

Sixth Session of OIC-StatCom

5 – 6 November 2016, Konya-Turkey

Session on “Implemented Activities of the OIC-StatCom”

Progress Report on “OIC Accreditation and Certification Programme for Official Statisticians (OIC-CPOS)”

1 Introduction

Aiming at certifying the expertise and knowledge of official statistics professionals in the OIC Member Countries, the OIC Accreditation and Certification Programme for Official Statisticians (OIC-CPOS) project further aims at recognizing those who have achieved an acceptable level of professional competence in the understanding and application of statistical methods and are bound by internationally accepted code of ethics, principles and good practices of Official Statistics.

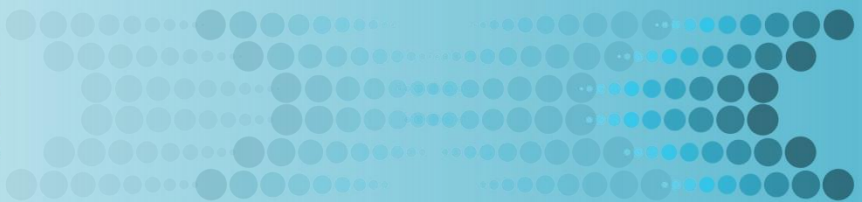
Based on the proposal during the First Session of OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom) in 2011, the OIC-StatCom Working Group on the Development of a Certification and Accreditation Programme for Statistical Professionals was established. This working group presented the conceptual and methodological background of accreditation programme in its first year of action and Terms of Reference (ToR) during the Second Session of OICStatCom. The OIC-StatCom members approved the accreditation process, also requested SESRIC and IDB to actively support the implementation of the Programme in both human and financial resources.

Based on the relevant resolution item of the Third Session of OIC-StatCom in 2013, the IDB allocated USD 100,000 for the first phase of the project. The Fourth Session of OIC-StatCom in 2014 invited the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of the OIC Member Countries to become a member of the Certification Advisory Board (CAB), nominate competent experts to the Examination Committee (ExCom), and promote the OIC-CPOS.

2 Certification Advisory Board

The Certification Advisory Board (CAB) is the most senior body under OIC-CPOS. The CAB is expected to, among others:

- supervise and observe at high level the implementation of the OIC-CPOS Project;
- prioritise and decide on the themes of the Certification Exam; and



- approve the appointment of the ExCom members.

Based on the abovementioned resolution item of the Fourth Session of OIC-StatCom, the OIC-StatCom Secretariat invited all members on 30 May 2014 to become a member of the CAB by submitting nominations preferably at the Director General/President or Assistant Director General/Vice President level. Based on the responses received, the following 20 OIC Member Countries submitted their nominations for the CAB:

	COUNTRY	Name SURNAME	TITLE
1	Bahrain	Nabil Ben SHAMS	Director General, Statistics Department
2	Bangladesh	Solaiman MONDOL	Deputy Secretary
3	Cameroon	Joseph Guy Benjamin SHE ETOUNDI	Deputy Director General
4	Comoros	Ahmed DJOUMOI	Coordinator
5	Egypt	Ayat ESMAEIL	Under Secretary, Statistical Training Centre
6	Gambia	Nyakassi M. B SANYANG	Statistician General
7	Iran	Mohammad Sadegh ALIPOUR	Department Head, Economic Statistics & National Accounts
8	Jordan	Qasem ALZOUBI	Director General
9	Kazakhstan	Zhasser JARKINBAYEV	Assistant Director General
10	Kuwait	Mona ALDAAS	Assistant Undersecretary, Statistical Work Sector
11	Libya	Ali El-Mehdi GRERA	Executive Director
12	Mauritania	Taleb Abderrahmane EL MAHJOUB	Deputy Director General
13	Oman	Yousif Mohamed AL-RIYAMI	Director
14	Palestine	Amal JABR	Director General
15	Qatar	Wadha AL JABOR	Director
16	Senegal	Mamadou NIANG	Director
17	Sudan	Mahasin Ahmed ABDELGHANI	Director, Human Resources
18	Togo	Tchilabalo Bozobendou TELOU	Director
19	Turkey	Nilgün DORSAN	Acting Director, Metadata & Standards Department
20	Yemen	Tareq ALKEBSI	Assistant Director General

