, this popular icon of economic growth has come to be regarded by a wide range of people as a 'problem'. After all, does our quality of life really improve when our economy grows 2% or 3%? Can we continue to sacrifice the environment to safeguard a vision of the world based on the illusion of infinite economic growth?



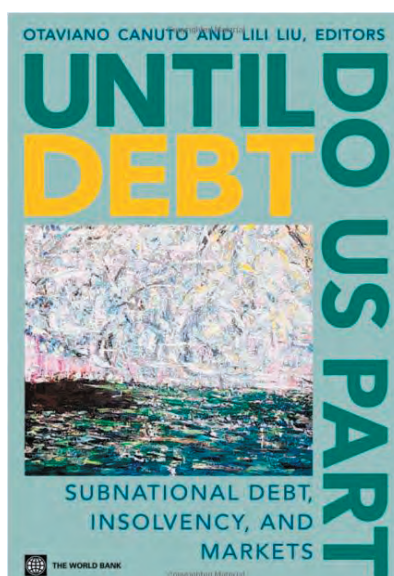
In *Gross Domestic Problem*, Lorenzo Fioramonti takes apart the 'content' of GDP - what it measures, what it doesn't and why - and reveals the powerful political interests that have allowed it to dominate today's economies. In doing so, he demonstrates just how little relevance GDP has to moral principles such as equity, social justice and redistribution, and shows that an alternative is possible, as evinced by the 'de-growth' movement and initiatives

such as transition towns. A startling insight into the politics of a number that has come to dominate our everyday lives.

## Until Debt Do Us Part: Subnational Debt, Insolvency, and Markets

Otaviano Canuto, Lili Liu, 648 pages, World Bank Publications, 2013

This book brings together the reform experiences of emerging economies and developed countries and examines the interaction of markets, regulators, subnational borrowers, creditors, national governments, taxpayers, ex-ante rules, and ex-post insolvency systems in the quest for subnational fiscal discipline. The book includes reforms that have not been covered by previous literature, such as those of China, Colombia, France, Hungary, Mexico, and South Africa. The book also presents a comprehensive review of



how the United States developed its debt market for state and local governments, through a series of reforms that are path dependent, including the reforms and lessons learned following state defaults in the 1840s and the debates that shaped the enactment of Chapter 9 of the Bankruptcy Code in 1937. Looking forward, pressures on subnational finance are likely to continue—from the fragility of global recovery, the potentially higher cost of capital, refinancing risks, and sovereign risks.

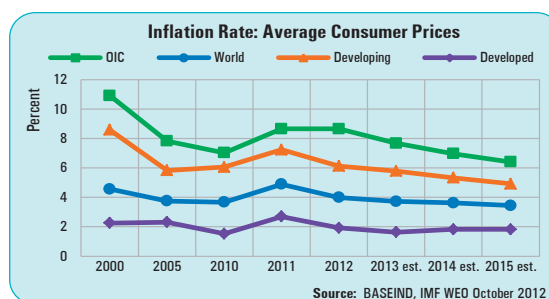
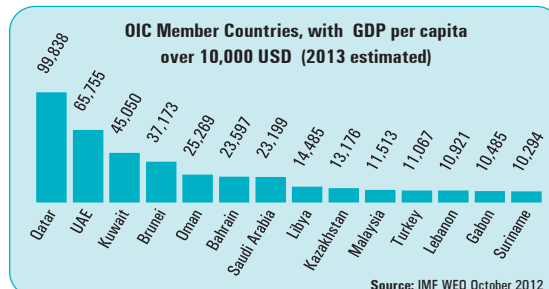
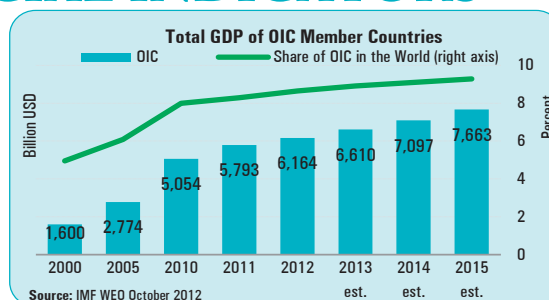


# ECONOMIC and FINANCIAL INDICATORS

Country	GDP: 2012 (Billion USD)	GDP: 2013 Est. (Billion USD)	GDP Growth 2012	GDP Growth 2013 Est.	Inflation Rate (CPI*) 2012	Inflation Rate (CPI*) 2013 Est.
Afghanistan	19.8	22.0	5.22	6.50	6.61	6.67
Albania	12.4	12.5	0.50	1.70	2.01	3.00
Algeria	206.5	214.4	2.56	3.38	8.40	5.00
Azerbaijan	71.0	78.2	3.89	2.74	3.00	6.00
Bahrain	26.5	27.7	1.98	2.82	0.59	2.05
Bangladesh	118.7	126.7	6.05	6.11	8.52	6.69
Benin	7.5	8.1	3.47	3.80	6.87	3.30
Brunei	16.9	16.5	2.66	1.54	1.74	1.43
Burkina Faso	10.3	11.0	6.99	7.01	3.00	2.00
Cameroon	24.5	25.9	4.70	5.00	3.00	3.00
Chad	9.7	9.6	7.32	2.43	5.50	3.00
Comoros	0.6	0.6	2.45	3.55	5.63	3.13
Côte d'Ivoire	24.3	26.0	8.13	6.99	2.00	2.50
Djibouti	1.4	1.5	4.82	4.98	4.70	2.45
Egypt	255.0	275.9	1.96	3.03	8.65	10.69
Gabon	16.8	16.4	6.11	2.00	2.30	2.60
Gambia	0.9	1.0	-1.62	9.66	4.69	5.50
Guinea	5.7	6.2	4.79	5.01	14.69	10.32
Guinea-Bissau	0.9	0.9	-2.81	5.67	5.00	2.50
Guyana	2.8	3.0	3.66	5.50	2.97	5.59
Indonesia	894.9	1,006.9	6.04	6.34	4.40	5.08
Iran	483.8	514.8	-0.94	0.76	25.20	21.80
Iraq	130.6	154.3	10.17	14.67	6.00	5.50
Jordan	31.4	33.8	3.00	3.50	4.51	3.89
Kazakhstan	200.6	220.1	5.47	5.70	5.04	6.62
Kuwait	174.6	175.2	6.35	1.88	4.29	4.09
Kyrgyzstan	6.2	7.0	1.00	8.54	2.87	9.37
Lebanon	41.8	44.4	2.00	2.50	6.51	5.66
Libya	85.1	97.6	121.90	16.69	9.99	0.90
Malaysia	307.2	340.0	4.40	4.70	2.00	2.40
Maldives	2.0	2.1	1.53	2.47	12.30	8.30
Mali	9.6	9.9	-4.49	2.98	7.25	6.24
Mauritania	4.1	4.4	5.30	6.88	5.90	6.13
Morocco	97.2	103.3	2.87	5.54	2.20	2.50
Mozambique	14.6	15.8	7.50	8.40	3.00	8.56
Niger	6.6	7.0	14.46	6.60	4.50	2.00
Nigeria	272.6	293.1	7.07	6.74	11.45	9.46
Oman	80.0	82.9	4.95	3.94	3.25	3.01
Pakistan	230.5	236.6	3.68	3.25	11.01	10.36
Palestine	10.3	n.a	5.85	n.a	2.78	n.a
Qatar	184.6	190.9	6.29	4.94	2.02	3.02
Saudi Arabia	657.0	682.6	5.97	4.15	4.91	4.57
Senegal	14.0	14.6	3.69	4.33	2.26	2.11
Sierra Leone	3.8	4.1	21.29	7.55	13.70	7.00
Somalia	1.1	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
Sudan	51.6	47.3	-11.24	-0.02	28.62	16.96
Suriname	5.1	5.7	4.00	4.48	6.24	5.55
Syria	60.0	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
Tajikistan	7.3	7.8	6.80	6.00	5.96	8.08
Togo	3.6	3.8	5.03	5.26	2.47	4.17
Tunisia	44.7	45.6	2.70	3.31	5.00	4.00
Turkey	783.1	839.0	2.97	3.53	8.72	6.54
Turkmenistan	33.5	40.2	7.97	7.69	4.31	6.02
Uganda	20.5	21.7	4.19	5.74	14.58	6.05
UAE	361.9	374.9	4.04	2.55	0.71	1.56
Uzbekistan	51.6	57.7	7.36	6.50	12.91	10.72
Yemen	36.4	41.3	-1.94	4.08	14.96	12.71