3 Examination Committee

The OIC-StatCom Secretariat also had called for the nomination of experts for the Examination Committee (ExCom) of OIC-CPOS, preferably with at least 10 years of experience, who are competent in one of the following statistical domains as given in



accordance with the Classification of Statistical Activities (CSA, Revision 1 - October 2009, accessible on <http://goo.gl/olg3Tz>)

- Demographic and Social Statistics;
- Economic Statistics;
- Environment and Multi-Domain Statistics;
- Methodology of Data Collection, Processing, Dissemination and Analysis; or
- Strategic and Managerial Issues of Official Statistic

The members of the ExCom are expected to duly carry out the duties of:

- drafting the official curricula for the Certification Exam themes specified by the CAB;
- drafting the outlines of training materials of the Certification Exam; and
- preparing the training materials and questions of the Certification Exam.

36 experts were nominated for the ExCom by 17 OIC Member Countries. The OICStatCom Secretariat made an initial evaluation among from the nominations and was able that 33 experts from 17 OIC Member Countries appear to have the necessary experience to be working as an ExCom member for the preparation of the relevant training materials and examination questions on 47 statistical activities as per the CSA taxonomy.

Whereas, the OIC-StatCom Secretariat was able to make contracts with 20 experts from 14 OIC Member countries for 30 statistical activities as per the CSA taxonomy in May 2015 to form ExCom. The ExCom members are:

	COUNTRY	Name SURNAME	TITLE
1	BAHRAIN	Sivaramakrishna Varaprasadarao KANTETI	Statistician
2	BANGLADESH	Abdul Alim BHUYAN	Statistician
3	BANGLADESH	Kabir Uddin AHMED	Statistician
4	BANGLADESH	Ziauddin AHMED	Statistician
5	CAMEROON	Abanda AMBROISE	Director
6	EGYPT	Mohamed ZAID	Director
7	GAMBIA	Lamin L DIBBA	Statistician
8	IRAN	Afsaneh YAZDANI	Director
9	JORDAN	Eman Bny MFRAREJ	Statistician
10	JORDAN	Manal SWEIDAN	Statistician
11	JORDAN	Munther BADRIYAH	Statistician
12	KUWAIT	Othman AL-OTHTMAN	Director
13	MALAYSIA	Saidah HASHIM	Statistician
14	MAURITANIA	Oumar Kalidou BA	Director
15	NIGER	Issiak Balarabe MAHAMANE	Director
16	NIGER	Ousmane M. A. BOULHASSANE	Statistician
17	PALESTINE	Abdallah NAJJAR	Statistician

18	PALESTINE	Saleh ALKAFRI	Statistician
19	SENEGAL	Bocar TOURE	Director
20	YEMEN	Hamdi ALSHARGABI	Director

Since June 2015, the ExCom members are preparing the preparing the training materials and questions of the Certification Exam. Up to now 27 textbooks and 25 examination question sets have been received by the OIC-StatCom Secretariat. After the initial review feedbacks were sent to the ExCom members to make the necessary revisions. Out of the 27 textbooks received 12 were either in Arabic or French and translation into English were made in order to make the initial review.

As part of the contracts with the ExCom members, reimbursement of the first instalment were made in August 2016.

4 CAB Meeting of the OIC-CPOS

The CAB Meeting of the OIC-CPOS was organised on 7-8 September 2016 at SESRIC Headquarters in Ankara, Republic of Turkey.

The Meeting was attended by CAB Members from the National Statistics Offices of Bahrain, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Egypt, Gambia, Mauritania, Palestine, Senegal, Sudan, Togo, and Turkey. The representatives of Vocational Qualification Authority of Republic of Turkey and Econometric Research Association also participated in the Meeting.

The overall objective of the Meeting was to:

- (i) inform the participants about core skills frameworks on official statistics, certification systems for recognition of professional statistical qualifications, and approaches to harmonising official statistics education at the post-graduate level;
- (ii) identify the priority themes to be covered in the Certification Exam;
- (iii) decide on the structure, timetable, and admission criteria for Certification Exam; and
- (iv) draw roadmap and way forward for the OIC-CPOS in light of the progress made so far.

During the Break-out Sessions, the CAB members considered the questions on the way forward for the OIC-CPOS. Based on the discussions that took place during the two days, the CAB members submitted the Recommendations, enclosed in the Annex, for the approval of the Sixth Session of the OIC-StatCom.

5 OIC-CPOS Web Presence

The OIC-StatCom Secretariat launched the OIC-CPOS web presence during the CAB Meeting in September 2016. Accessible under <http://www.oicstatcom.org>, the OIC-CPOS web presence aims at:

- informing users about the structure and purpose of OIC-CPOS;
- informing applicants about organizational & professional benefits of OIC-CPOS Certification;
- disseminating recommended study materials for OIC-CPOS Certification Examinations; and
- providing applicants the opportunity to register online for OIC-CPOS Certification Examinations.

The OIC-CPOS web presence hosts the following sections:

- “About” with 3 sub-sections informing visitors about the OIC-CPOS and its main bodies;
- “Certification System” with 3 sub-sections informing visitors about possible benefits of CPOS Certification, requirements, and examination procedures;
- “Study Materials” informs visitors about the list of available materials based on the classification of statistical activities (CSA); and
- “Registration” with 2 sub-sections informing visitors about how to create an account via online website and log-in field for accessing “My Account” page. “Registration” is to be closely linked with the Roster of Statistics Experts (ROSE). “Apply to CPOS” option is to be added to the ROSE soon.

6 Conclusion and the Way Forward

The OIC-StatCom Secretariat has exerted efforts in bringing the OIC-CPOS project to a more developed level. In this respect, the recommended training materials and examination questions are in the final stage of completion.

From this end, the OIC-StatCom Secretariat after finalizing the training materials and examination questions will make the last reimbursement to the ExCom according to the contracts made in May 2015. As per the initial allocation of 100,000 USD by the IDB for the Examinations under the OIC-CPOS, the services of the ExCom members will be remunerated up to 40,000 USD in total.

In order to prioritising the Certification Examination themes during the initial phase in line with the recommendations of the OIC-CPOS CAB Meeting, the OIC-StatCom Secretariat will carry out a Tendency Survey.

In addition, the OIC-StatCom Secretariat would like to proceed with the acquisition of the services for the development and maintenance of an e-learning and online examination platform for the dissemination which has been budgeted around 30,000 USD. The remaining amount up to 30,000 USD was reserved for the meeting of the CAB has been utilized.

ANNEX: RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CERTIFICATION ADVISORY BOARD (CAB) MEETING OF THE OIC CERTIFICATION AND ACCREDITATION PROGRAMME FOR OFFICIAL STATISTICIANS (OIC-CPOS)

Thanking the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) – in its capacity as the Coordination Office (CO) of the OIC Certification and Accreditation Programme for Official Statisticians (OIC-CPOS) – and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) for supporting the OIC-CPOS,

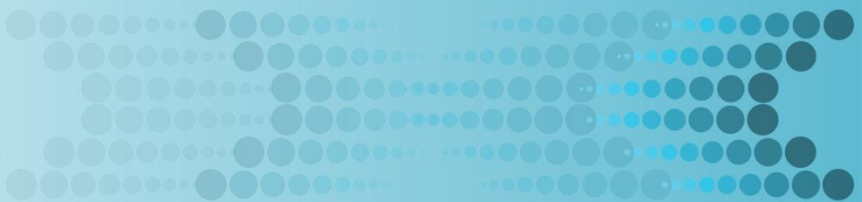
Congratulating the Examination Committee (ExCom) members of the OIC-CPOS on their efforts towards the development of OIC-CPOS preliminary study materials and CO for developing the demo web structure under the web portal of OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom),