\* CPI: Average consumer prices

Source: BASEIND, IMF WEO October 2012



Stock Exchange Performance				
Country	Last 21.03.2013	3-Months to Date <sup>1</sup>	Year to Date <sup>1</sup>	1 Year <sup>1</sup>
Bahrain	176.30	3.54%	3.54%	-7.20%
Bangladesh	658.11	-3.13%	-3.13%	-9.52%
Egypt	568.57	-10.65%	-10.65%	-9.65%
Indonesia	974.01	9.80%	9.80%	10.17%
Jordan	107.65	3.01%	3.01%	-4.88%
Kazakhstan	594.96	7.52%	7.52%	5.35%
Kuwait	563.36	-0.87%	-0.87%	-5.75%
Lebanon	729.76	-0.36%	-0.36%	-4.31%
Malaysia	465.56	-4.39%	-4.39%	-0.73%
Morocco	301.06	-3.83%	-3.83%	-21.88%
Nigeria	570.42	14.21%	14.21%	68.80%
Oman	737.46	3.86%	3.86%	-5.23%
Pakistan	102.42	2.09%	2.09%	9.89%
Qatar	789.14	4.40%	4.40%	-0.29%
Saudi Arabia <sup>2</sup>	456.44	4.66%	4.66%	-6.03%
Tunisia	1,076.10	0.44%	0.44%	-2.97%
Turkey	654.49	3.17%	3.17%	33.24%
UAE	270.61	24.21%	24.21%	32.97%
Arabian Markets	507.75	3.66%	3.66%	-4.02%
Emerging Markets	1,022.43	-3.11%	-3.11%	-2.40%
Frontier Markets	525.15	7.19%	7.19%	8.40%
GCC Countries	464.93	4.89%	4.89%	-3.26%

Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International

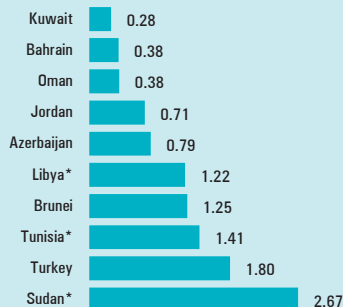
1. in US\$ terms

2. Domestic



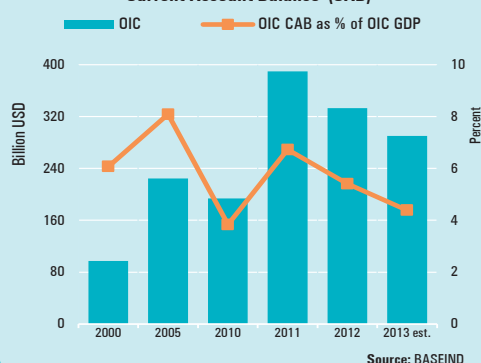
# ECONOMIC and FINANCIAL INDICATORS

**OIC Countries with Lowest Exchange Rate**  
(National Currency per USD, 2012)



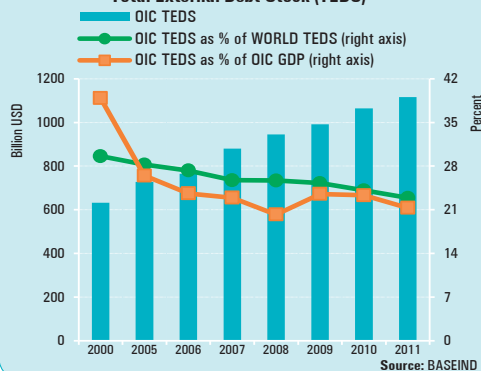
Source: BASEIND

**Current Account Balance (CAB)**



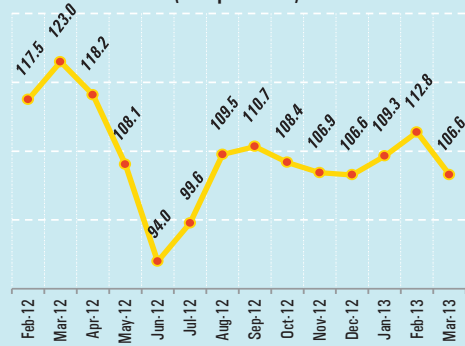
Source: BASEIND

**Total External Debt Stock (TEDS)**



Source: BASEIND

**OPEC Basket Price**  
(USD per Barrel)



Country	National Currency per USD: 2012 (Period Average)	Current Account Balance: 2012 (Million USD)	Current Account Balance: 2013 Est. (Million USD)	Total External Debt: 2011 (Million USD)	Gross Domestic Savings: 2011 (% of GDP)	Trade: 2011 (% of GDP)
Afghanistan <sup>1</sup>	46.75	415	117	2,623	-19.84	81.47
Albania	108.18	-1,460	-1,438	5,938	3.14	81.47
Algeria <sup>1,2</sup>	72.94	12,881	13,114	6,072	50.73	52.33
Azerbaijan	0.79	14,458	12,556	8,427	55.87	86.96
Bahrain <sup>2,3</sup>	0.38	2,625	2,913	n.a.	49.74	140.07
Bangladesh	81.86	-396	-348	27,043	16.44	54.51
Benin	510.53	-699	-734	1,423	14.10	43.04
Brunei	1.25	8,271	8,291	n.a.	65.51	110.41
Burkina Faso <sup>2,3</sup>	510.53	-434	-354	2,420	2.80	37.85
Cameroon	510.53	-1,001	-983	3,074	15.55	65.63
Chad <sup>2,3</sup>	510.53	-181	-193	1,821	10.66	100.04
Comoros <sup>2</sup>	382.90	-62	-61	278	-21.10	67.10
Côte d'Ivoire	510.53	-742	-409	12,012	9.77	84.30
Djibouti <sup>2,3</sup>	177.72	-166	-183	767	17.43	134.24
Egypt <sup>1</sup>	5.93	-8,668	-9,001	35,001	12.87	53.48
Gabon	510.53	1,527	668	2,879	55.76	100.35
Gambia <sup>1</sup>	29.46	-150	-146	466	0.91	76.02
Guinea <sup>1,2</sup>	6658.03	-2,230	-2,446	3,139	-0.27	78.47
Guinea-Bissau	510.53	-31	-27	284	n.a.	n.a.
Guyana <sup>1,3</sup>	204.02	-391	-529	1,846	-6.19	203.83
Indonesia	9386.63	-18,858	-23,986	213,541	34.18	51.24
Iran <sup>2,3</sup>	12175.55	16,502	6,865	19,113	43.80	53.72
Iraq	1166.17	345	9,348	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Jordan	0.71	-4,421	-3,340	17,634	-2.82	119.44
Kazakhstan	149.11	12,390	9,974	124,437	43.91	77.22
Kuwait	0.28	76,962	68,703	0	62.62	86.98
Kyrgyzstan	47.00	-792	-435	5,486	-2.92	142.68
Lebanon	1507.50	-6,749	-6,910	24,767	6.37	74.18
Libya <sup>1,2,3</sup>	1.22	18,557	10,027	n.a.	67.82	94.85
Malaysia	3.09	23,069	23,413	94,468	39.48	167.22
Maldives <sup>2</sup>	15.36	-576	-611	983	1.72	223.99
Mali <sup>2,3</sup>	510.53	-517	-477	2,931	12.96	61.75
Mauritania	296.62	-965	-606	2,709	18.20	154.55
Morocco	8.63	-7,629	-5,574	29,049	21.48	82.60
Mozambique	28.37	-1,705	-1,956	4,097	7.83	74.31
Niger <sup>2,3</sup>	510.53	-1,727	-1,440	1,408	13.41	39.26
Nigeria	156.81	9,483	9,128	13,108	n.a.	75.24
Oman <sup>2,3</sup>	0.38	11,215	8,313	n.a.	50.99	94.13
Pakistan	93.40	-4,517	-3,994	60,182	8.00	33.38
Palestine <sup>2,3</sup>	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	-28.42	82.24
Qatar <sup>2,3</sup>	3.64	54,556	51,098	n.a.	54.86	78.55
Saudi Arabia	3.75	171,273	155,110	n.a.	50.09	92.25
Senegal	510.53	-1,182	-1,007	4,320	10.90	68.75
Sierra-Leone <sup>1</sup>	4349.16	-500	-385	1,049	4.60	42.85
Somalia	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	3,050	n.a.	n.a.
Sudan <sup>1</sup>	2.67	-3,999	-3,106	21,169	23.99	34.81
Suriname <sup>2,3</sup>	3.30	-5	-117	n.a.	10.12	75.58
Syria <sup>2,3</sup>	11.23	n/a	n/a	4,968	18.39	71.08
Tajikistan <sup>2</sup>	4.74	-29	-120	3,323	-20.82	73.59
Togo	510.53	-319	-345	643	1.41	99.36
Tunisia <sup>1</sup>	1.41	-3,551	-3,511	22,335	23.96	103.99
Turkey	1.80	-59,010	-59,780	307,007	14.93	56.38
Turkmenistan	n.a.	-505	-643	445	86.57	123.16
Uganda <sup>1,2,3</sup>	2522.75	-2,255	-2,534	3,858	13.80	58.18
UAE <sup>2,3</sup>	3.67	33,634	37,945	n.a.	34.45	146.70
Uzbekistan	n.a.	2,431	1,893	8,382	27.69	59.13
Yemen <sup>2,3</sup>	214.35	-964	-1,656	6,418	7.60	65.07

1. NCU per USD reflects the data of 2011.

Source: BASEIND; IMF-DOTS; IMF-WEO October 2012; World Bank - WDI

2. Gross Domestic Savings (% of GDP) reflects the data before year 2011.

3. Trade (% of GDP) reflects the data before year 2011.

# Agricultural Mechanisation

Agricultural mechanisation is "the process of using agricultural machinery to mechanize the work of agriculture, greatly increasing farm worker productivity". With internal combustion came the first modern tractors in the early 1900s, and were used in especially (and originally) tillage, but nowadays are useful for a great variety of tasks. This **graphoic** displays ten OIC Member Countries with respect to their tractor number per people and area.

5 OIC Member Countries  
with the Largest Number of Tractors per  
1000 People in the Agricultural Population

Libya



Lebanon



Brunei



Turkey



Guyana



5 OIC Member Countries  
with the Largest Number of Tractors  
per 1000 Hectares of Arable Land

Palestine



Lebanon



Turkey



Uzbekistan



Egypt



graphOIC

The data for agricultural population, arable land, and number of tractors for the OIC Member Countries have been extracted for the years between 2006 and 2009.

Data Source: SESRIC BasEInD

Vector Object: Opencilipart.org users yasinergene and rgl024

 = 20 tractors