Recalling the related resolutions taken during First Session of the Statistical Commission of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC-StatCom) , Second Session of the OIC-StatCom, Twenty-Eighth Session of the COMCEC, Third Session of the OIC-StatCom, Fourth Session of the OIC-StatCom, Fifth Session of the OIC-StatCom,

Emphasizing the fundamental role of ownership by the NSOs of OIC Member Countries for the sustainability of the OIC-CPOS,

Stressing that **certification** – as a procedure for examining **conformity** with a set of clearly defined and expected requirements – and **accreditation** – as a procedure for examining **competency** for the conduct of certain activities and tasks – should be complementing approaches for the efforts to increase the human resources capacities of NSOs of OIC Member Countries and consequently the quality assurance for their statistical production processes,

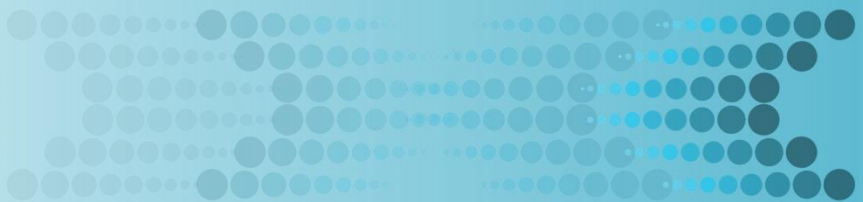
Having devoted attention to the comprehensive presentations delivered by the participants and the fruitful outcomes of the break-out sessions that took place during the CAB Meeting,



Bearing in mind the challenges faced by the Coordination Office (CO) in the conduct and overview of processes related to the multiple statistical themes as per the Classification of Statistical Activities (CSA Revision I, October 2009) decided previously to be covered under OIC-CPOS,

Recommending to the consideration of the Sixth Session of the Statistical Commission of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC-StatCom) to be held on 5-6 November 2016 in Konya, Republic of Turkey, **the Certification Advisory Board (CAB) of the OIC Certification and Accreditation Programme for Official Statisticians (OIC-CPOS):**

1. Requests the SESRIC and IDB to actively support the implementation of the program both in terms of human resources and funding;
2. Encourages the CO to set up a Task Team under the auspices of SESRIC to prepare a Project Charter ensuring self-sustainability of the OIC-CPOS in the long term and draw the roadmap with effective timeline for OIC-CPOS and process flow for certification schemes based on the suggestions of the CAB members and undertake necessary activities for the implementation of OIC-CPOS ;
3. Requests the CO to cooperate and establish partnership with the relevant national, regional and international organizations for funding and working on similar programs;
4. Supports the proposal of the CO concerning the prioritisation of the tasks pertaining to the certification programme and consideration of the accreditation programme at a later stage;
5. Recommends the prioritising the Certification Examination themes during the First Phase to the suggested subjects, including but not restricted with, based on the results of the Tendency Survey on OIC-CPOS Certification Examination Theme Priorities to be circulated to the CAB Members;
6. Urges the CO to take the necessary actions for the revision of the available study materials by peer reviewers, development of new study materials and formation of pool of examination questions with the support of national, international and independent entity(ies) to ensure the provision of quality content to the candidates;



7. Trusts the CO and IDB with the operationalisation of a stand-alone web portal; and with the improvement of the currently available content including a repository to host study materials and information about the procedures of the examinations;
8. Invites National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of OIC Member Countries to support and promote OIC-CPOS among all the stakeholders of their National Statistical Systems;
9. Encourages statisticians working under the National Statistical Systems of OIC Member Countries to register their CVs through the Roster of Statistics Experts (OIC-ROSE) created by SESRIC towards establishing a pool of competent experts who technically contribute to the implementation of the Programme.